

Conservation officials picked

Lloyd Brokman and David H. Storjohann join C. W. McManamy as newly elected officials on the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation Commission today.

Brokman, 631 Simms Ave., received 4,736 votes in his election to a six-year term on the commission, while Storjohann of Minden received 3,636. The third nominee on the ballott, Derald Blois of Honey Creek, received 2,780 votes in the unofficial count.

McManamy, of Rt. 3, received 5,972 votes to be elected to a four-year term, filling a vacancy left when Brokman moved out of his original township.

McManamy will take office immediately, and the commission will appoint either Brokman or Storjohann to office immediately to fill another vacancy left by the death of former Commissioner Eldon Ravlin.

The third winner will take office in January.

In the East Pottawattamie Soil Conservation Commission race, Edward F. Keast and Clifford Stille, both of Macedonia, were elected. Keast received 1,120 votes, while Stille received 1,093 votes.

No other nominees were on the ballot.

11-5-80

Erosion Worsening

Funds Urged for Iowa's Soil

● Continued from Page 1

Areas Soil Conservation Act — that would create a new conservation cost-share program for areas of the country with the worst soil erosion problems.

They said the Loess Hills region of southwest Iowa was ranked fifth by the USDA in an evaluation of the country's most seriously eroding areas.

Cost-Sharing

Among provisions of the bill is that it would call for cost-sharing and technical assistance to landowners and operators in a designated area.

Also included would be a provision that calls for compensat-

ing farmers for income lost as a result of crop adjustments from new crops to permanent vegetative cover.

Several witnesses said they would favor such an approach.

Speaking after the three-hour hearing, Barney Zimmerman of Westphalia, Iowa, said a public relations program also is needed.

Zimmerman, representing the Shelby County Farmers Union, said the program should be aimed at commercial farmers who do not own the land they cultivate and absentee landowners.

Many conservation practices, such as contouring, strip cropping, grassed waterways and leaving crop residue on the field, can be accomplished at no cost to farmers who are willing to take the time, he said.

W. Lee Honeyman of the Iowa Farm Bureau listed several incentives that could be used to encourage farmer participation in soil conservation.

He suggested an income tax credit on federal and state taxes equal to a percentage of the cost of installing permanent soil erosion control practices.

He also favored low-cost loans to help finance farmer cost-sharing efforts and payment for the loss of crop income from land set aside for construction of conservation practices during the growing season.

'Real Problem'

Honeyman said urban erosion is a "very real problem" that should be addressed. He suggested erosion control requirements in subdivision ordinances and highway construction and repair plans that include provisions for temporary soil protection measures.

Although most of the witnesses and the approximately 50 persons attending appeared pleased with the hearing, one retired farmer had this to say: "I think it was a dog."

Keith Noland, 63-year-old retired farmer from Adair, complained that witnesses either represented large farm organizations or government agencies and not individual farmers.

Noting that Harkin is seeking re-election this year for his Iowa 5th District seat, Noland said the meeting was "nothing but a political rally."

Farmers: States Must Solve Erosion or Face Regulations

By a World-Herald Staff Writer

Honey Creek, Iowa — If states don't solve their soil erosion problems, farmers will end up with federal regulations requiring conservation, two members of the House Subcommittee on Conservation and Credit were told at a breakfast here Saturday.

At a breakfast meeting of Rep. Tom Harkin's Farm Advisory Committee, farmer Don Williams of Villisca, Iowa, said conservation needs must be handled at the state level or the federal government will step in.

Williams said higher commodity prices are not the only answer for getting farmers to use more conservation practices because higher prices lead only to farmers "bidding up" the price of land.

With higher prices, farmers buy bigger machinery and neighboring tracts of land and

"then it starts all over again," Williams said.

Others at the breakfast complained about federal farm programs, which they said were more beneficial to large farmers.

Georgia Sievers of Avoca, Iowa, said federal farm policies do not do anything for conservation.

E.A. Baldwin of Smith Lake Farms in Little Sioux, Iowa, complained about absentee landowners in the state.

"They bleed us dry just as sure as the foreign interests do," he said.

He told Harkin and the chairman of the House subcommittee, Rep. Ed Jones, that one solution might be to have a check-off on the national ballot, similar to that for political parties, that would allow voters to give an amount such as \$1 to conservation programs.

MANDATORY SOIL-SAVING IDEA ATTACKED

By DON MUHM

Register Farm Editor

8-14-80
WATERLOO, IA. — Mandatory soil conservation practices were opposed here Wednesday by a majority of farmers and conservationists testifying at a U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee hearing.

Farmers expressed concern about the rising costs of making soil conservation improvements, and about the availability of cost-sharing funds from government sources.

It's hard enough for young farmers to get started in farming, said several witnesses, without also having to come up with money to protect their land resources from erosion.

Wednesday's was the first of three Iowa hearings being chaired by U.S. Senator Roger Jepsen (Rep., Ia.), who said testimony will be considered in writing the U.S. Farm Act of 1981. Congress must come up with new farm legislation next year because all major agricultural programs will expire then.

Jepsen's brother Myron, a rural Cedar Falls farmer, said lack of adequate funding is "one of the major problems getting soil conservation work done." He said farmers would prefer that they finance their own projects from higher farm income.

One witness criticized the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which he said "will make a hundred-thousand dollar loan to a farmer for a grain storage facility and then only a couple of thousand dollars for soil conservation."

While there was disagreement about how it should be accomplished, there was no dispute about the importance of soil conservation.

Senator Jepsen said "the problems of soil conservation represent a threat to the primary form of subsistence underlying our heritage, our economic strength, our firmly held family values and the future of the most productive segment of our national economy — agriculture."

To illustrate how farmers should feel about their land, James Sage of rural Waterloo passed on this advice he said he received from his father:

"Live as though you are going to die tomorrow, and farm as though you are going to farm forever."

Sage, whose family's 590-acre farm is fully protected by soil-conserving practices paid for entirely by the family, suggested some type of tax incentives for farmers who protect their land.

Vinton banker Larry Rofstad recommended a new kind of low-interest loan program for farmers who want to establish soil conservation work on their farms, using a special loan guarantee backed by the government.

Two witnesses, Harry Scurr of Gilman and Frank Schaller of Iowa State University, called for continued financial support of a pilot project in Tama County, where ISU officials and others are measuring the impact of soil conservation work on reducing soil erosion and pollution from farm sources.

Approaching the problem from another side, Vinton lawyer-farmer Don Boddicker said new tillage tools are needed so that soil that has eroded downhill can be moved uphill.

Also testifying Wednesday was U.S. Representative Charles Grassley (Rep., Ia.), who told of several bills pending before Congress that emphasize soil conservation. One would provide a 20 percent tax credit for soil conservation improvements. Another would provide incentives, such as increased governmental price support loans, to those farmers who voluntarily apply conservation practices.

Grassley also favors having farmers sign long-term soil conservation contracts with the government in areas where soil erosion problems are particularly severe, such as in certain areas of southwest Iowa.

The second Iowa hearing will convene at 9 a.m. today at the Scheman Continuing Education Center on the Iowa State University campus at Ames. The final session is set for 9:30 a.m. Friday at the Jefferson County Courthouse in Fairfield.

Thursday, December 25, 1980

954

legal

public
notice

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICE Notice of Public Hearing on

Rules For Considering Erosion Control Plans For Land Disturbing Activities In Development Areas West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District

Under authority set forth in Chapter 467A, Code of Iowa, 1981, the Commissioners of West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District, have proposed rules for approving or disapproving erosion control plans referred to the district in conjunction with the issuance of certain building permits.

A copy of these proposed rules may be obtained at the West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District Office, Room 221 Federal Bldg., Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held at Room B-14 Federal Bldg., Council Bluffs, Iowa at 2:00 p.m., January 2, 1981, at which time an explanation of the rules will be made and opportunity will be given for those affected to be heard for or against the proposed rules.

**Commissioners Of West
Pottawattamie County
Soil Conservation District
Derald Blois, Chairman**

12-24⁸ The Family Christmas Tree

I always thought the reason my mother bought such a sad looking Christmas tree, was because she just didn't want to spend the money for the big, full, scotch pine trees that most people had.

When we were kids at home sometimes we could talk her in to a fancy tree, but not often. When I went away to college I would come home for the Holidays to find she always had that little balsam fir tree with the crooked trunk and misplaced branches. But when we would all get together and decorate that tree it was almost as if a miracle had happened, that little tree looked so nice.

Almost like a totally different tree. It even seemed to stand straighter; as if it was proud to be our family Christmas tree.

Now that I'm married and have kids of my own we take the "Grandkids" home for Christmas to find Grandma still has the same kind of tree. She hasn't bought the flocked or artificial trees like most people even though we know she could afford it if she really wanted to. Now I have finally realized why she has been bringing those sad looking trees home all these years.

You see, she always waited until a few days before Christmas to buy

that tree and I know you've seen the kind of trees that are left, with broken branches and crooked trunks, trees nobody wanted. They are left laying there in the snow for the Holiday shoppers to walk over. Most people ignore them because they have their own fancy trees at home. But not Grandma, she feels sorry for those homeless orphaned trees that will be left on the street at Christmas Eve.

She takes this kind of tree home because she knows we will all adopt it, decorate it with bells, garland, and lights and call it our own family tree.

by Bill and Rita Hammitt

Conservation Field Day Combines Fish, Forestry, Folk Songs and Fun



Approximately 125 sixth graders from Tri-Center and Underwood participated in a Conservation Field Day held Friday at Arrowhead Park. The students participated in sessions ranging from fisheries to

forestry, fire building to folk songs. Mostly, they had fun as they learned about their environment.-Gazette-Reporter & News photo

Sixth grade students from Tri-Center and Underwood shared an exciting day of fun and learning in a conservation field day held at Arrowhead Park last Friday. Approximately 127 students participated.

The workshop was sponsored by the local Soil Conservation District, working with its Environmental Education Committee. The committee includes teachers from both schools, Area XIII personnel, the District Commissioner, and the Conservation Commission Warden.

During the day's program, the students took part in courses at eight different stations. The courses included wildlife, fisheries, a blind walk, archery, web of life (ecological cycles), plants and soils, forestry, and a compass course.

The group then joined in singing with traditional country songwriter and performer Bob Everhart of Council Bluffs. Everhart has traveled all over the United States and visited a number of foreign countries with his music, and is the guiding hand behind the Old-Time Country Music Contest and Pioneer Exposition held at Westfair each fall.

The students then took a short course in fire-building and enjoyed supper.

In the evening, parents were invited to join the group to watch skits the students performed, either on an environmental theme or something they had learned, with awards presented to the winners. Rachel Hall of Neola was recognized as the winner of the essay contest.

The day had begun on a

quiet note, as trees were dedicated to the memory of Jim Dermody, who had worked at the park: Cal Cox, District Conservationist; and Eldon Ravlin, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Soil Conservation District.

The memorial ceremony was held in conjunction

with the field day because Cox and Ravlin were largely responsible for getting the Environmental Committee started and for promoting the idea of getting environmental education into the schools. The trees that were planted were an American sycamore, a seedless ash, and an ornamental pear.

Pork Producers Meet in Oakland

The Pottawattamie County Pork Producers met on Monday, April 27, at the Sweets 'N Eats in Oakland. Trophies were presented to carcass show winners who attended the meeting. Nancy Russell gave a report on the Porkette State Meeting held on April 9. A tentative

date was decided on for the pork producer picnic to be held in June. Ideas for promoting pork on Mother's Day were also discussed.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, at 7:30 p.m. at Club 64 in Council Bluffs.

State taking steps to conserve Iowa topsoil

2-17-81

By ANGIE BLUM
Drake University
Journalism Student

DES MOINES (IDPA)-Raindrops strike the black tilled earth in an Iowa field. The rain's force increases from a sprinkle to a steady down-pour, scattering soil particles and making furrows in the ground.

Iowa's precious topsoil is rapidly disappearing. Each year erosion takes an average of one-twelfth of an inch. Over the last 100 years Iowa topsoil has decreased from an average of 18 inches to today's average of 8 to 9 inches, said Ed Beardsley, program planner, Iowa department of Soil Conservation.

That's about 10 tons or one dump truck load per acre, per year (statewide average) of topsoil, Beardsley added.

Soil erosion has become critical, critical enough that:

— The Iowa Legislature passed the Iowa Soil 2000 bill aimed at reducing erosion in 20 years.

— The Iowa Department of Soil Conservation has allocated \$500,000 per year for demonstration projects. The department will pay selected farmers \$30-per-acre to contract for five years to practice conservation tillage. The \$30 is intended as an incentive and to offset equipment costs.

Savings data

Part of the purpose of this project is to gather data that would prove or disprove savings in time and fuel, said Bill Nicholas, natural resource engineer, also with the department. "We're assuming the studies will prove savings," said Nicholas.

Soil erosion concerns farmers such as Ernest and Jerry Behn of Boone. This father-and-son team farms about 1,350 acres, rotating corn and soybeans, using the till-plant method.

This method minimizes water and wind erosion by leaving a high percentage of crop residue for protective cover.

"Basically we ridge the fields up with cultivation so the rows are up in the air," said Jerry Behn. "Then we plant on top of the ridge. Our planter goes along and cuts off about an inch of the top crust and throws the trash (residue) in between the rows in the valleys."

Conventional thought about

crop residue has been, "If a farmer didn't turn it under it would keep the ground cold and wet, this would delay planting and also result in an uneven stand," said Jerry.

But in the Behns' case, by keeping the residue off the

First of two parts

ridges and in between the rows, there has not been a problem with delayed planting or uneven stand.

Also the residue retains moisture, Jerry said, which could mean the difference between a good or poor yield during a dry year.

"So it's all the advantages without the disadvantages," he added.

This team makes six or seven trips over the field during one cycle which, Jerry said, is fewer than the conventional farmer makes. Going from corn to soybeans the trips are: 1) Combine. 2) Chop stalks. 3) Apply fertilizer (phosphorus and potash). 4) Plant. 5) Spray. 6) and 7) Cultivate twice (the first time through is to control weeds and provide loose dirt. The second trip is to make the ridge for the next year).

Apply ammonia

Going from soybeans to corn, the trips are the same except one is required to apply anhydrous ammonia, and the stalk chopping step is subtracted, said Jerry.

"My father started this system about 14 years ago. He had tried terracing certain areas of the farm and had tried chisel plowing. They were an improvement but he still wasn't satisfied," said Jerry.

When Ernest Behn first started experimenting he stripped sections of land using conventional and till-plant methods. Then when he combined, he would record the yield results on each, Jerry explained. "Generally the till-plant was better," Jerry said.

Because they have cut down on the number of trips across the field they have left more residue on top and have also been using about half as much fuel as a traditional farmer, said Jerry.

"And if we only run half as many trips over the field, we only use half as much labor," he added.

Simply limiting the number of trips over a field will not

prevent soil erosion unless the method of tillage leaves at least 50 percent or about 2,500 pounds of stalks and residue on top after planting, said Nicholas.

The "after planting" is critical because even if a farmer has good residue cover all the rest of the year, if he tills all the trash under to plant, the purpose is defeated, said Beardsley.

Keeping the ground covered at all times would appear to be the key to soil conservation.

The problem is that many farmers just don't like to see trashy fields. "It's just been a tradition that you had to turn that trash down," Beardsley said, "It used to be the look of a good farmer when there was no trash in the field."

"Now, although a lot of farmers are practicing varying degrees of conservation tillage," he said, "it has just not caught on as quickly as we would like to see."

(Next: What is the "Iowa Till"?)

Erosion Aid Not Likely For a Year

By Darwin Olofson

WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

Washington — The Agriculture Department is starting to put "meat on the bones" of a new soil conservation program under which many states are expected to seek help in dealing with special soil erosion problems.

But it is likely to be late 1982 before the department is ready, with rules and regulations in place, to begin designating areas that will qualify for federal assistance under the new program, according to the USDA's Soil Conservation Service.

"I don't look for any money to start flowing for assistance this fiscal year (which ends Sept. 30)," said the SCS's Lee Shields.

Included in the farm bill signed recently by President Reagan is a "Special Areas Conservation Program," under which federal financial assistance will be focused on areas with special, chronic erosion problems.

It was part of a conservation package, which also authorized matching grants to local governments and loans to farmers for conservation work.

The new special areas program, long advocated by the SCS, does not replace any existing programs.

It was established in the belief that while there should be a base level of federal soil conservation assistance, available nationwide, current programs could not be targeted to help areas needing it most.

Uncertain on Money

One uncertainty is how much money Congress will provide for the new program, although an initial appropriation of about \$50 million has been discussed.

Shields said the financial conservation assistance to special areas probably will be in the form of cost-sharing payments and loans.

The SCS will be looking at all areas with severe erosion problems, he said.

While he said that no areas have been designated for special help yet, he cited several examples of areas that have been identified as having such problems and might qualify.

There are parts of western Iowa, Missouri and Illinois that have "some of the highest erosion rates in the country, perhaps as much as 10 tons per acre" a year, Shields said.

In western Iowa, he said, "it is primarily a slope problem."

He said it was possible the SCS would want to take a look at the erosion situation in eastern Nebraska and Kansas, where certain soils are vulnerable to blowing, in considering the designation of areas for special attention.

20 Tons an Acre

In the Southern Mississippi River Valley, in parts of Tennessee and four other states, there are areas where there is an annual loss of 20 tons of soil or more an acre from erosion, Shields said.

The SCS calculates that erosion is costing the United States an average of between 5 tons and 6 tons of topsoil an acre each year.

Aroostock County in Maine, potato country where some land is farmed on 25-degree slopes, has lost about two feet of topsoil, Shields said.

"The continuation of agriculture is at stake up there," he added.

The Palouse country in Washington, Oregon and Idaho and the Black Land Prairie in east-central Texas are other areas where soil losses from erosion have been excessive, according to the SCS.

Getting erosion down to 'acceptable limits'

2-18-81

By ANGIE BLUM
Drake Univ.

Journalism Student

DES MOINES (IDPA)- Year after year erosion takes its toll on Iowa's precious topsoil. Millions of tons of topsoil make the trip down the Mississippi to the Delta Flats at the river's mouth in Louisiana.

Approximately nine million acres of the 27 million total acres of crop land in Iowa are

Last of two parts

adequately protected against erosion, said Larry Vance, director, Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

The remaining 18 million acres is eroding at two to three times the replacement rate at which soil rebuilds itself, added Vance.

"Erosion will never stop, but we can get it down to acceptable limits of one to five tons per acre, per year, instead of the current (average) 9.9 tons per acre, per year," Vance said.

Sixty percent of the 18 million acres could be adequately protected "just by good management" if farmers kept the surface covered with an adequate amount of crop residue year round, Vance explained. And, he added, "approximately 40 percent or eight to nine million acres need residue management plus structural management such as terraces, grass waterways and water control structures.

Low rate

But the rate at which farmers are installing these structures and leaving adequate residue coverage is happening at "only one-fifth of what should be done as an annual rate if we hope to get the job done in 20 years," Vance said.

Conservation tillage, or "Iowa Till," can reduce erosion in certain areas to acceptable levels. Everyone has a different conception of what conservation tillage is. The term "Iowa Till," developed by the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation and Legislature, refers to tillage practices which leave 50 percent surface residue cover over an entire field.

"The main purpose of 'Iowa Till' is to create a change in attitude," said Vance. As an example of traditional at-

titudes, Vance cited national plowing contests where the "winner" is determined by who leaves the least amount of residue on top.

If Iowa is going to continue to produce 10 percent of the nation's food supply, as stated in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's publication, *Abundance Or Acarcity A Matter Of Inches*, there are going to have to be drastic changes in soil tillage attitudes.

Farmers such as Dean Dodd and his father, Harold, a soil conservation commissioner, are initiating some major changes in their farming practices because of their concern with soil erosion.

This team started utilizing the till-plant method this year on their farm in north-central Iowa near Hampton. Till-plant is a method that leaves a large amount of residue coverage.

Heard of success

They originally became interested after attending an annual soil conservation meeting where Ernest Behn, a rural Boone farmer, described the success he was having with this method.

"We had been using minimum soil tillage- a Glencoe Soil Saver," said Dean. But after they listened to Behn speak, they decided that wasn't enough.

A Glencoe Soil Saver combines the components of a disc, a field cultivator and a chisel harrow. The single row of 18 inch disc blades spaced at 7 inch intervals, cuts the stalks in front of the field cultivator and harrow, which in turn loosen the ground and cover part of the trash (residue).

Dean said he and his father conferred with Behn and this year, for the first time, they tried the till-plant method. Dean admitted they were nervous. Jean Dodd, Dean's wife, laughed and recalled how everyday Dean and Harold would be out checking their corn and soybeans to see how they were doing.

"Soil conservation and energy conservation were the reasons we went to this system. We don't have an erosion problem now," said Dean.

"Ten years ago when we plowed, we did have erosion problems. Since then we've terraced, contoured and put in grass waterways," he explained, "and we went from moldboard plowing, to chisel

plowing, to the Glencoe Soil Saver, constantly working to decrease the number of trips over the field and to increase the trash on top.

Moldboard plowing a traditional method of tillage, slices and turns the soil covering most of the trash, thus exposing a great deal of topsoil to the elements of erosion.

Chisel plowing tears the ground without turning it under. This method leaves more residue on top than moldboard plowing and helps prevent soil erosion.

"We figured we'd be willing to sacrifice yield to save soil, but we haven't had to sacrifice yield," said Dean.

Last year, the section of corn they entered in the conservation tillage section of the 1980 county corn yield contest yielded 192 bushels per acre- a total verified by state officials. "This is the highest yield we've ever had," said Dean.

"We're happy about it (yield) because it does give credibility to the till-plant system. It melts skepticism," Dean explained.

A Drake and a Goos at Farm Bureau meet

2-16-81

Names are sort of funny things. Everyone has one but no one pays much attention to his own or others. In spite of that names can create some coincidental situations. But I am a little ahead of myself.

Jack Drake is a young Pottawattamie County farmer who lives in the Lewis community. A nice fellow I have had the pleasure of knowing for many years.

Jack is, I believe, a past president of the East Pottawattamie Farm Bureau. He was also an Iowa delegate to the recent American Farm Bureau convention in New Orleans.

Clint Goos is also a young Pottawattamie County farmer who lives in Keg Creek Township not far from Mineola. I have known Clint and his family even longer than I have known Jack. By the way, my reference to these men as young may be a matter of degree that comes by comparing them with myself.

IN ANY EVENT Clint is past president of the West Pottawattamie Farm Bureau. He attended the New Orleans convention as a representative of that organization.

Up to this point everything seems very ordinary and in order. After he returned from the convention, Clint wrote an account of his trip and the convention. It was his closing observation that brought this whole matter of names and coincidence together for me.

He noted this was undoubtedly the first time, may very well be the last and only time when Pottawattamie, or any other county, would send a Drake and a Goos to the same national Farm Bureau convention.

So what is in a name? A good chuckle if you get the right two in the right place at the right time.

SINCE I HAVE BEEN speaking of names, I guess it is a short jump to phrases. I was somewhat surprised and more than a little pleased to hear a new phrase coming out of Washington, D.C. the other day.

A member of the new administration was being interviewed on the matter of economic plans. In the course of the conversation he mentioned programs.

These were programs that in the past have been euphemistically referred to as social welfare programs. Not so this time. This time the man said wealth transfer programs.

I would not undertake to forecast what this change might mean. I do find it most refreshing, however, to have a spade called a spade.

For years now citizens have been plodding along sending more and more of their income to Washington under the misnomer of taxes. Much of that money has been nothing of the kind. Rather it has simply been a case of government taking our money, yours and mine, and giving it



C. W.
McManamy

Nonpareil
Staff Writer

willy-nilly to someone else.

To be sure, there have been innumerable programs involved. And many of the recipients were deserving and needing of our dough. None of that changed the fact it was our money, that it bought us nothing as taxes are supposed to do and that someone else was deciding who was to get what and how much.

Perhaps some of this will have to continue. Perhaps what is taken from us will still be called taxes. Hopefully, though, a more realistic approach will be used in parcelling out our dough in which case perhaps a good deal less of it will be taken from us in the first place.

Soil conservationist named

LOGAN — Lyle Peterson of Logan has been named to a new resource conservationist position at the Council Bluffs office of the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

Peterson will be promoting conservation tillage, pasture management, windbreaks and conservation planning through his work with farmers and conservationists in 12 area Soil Conservation Districts.

These districts include Harrison, East Pottawattamie, West Pottawattamie, Shelby, Monona, Crawford, Carroll, Greene, Audubon, Guthrie, Cass and Adair.

The new position is a result of a \$546,000 allocation to the western Iowa target area, and is part of an SCS effort to increase soil conservation in the area's Loess Hills. The

5-9-81

Lyle
Peterson



productive but steep land has some of the worst erosion in the nation, according to conservationists.

Peterson, who has been at Logan since 1966, will continue to serve as acting district conservationist until a replacement is found. He has been with the SCS since 1958.

He and his wife, Jerri, plan to move to Council Bluffs soon.

Conservation Questions Answered

12-24-81
Question: Can you explain what government agencies are involved in Soil Conservation and what each one's job is; I am always confused by the difference between SCS, ASCS, Districts, and the DSC.

Answer: The task of Soil Conservation in Iowa is so large that many levels of government are involved in protecting this valuable resource. It all starts at the local level with the Soil Conservation District. Governed by a board of five commissioners, the district encompassed a county-wide area with the exception of Pottawattamie which has two districts. It is where your decisions are made and priorities are set for your soil conservation program.

In order to carry out its program the district receives help from the State and Federal Government. The Iowa Department of Soil Conservation (DSC) appropriates money for commissioners expenses, supplies, and most importantly it administers a cost-sharing program for conservation practices. It also provides each district with a clerk-secretary and a soil conservation aid. The money for cost-sharing is appropriated to each district to be used under the authority of the district commissioners.

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS), a federal agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides technical assistance to the district through personnel, equipment and office facilities. SCS provides each district with a Soil Conservationist (District Conservationist) who manages the office and sees that the program is properly carried out.

Another federal agency involved in Soil Conservation is the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). ASCS offers a number of programs such as commodity loans, target price supports, etc., but the agriculture conservation program (ACP) is the segment that offers cost-sharing to farmers for the installation of conservation practices. It is similar to the state cost-sharing program. SCS is involved in design and installation of the practices for this program.

If the organization sounds complex to you, you're right. No matter how complex though, it is an effective network of people working together toward a common goal of putting conservation on the land where it benefits us all.

Note: If you would like a question answered in the column and receive a free conservation bumper sticker, please send it to West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District, Room 221 Federal Building, Council Bluffs, IA 51501.

Saving Iowa farms

Farm Bureau topic

Bill Hammit of the Soil Conservation Service in Council Bluffs warned members of West Pottawattamie County Farm Bureau Women's Committee to conserve the land.

He cited examples of the soil erosion during the past winter caused by lack of snow cover.

Hammit also explained methods of pasture erosion control and the merits of minimum or no-till farming.

"We must voluntarily conserve our land now," he said, "or we may be forced by legislation to do it in the near future. Topsoil is a precious commodity."

Hammit told of future conservation plans in the state.

Pat Wulff of Minden was program chairwoman for the meeting at the Farm Bureau meeting room.

Members attending answered roll call by telling of their favorite hobbies.

Pat Hiller of McClelland was hostess.

A report on the March 24 district workshop at Red Oak was given by Barb Sun-

dermann and Joan Larsen of Underwood.

Plans for the annual Homemaker Day were discussed. The noon event May 11 at Lakeshore Country Club will feature Billie Oakley of KMA radio in Shenandoah as speaker. Mrs. Oakley will give a history of her experiences in her radio career.

The Outstanding Homemaker for 1981 will be revealed at the luncheon.

Tickets may be obtained from any committee member or through the Farm Bureau office. Reservations should be made by May 7.

A donation of \$25 was voted to the Hope Project.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Schnoor of Silver City will host Mansoor Alawalla from Pakistan, a student at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, during International Student Weekend. The weekend, April 24-26, is sponsored by the Farm Bureau to promote better understanding among urban and foreign students through days spent on a typical Iowa farm.



Soil conservation commissioners

Eyeing the territory they will be governing are new members and officers of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District. They are: Chairman Floyd Fischer, Council Bluffs (left); vice-chairman Derald Blois, Honey Creek; commissioner David Storjohaann, Minden; and assistant commissioner Mick Ryan, Underwood. Not pictured are Clint Goos and C. W. McManamy of Council Bluffs, holdover commissioners from last year.

—Nonpareil photo.

1/29/81

Conservation Field Day Combines Fish, Forestry, Folk Songs and Fun



Approximately 125 sixth graders from Tri-Center and Underwood participated in a Conservation Field Day held Friday at Arrowhead Park. The students participated in sessions ranging from fisheries to

5-7-81

Sixth grade students from Tri-Center and Underwood shared an exciting day of fun and learning in a conservation field day held at Arrowhead Park last Friday. Approximately 127 students participated.

The workshop was sponsored by the local Soil Conservation District, working with its Environmental Education Committee. The committee includes teachers from both schools, Area XIII personnel, the District Commissioner, and the Conservation Commission Warden.

During the day's program, the students took part in courses at eight different stations. The courses included wildlife, fisheries, a blind walk, archery, web of life (ecological cycles), plants and soils, forestry, and a compass course.

The group then joined in singing with traditional country songwriter and performer Bob Everhart of Council Bluffs. Everhart has traveled all over the United States and visited a number of foreign countries with his music, and is the guiding hand behind the Old-Time Country Music Contest and Pioneer Exposition held at Westfair each fall.

The students then took a short course in fire-building and enjoyed supper.

In the evening, parents were invited to join the group to watch skits the students performed, either on an environmental theme or something they had learned, with awards presented to the winners. Rachel Hall of Neola was recognized as the winner of the essay contest.

The day had begun on a

forestry, fire building to folk songs. Mostly, they had fun as they learned about their environment.-Gazette-Reporter & News photo

quiet note, as trees were dedicated to the memory of Jim Dermody, who had worked at the park: Cal Cox, District Conservationist; and Eldon Ravlin, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Soil Conservation District.

The memorial ceremony was held in conjunction

with the field day because Cox and Ravlin were largely responsible for getting the Environmental Committee started and for promoting the idea of getting environmental education into the schools. The trees that were planted were an American sycamore, a seedless ash, and an ornamental pear.

12-3-81 Soil Conserving Suggestions

Question: Who are the commissioners of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District and what do they do?

Answer: Soil Conservation District Commissioners are the governing body of the soil conservation district. Each district is governed by five commissioners who are elected at general elections to serve staggered six-year terms. Any eligible elector may seek the office of commissioner, and all qualified electors may vote for a commissioner.

The commissioners in our district are Floyd Fischer (Lewis Twp.), Derald Blois (Boomer Twp.), C.W. McManamy (Garner Twp.), Clinton Goos, (Keg Creek Twp.), and David Storjohann (York Twp.). They are responsible for coordinating the efforts of all agencies dealing in natural resource conservation. They develop goals and programs for protecting the districts, resources, set policy on work priority, manage funds and equipment belonging to the district, and handle the state funded cost share program for conservation practices. Their reward for serving as a commissioner is the satisfaction of making a valuable contribution to the future welfare of the district.

Note: If you would like a question answered in this column and receive a free conservation bumper sticker, please send it to West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District, Room 221 Federal Building, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501.



Terracing Is The Main Method . . . of conservation being stressed in Southwest Iowa to curb soil erosion. The lip of one terrace can be seen in the background. The greatest problem seen in the soil battle is a lack of money — Nonpareil photo.

Not enough to save soil

Soil war lacks ammo

By JIM WILLIAMS
Nonpareil Staff Writer

A shortage of financial ammunition may be hampering Southwest Iowa's war to save its soil.

"We're not really keeping up with the amount of erosion that we've got," said Bill Hammitt, West Pottawattamie district conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service.

Defeatist talk, considering that it came during observance last week of Soil Conservation Week?

NOT REALLY. Hammitt said that while the land can replenish itself of topsoil losses of up to about five tons per year, his district's losses average more than five times that amount.

And he said strong economic incentives will be needed to counter the financial pressures that drive farmers to erosive practices.

"We kind of seem to think it's getting worse," he said. "With the economics of the farming situation, everybody has to farm every inch of land they've got to make it break even. There's lots of cash rent (for land) now and the guy that rents it has to farm every inch."

The need to produce as much as possible has driven farmers to plant land that would formerly be used for pasture or woods, he said. Such land is often more steeply sloped than prime cropland, making erosion more of a problem, he said.

IN A VICIOUS cycle, erosion itself worsens the farmer's financial picture.

"Our soil losses probably average 25 to 30 tons an acre over the whole county,"

Hammitt said. "There's something like \$6 or \$7 worth of nitrogen lost for every 10 tons of erosion — so we're probably losing \$15 to \$20 an acre in nutrients."

Conservationists fight soil loss with a two-pronged attack — terracing and conservation tillage. In terracing, farmers build ledges of earth that keep water from washing soil down the hill.

In conservation tillage, residue from last year's crop is left on the land to hold the soil in place against wind and water. Special planters are used to cut through the residue to plant seeds. The crop then simply grows up through the stubble.

Terracing has gotten most of the attention and money in Southwest Iowa's soil conservation program, Hammitt said.

In the West Pottawattamie district, about 2,500 miles of terraces have been built under a cost-share program in which farmers split the cost of terracing with the state and federal governments, he said.

BUT HAMMITT said the terracing job is less than half finished. About 3,300 miles remain to be built, he said — a task that would cost the government and farmers \$0.5 million each, at today's prices.

"We get about the same amount of cost-share dollars every year and that hasn't been buying as many feet of terraces because of the inflation factor."

"In the past years, we'd been running about 400,000 feet of terraces a year. In the past five years, this has dropped to about 300,000."

"In the meantime, the demand for terraces has been going up — farmers have been

realizing they've got an erosion problem, and come in to sign applications.

"We've got stacks of applications on file, but not enough money to fund them," Hammitt said.

The Soil Conservation Service gets about \$80,000 a year from the state's Financial Incentives Program, and last year got \$40,000 from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. But with federal budget cuts, this year's USDA amount could be lower, and the state amount might be threatened in future years, he said.

CONSERVATION TILLAGE also could use increased financial support, Hammitt said.

"Primarily, in this part of the state, the way our ground lies, we need to talk more about no-till than anything," he said. With these steeper slopes, even with terraces, you need no-till to get the soil loss down."

No-till is especially important for farmers who rotate their crop from corn to soybeans, because soybeans are highly erosive, he said. At least half the farmers in the West Pottawattamie district need some kind of conservation tillage on their land, he said.

Hammitt said the state finances an "Iowa Till" program to get farmers to try conservation tillage. Under the program, farmers who agree to leave a 50-percent ground cover on a field for five years can get a one-shot payment of \$30 an acre, he said.

"THIS \$30-AN-ACRE payment seemed to work real well in other parts of the state," he said, especially in northern Iowa where wind erosion is a

problem.

Beginning this year, another program allows local soil conservation districts to use up to 10 percent of their terrace money to give farmers further incentive to try conservation tillage, he said.

But West Pottawattamie has not taken the 10-percent option because officials believe the terrace program needs all the money the district can spare. He said officials hope the federal government will make a special appropriation to erosion-control target areas, including West Pottawattamie, to help finance no-till incentives.

A plan proposed last year by Sen. Roger Jepsen would give farmers more financial backing by tying cost sharing money to conservation plans, Hammitt said. Under Jepsen's proposal, any farmer who filed a conservation plan with the SCS would be guaranteed a certain amount of money to carry it out.

"THIS WOULD really be the best way to go about it if we could get the money," Hammitt said. "But you're talking about an awful lot of dollars in this part of the state."

The Jepsen proposal did not get far, but Hammitt expects to see the proposal made again, as well as others. Money will be the key to further erosion control efforts, he said.

"I think there's going to have to be some additional funding . . . maybe some tax incentives for the farmers," he said. "It may come down to a tax on food or a tax on exports that would go back to pay for conservation."

"We're feeding all these other countries at our own expense, as far as the soil loss goes."

Conservation Awards Presented



At the annual awards program held last week in Neola, the following awards were presented: [front row, from the left] Clinton Erickson and Paul O'Neill [absent] received the Landowner-Tenant Conservation Award; Harvey Moss was given the Eldon Ravlin Award as outstanding conservation farmer; Charles Angerth, Jr. was the recipient of both the Owner-Operator and overall conservation awards; [back row] Sherwood Bentley received the Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award; and Frank Busch was honored as the New Cooperator.—Gazette-Reporter & News photo

Annual report 3-25-82

Soil conserving suggestions

Question:

I recently had some terraces built. Do I still have to pay the contractor before I can collect my cost-share money?

Answer: 1-14-82

No. State cost-share rules have been changed. You no longer have to have your bill marked "paid in full" by your contractor. The state decided that was between the customer and contractor and not state business.

Soil Conserving Suggestions:

5-20-82

Question:

What is Soil Stewardship Week?

Answer:

For centuries, men and women have offered humble thanks to God for the priceless gifts of soil, water, air, and sunshine which make all living things possible. Over the years, people have expressed this gratitude in many ways.

Soil Stewardship Week is a special time to remind all people that God's gifts of

soil and its associated resources deserve their best in creative conservation and management. Since 1955, it has been sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts. It always begins with the fifth Sunday after Easter, and is observed this year on May 16-23. Let us all show that we care for the vital elements of our environment and remember this year's theme, "A Time for Tenacity".

Soil Conserving Suggestions

4-82
Question:

What can I do with a few acres of woodland on my farm?

Answer:

Woodlands can be improved and made profitable as a source of firewood or timber. The first step is to exclude grazing. Grazing destroys new saplings. Un-

desirable trees should be taken out to provide space for desirable trees such as white oak, black walnut, ash, hard maple, and wild black cherry. These trees can be quite valuable when harvested for timber.

Using your woodlot for firewood may be worth

considering if you have the time to harvest it. A well managed Iowa woodlot should produce one cord of wood per acre per year. If your home requires 100 million BTU's to heat it a year, a five acre oak-hickory woodlot would be enough to heat it on a sustained basis.

Soil Conserving Suggestions:

8-12-82

Question:

What is the best way to control a gully?

Answer:

Treatment of gullies generally falls into two classes: control by shaping and seeding; or structural control plus vegetation. If slopes can't be controlled by seeding due to an overfall or steep portion of the channel, a permanent structure may be required.

The type of structure needed depends on the size of the gully, the size of the watershed or drainage area, and other site conditions. Three principal types of structures are known as

drop spillways, drop inlet spillways, and chute spillways. There are various combinations of inlets, conduits and outlets that may be used.

Of course, the best way to control gullies is to prevent their formation. Such prevention saves time and money because the larger the gully, the more expensive and difficult it will be to control. Reducing runoff (vegetative cover, terraces) or handling runoff at nonerosive velocities (diversions, waterways) can reduce erosion and thus prevent gullies.

Soil Conserving Suggestion

Question: 11-25-82

How do I get trees from the Iowa State Nursery and is there a limit to where I can plant them?

Answer:

The first step is to obtain an application form at the Iowa State Nursery, the Iowa Conservation Commission, the District Forester, or the Wildlife Management Biologist. The Soil Conservation Service and ASCS also have applications available. Applications should be sent in as soon as possible since the orders are filled on a first-come first-serve basis.

Trees from the state nursery are to be used for establishing or improving forest areas, erosion control, or wildlife and water conservation. Protection from fire and livestock damage is required. The trees cannot be resold or planted for windbreak, shade, or ornamental uses.

Conservation Winners Named

9-2-82

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District has selected several area farmers for recognition of their efforts in soil conservation. The 1982 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program is sponsored to encourage better land use programs and environmental control on farms in Iowa. There are three divisions to this program: I - for family-operated or owner-operated farms; II - for landlords and tenants; and III - for farmers who have become new soil conservation district cooperator during the year 1981 or later. This year's recipients at the district level are Herbert, John, and William Witt for Division I, St. Patrick's Church (Neola)

and Clarence Ring for Division II, and Joseph Grote for Division III. Mr. Grote was also selected for entry in regional competition.

The Eldon Ravlin Award is a locally sponsored award for an Outstanding Conservation Farmer. It is given by the West Pottawattamie SCD in memorial to a former District Commissioner, who was dedicated to conserving our natural resources. This year's recipient is Robert S. Jensen.

All of these conservation winners will be honored at the annual awards program to be held this winter to which the public is also invited. The time and place will be announced later.

Students Earn Conservation Essay Awards

11-28-82



Underwood students honored earlier this week for their entries in the Junior Division of the Soil Conservation Essay Contest included [seated from the left] Jason Lloyd, Carrie Walker, [standing] Dan Casson, Trent Holmburg and Julie Knott. Tracy Peterson [not pictured] was the only senior entry in the country and will advance to further competition.—Gazette photo



Tri-Center's five top entrants from approximately sixty participants in the Junior Division of the Soil Conservation Essay Contest were [from the left] John Ferris, Tyler Zimmerman, Jayleen Jensen, Tara Schroder and Scott Huebner. The Contest is sponsored by the Ladies Auxilliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance.—Gazette

Missouri Farmer to Head SCS Despite Opposition to Outsider

3-82

Washington (AP) — Agriculture Secretary John Block, breaking with nearly half a century of professional tradition, Wednesday announced the appointment of a Missouri farmer as chief of the Soil Conservation Service.

Peter C. Myers, 51, will take over the \$58,500-a-year job April 5, succeeding Norman A. Berg, 64, who has been chief since 1979.

Berg, a 39-year career employee of the agency, will stay on at the same salary as a senior adviser to Block on soil and water conservation.

Block introduced Myers, who operates a 1,100-acre farm near Matthews, Mo., in the southeast part of the state, at a press conference.

Block said the appointment fulfills

President Reagan's campaign promise to "place farmers and those who understand farming in policy positions" in the Agriculture Department.

When Block's intentions surfaced last week, a wave of opposition came from some farm and conservation organizations and members of Congress because Myers was an outsider.

According to the SCS, Myers will be the seventh person to head the agency since it began in 1935. All of his predecessors were career federal employees.

Myers is a native of Racine, Wis., and graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1953 with a science degree in agriculture.

No-Till Meetings Are Planned

2-4-82

Interested in trying some no-till in 1982?

"The staff of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District has set up a schedule of afternoon meetings around the county devoted entirely to no-till", according to Bill Hammitt, District Conservationist. "These meetings are designed to be short and to-the-point for people who are serious about their no-till system and want to drop in and pick up a few pointers."

The following is the agenda of the topics to be presented:

1:00 p.m. - "Conservation Farming in Western Iowa";

1:30 p.m. - "Tips on No-Till from Iowa Farmers"; 2:00

p.m. - "Spraying Systems for No-Till"; 2:30 p.m. - "No-Till Farmers in West Pott."

Meeting Schedule: Tuesday, February 9 - St. John's Lutheran Church County Rd. L-36, Boomer Township.

Thursday, February 18 - Neola City Hall, Neola.

Tuesday, February 23 - American Legion Basement, Treynor.

Thursday, March 4 - To be announced later, Lewis Township.

Coffee and donuts will be served.

Don't Panic! Go Ahead

5-20-82 With No Till Plans

"If you haven't planted your no-till fields and they are getting green; don't panic and hook on to the disk when it dries up," says Bill Hammitt, District Conservationist.

You will need to save all the time you can when you get back into the fields and the best way to do that is to continue with your no-till plans and go ahead and plant. There are plenty of herbicide alternatives you can choose from in getting rid of the existing weed population without disking. This includes using liquid N, paraquat or roundup for a burn down. Liquid N and paraquat will burn down grasses and broadleaves that aren't too tall. Roundup is expensive but will kill almost anything it contacts by translocation to the root

system. If you use a burndown that fails to completely kill tall broad-leaf weeds, you can always use 2,4-D to finish the job. If broadleaves are the only problem in the field 2,4-D is an inexpensive and faster substitute for the disk.

If you look at no-till fields planted before this wet weather, you can really see the benefits of no-tillage. There has been no erosion and virtually no water runoff. This will result in moisture conserved for July and August when we really need it. At this point the no-till fields have the best stand and best weed control of any fields planted.

If you don't know what to do about a weed problem in a field you plan to no-till, contact the County Extension office or the Soil Conservation Service office for assistance.

Farmers Turn Out For No-Till Tours

7-15-82

More than 60 farmers from West Pottawattamie and as far away as Red Oak toured no-till fields on the Stanley Danker, Charles Angeroth, and John Fischer farms the past 2 weeks, according to Bill Hammitt, District Conservationist.

Three evening tours were held to look at crops of corn and soybeans planted with no prior tillage. Nearly 20 inches of rain had fallen on John Fischer's terraced fields since planting May 1st, but no visible

signs of rills or loss of stand from erosion were apparent.

"If you're not a no-till farmer, these tours would have made a believer out of anyone," said Hammitt. "The no-till advantage will sell themselves once you look at one of these fields or talk to someone who has tried it. Last year, we had 500 acres of no-till in West Pottawattamie and this year we are estimating 5000-6000 acres."

Conservation Poster Contest Winners Named

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District and its Environmental Education Council sponsored a conservation poster contest this spring. The theme of the posters was "Preserving Iowa's Wildlife".

Tri-Center and Underwood Elementary Schools participated in this year's contest. There was a junior division which consisted of grades 1-3 and a senior division which included grades 4-5. There were 5 winners in each division from each school. The winners, listed below, were each given a certificate.

Tri-Center School

Junior Division: Amy Handbury, 2nd grade; Lia Carper, 3rd grade; Sandy Dargin, 1st grade; Danny Elliott, 3rd grade; Christine Downing, 1st grade.

Senior Division: Ember Bargaquast, 4th grade; Candy Barrier, 5th grade; John Ratigan, 4th grade; Anjanette Holstein, 5th grade; Brian Lund, 4th grade.

Underwood School

Junior Division: Eddy Jackson, 2nd grade; Laura Logan, 1st grade; Debbie

Zook, 3rd grade; Diane Gach, 2nd grade; Rue Hough, 2nd grade.

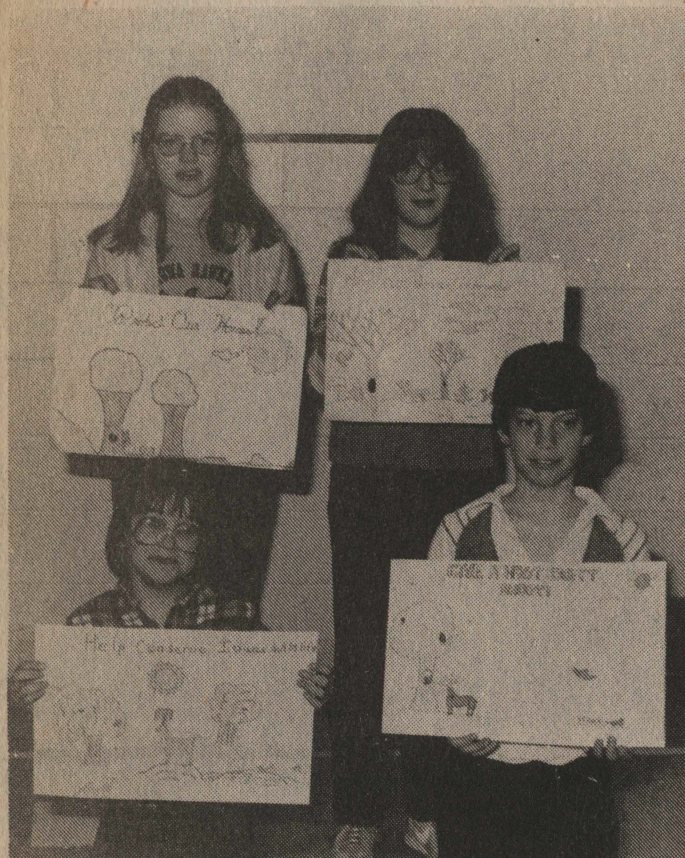
Senior Division: Andy Rasmussen, 5th grade; Tim Hiller, 5th grade; Kelly Bach, 5th grade; Matt Bracker, 5th grade; Amy Ross, 4th grade.

Since this year's posters were about wildlife, they coincided with National Wildlife Week, March 14-20 1982. The national theme was "We Care About Ea-

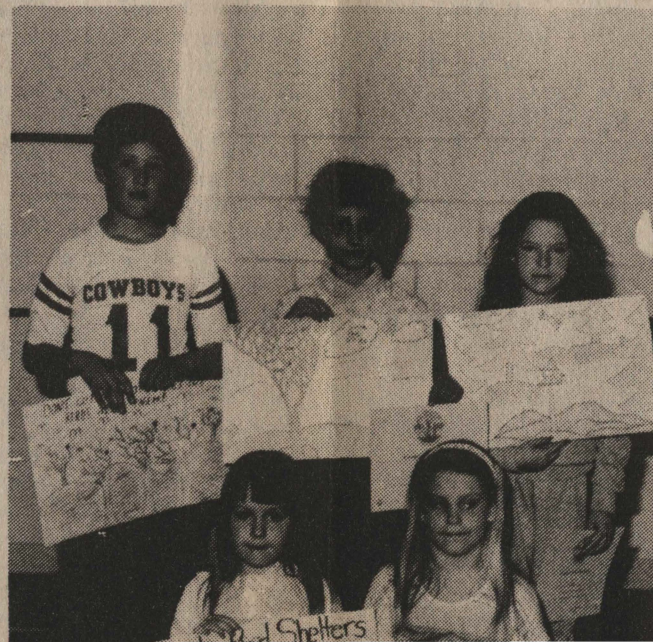
gles" which commemorates the 200th anniversary of the bald eagle as our national symbol.

We would like to congratulate the winners and thank everyone who participated in this year's poster contest. We hope these posters have helped you to become more aware of Iowa's wildlife.

By Paul Miller
County Resource Planner



Senior division winners at Tri-Center were [front row, from the left] Ember Bargaquast, 4th grade; John Ratigan, 4th grade; [back row] Candy Barrier, 5th grade; Anjanette Holstein, 5th grade; and [not shown] Brian Lund, 4th grade.—David H. Pederson photo



Underwood elementary winners in the Soil Conservation poster contest included junior division winners [front row, from the left] Diane Gach, 2nd grade; Debbie Zook, 3rd grade; Rue Hough, 2nd grade; Eddy Jackson, 2nd grade; and Laura Logan [not shown], 1st grade. Senior division winners were [back row, from the left] Amy Ross, 4th grade; Andy Rasmussen, 5th grade; Kelly Bach, 5th grade; Matt Bracker, 5th grade; and Tim Hiller, 5th grade.—Gordon Mosher photo

Soil Conserving Suggestions

Question: 8-26-82

How should I manage my farm pond for fish production?

Answer:

It is important to make sure there is enough dissolved oxygen in the water. Most fish need about 5 parts per million (ppm) to survive. Some fish like trout, minnows and bullheads, need 7-11 ppm while carp only need 1-2 ppm.

Plants in the water give off oxygen when they produce sugar during photosynthesis. Oxygen is also added to water by wave action or man-made agitation.

Oxygen is removed from the water during respiration by plants and fish.

Also, bacteria use oxygen to break down organic material and waste.

Dissolved oxygen concentrations increase during the day and decrease at night. It reaches the lowest point at dawn and peaks at mid-afternoon. Oxygen levels are lower in warm water than cold water. Most problems with low oxygen occur when the water temperature exceeds 75 degrees F.

Late summer and early fall is the most critical time for oxygen concentrations because the water is warm, feeding rates are high, and plants and fish are abundant.

Tests can be done on your pond to make sure there is enough oxygen and no toxic materials.

Conservation Winners Named

9-2-82

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and Clarence Ring for Division II, and Joseph Grote for Division III. Mr. Grote was also selected for entry in regional competition.

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All of these conservation winners will be honored at the annual awards program to be held this winter to which the public is also invited. The time and place will be announced later.

Soil Conserving Suggestions:

9-23-82

Question:

What is an orifice in a tile outlet terrace or a level terrace with a pipe?

Answer:

The orifice is a round steel plate with a hole in the middle of it inside the pipe about a foot above the

elbow. The size of the hole will depend on the acres that drain into the terrace. This way the water flow is restricted, reducing the size of the rill below the outlet or prevents pressure from building up on the tile line below the terrace.

Soil Conserving Suggestions:

11-4-82

Question

What advantages are there of having grassed headlands in my field?

Answer:

Since most end-rows are planted up and down the hill, the major advantage of headlands is erosion control. Many tons of soil are lost each year by water

running freely down the end-rows. Permanent vegetation along the field's edge slows the water velocity and helps hold the soil in place.

It is also easier to turn machinery on smooth headlands than bouncing around on corn rows.

Soil Conserving Suggestions:

11-18-82

Question:

What incentives are there for landowners to maintain or establish timbered areas?

Answer:

Trees can provide a number of benefits. They can protect land from soil erosion, reduce air and water pollution, provide shelter to livestock, reduce energy needs for a farmstead, act as a screen against unsightly views, and provide wildlife habitat. If properly managed, they can provide income from the sale of lumber or firewood.

Some recent legislative changes provide additional incentives. Beginning in 1983, Iowa's Forest Reserve Law allows the county assessor to list qualifying land with an assessed value of zero, and thus a tax bill of zero. Federal tax incentives allow 10 percent investment credit and amortization over a 7-year period for reforestation cost on the first \$10,000 of expenditures.

If you would like a question answered in this column and receive a free conservation bumper sticker, send it to West Pottawattamie SCD, Room 221 Federal Bldg., Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Question:

I can't afford to terrace all of my land at this time. What else can I do to help control erosion until I can afford to terrace?

Answer:

There are several practices other than terraces that will help control erosion, but on most of our sloping cropland, terraces are required to do the job completely. Some of the things you can do now that won't cost you money include contouring for example. If you are currently farming up and down the hill, a switch to contouring will cut your soil losses in half. If you are currently contouring, a reduction in tillage operations will help a lot. Try to maintain a high level of crop residue at planting through less disking, substituting a field cultivator for the disk, or no-tilling. Another more extreme step in controlling your erosion is to add some small grain or hay to your rotation on the steeper land. Another alternative next year would be to put your most erosive field in the reduced acres program and seed it down temporarily.

No-Till Club To Meet At Underwood

1-20-83

The Underwood Vo-AG department and the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District are sponsoring a no-till club for any farmers who tried no-till in 1982.

All meetings will be held at the Underwood High School. The first organizational meeting will be Thursday, January 20th at 7:00 p.m. Additional meetings are planned for Febru-

ary 3rd and 17th, and March 3rd.

Topics of discussion will be any problems or questions no-till farmers have experienced. No-till professionals from around the state will be invited to speak at upcoming meetings. The only requirement for attendance is some no-till experience and a desire for more information.

Soil Conserving Suggestions:

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running freely down the end-rows. Permanent vegetation along the field's edge slows the water velocity and helps hold the soil in place.

It is also easier to turn machinery on smooth headlands than bouncing around on corn rows.

Soil Conserving

Suggestions

Question: 8-19-82

Under what conditions do I need to get a permit from the Iowa Natural Resources Council for changing a stream channel or constructing a dam?

Answer:

A permit for altering a stream channel is necessary if any of the following occurs:

1. A stream in a rural area drains over 10 square miles.
2. More than 500 feet of the channel is changed.
3. The length of the channel is reduced by 25 percent or more.
4. The change affects a protected stream as listed by the INRC.

A permit for storing water is necessary if any of the following occurs:

1. Permanent and temporary storage exceeds 50 acre-feet or exceeds 25 acre-feet and has no emergency spillway.
2. Permanent storage exceeds 18 acre-feet.
3. Drainage area exceeds 10 square miles.
4. At a site within 2 miles of town if the dam height is 10 feet or more and temporary storage is over 5 acre-feet or drainage area exceeds 2 square miles.

Soil Conserving Suggestions

7-15-82

Question:

Because of the recent heavy rainfall in our area, there have been many news reports of soil erosion rates in excess of 50 tons per acre per year. How is that measured?

Answer:

These soil loss figures are not measured but are estimated by using the Universal Soil Loss Equation. The formula, $A = RKLSCO$, is the result of more than 50 years of research and rainfall records from 2000 weather stations. It includes factors for rainfall, soil erodibility, slope length, slope steepness, crop management, and conservation practices. This formula is the best tool we have for computing average annual soil losses, and it is used as a guide for

selecting conservation practices for specific sites. Personnel from the Soil Conservation Service can help you figure your own soil losses and develop a conservation plan for your farm. The goal of your conservation plan should be to reduce soil loss to only 5 ton per acre per year, and amount which most of our soils can tolerate.

Question: What is the difference between multiple cropping and intercropping?

Answer:

Multiple cropping is the use of the same field to grow two or more crops in a single year. You might say it is a crop rotation compressed into one year. A form of multiple cropping, in this area, is planting soybeans in wheat stubble after the wheat is

harvested.

Intercropping is when two or more crops are grown in the same field at the same time. An example is growing a cover crop under trees in an orchard. Work has been done with growing soybeans with wheat or oats.

These two cropping systems have economic benefits to landowners. Also, the soil is protected with cover throughout the entire growing season.

Question:

What have farmers put on some of these fields that make the weeds look like they have been burned?

Answer:

They are using a burn down herbicide like roundup or paraquat along with their regular surface applied herbicide and maybe some 2-4D in approximately 40 gallons of water or with liquid nitrogen. This way they can plant their crop without any prior tillage.

Soil Conserving Suggestions:

Question: 11-18-82

What incentives are there for landowners to maintain or establish timbered areas?

Answer:

Trees can provide a number of benefits. They can protect land from soil erosion, reduce air and water pollution, provide shelter to livestock, reduce energy needs for a farmstead, act as a screen against unsightly views, and provide wildlife habitat. If properly managed, they can provide income from the sale of lumber or firewood.

Some recent legislative changes provide additional incentives. Beginning in 1983, Iowa's Forest Reserve Law allows the county assessor to list qualifying land with an assessed value of zero, and thus a tax bill of zero. Federal tax incentives allow 10 percent investment credit and amortization over a 7-year period for reforestation cost on the first \$10,000 of expenditures.

If you would like a question answered in this column and receive a free conservation bumper sticker, send it to West Pottawattamie SCD, Room 221 Federal Bldg., Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Question:

I can't afford to terrace all of my land at this time. What else can I do to help control erosion until I can afford to terrace?

Answer:

There are several practices other than terraces that will help control erosion, but on most of our sloping cropland, terraces are required to do the job completely. Some of the things you can do now that won't cost you money include contouring for example. If you are currently farming up and down the hill, a switch to contouring will cut your soil losses in half. If you are currently contouring, a reduction in tillage operations will help a lot. Try to maintain a high level of crop residue at planting through less disking, substituting a field cultivator for the disk, or no-tilling. Another more extreme step in controlling your erosion is to add some small grain or hay to your rotation on the steeper land. Another alternative next year would be to put your most erosive field in the reduced acres program and seed it down temporarily.

Soil Conserving 2-4-82 Suggestions:

I know that conservation tillage can effectively reduce soil erosion, but can I control weeds with reduced tillage?

Answer:

Although many people fear that weed pressure will intensify if they switch to a conservation tillage system, it may be more accurate to say that weed problems can change when switching to a conservation tillage system.

Moldboard plowing buries some annual weed seed deep. They are not killed but remain dormant for a long time. Plowing also brings other seeds to the surface where they can germinate. These can be controlled by repeated secondary tillage operations and/or herbicides.

Conservationist Weiss years ahead of his time

Nonpareil - Co Bluffs, Ia. 6-28-82

I am sure that a great many folks in this area share with me a poignant sense of loss in learning of the death of Walter Weiss. Walt died recently at Stillwater, Okla. where he had been making his home. He had a daughter and son-in-law living there I believe. He was 79 years old and his wife preceeded him in death several years ago.

He was one heck of a guy in his own right. A fire-cracker sort of a person, he was ebullent and outgoing. Whatever he did he did with a gusto. He was well known both in Council Bluffs and throughout Southwest Iowa. So far as I was ever able to determine, to know him was to like him.

Walt Weiss was one of the most fervent and dedicated disciples of soil and water conservation that cause will ever have. He worked for the Soil Conservation Service, of course, but that was more or less a means to an end.

HE BELIEVED TOTALLY in the cause of conservation. He could see with a sharper eye than most the growing need for keeping our topsoil in place and holding the rain where it fell. He did not preach. He advocated and having done so he supplied action to go with his words.

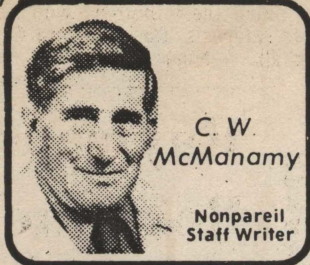
Walt probably "sold" as much or more conservation on the land as anyone else involved in the cause either directly or indirectly. He was always looking for better ways to both promote the idea of conservation and equally better ways of actually getting that job done.

Today no-till farming, the practice of leaving a field just as it is with all of the surface residue in place, is recognized as a tremendously effective conservation practice and tool.

It was probably 30 years ago, maybe more, that Walt visualized the value of this practice and preached it ardently. He even twisted enough arms to get a research field established up in either Harrison or Shelby County, I forget just which right now.

The only problem was Walt turned out to be about 30 years ahead of the times. The key to the success of today's no-till practice is the highly effective herbicides used in preliminary treatment of the intended fields. This insures, for the most part, adequate weed control.

Today's herbicides or their counterpart were not available for Walt's first no-till field. In addition he hit a relatively wet spring and the net result was a measure of disaster. The field did a splendid job of holding both soil and moisture. It did an equally outstanding job of growing a crop of weeds. He was later to laughingly suggest that he had produced some of the tallest and sturdiest weeds ever grown in the state.



organized down in Montgomery County in 1940, I became acquainted with Walt early on.

You could not associate with him very long without beginning to also believe with him that soil and water conservation was one of, if not the most important responsibility the people of this nation had.

Walt and I certainly shared the common view that all citizens, those who eat food as well as those who produce it, share in this need for soil stewardship and the duty to conserve, to the very limit of our combined ability, our soil and water.

I know I speak only a simple truth when I say Walt left his mark on many people and many hills in this community. He will be long and fondly remembered.

Conservation Awards Presented



2-24-83

Among those recognized in the soil conservation awards program held February 9th in Underwood were [front row] John Witt, Herb Witt, Bill Witt, Robert Jensen and Jay Crist. The Witts received the owner-operator award, Jensen received the Eldon Ravlin Award as outstanding conservation farmer, and Crist received the Izaak Walton League windbreak award. Not present but also recognized were Joseph Grote, Jr., who received both the new cooperator and the sweepstakes awards, and St. Patrick's Church of Neola and Clarence Ring, who received the landlord-tenant award.—Gazette photo

Conservation events are planned at western Iowa park

By DON MUHM

Register Farm Editor

REGISTER PHOTO BY DON MUHM

NEOLA, IA. — The small group huddled over the forest-green picnic table was hard at work last week, making twofold plans that will put Arrowhead Park in the conservation spotlight next year.

For one thing, this tree-studded, 150-acre picnic, fishing and camping area two miles southeast of here is to

be the headquarters for a local celebration — the 40th anniversary of the formation of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District. It was officially organized April 28, 1944.

Secondly, this local program will be broadened to include recognition of the beginning of the national soil and water conservation movement a

half-century ago when the U. S. Soil Erosion Service was formed in August 1933.

Both of these events figure into a special program planned at Arrowhead Park June 9. Visitors will be able to take wagon tours of the watershed area that created the 14-acre Arrowhead Lake and to become familiar with how such a lake can become choked with silt and farm chemicals through erosion.

Various farming practices will be featured on the tour, with efforts made to explain how farm fields and pastures are to be fully protected by soil conservation practices to thwart sedimentation of the lake.

The 11 farmers and land owners in the 1,036-acre watershed recently signed agreements providing for full protection of the soil and water resources in the Arrowhead Park area. This action came because the lake, developed privately by farmer Robert Petersen in 1969, had begun to fill with sediment. What was reported to have been a fabulous fishing lake slowly went downhill, and the water color became dull and less promising.

Things became so bad that this fine lake ended up ranked second worse in the state by the Iowa Department of Environmental Quality from the standpoint of pollution by silt and farm chemicals.

Now, some \$118,400 in federal funds will be used to help pay three-fourths of the costs of putting conservation practices on the land to protect the lake as well as the popular park itself, which drew 43,000 visitors last year from 43 states.

Cutting down on siltation of the lake is a top priority, according to officials of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service here. They project that the soil losses that now average 26 tons an acre yearly will be reduced to six tons, while the amount of farm chemicals that get into the lake will also be cut substantially.

The federal and private funds will be used for terracing, no-till planting and pasture improvement work, along with tree plantings, wildlife plantings coupled with fish management programs and water quality test demonstrations.

The federal funds are coming from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program, which is organized in an eight-county area in southwest Iowa as the "Golden Hills RC&D."

Helping map out the activities



Geese in flight from Arrowhead Lake

planned for next June here is a widely known conservationist, farmer and journalist, C. W. "Mac" McManamy of rural Council Bluffs.

Mac has worn a lot of different agricultural hats over the years. He currently is chairman of the West Pottawattamie soil district.

Now 75, Mac related how he became acquainted with soil conservation early in his varied career,

COUNTRY LIVING



including covering the story of the organization of the state's first county-wide soil district. As a radio newsman, he reported how farmers and land owners in Montgomery County in southwest Iowa formed their soil district in May 1940.

This was shortly after the Iowa soil conservation districts law had been passed and after the initial State Soil Conservation Committee was appointed by Gov. George A. Wilson.

McManamy praised the Arrowhead Park project, calling it "an excellent example of cooperation" among agencies and farm owners that "will make a significant contribution to the public well-being."

The park is a highly popular spot,

thanks to the fact that it was the first public camping area in the county, according to Harold Borwick, the executive director of the West Pottawattamie County Conservation Board.

The park is only 17 miles northeast of Council Bluffs and attracts campers from there and from nearby Omaha, Neb.

Another thing that makes the park popular is its close proximity to Interstate 80. Many out-of-state travelers stop here overnight.

William J. Brune, the state conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service in Iowa, said the Arrowhead conservation project represents "a long-term agreement between 11 land owners and our agencies to put the remaining soil practices on the land." This, Brune said, "will complete the job so that valuable public land and water resources are protected so that we can all enjoy this beautiful park in the years ahead."

While Brune spoke, the quiet surface of Arrowhead Lake was broken with a splash here and a swirl there as a small army of frogs headed for the muddy shoreline and winter hibernation.

Atop one of the lake's earthen jetties roosted a small flock of Canada geese keeping a wary eye on the human intruders.

Arrowhead has belonged to the public since 1962 when it was purchased from the Bob Petersen family by the county conservation board. One of its many uses is a setting for an outdoor classroom for young students. One of the things

many groups of students do is to plant a tree, which helps explain the magnificent sprinkling of all kinds of trees on the loess hills surrounding the lake.

The lake was created by a dam built to halt the erosion that had taken place through years of free runoff of water in the area.

"If you had been here 40 years ago," C. W. McManamy told his small audience of conservation boosters last week, "you would have been standing on the banks of one of the damndest gullies in Western Iowa."



C. W. "Mac" McManamy

Soil Conserving Suggestions:

3/17/83

Question:

How much topsoil is lost in Iowa from unprotected cropland?

Answer:

On the average, Iowa had 14"-18" of topsoil 100 years ago. Only 6"-8" remain today. Remember, this is an average so at some places, there is more but some have less.

The average soil loss in Iowa is 10 Tons/Ac/Year. At this rate, one inch of topsoil will be lost every 15 years. It is important to reduce the rate of soil loss since it takes hundreds of years for nature to form an inch of topsoil. In the West Pottawattamie District, the average soil loss is considerably higher due to steeper slopes and highly erodible soil.

County soil awards a 'family affair'



Getting Together...on the subject of soil conservation, winners of Soil Conservation Service awards take a break during presentation meeting at Underwood. Winners at the meeting included William Witt, Robert S. Jensen, John Witt, Jay Crist, Herbert Witt, Ellie Witt, Mary Witt and Kay Crist. — Nonpareil photo.

UNDERWOOD — A family affair, beginner's luck and a church connection all figured into the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District's annual soil conservation awards, presented this week in a meeting at Underwood Lutheran Church.

The family of winners — in the "family farm" or owner-operator category — was the Witt clan of rural Minden. Herbert, John and William Witt were co-winners of the award for farmer-landowners judged most active in soil conservation efforts on their land.

ANOTHER MINDENITE, Clarence Ring, won the award's tenant category — sharing it with St. Patrick's Church of Neola, from which he rents.

The top "sweepstakes" award, though, went to the winner in the new cooperator category: Joseph R. Grote Jr. of Neola. Although a newcomer to the SCS cooperator program for conservation planning, Grote was judged best overall among the three category winners for conservation work.

Jay Crist of rural Silver City won the Windbreak Award

sponsored by the Izaak Walton League for notable efforts at protecting his farm with shelter-belt plantings.

Robert S. Jensen of Neola won the Eldon Ravlin award, an annual honor commemorating a former soil commissioner, and Floyd Fischer of rural Council Bluffs and Derald Blois of rural Honey Creek took Commissioners' Awards.

Herbert Witt said he began terracing the family's farmlands back in the 1950s, strictly as a matter of practicality.

"WHEN YOU'D HAVE your plow in the ditch every spring, and with some of these end rows going up and down a hill, you began to see that it was a never-ending job to fill them in, and you might just as well have them seeded down," he said. "With some of these waterways you'd have to turn around in the middle of the fields, and they'd keep getting deeper and deeper — and that had to be fixed. They sure looked a lot better (after terracing) than what we were doing."

Witt said conservation practices can pay off.

"You don't have to have a

lot of equipment and don't have to hire a lot of machinery to build a terrace or something," he said. "You can do a lot. Some rotation or strip farming or contouring or things like that can make quite a difference."

"Once that topsoil is gone, it's gone," John Witt said.

THE AWARD WINNERS said they thought the 1983 federal farm programs should encourage conservation.

"It should be a really good thing for the country as a whole," said Robert Jensen. "When we needed the production, when they thought they needed all the food and fiber we could grow, we kept putting more land into production — land that really wasn't fitted for intensive row-cropping. And that's where the greatest soil loss and water loss was."

"With this program (acreage reduction and PIK) coming in now, it will help — we can farm our better ground more intensively, use more fertilizer and chemicals on it, and get more production. Farmers as individuals will get more net profit as well as conserving the soil."

JayCees Name John Fischer Outstanding Young Farmer

1-26-83



John J. Fischer, shown here in the new hog unit added to his operation last summer, was recently recognized by the Council Bluffs JayCees as Outstanding Young Farmer for 1982. Fischer was also named one of eight state winners and will visit Des Moines as a guest of the JayCees later this month. He farms 457 acres and derives his total income from farming. Besides farming for the past seven years, John is active in a wide range of other activities, including a strong interest in conservation, St. Patrick's Church, Extension, Pork Producers, Hoo Doo Committee, etc.—Gazette photo

McManamy won't end conservation activity

By GARY ROSENBERG
Nonpareil Staff Writer



C. W. McManamy

C.W. McManamy, a long-time advocate of soil and water conservation, will step down from his post as chairman of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District commissioners this week.

But he won't leave his interest in the conservation movement behind. After at least 40 years of supporting the move to prevent soil erosion and the subsequent siltation of water, the 75-year-old McManamy said he's still "ready and willing" to lend the district a hand.

A columnist and former agriculture reporter and associate editor for The Nonpareil, McManamy said he's resigning his commissioner's post because he spends a good portion of the winter in Arizona.

"I don't like to hold a position if I can't fulfill it properly," McManamy said. "I haven't been able to discharge my duties as chairman at times."

Because he and his wife, Maurine, plan on traveling more, McManamy said he had to cut down on his outside activities. "I'm keeping too many balls in the air."

McMANAMY said he had a natural interest in conservation. "I've always been active in the conservation effort. I followed it very closely (as a reporter for The Nonpareil) and made a number of appearances and speeches on behalf of conservation."

"I was active 40 years ago when the first formal soil conservation district in the state was formed" in Pottawattamie County.

"Soil and water conservation, if not the most important, is one of the most important areas in agriculture, particularly in Southwest Iowa, where we have highly erodible soil and fairly steep slopes," McManamy said.

He was instrumental in helping to form some of the watershed districts in the area. Watershed districts are conservation efforts undertaken by all land owners in a particular drainage area.

McManamy served as the first president of the Mosquito Creek watershed. For his efforts in the movement, McManamy was named Iowa Watershed Man of the Year.

"ONE OF THE strengths of the soil conservation movement is that it's still a grass roots operation," he said. "Decisions are made by the local commissioners, and it's a cooperative effort between the government and private landowners."

Construction of terraces and other conservation measures like grassed waterways has improved over the years due to the involvement of the Soil Conservation Service.

The erosion problem was sometimes aggravated when farmers built terraces that broke through because of improper construction. Today, the SCS uses bulldozers to build the terraces to proper specifications.

The state and federal governments have provided

farmers with cost-share programs to help pay for the conservation measures.

THERE WAS a record amount of terrace construction in West Pottawattamie County this year, and the use of no-till farming has grown every year. McManamy said no-till farming not only cuts down on erosion but "saves the farmer a great deal in fuel and operating costs."

While conservation techniques and measures have improved and become accepted by farmers with "dramatic success," McManamy said an even greater effort is needed because of the "radical change in the farmer's approach to farming his land."

"Farmers have changed in both equipment and methods, and agriculture is a good deal more intense than it was 40 years ago. As the effort has been intensified, there's been a tendency for more erosion," he said.

McManamy's interest in conservation has somewhat of a historical basis.

"Other civilizations have fallen because of an inability to feed themselves, largely because they didn't take care of their land."



Fischer



Cutler

Bluffs Jaycees Hail Farmer, Mortician

COUNCIL BLUFFS BUREAU 1-5-83

Neola farmer John J. Fischer and Bluffs mortician William A. Cutler III were honored at a Tuesday night meeting of the Bluffs Jaycees.

Fischer was named Outstanding Young Farmer, and Cutler, who is also a Bluffs school board member, was named Outstanding Young Iowan by the local Jaycees.

The selections now place both men as candidates for statewide recognition in the same categories.

Fischer attended the meeting at Dai-ley's Planet restaurant, but Cutler was ill at home.

No-Till Club To Meet At Underwood

1-20-83

The Underwood Vo-AG department and the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District are sponsoring a no-till club for any farmers who tried no-till in 1982.

All meetings will be held at the Underwood High School. The first organizational meeting will be Thursday, January 20th at 7:00 p.m. Additional meetings are planned for Febru-

ary 3rd and 17th, and March 3rd.

Topics of discussion will be any problems or questions no-till farmers have experienced. No-till professionals from around the state will be invited to speak at upcoming meetings. The only requirement for attendance is some no-till experience and a desire for more information.

No-Till Meetings Are Planned

2-10-83

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District is hosting a series of small group no-till information meetings around the District during February and March, all held on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. Meetings include:

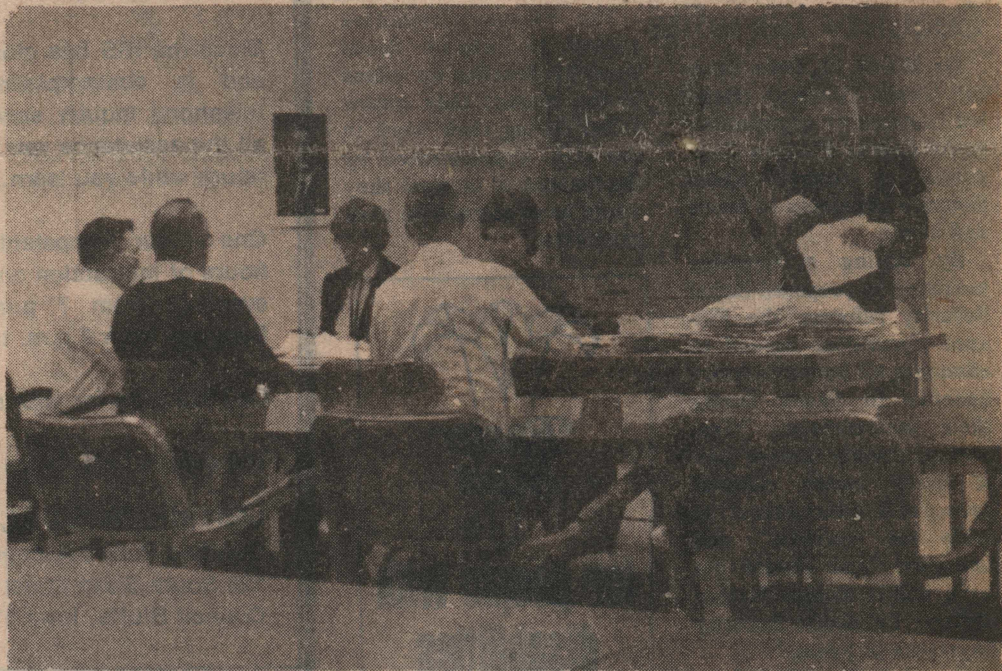
February 15 in the Neola City Hall basement; Febru-

ary 22 in the Treynor Legion basement and March 1 in the Lewis Township Fire Station on Highway 92.

The meetings will focus on no-till farming operations in the District in 1982 and new developments for 1983. Coffee and rolls will be served.

Payment-in-kind (PIK) bids accepted

3-24-83



A tense crowd watched Friday as ASCS officials opened the whole base bids for the remaining Payment-in-Kind [PIK] acres in West Pottawattamie County. Similar scenes were enacted throughout the state.—Van Olsen photo

West Pottawattamie County farmers gathered in Council Bluffs Friday to watch and listen as the whole base bids for the Payment-in-Kind (PIK) program were opened.

Norma Tradel, County Executive Director for the ASCS, explains, "We were told that we could accept bids up to 45 percent of our

base. We subtracted the acres that had already been signed up for the 10-30 percent PIK and 20 percent PIK and the remaining acres—8,056—were what we could accept in whole base bids."

Bids opened Friday included 236 for corn and 4 for wheat. The 4 bids on wheat were accepted and

149 bids were accepted on corn. The last bid accepted on corn was 77.99 percent.

West Pottawattamie's total corn base was 132,698 acres and 45 percent of that was 59,714 acres. "We had 179 acres unused," reported Tradel, "and the reason was that the next bid was for 196 acres so we had to stop there."

Soil Conservation

Question: 2-24-83

If I participate in the 1983 set-aside program, may I also apply for cost-share assistance for terraces applied on my idled acres?

Answer:

If you participate in the set-aside program, you may also apply for cost-share assistance through either the ASCS or the SCS. This is an important consideration to keep in mind when planning your set-aside

acres. A minimum of 5 acres must be idled; however, portions of fields are also possible for set-aside. This will enable you to put terraces on several hill-sides, not just one. Proper spacing must be taken into consideration before planting so crops won't be disturbed during construction. For assistance with planning terraces on your set-aside acres, contact the Soil Conservation Service.

Honor Retiring Commissioners

2-24-83

Retiring Soil Conservation District Commissioners Floyd Fischer [left] and Derald Blois were honored recently with plaques recognizing their years of service on the commission. Fischer acted as a commissioner from 1970 - 1982 and Blois served from 1966 - 1982.—

Gazette photo



Soil Conserving Suggestion
Question: 11-25-82

How do I get trees from the Iowa State Nursery and is there a limit to where I can plant them?

Answer:

The first step is to obtain an application form at the Iowa State Nursery, the Iowa Conservation Commission, the District Forester, or the Wildlife Management Biologist. The Soil Conservation Service and ASCS also have applications available. Applications should be sent in as soon as possible since the orders are filled on a first-come first-serve basis.

Trees from the state nursery are to be used for establishing or improving forest areas, erosion control, or wildlife and water conservation. Protection from fire and livestock damage is required. The trees cannot be resold or planted for windbreak, shade, or ornamental uses.



Fischer



Cutler

Bluffs Jaycees Hail Farmer, Mortician

COUNCIL BLUFFS BUREAU 1-5-83

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FB spokesmen Jan 83
State cost-share program rules for 1983-84

These rules are regulated by the Mills County Soil Conservation District.

I. OVERALL RULES

1. Limit of 8,000 feet per applicant per year.
2. Cannot get both ACP and state cost-share the same year.
3. Amendments will be handled on an individual basis.

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Awards



★ Prizes from approximately sixty participants in the Junior Conservation Essay Contest were [from the left] John Ferris, ★leen Jensen, Tara Schroder and Scott Huebner. The ★by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil ★ommissioners and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance—Gazette

FB spokesmen Jensen

State cost-share program rules for 1983-84

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I. OVERALL RULES

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3. Amendments will be handled on an individual basis.

4. No cost-share on soils with erodibility factor of .43 unless no-till and/or rotation is also used to control soil movement between terraces.

II. SUMMER PROGRAM:

First allocation only

1. Sign up during the month of January.

2. Names will be drawn from a hat for sequence of funding at the February meeting.

3. Summer construction must be started by Aug. 15 and completed by Sept. 30.

4. Land must be in oats, wheat, hay, pasture or diverted acres only. NO rowcrop for any reason.

III. FALL PROGRAM: Second and any additional allocations

1. Sign up during the month of June.

2. Names will be drawn from a hat for sequence of funding at the July meeting.

3. Fall construction must be started by Nov. 1 and completed by Nov. 30.

IV. SPRING PROGRAM:

1. Spring construction will be used to clean up any leftover funds.

2. Summer application list will be used.

3. Spring construction must be finished by June 1.

Conservation Meeting

Set for Underwood

1-27-83

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District will hold its Annual Awards Meeting on February 3rd at the Underwood Lutheran Church. A noon meal served by the Pottawattamie County Porkettes will be provided for the award-winning conservation farms

in the District.

The meeting will be open to the public at 1:00 p.m. for presentation of the awards. A no-till panel discussion by local no-till farmers will follow. Local implement dealers are invited to display no-till equipment.

Youth Conservation Program Planned

The County Conservation Boards, Soil Conservation Districts, and Cooperative Extension Service will be cosponsoring the Youth Leadership Conservation Program this summer. The statewide program is developed for high school students who are interested in conservation. Two sessions will be offered: June 20-23, 1983 which will be held at the Conservation Education Center near Guthrie Center and August 1-4, 1983 to be held at the State 4-H

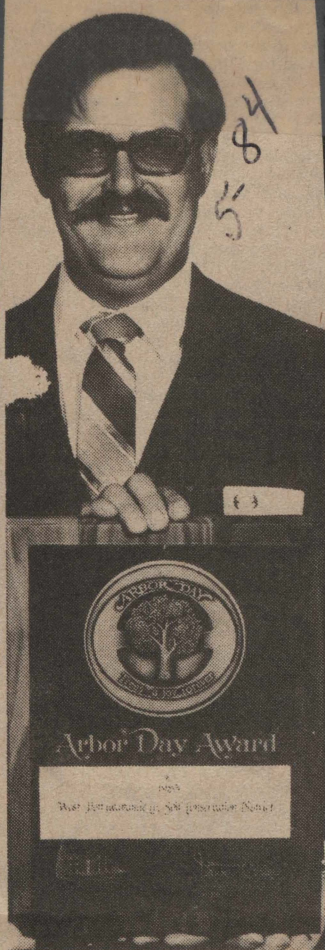
Center near Madrid.

Various conservation careers and topics to be covered include: geology, soils, wildlife, forestry, and waters. Participants will be actively involved in field techniques associated with these careers. College scholarships will be awarded based on results of a written examination given at the end of the program.

A maximum of 50 students will be allowed to attend each session. The cost of the four day and

³⁻¹⁰⁻⁸³ three night program is \$50.00. High school students interested in attending the Youth Leadership Conservation Program should contact Harold Borwick of the County Conservation

Board at 328-5638, or C.W. McManamy of the Soil Conservation District at 328-2489, or Carroll Olsen of the Cooperative Extension Office at 325-5551 for further information.



Gary Thien
with Arbor Day Award

Conservation district gets Arbor award

The West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District in Council Bluffs has been honored for its tree planting and conservation efforts by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

The district was cited for its activities to promote the value of trees. In 1983, the district assisted landowners with the installation of 3,800 feet of windbreaks, presented Arbor Day programs to all first grade students in 26 elementary schools and conducted an Environmental Field Day for sixth graders.

Gary Thien, District commissioner for the Soil Conservation District, accepted the award on behalf of the District.

The West Pottawattamie District was one of 11 organizations nationwide to receive this award.

West Pottawattamie names winning Master Corn and Soybean Growers

1-26-84

Results of the West Pottawattamie Master Corn and Soybean Growers Contest are now official, and the No-Till Club went on to honor winners in that division at a banquet last week.

The county contest is co-sponsored by the Council Bluffs Rotary Club Ag Committee, West Pottawattamie Extension Service and Soil Conservation Service.

Clifford Johnson of Crescent had the highest corn yield with 143.58 bushels per acre while Dennis Kahler of Minden took second place with 138.89 bushels per acre.

The high no-till corn honors went to Joe Constant of Underwood with 136.67 bushels and Ken Strohbehn of Council Bluffs won the no-till soybean division with a yield of 37.94.

Bill Orr, Jr., of Council Bluffs produced the winning soybean entry overall with 57.94 bushels and Robert Summy of Crescent was second with 49.61 bushels per acre.

Other participants in the contests were Mike Tighe, Neola; Marty Summy, Crescent; John Witt, Minden; Robert M. Jensen, Co. Bluffs; Larry Bostwick,



[From the left] Arne Howard of CIBA-Geigy presented awards to Ken Strohbehn of Treynor and Joe Constant of Underwood for their first-place finishes in the no-till division of West Pottawattamie County's Master Corn and Soybean Growers contest. The occasion was the No-Till Club's banquet in Council Bluffs, moderated by Bill Hammitt [right] of the Soil Conservation Service. Becky Constant Photo

Honey Creek; Todd Goos, Co. Bluffs; Bruce Bracker, Underwood; Robert Soloth, McClelland; William Witt, Minden; and Clint Goos, Treynor.

All participants, along with other West Pottawattamie farmers, will be honored at the Annual Council Bluffs Rotary Club's Rural Urban Day.

The No-Till Club banquet was held January 19 at

Club 64 in Council Bluffs, with dinner and program sponsored by CIBA-Geigy. Company spokesman Arne Howard discussed herbicides for minimum and no tillage and said the company will sponsor awards for next year's no-till contests.

Trophies and jackets were awarded to the winners of the no-till divisions in the Iowa Master Corn and Soybean Growers Con-

test: Joe Constant and Ken Strohbehn, respectively. Thirty-six club members attended the meeting, and Bill Hammitt of the Soil Conservation Service acted as moderator.

Anyone who is interested in minimum or no tillage can get a copy of the club's meeting schedule from the SCS office, Extension office or the Underwood High School ag department.

Conservation: Project Arrowhead seeks exhibitors for June event

"Conservation: Project Arrowhead," a special one-day soil conservation celebration, is being planned for June 9th near Neola in western Iowa. The special event will feature soil conservation methods that will help protect Lake Arrowhead, just east of Neola.

"We're going to be demonstrating conservation practices and how they work, and expect a number of conservation groups and agencies to be on hand to talk about and show what they're doing in the area of resource conservation," says John Fischer, Chairman of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District.

The event will be in celebration of the district's 40th anniversary, and it will also commemorate 50 years of soil conservation in the United States. "The soil conservation movement began in this country in earnest in the mid-30's, and we want to draw attention to what's been done and is being done," Fischer says.

"We're still in the process of inviting groups with conservation interests to participate," Fischer says. "We believe we're going to have something of interest for those who live in town as well as those who farm. We'd like to be contacted by anyone with an interest."

Already planned are: A

wagon tour of conservation farming methods that will feature demonstrations on terrace building, no-till planting, and pasture establishment; a tree planting demonstration; water quality testing methods demonstration at the lake; and a "rainulator" demonstration, which shows how some soil loss research is done on small plots.

"We have commitments for demonstrations from a number of conservation agencies, and now we're looking for conservation groups to demonstrate their part in conservation efforts, too," says Carroll Olsen, West Pottawattamie Extension Director and exhibits chairman.

The exhibits and demonstrations will be set up in and around the park that surrounds Lake Arrowhead. The park is managed

by the West Pottawattamie County Conservation Board.

The June 9th "Conservation: Project Arrowhead" is being planned by the West Pottawattamie SCD; the Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development Area; Arrowhead Lake neighboring farmers; Pottawattamie County Conservation Board; Iowa Department of Water, Air, and Waste Management; Cooperative Extension Service; USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service; and the USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service; and the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

Groups who would like to exhibit should contact Carroll Olsen, Extension Service, 1705 McPherson Avenue, Council Bluffs, Iowa, 51501 (phone: 712-325-5551).

McManamy to receive SCS award

Soil Conservation Week will be observed across Iowa beginning Sunday, with the focus on the statewide erosion rate of 9.4 tons per acre.

In West Pottawattamie County, though, the focus will be on former commissioner C.W. McManamy of Council Bluffs, who resigned in December 1983.

An award will be presented to the 15-year veteran of the SCS at a 6 p.m. dinner Wednesday at the Lewis Township fire hall, 1½ miles east of the Iowa School for the Deaf. The potluck dinner at 6 is by invitation, but the

public is invited to the 7 p.m. ceremony and the open meeting afterwards.

McManamy was commissioner for the last five years at the SCS, and is himself a farmer. His 80 acres have level terraces and a gully control structure.

At the SCS, he helped organize the Mosquito Creek Watershed and served as its first chairman. He holds a lifetime honorary membership in the Soil Conservation Society of America and was on the Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development Executive Board. In 1963,

"Mac" was Iowa Watershed "Man of the Year."

No other special activities are planned for soil conservation week, but SCS clerk Sherry Sandvik said the office wants area farmers to know funds are still available for soil conservation.

She said of the funds available in West Pottawattamie, \$75,000 has been requested for use by farmers. Another \$8,200 in no-interest loans and \$25,000 in county-cost sharing funds has yet to be claimed.

Twin Ponies watershed south of Council Bluffs is a



C.W. McManamy

main concern with the SCS office now, Sandvik said. The 21,640-acre area flows west onto the Missouri River flood plain. Six full-flow structures for gully and sediment control have been added this year, and farmers in the area have built \$15,000 in terraces this year.

About 1,000 of the estimated 1,430 farmers in West Pottawattamie practice soil conservation, but that number needs to be increased, Sandvik said.

The goal is to cut top soil loss to five tons per acre and one of the measures aimed at that is an Iowa State

University Extension program called Iowa Soil 2000.

East and West Pottawattamie counties are target areas for the program, aimed at reducing excessive erosion from all land within the state by the year 2000.

Through the program, local conservation offices provide owners and operators with conservation information, but does not tell them which ones they must use.

Information on soil conservation is available at the West Pottawattamie SCS District office, 221 Federal Building in Council Bluffs, 328-2489.

C.W. McManamy is honored for service to soil conservation

C.W. "Mac" McManamy has devoted time, effort and personal commitment to the cause of soil conservation for decades, and he was honored for that dedication by the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District at a dinner in Lewis Township last Wednesday evening.

Mac received a plaque, a certificate of service from the Iowa Soil Conservation Service and a thank-you cake decorated in his honor, along with the congratulations of friends and fellow conservation workers.

"It's been a labor of love since the very beginning," said McManamy. "A

million memories go with soil conservation. The first that has occurred to me personally . . . is the many, many fine people I've had the occasion to meet and become friends with over the years."

McManamy cited in particular those who worked for conservation in the "missionary" days, when there were no terraces, no structures and little or no contouring.

A second special memory, said McManamy, is that "The only thing that exists between the district and the Soil Conservation Service is a memorandum of understanding. . . It's the best example of how people and the government can work together."

McManamy was a commissioner for the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District for 5 years and an assistant commissioner for 15; helped organize the Mosquito Creek Watershed and served as its first chairman; holds a lifetime honorary membership in the Soil Conservation Society of America; served on the Golden Hills Resource Conservation & Development Executive Board; and was Iowa Watershed "Man of the Year" in 1963. He has also supported conservation through the written and spoken word in articles and public appearances over the years.

He and his wife Maurine have four children: Karen, Kathy, Kirk and Kristie. Mac farms approximately 80 acres and has level terraces and one



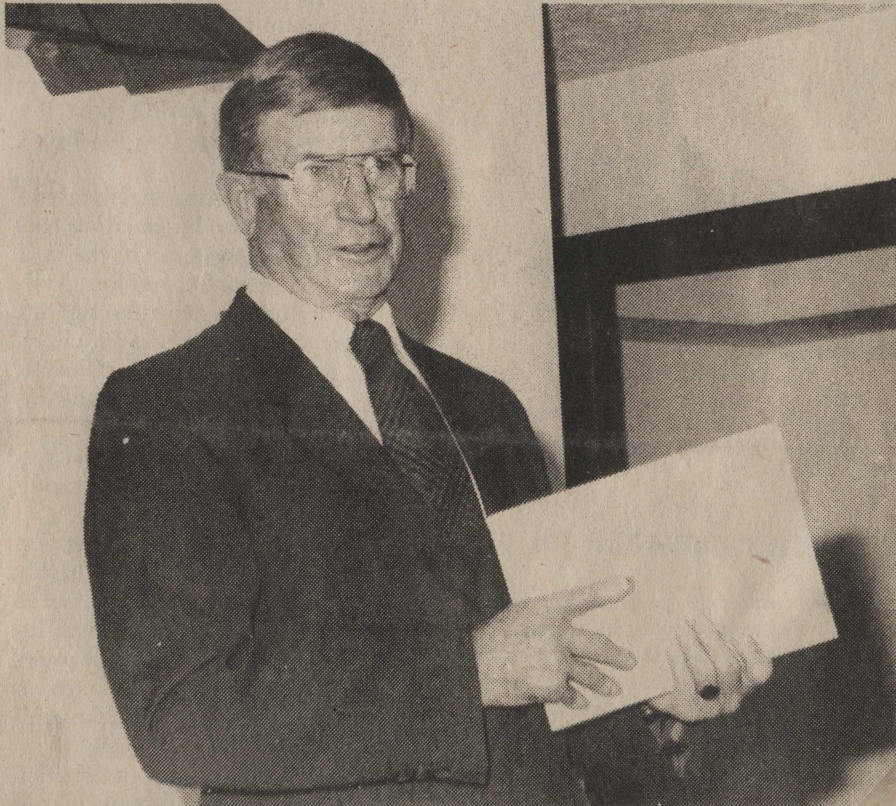
Maurine and Mac McManamy begin cutting the cake described by Mac as the "first one decorated in my honor since our wedding cake."—Gazette photo

gully control structure.

Mac closed his acceptance comments by saying, "Thanks a million, thanks for the event and we'll continue to cherish our memories of conservation and the people we knew in it."

Current Commissioner Clint Goos of Treynor presented the award to McManamy, summarizes his past

association with soil conservation work. Goos also presented a certificate to a new assistant commissioner, Mark Schnepel of Carson. Goos is joined on the current roster of commissioners by John Fischer of Neola, Dave Storjohann of Minden, Charles Angerth of Crescent and Gary Thien of Council Bluffs.



C.W. "Mac" McManamy was honored last Wednesday night for his longtime service to the cause of soil conservation with a plaque, kind words and the company of friends at a potluck dinner in the Lewis Township Fire Hall.—Gazette photo

No-till farming

R.N. Bickert's pessimistic predictions about no-till farming (Register, Feb. 22) don't sound like he has tried it yet.

70-71-84
My son and I have been ridge-tilling for five years. This isn't strictly no-till, but it does omit plowing, disking, chiseling, harrowing and hoeing.

We do cultivate. We find: Soil compaction is decreasing. Bean walkers complain that the ground has become too soft. Compared to adjacent, conventionally tilled land, our fields absorb an additional inch of rain before water stands between the rows. Insect and disease problems seem unchanged. We spend no more on herbicides and use milder ones.

Minimum-till requires different but considerably less machinery, and so much less diesel fuel that we sold off one storage tank.

Placement of fertilizer needs, and is now being given, more research. But some early adopters have ridge-tilled 15 years without problems.

Leaving crop residue on the surface saves soil. So does contouring. So does terracing. They complement each other. Some fields need all three. By putting them together, a farmer can conserve almost all of the soil of which he is steward, and also save fossil fuel, dollars and time. . . . — Robert A. Rohwer, Rt. 1, Paullina.



Not All Bad News--East of Hamburg some of those 6000 miles of terraces built by Fremont County land owners

during the past 30 years paid dividends the past two weeks. This set of terraces, three miles east of town, were doing their

thing--holding back water to save soil loss, and slow the rush of water into area streams. For many older terraces, however,

the push of water was just too great, and even terraces burst, unable to stem the tide of 12 inches of water in as many days.

West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District presents awards at Underwood

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District presented awards in Underwood last Wednesday, following a luncheon and program detailing local soil conservation efforts.

Soil Conservation Districts, as legal subdivisions of state government, are responsible for soil conservation work within their boundaries. The Districts strive to encourage the protection, maintenance, improvement and wise use of soil and water in the District.

The contests and awards program is an important part of the District's yearly activities. Nominations for the various contests were made last summer and the winners were notified by early October.

One of the contest categories is the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards program, sponsored by the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners, the State Soil Conservation Committee, the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, the Iowa Con-

servation Education Council and the Des Moines Register.

There are three divisions: owner-operator, landlord-tenant and new cooperator. The program is open to all farmers who are soil conservation district cooperators, except for District Commissioners, members of the State Soil Conservation Committee and employees of the sponsoring agencies.

Winners of the 1983 awards include Ervin Eilts, Route 4, Council Bluffs, owner-operator; Rosemary Johnson and Robert Hough of Route 1, Underwood, landlord-tenant; and Bracker Farm Corporation, owned by Charles Bracker, Route 2, Neola, new cooperator for 1982 or later.

The District Sweepstakes award, and entry in the regional competition, were earned by Rosemary Johnson and Robert Hough.

The Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award program was started to recognize individuals for the establishment of windbreaks and

to encourage the planting of more windbreaks. The winner receives a certificate which says in part, "In recognition of an exemplary windbreak planting program that is helping to conserve America's natural resources". The district winner this year is Wayne Buresh of Route 3, Council Bluffs.

The next award was established in 1981 to honor a former District Commissioner. The Eldon Ravlin Award for Outstanding Conservation Farmer is Eldon Schultz of Route 1, Silver City. The winner's name is engraved on a large wall plaque on display at the District's office as well as on an individual plaque.

The Iowa Master Growers Contest is coordinated each year by the Iowa Crop Improvement Association, but is conducted by local sponsors. One of the contest divisions is for corn and soybeans planted using conserve tillage (minimum 35% ground cover) and the



Among award-winners recognized by the Soil Conservation Service at a luncheon last week in Underwood were [seated, from the left] Charlie and Grace Bracker, Ervin Eilts, Bob Hough, Joe Constant, [standing] Phyllis and Wayne Buresh, Eldon Schultz and Ken Strohbehn.--Gazette photo

District conducted a special contest locally for those entering the Masters Contest who also used no-till.

The winner of the No-till soybean yield contest is Ken Strohbehn of Route 2, Silver City, with 38

bushels, and for no-till corn, the winner is Joe Constant of rural Underwood, with 136 bushels.

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Ridges solve weed problems.

By Mike Holmberg, Associate Crops & Soils Editor

Paul Schaffert had a bad shattercane problem. His corn yields were down to around 40 or 50 bushels per acre on irrigated land in western Nebraska where he should have been raising 130- or 140-bushel corn. After 5 years, he has the shattercane pretty well licked and his corn yields are up where they should be. Schaffert's is a pretty dramatic example of how ridges can make weed control *easier!*

"The secret of controlling shattercane is our till planter," Schaffert says. "We're throwing all that shattercane out between the rows and not leaving it in the row. We're not mixing up the shattercane seed with the disk and replanting it. We'll have 2 or 3 inches on each side of the row where it will be clean and all our shattercane and grass problems will be in the middle where we can cultivate them out the first time.

"The year before we started till-planting, we had one field yield 25 bushels of irrigated corn and the rest was shattercane. The first year into the till-plant system, we probably eliminated 85% of the shattercane. We've seen less and less each year after that," Schaffert says.

Other ridge tillers report similar experiences with problem weeds. Ken and Rick Olson had been spraying Basagran on every acre of soybeans to control cocklebur. But they haven't bought a gallon of postemergence since they switched to ridge planting. Quackgrass used to be a problem for Andy Olson. Now he spot-sprays it with Roundup after planting and he's almost eliminated it.

Control last year's seeds

"The bulk of your weeds come from last year's crop," explains Orvin Burnside, weed specialist at the University of Nebraska. "Thus you move most of your potential weeds into the middle of the row when you plant on ridges."

Not only are you moving the weed seeds to where they can be easily destroyed by cultivation after they germinate, but they are mixed with a lot of trash so some have a less desirable environment in which to germinate and grow.

"You throw some of the weed seeds back into the row when you cultivate, but if you give corn or most other crops a month without weed competition, the crop will take over the weed control job. The rule of thumb is provide good

weed control the first month after planting and the crop will take over the weed control job after that," Burnside adds.

Is a knockdown treatment necessary?

Some ridge tillers have found they need to use a knockdown treatment before planting just as they would use in a no-till system—especially for late-planted crops after the weeds have a head start.

Andy Olson uses a knockdown treatment on the corn stubble going into beans. "We broadcast 8 ounces of Roundup with a nonionic surfactant and a pint of 2,4-D ester. The control was just fantastic. We think we could go to an even lower rate with the Roundup."

One of the weed control sacrifices you make with ridges is incorporated herbicides. You eliminate products like Treflan, Eradicane and Sutan from your herbicide arsenal, but most ridgers don't see that as a problem. They feel the combination of surface-applied herbicides and timely cultivation provides adequate weed control.

Chemical savings possible with banding

Unlike a straight no-till system where chemical costs are higher than conventional systems, you can actually reduce chemical costs with a ridge system—if you're willing to band-apply herbicides.

And surface-applied herbicides should be more effective than under a no-till system because you clean the top off the ridge and plant into it. That way you don't have trash on the surface to intercept the chemicals.

"We're banding Lasso on our corn," says Andy Olson. "We're using the equivalent of a gallon an acre—only putting it on with 15-inch bands. With soybeans, we're using the equivalent of 3 quarts of Lasso per acre along with 3 quarts of Amiben in 15-inch bands.

"We've basically cut our herbicide costs in half by banding instead of broadcasting. We depend on that band and it's always worked for us. Most of the weeds come from the seeds from the year before in the top layer of soil. If they all germinate and they're cultivated and covered up, there's fewer weeds to grow next year. That's why it's easier to control weeds with the ridge system," Olson concludes. 

Photograph: Mitch Kezar

Soil Conservation Service

2-85

presents awards to area farmers and landowners



Among award-winners at the Soil Conservation Service luncheon last Wednesday in Underwood were [front row, from the left] Arlene Liddell, Verneta Liddell, Julie Strohbehn, Sadie Mass, [back row] Don

Liddell, Melvin Liddell, Ken Strohbehn and Otha Mass. The Liddells and Strohbehn were winners in the Landlord-Tenant division, Mass won in the New Cooperator Division.—Gazette photo



[Front row, from the left] The Owner Operator and Sweepstakes awards went to Meryle and Pat Osborn; Mildred and Robert Carlson accepted the Eldon Ravlin Memorial Award as outstanding conservation farmers in the District; [back row] Jeannette and Bill

Masker received the Izaak Walton windbreak award; Joe Constant received top honors in the no-till soybean contest; and Lorene, Charles and Darol Jensen were recognized as winners in the no-till corn contest.—Gazette photo

Reagan Asks Deep Cuts in Soil Agency Budget

By Tom Webb

The Wichita Eagle-Beacon

1985

Fifty years ago, the Soil Conservation Service arose from the grit and misery of the Dust Bowl, launching the federal government on a half-century crusade to save the nation's soil and water.

Guided by the principle that everybody benefits from careful use of the land and water, and therefore everyone should help pay, the SCS grew into a nationwide network of programs and personnel.

But President Reagan is asking Congress to cut the agency's budget by nearly two-thirds, reducing SCS employees from 14,100 to 5,000 by 1987. In addition, soil and water conservation programs funded by other federal agencies would be eliminated.

Reagan's proposal would make conservation more of a state and local responsibility — a radical change from a half-century of soil and water conservation thinking.

"The whole philosophy that's been used over the years is that any conservation work benefits more than the local area, so everyone should help with the cost," said Kenneth Kern, who heads the Kansas state conservation commission.

Leaders Surprised

The depth of the proposed cuts has surprised the SCS leadership.

Last November, Richard Dueterhaus, the agency's No. 2 man, said he expected that the SCS would be "holding our own" in Reagan's budget proposals.

But under the 1986 budget proposals Reagan sent to Congress, SCS spending would be cut from \$603 million this fiscal year to \$454 million next year. By

fiscal 1987, the agency's budget would be \$200 million.

In addition, conservation programs funded by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service would be eliminated.

Agriculture Secretary John Block contends that despite cuts, part of the attempt to reduce the overall budget deficit, soil conservation will continue to thrive.

"I believe that soil conservation is now the great revolution that is being carried forward by farmers as well as the public at large, and it's going to continue and grow — and succeed — because farmers have concluded that it pays to conserve soil," Block said.

"It's the wave of the future, and you're not going to change that wave because of a change in emphasis in the soil conservation program."

Troubled Economy

Farm groups and soil conservationists, however, question whether farmers and rural areas with sparse populations and severe erosion problems can afford to pay the bulk of conservation programs, particularly in today's troubled farm economy.

"There's not that much margin of profit in the individual farmer's operation to pay the entire cost," said John Reh, assistant state conservationist for Kansas. "He has to survive in the short term, and he can't afford to install all of a project that would take care of the next 100 years of flooding."

"Future generations have a part to play, or pay, in this and I guess that's where government comes in."

Conservation programs have been targeted for cuts before, but in the past Congress has restored funding.

"I think the effort is more serious

this time because of the overall mood of the country to reduce the deficit," Reh said. "This is the first time that most of our basic reasons for existence have been targeted."

By fiscal 1987, Reagan's proposals would eliminate all SCS programs except the one for conservation operations. The largest and most expensive of SCS's programs, conservation would be cut 44 percent from \$365 million nationwide this year to \$200 million.

Elimination List

Among the SCS programs that would be eliminated under Reagan's budget are:

- **Watershed construction.** The program will cost \$150 million in 1985, with money used to help build dams and undertake other projects that reduce flooding and control erosion. All projects must first be authorized by Congress.

- **Resource conservation and development.** More commonly known as RC&D, this program will cost \$26 million in 1985 nationwide. The program offers SCS's expertise on a variety of water- and soil-related matters.

- **Watershed planning.** When a watershed district wants help in solving a flooding or water supply problem, it can turn to the SCS. Nationally, the program will cost \$8.7 million this year.

- **River basin studies.** Nationwide cost: \$14.6 million a year. The money is used to collect information about water runoff, land use and conservation progress — data that is used by a variety of other federal, state and local agencies.

- **Great Plains Conservation Program.** The program, which costs \$21.3 million a year nationwide, concentrates technicians and federal money on the plains, an area with longtime and

unique soil conservation problems.

In addition to SCS's programs being cut, some conservation programs funded by the Agriculture Department's ASCS also are scheduled to be eliminated under Reagan's proposed budget.

They include:

- **Agricultural Conservation Program.** Better known as ACP, this is the source of federal money that farmers and ranchers use to help install terraces, waterways and other soil- and water-saving measures on their land. Nationally, the program will cost \$190 million in 1985.

- **Emergency Conservation Program.** This program levels farmland after a natural disaster, among other things. It costs about \$10 million annually.

News Show to Discuss Battle Against Drugs

The Associated Press

Here's the lineup for today's major network news shows:

ABC "This Week With David Brinkley" — Topic is the war on drugs. Guests are Francis M. Mullen Jr., administrator of the Drug Enforcement Agency; Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y.; Gov. Mark White of Texas; Gov. Bob Graham of Florida.

CBS "Face the Nation" — Topic is corporate takeovers. Guests are T. Boone Pickens, chairman of Mesa Petroleum; Ron Freeman, investment banker, Solomon Brothers; and Rep. Tim Wirth, D-Colo.

NBC "Meet the Press" — Agriculture Secretary John Block and South Dakota Gov. William Janklow.



Jing Rong Yu, a representative from the Academy of Science in China, listens as Matt Burke, an intern with the Soil Conservation Service, explains how they will stake terraces on a corn field south of Treynor. — Nonpareil photo.

Chinese visitor learning U.S. way of fighting erosion

By DAWN UMMEL
Nonpareil Staff Writer

Soil conservation practices familiar to Midwest farmers since 1935 soon will make a long-distance trek to China.

The journey began more than five months ago when Jing Rong Yu of the Academy of Science in China began four months of study at the soil laboratory at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. There she learned what erosion does to Midwestern farm land.

Now she is wrapping up a six-week visit to Southwest Iowa farms, where she has learned the ammunition farmers use against erosion.

"You have 50 years of working with soil erosion," Yu said, referring to the creation of the Soil Conservation Service in 1935.

"We have the same soil as here, but with more steep slopes than Iowa," she said. "We want to see how to protect our soil."

Steve Stover, SCS area conservationist in Council Bluffs, said Yu's six-month "intensive training program" will end with a two-week stay in Maine, where she will learn how China can bolster its potato crop, a major commodity in her country.

THIS IS THE FOURTH TIME in the past five years Stover's office has taken on the role of educating researchers from China. Groups of six or seven researchers toured Southwest Iowa farms in 1980, 1981 and 1984. Just as Yu is doing now, they studied Iowa's loess soils, which are similar to their own, and practices such as terracing, no-tillage and construction of watersheds to keep the soil from slipping away.

"They have a serious gully erosion problem in China," Stover said. "It's aggravated by the large numbers of people who must use all the land available for crop production."

As a result, the deep gullies make it difficult to move the crops out of the fields.

"We want to show her what we've done to treat the land and control erosion," Stover said.

Yu has visited farms and SCS field offices in Denison, Harlan, Onawa, Logan, Oakland and Council Bluffs. Many of the same crops grow in China soil as do in Iowa soil, including corn, wheat and sorghum.

The soils may be the same, but farming is different in China than in the Midwest, she said. The Chinese don't use as much machinery in their farming and land preparation, particularly on steep slopes. In addition, the average family farm in China measures about an acre per person, whereas the typical Southwest Iowa farm covers about 250 acres.

"All the family in China is involved in the farm operation," Stover said. "Here the family is involved but there is also work done off the farm by family members."

The Food Agricultural Organization, whose headquarters are in Rome, arranged Yu's trip. Her observations will go into a report for the FAO, Stover said.

"We want to give her an overview of the activities we have here and then she can see how they apply in her situation," Stover said. "They are not behind us, but they don't always have the resources we have here."

10-85

Soil conservationist promoted; moving to Humbolt office

Paul Miller, soil conservationist at the Council Bluffs Soil Conservation Service office, has been promoted to district conservationist at the Humbolt office.

Miller, who has been with the Council Bluffs SCS office since 1981, will begin work in Humbolt Sept. 30.

Miller and Tim Bottoms, a county resource planner for the SCS, received a special Lifesaving Award from Gov. Terry Branstad at the Iowa State Fair this year for rescuing Fritz Mass of Treynor from a burning automobile Jan. 3.

A vehicle driven by Mass struck a bridge near Treynor and overturned coming to rest on its top.

Moments later, Miller and Bottoms came upon the accident and rushed to help Mass escape flames which were spreading from the engine.

Neola Creek area selected for Iowa 2000

Iowa 2000 was initiated by the 1980 Iowa General Assembly with the aim of reducing the excessive erosion from all the land in Iowa by the year 2000.

On February 27, 1985, the land-owners in the Neola Creek Watershed were invited to participate in a soil conservation meeting at the Neola City Hall, where each received a folder containing soils information, present soil losses, and alternative conservation measures.

The Soil Conservation Service is hoping that the folders will generate interest in developing a conservation plan for each farm and applying conservation measures on the land. To help apply terraces, the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District Commissioners have set aside \$15,000 of the District's cost-share funds for the Neola Creek Watershed.

Studies by the Soil Conservation Service showed a need for additional

terraces in the watershed area, as well as the potential for extremely high runoff rates with high rainfall storms that could result in high flows through the town of Neola.

The 3300 acre watershed does have some upland treatment, mainly in the form of terraces, but much of the area still lies unprotected against erosion.

One example of the costs of soil erosion is the bridge crossing Neola Creek on county road G-20 at the southwest edge of the city.

According to Neola Mayor John Schnitker, plans are to replace the bridge with a very large pipe. With more soil conserving structures applied in the drainage area, the amount of sediment and water that has to pass under G-20 would be reduced. A smaller pipe and less.

Tax money spent on installation could be the result.

Keeping the soil where it belongs, says the SCS, allows productivity to remain high and helps keep rising costs at the grocery store to a minimum.

The Iowa 2000 program has received assistance from the SCS, the Iowa Cooperative Extension Service and the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

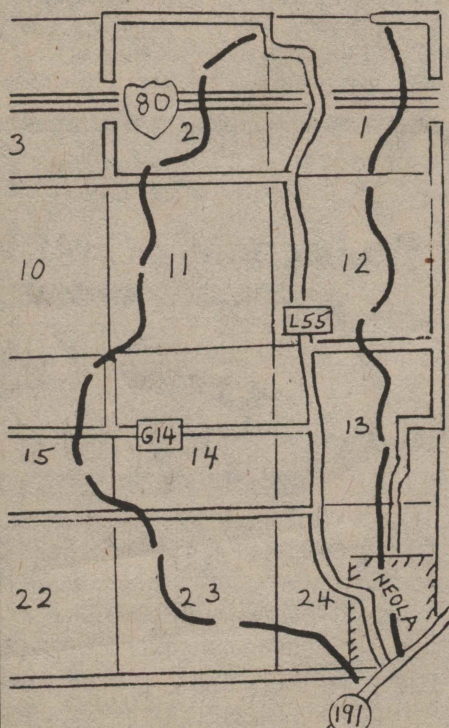
Three documents were developed to complete the program: conservation folders, farm unit soil conservation plan and the conservation agreement.

Folders are for gathering information available to farmers.

The farm unit soil conservation plan is a plan developed by the owner and operator, with the assistance of SCS personnel, to get the soil loss down to an allowable soil loss limit (usually considered 5 tons per acre per year).

The last document is the conservation agreement, which may be entered into within one year after completion of the plan, provided it is acceptable to everyone concerned.

Many intensively row-cropped slopes in this area have soil losses of 35-40 tons per acre per year. At the 40-ton rate, an inch of top soil is lost in slightly less than four years. At the 5-ton rate, the time period would be increased to 30 years.



FROM NEOLA GAZETTE
THURS March 7, 1985
Vol. 11 Number 36

No-till farming continues increase in popularity

No-till farming, the "cadillac" of conservation tillage methods for soil conservation purposes, continued rapid growth in Iowa in 1984. Estimates show more than 600,000 acres were no-tilled in 1984, compared to 400,000 in 1983.

"That's a 50 percent increase in a year, and is also 6 times as much as the acreage in 1980," says Mike Nethery, state conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS). The SCS worked with other agencies in making the survey cooperatively with the National Conservation Tillage Information Center at Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

The bulk of the acreage was corn, with 522,500 acres planted by no-till. Another 95,000 acres of soybeans were planted by no-till.

"We're pleased to see the increase in this soil-saving practice, and we're especially pleased that the increase came from all areas of the state," Nethery says. No-till planting is done without disturbing the land, thus leaving the past year's crop residues on the soil surface for soil protection.

Ridge-till, a method of planting on ridges that is gaining in popularity, increased slightly in 1984. The estimate is 227,650 acres in 1984 compared to 220,340 in 1983. Strip-till, a method similar to ridge-till but where the crop is not planted on ridges, was used on 57,000 acres in 1984 compared to 64,380 in 1983.

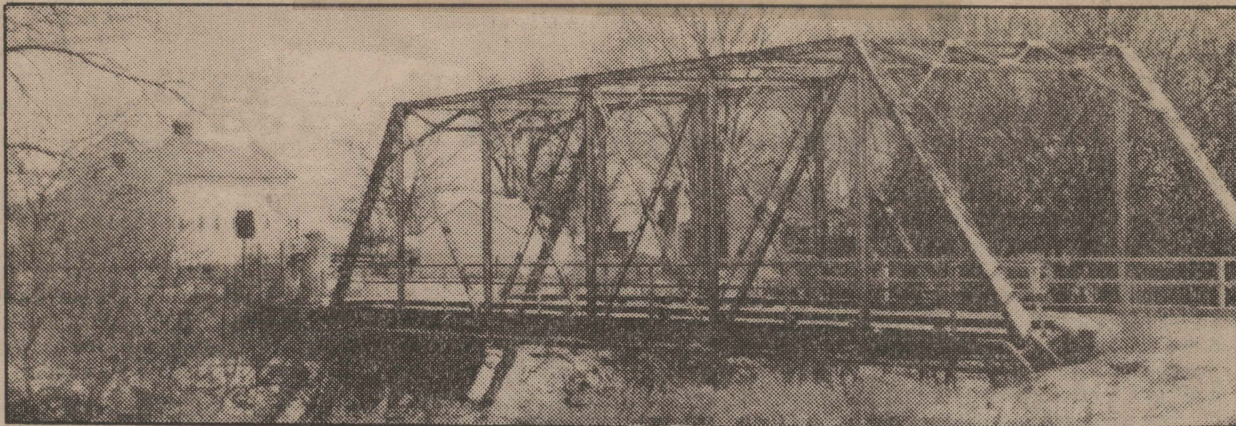
Mulch tillage, which disturbs the entire soil surface in preparation for planting, was used on 8,388,500 acres in 1984 compared to 8,678,260 in 1983.

Overall, acreages of conservation tillage have been down in Iowa the past two years. SCS agronomist Bob Dayton attributes the reduced acreage to changes in the reporting requirements and to reduced rowcrop acres with the 1983 PIK program.

Totally, about 9,291,000 acres of corn and soybeans were planted with conservation tillage in 1984. The estimate compares to 9,379,000 acres in 1983.

Dayton points out that a national definition was made of what qualifies as conservation tillage in 1983. "Now, we look at corn and bean fields after planting, and everything we report as conservation tillage has at least 30 percent of the ground covered by the previous year's residue," he says.

National figures are currently being compiled by the Conservation Tillage Information Center and are expected to be released in early February.



Jim Smiley/World-Herald

This bridge, which is more than 60 years old . . . will be replaced under the Twin Ponies project.

Thirty Years After Request

Iowans to Get Soil-Erosion Project

By Jim Smiley

COUNCIL BLUFFS BUREAU

The Twin Ponies watershed in Pottawattamie and Mills Counties will get its first erosion-control structure this summer, 30 years after property owners first asked for a plan to slow soil erosion.

The Soil Conservation Service last fall authorized conservation work for the project. The total cost of the project was estimated at \$610,050. Conservationist Steve Stover said work could begin in July.

The project will include six grade-control structures to stabilize erosion and allow gullies to fill in with sediment, and replacement of a county bridge just off Pioneer Trail in Pottawattamie County.

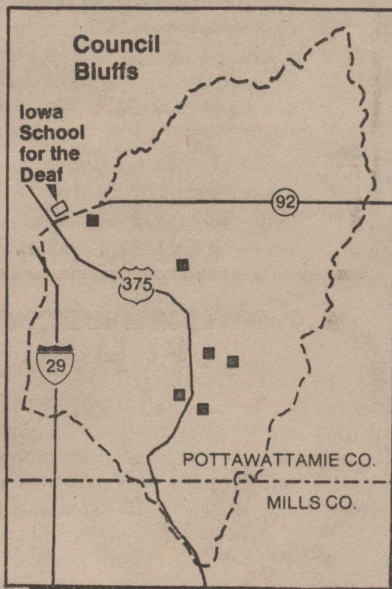
Studies show a significant amount of traffic, including several school buses, use the bridge, which is more than 60 years old.

The bridge has been listed as needing repairs or replacement since the 1960s, county officials say. Creek banks have eroded from the bridge abutments.

Stover said a joint effort with Pottawattamie County and the Iowa Transportation Department will replace the bridge in conjunction with soil conservation work. County officials say they plan to award bridge contracts in June and have a new bridge in place this fall.

Stover said the SCS plans to have the five other erosion-control structures in place by 1987 in the highly erodible loess hills southeast of Council Bluffs.

The 1957 application was approved by



World-Herald

Structures to control soil erosion . . . in Mills and Pottawattamie Counties.

At the same time, area Soil Conservation Service personnel were working

on seven other watershed projects, such as Mosquito Creek in Harrison County and Troublesome Creek in Cass and Audubon Counties. Planning work, which takes four to five years for each project, didn't keep up.

The biggest setback may come from the Corps of Engineers.

Stover said a major criterion for conservation funds is that a project show more benefit dollars than it will cost. Original proposals included flood protection of bottom land along the Missouri River as a major benefit.

The Corps' dike system eliminated that protection from the Twin Ponies project, he said. Stover said the benefit-cost ratio for the current project is estimated at 3.91 to 1, or \$3.91 in benefits for each dollar in cost.

Among expected benefits, the conservationist said, are reductions in cropland damage of \$71,710 each year, reduction in sediment damage of \$55,520 and drops in other agriculture-related damage by \$1,520.

Damage to urban property should decline \$96,850 a year, and road and bridge damage \$14,990, for a total annual reduction of \$240,590, Stover said.

loess hills southeast of Council Bluffs.

The 1957 application was approved by the State Conservation Service in 1960 and approved by the federal SCS for planning and design in 1977. The approved plan varies significantly from original proposals, which called for more than 20 control structures, including dams.

Differences between the final and original plans indicate the evolution of the 21,640-acre watershed, which Stover said is unusual because it is so close to an urban area. The area covers many tracts of land of a few acres each, rather than larger farms of a totally agricultural area.

The larger number of landowners added to the time needed to ensure that land-treatment practices were in place, he said. The Soil Conservation Service requires that at least 75 percent of the land in a watershed be under management for soil conservation — having terraces, grassed waterways and drainage work — before it will authorize funds for more comprehensive erosion control.

Urbanization brought other problems, Stover said.

Residential development popped up in areas below proposed dams, he said. Such development raised the potential risk should an intense storm cause one of the dams to give way.

“We place our insurance in the structures themselves,” he said.

The higher potential risk meant a larger dam would be needed, one capable of holding back a higher flow of storm runoff.

No Recreation

Construction costs rose significantly with the size of the dam, he said. Some of the dams became economically unjustified, forcing changes in the conservation plan.

Stover said the project would not include development of a recreation area.

The original plan proposed an 80-acre lake south of Iowa Highway 92, he said, but analyses indicated the soil in the area of the proposed dam was too loose to support the structure.

District conservationist Bill Hammitt said engineers dug down “about 60 feet before we found a solid base.” He said changes in agriculture also worked to delay planning.

A strong farm-export market developed during the 1960s and '70s, “and federal agriculture policies advised high production and farming fence row to fence row.”

“Landowners began plowing up marginal ground. It meant that we began losing ground” regarding land-treatment requirements.

Soil conservation fight turns 50

By **JOE ARTERBURN**
Nonpareil Staff Writer

Billowing black clouds of dust blotted out the sun.

Housewives draped wet blankets over windows and doors in a vain attempt to keep the drifting sand out of their clapboard homes. Wet towels were draped over babies' cribs to keep grit from the tender noses and throats of children.

Dust pneumonia became widely reported.

Outside, visibility was reduced so much a person couldn't see the fingers at the end of his extended arm. Drought-dried farmland blew into windswept drifts. Crops withered in the fields and farmers faced a devastating financial maelstrom.

Sailors, miles out to sea, swept dust from the decks of ships. The sky in Washington, D.C. and the mood of the nation dimmed.

.....

Out of the Dust Bowl five decades ago came a determined national effort to prevent the conditions which led to the Dirty Thirties from ever plaguing the United States again.

The coupling of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl dramatically illustrated the connection between poor, eroded land and poor, impoverished people.

As early as the 19th century, some Americans were expressing concern for soil erosion. In the South, some farmers developed a system of terracing to protect their hard-worked soil.

In 1928, two Department of Agriculture scientists, Hugh H. Bennett and William R. Chapline, published a pamphlet, "Soil Erosion: A National Menace," which focused attention on the growing problem. In 1929, Congress authorized a series of experiment stations, overseen by Bennett, devoted to soil conservation research.

As dust storms raged across the Great Plains, the Soil Erosion Service was created in 1933 as an arm of the Department of Interior. Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes picked Bennett to head the new agency.

Two years later, the Soil Conservation Act of 1935 transferred the Soil Erosion Service to the Department of Agriculture and renamed it the Soil Conservation Service.

.....

At first, slowly, then with building speed, the conservation movement grew. State laws developed rapidly creating Soil Conservation Districts in nearly every state. Today, 50 years after its inception, more than 7,000 SCS employees serve nearly 3,000 Soil Conservation Districts.



Steven Stover

Bill Hammitt

"I'd be the first to say that we have a long way to go yet in getting soil losses in the county under control. But, I also think we need to pay tribute to the farmers who have done that job, or most of it, on their land."

— **Bill Hammitt, Soil Conservation Service district conservationist.**

To celebrate the SCS's Golden Anniversary, the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District will co-sponsor a special event patterned after the conservation field days of the 1950s.

"Conservation: Project Arrowhead," scheduled for May 4 at Arrowhead Park near Neola, will highlight present-day conservation practices such as no-till farming, terracing, wildlife plantings, windbreaks, pasture management and farm ponds.

Tractor-and-wagon tours will allow access to the numerous project sites at the park.

More than 20 cooperating organizations, agencies and businesses will host demonstrations and exhibits from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission will be free and concessions will be available. A "last acre" ceremony will mark the completion of Pottawattamie County's soil mapping survey — the key to SCS project planning.

.....

In the West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District, more than 1,100 farmers cooperate with the district.

"Our farmers have steadily applied the more expensive practices like terraces and ponds and they've also picked up on the management practices like conservation tillage and no-till," said Bill Hammitt, SCS district conservationist.

In 1984, farmers in the district used conservation tillage on 49 percent of the cropland, Hammitt said. The nationwide average is 29 percent.

"I'd be the first to say that we have a long way to go yet in getting soil losses in the county under control," Hammitt said. "But, I also think we need to pay tribute to the farmers who have done that job, or most of it, on their land."

"The SCS is the technical arm of the conservation movement," said Steven Stover, SCS area conservationist. "We provide the technical leadership for planting, practice application and maintenance of applied practices ... to local landowners or those who have need to protect their natural resources, whether soil, water, plants, wildlife or minerals."

"Our number one priority is major structural practices — the construction of terraces," he said.

Grassed waterways and dams are also part of the game plan, he said, as are "companion practices — conservation tillage and no-till."

"We have to have the companion practices to get our soil losses down to acceptable limits."

Soil loss in some areas, such as harvested bean fields, can be as bad as 70 tons per acre per year, Stover said. And, there have been some single storm losses, through a combination of sheet and rill erosion, that have more than doubled erosion losses, he said.

"Some high intensity rains, when we might get four or five inches in a short period of time, that catches the land open ... without plant cover such as grasses or crop residue" can result in a soil loss at a rate of 150 tons per acre or more, he said.

Farmers are becoming more aware of the problem and are willing to take steps to protect their land, he said.

In 1984, there were 12,000 acres of no-till farming in West Pottawattamie County, Stover said. In the 12-county area he serves, there were 83,000. Both figures are double from what they were the year before — a trend which started a few years ago.

"We've seen a doubling effect in each of the last three or four years," he said. "Hopefully, we will get another doubling effect this year."

Stover said that Arrowhead Park is a perfect spot for the anniversary celebration. The lake in the park had been ranked as one of the worst polluted with soil sediment before conservation practices were implemented.

Terraces and dams were built and grass and wind breaks were planted with the cooperation of landowners who also adopted sound conservation management practices of contour farming, conservation tillage and no-till, he said.

Now the lake and surrounding county park are popular and stable attractions.

Early soil conservation district leaders in Iowa should be recognized as the leaders of the country, he said. "They had the foresight to see the benefits of a soil conservation program."

"That is why we are so strong in Iowa. We had a strong interest early in the district movement."

"Iowa is probably second only to Texas in terms of soil conservation programs. And considering the number of acres they have, we can hold our heads high."

Where published Neola

Date of issue 9-25-86

Sent by Victoria

S. C. D. West Pott

Stationed at Council Bluffs

CLASSIFICATION:

Weekly column ☐
Story (SCS) ☐
(Other) ☐
Feature (SCS) ☒
(Other) ☐
Editorial ☐
Advertisement ☐
Cons. picture ☐

Allen Trust project is largest ever for West Pott. Soil Conservation District

Travelers on Highway 6, near Council Bluffs, have seen an unusual project taking shape this summer. The type of project is not uncommon, but the size surely is.

Terraces, and lots of them, have been constructed on the Allen Trust property about 3 miles east of the city. The terraces are part of the owner's plan to reduce erosion on about 1000 acres of cropland. So far this year, about 42,000 feet of terraces have been built. Even with the many terraces that have been built in previous years, the Trust property still needs about 67,000 feet. The property is managed by Wiebe Enterprises, Inc., of Omaha. "We are adverse to seeing the effects of erosion," said John A. Wiebe, president of the company. "We want to leave the land in better condition than when we got it. We want to be good stewards of the land."

To determine what was needed to protect the land, Wiebe contacted the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District in Council Bluffs. With assistance from the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), a plan was developed which outlined the conservation practices needed. A soil loss of more than 5 tons per acre per year will decrease the long-term productivity of the soil, according to SCS standards. SCS calculations indicated that the erosion rate on the cropland was over 40 tons on the steeper slopes. This is equivalent to losing one inch of soil in less than 4 years, a common rate for the type of soils in this area.

"Because of the erosion rate, we don't want to stretch out the construction of the terraces over 8 to 10 years," reported Wiebe. "We want to finish the project as soon as possible so we can start building up the soil. Land without topsoil is not worth owning."

Terraces are one of the most effective practices for conserving soil. However, these are not necessarily the least expensive method. Fortunately, the State of Iowa provides cost-share funds to landowners to pay a portion of the expense for approved soil and water conservation practices. The protection of the land is a collective responsibility. There is a direct connection between what affects the land and what affects the public. That is why Iowa has had its cost-share program since 1973. The landowner receives 50 percent of the estimated or actual cost of the project, whichever amount is less. The Allen Trust has been participating in this program administered by the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District.

Other services provided by Soil Conservation District personnel include making engineering surveys, designing the terraces, preparing cost estimates for the work, and inspecting the terraces after construction. Only if the terraces meet design standards will the project be eligible for any cost-share funds.

The Allen Trust project is the largest terrace job ever handled by the District. It is anticipated that the project will be completed as scheduled by the spring of 1988.

Orme wins third in Corn Grower Contest

4-86



Wesley Orme of Minden produced 196.02 bushels per acre with Asgrow/O's Gold 2545 to win third place in local competition of the Iowa Master Corn Growers Contest. Orme entered a local contest sponsored by the West Pottawattamie County Extension Service. Orme received his plaque from Ray Prohaska, western regional sales manager, at an Asgrow/O's Gold Iowa award program March 7 at the Holiday Inn Gateway Center in Ames.

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W. Pott. Soil Conservation
Rm. 221 Fed. Bldg.
Council Bluffs, Ia

GAZETTE



Neola, Pottawattamie County, Iowa 51559 USPS #377-080 Price: 25 cents per single copy

Thursday, May 1, 1986

Return of the cutworm . . .

It can't happen two years in a row—can it?

Apparently it can. Black cutworm moths have been active throughout southwest Iowa this spring. Significant catches of moths in pheromone traps have been reported in counties including West Pottawattamie, Harrison and Shelby.

Based on trap counts reported to County Extension Directors Carroll Olsen of West Pottawattamie, Duane Feltz of Shelby and Gary Guge of Harrison, the potential does exist for enough cutworm activity to damage corn seedlings this spring.

When pheromone traps detect a significant moth flight, 300 degree days have to accumulate before cutworm larvae begin cutting corn seedlings.

This spring significant moth flights occurred in southwest Iowa from April 4 through April 21. Using this method, Iowa State University Extension Service entomologists anticipate cutworm problems by the first week of May, perhaps as early as April 30.

In West Pottawattamie County, twelve farmers, each with two pheromone traps, have been reporting moth activity. "We consider eight moths in a trap in a two-night period to be significant," says Olsen. "That means we've had almost one continuous significant flight."

Olsen added that nine of twelve participating farmers had reported significant flights, ranging as high as 30 moths in one night or over 40 for a two-night period.

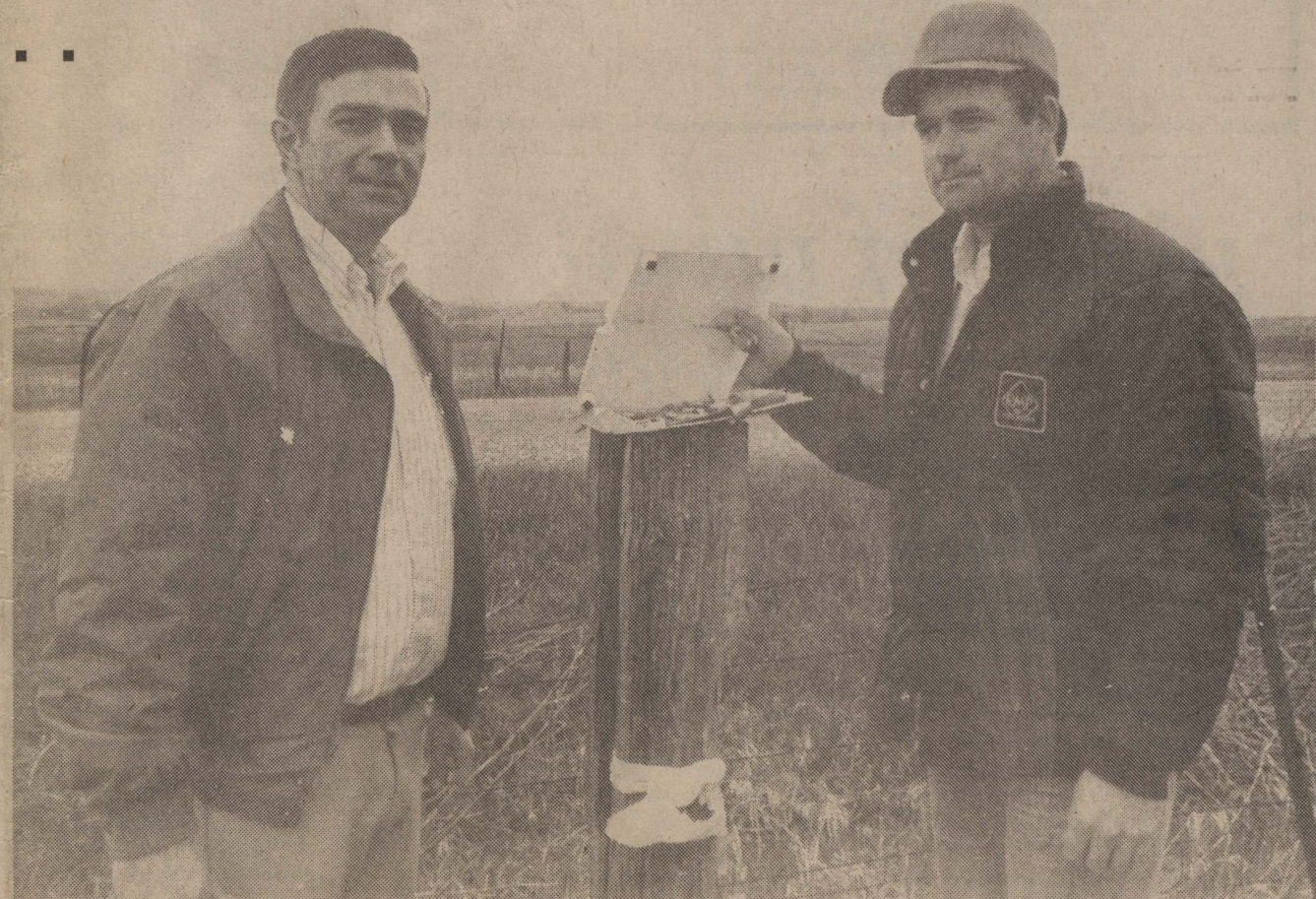
Those cooperating in the trapping program in West Pottawattamie have included Dave Dittmer, Minden; Dave Storjohann, Minden; John Witt, Minden; Randy Williams, Crescent; Gary Geise, Underwood; Jim Sealock, Council Bluffs; Bill Hiller, McClelland; Bob Adkins, Council Bluffs; Craig Sudmann, Council Bluffs; Tom Kenkel, Council Bluffs; Mark Schnepel, Carson; and Ken Strohbehn, Council Bluffs.

Harrison County's trappers have experienced a similar range from 0 to 40-plus moths caught in a two-day period. Each participant, however, has reported at least one significant catch.

In both Harrison and West Pottawattamie Counties, each cooperating farmer placed two traps of differing design. Participants in Harrison County include Jack Wholers, Missouri Valley; Marion (Mick) Maguire, Logan; Steve Ingwersen, Persia; Warren Christy, Modale; Jim Rains, Logan; Lyle and Tom McIntosh, Missouri Valley; Roger Barry, Woodbine; Mike Greenwood, Logan; Everette Wohlers, Jr., Missouri Valley; and Karol King, Mondamin.

In Shelby County, which is not participating in the trap comparison program, cooperating farmers include Ed and Gloria Mills from Prairie Rose, Mark and Maria Wingert at Panama and Charlie Leuck near Harlan.

Feltz reports that the most significant catches have been near Harlan, both by Charlie Leuck and by Jeff Lansman, who received a trap from another source. The highest catch is 31 moths by Lansman.



West Pottawattamie County Extension Director Carroll Olsen (left) and Dave Dittmer of Minden inspect one of two pheromone traps located at the Dittmer farm. The traps attract cutworm moths and can be used to help determine if cutworms will be a significant problem.—Gazette photo

"The degree of severity can vary a lot in a given area," said Feltz. "Generally, it seems to be strongest in Western Iowa and tapering off toward the east."

This early projected first date of cutting means cutworms will become active during normal planting dates for this area.

Marco Buske, Extension Area Crop Production Specialist, says, "This suggests some corn may be cut off by cutworms either before or just as it emerges. Should this happen, it may not be possible to scout for damage and apply rescue treatment in time to avoid stand losses. Under such circumstances a preventive treatment can be justified."

Buske points out that the Extension Service pheromone trapping program is by no means all-inclusive, explaining, "Although traps indicate moth activity is widespread, we also know cutworm problems will vary considerably from one location to another."

The following guidelines should help corn producers evaluate their situation and determine management options:

[1] **Continuous corn** producers will most likely apply a soil insecticide at planting time to control corn rootworm. They should also consider a product with activity against cutworms.

[2] **No-tilled corn** should be considered a high risk, especially where weeds were present during moth flight. Granular insecticide applied at planting time may provide control for a longer period but is more expensive

than a broadcast application of a synthetic pyrethroid. Synthetic pyrethroids (Ambush, Pounce, Pydrin) are registered for broadcast applications and can be tank-mixed with most corn herbicides.

[3] Moths will lay their eggs just about anyplace, but there is a distinct egg-laying preference for weeds. Crop residues are substantially less attractive to the female moth than weeds but are more attractive than bare soil. This suggests tillage can have an impact on cutworm populations. Tillage ten to fourteen days before planting will substantially reduce existing cutworm larval populations. These fields will also be less attractive to egg-laying moths. Tillage just prior to planting will have little effect.

The cold weather experienced April 14 and 15 probably had little effect on cutworm survival, although it did slow down cutworm development. The trapping program is expected to continue approximately two more weeks.

Corn producers with questions concerning cutworms or other crop production concerns can contact Olsen at the West Pottawattamie County Extension Office, 325-5551; Feltz at the Shelby County Extension Office, 755-3104; Guge at the Harrison County Extension Office, 644-2105; or Buske at the Council Bluffs Area Extension Office, 328-0077.



Good Morning

Western Iowa — Mostly sunny today; highs around 50; northwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Clear to partly cloudy tonight and Monday; lows tonight in the upper 20s; highs Monday in the mid-40s.

Sunday World

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 1986 OUR 121ST YEAR, NO. 33 204 PAGES, 11 SECT



Mel Evans/World-Herald

Farmers Encouraged to Heal Erosion-Scarred Land

This land in northwest Pottawattamie County, Iowa, illustrates the problem federal officials hope to address in a new incentive program to remove erosion-prone land from crop production. If national projections hold true, Nebraska and Iowa farmers could be

paid an estimated \$97 million this year for planting grasses and trees and for keeping more than 700,000 acres out of production. Within five years, 9 percent of Nebraska's cropland and 14 percent of Iowa's could be placed in the conservation reserve. Above,

Tim Bottoms, a planner in the Council Bluffs office of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, examines eroded land near a drainage pond in Boomer Township. For details and a map of acreage that could be affected, see Page 1 of the Midlands News Section.

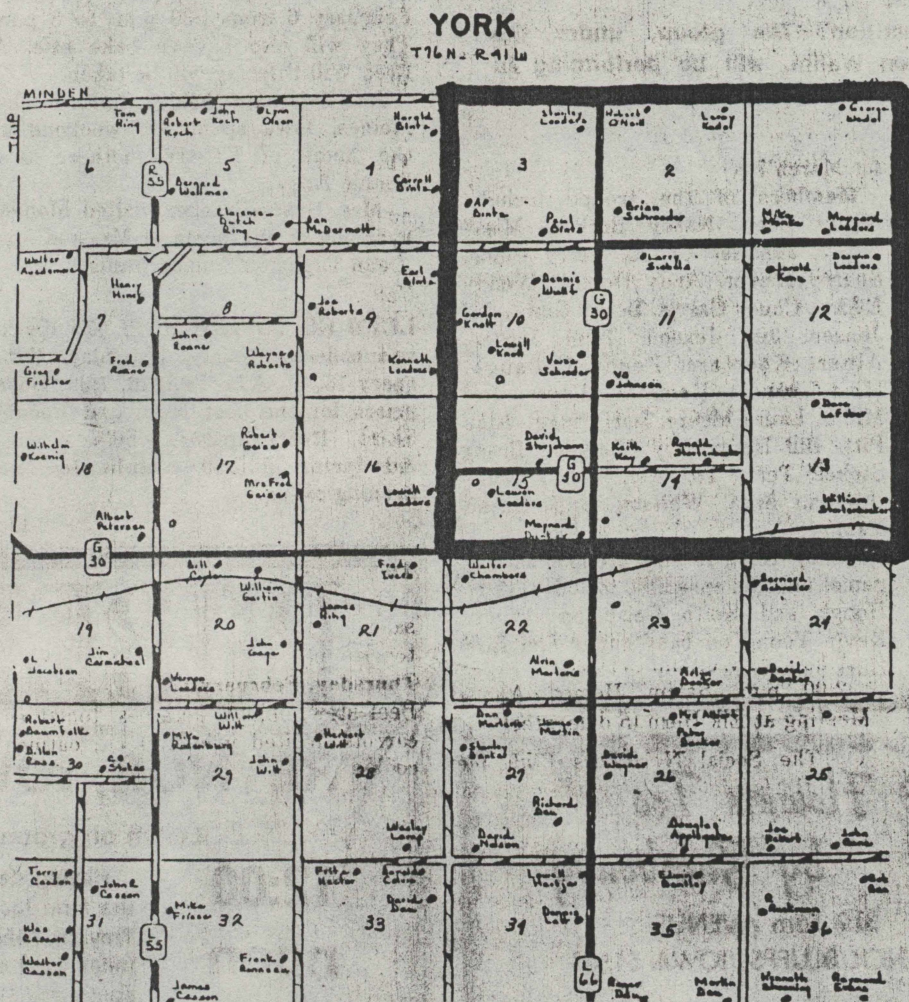
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper NEOLA GAZETTE
Where published NEOLA, IA
Date of issue FEBRUARY 6, 1986
Sent by PEGGY HAYS
S. C. D. WEST POTT
Stationed at COUNCIL BLUFFS

CLASSIFICATION: Weekly column ☐
NEWS Story (SCS) ☐
RELEASE (Other) ☒
Feature (SCS) ☐
(Other) ☐
Editorial ☐
Advertisement ☐
Cons. picture ☐

Iowa 2000 meeting Tuesday for York Township landowners



Landowners in the northeast corner of York Township, an area centering around the intersections of G-30 and L-66, have been invited to an Iowa 2000 soil conservation meeting Tuesday at the Minden United Church of Christ.

On February 11, 1986, the landowners in the northeast quarter of York Township (see map) will participate in a soil conservation meeting held at 1:30 p.m. at the Minden United

Church of Christ.

Each landowner will receive a folder which contains soils information, present soil losses and alternative conservation measures.

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District Commissioners felt that a special emphasis on conservation treatment in this area would benefit the landowners, since studies by the Soil Conservation Service showed a need for additional conservation practices.

Gentle slopes create an illusion of low soil losses, but they are present in many cases exceeding 15 tons per acre per year.

The Commissioners are hoping the folders will generate interest in developing a conservation plan for each farm and applying conservation measures on the land. To help apply terraces, the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District has set aside \$15,000 of its fiscal year '87 cost-share funds for the York Township area.

The purpose of Iowa 2000 is to reduce the excessive erosion from all the land in Iowa by the year 2000. This program was started by the 1980 Iowa General Assembly in response to a statewide hearing in 1979 on existing Iowa soil conservation programs.

Commissioners can make decisions or changes in the program to make it work better in local districts. Local businesses and organizations may also aid in getting the Iowa 2000 program started.

The Iowa 2000 program has drawn a lot of assistance from the Soil Conservation Service, the Iowa Co-operative Extension Service and the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation. These agencies also provide some education and information on conservation programs that are available.

Gazette
4-10-86
Hammond
C.D. Westcott
Council Bluffs
Stationed at:
CLASSIFICATION:

Weekly column
Story (SCS) ☐
(Other) ☒
Feature (SCS) ☐
(Other) ☐
Editorial ☐
Advertisement ☐
Cons. picture ☐

Iowa farmers lead nation in conservation tillage acres

Iowa farmers lead the nation in saving acres of cropland planted with conservation tillage methods, according to a national survey of tillage practices. The survey shows more than 12 million acres of Iowa land were planted with conservation tillage in 1985. The figure is for all crops including corn, soybeans, small grains and forage crops, and represents a 20 percent increase from 1984 and 1983. "We know there's been a steady increase in the use of conservation tillage by Iowa farmers, and we're happy to see they have the distinction of being number one," says Mike Nethery, state conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS). The SCS works with the Extension Service, ASCS and soil conservation districts to make the Conservation Tillage Information Center in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, any method of tillage that leaves at least 30 percent of the ground covered by the previous year's crop residue after the new crop is planted. The tillage survey shows eight other Midwest states followed Iowa in 1985 with total acreage of conservation tillage. The states and acres are Kansas, 11.2 million; Illinois, 7.7 million; Nebraska, 6.5 million; Indiana, 5.2 million; South Dakota, 4.9 million; North Dakota, 4.5 million; Missouri, 4.4 million; Minnesota, 4.4 million.

The state of Delaware leads the nation in percentage of crops planted with conservation tillage, with 77 percent. Iowa ranks sixth in acreage of no-till. Illinois leads the nation in no-till acreage with 1,462,000 acres, followed by Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Nebraska and Missouri. Nebraska has the most land in ridge tillage, with nearly half a million acres. Other leaders in ridge tillage are Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper *Neola Gaze* *He*Where published *Neola, IA*Date of issue *February 6, 1986*Sent by *Sherry Sandvik*S. C. D. *West Pott*Stationed at *Council Bluffs*

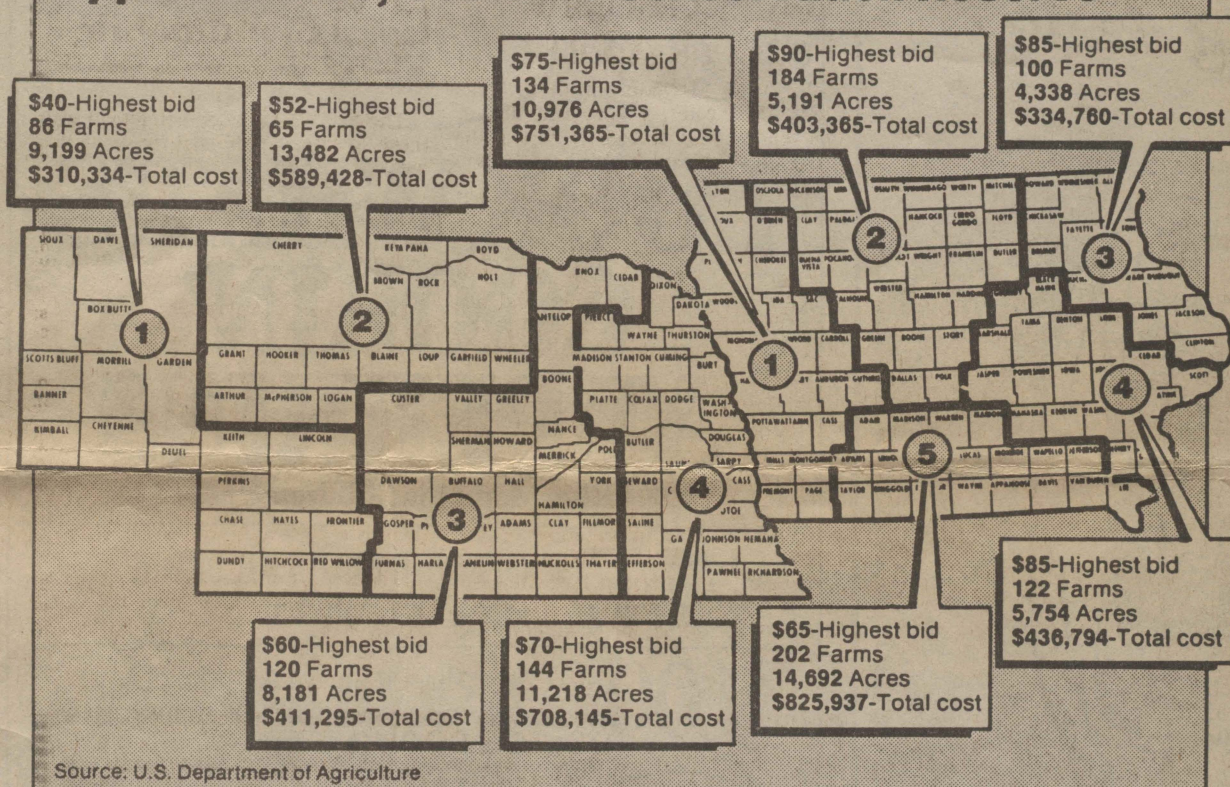
CLASSIFICATION:

Weekly column ☐Story (SCS) ☐(Other) ☒Feature (SCS) ☐(Other) ☐Editorial ☐Advertisement ☐Cons. picture ☐*News
Release***John Fischer elected**

January 2, 1986, the West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District Commissioners held their first meeting of the year to elect new officers. This year's district chairman is John Fischer. He lives near Neola in Neola Township. John was sworn in as a District Commissioner in 1983 and last year held the position of Vice Chairman. Charles Angeroth is Vice Chairman this year. He lives in Hazel Dell Township and was elected to a full 6-year term as commissioner in 1984. Gary Thien of Lewis Township is our Treasurer. Gary is a farm manager at the Council Bluffs Savings Bank and is filling the unexpired term of C.W. (Mac) McManamy. Mac retired as commissioner in 1984. Clint Goos, Leg Creek, was Chairman for West Pottawattamie for the last two years.

1984, Clint was also elected to a year term as commissioner. Mark Inepel and Mac McManamy were appointed to serve as assistant commissioners during 1986.

Approved Bids, Costs for Conservation Reserve



World-Herald

Highest bid, number of farms, acreage and total cost . . . listed for Reserve Program districts in Nebraska and Iowa.

Bidding to Reopen May 5

Land-Idling Sign-up Disappointing

Washington (AP) — The Reagan administration and conservationists are chagrined at the low initial sign-up for an ambitious new land-idling program that so far has yielded less than 20 percent of its goal.

In Nebraska, 42,080 acres of cropland on 415 farms will be set aside for at least a decade as part of the Conservation Reserve Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced. In return, the farmers will receive about \$2 million in government payments this year.

In Iowa, 742 farms were accepted, idling 40,951 acres at a cost of \$2.7 million.

The two states' acreage is part of 838,356 acres on 10,307 farms nationwide accepted into the reserve, Department officials announced Friday. The government had planned to retire 5 million acres this year.

"It's disappointing," said Daniel Weiss, a Sierra Club lobbyist who was among those pushing for the program in last year's farm bill. "There's going to have to be a much better sales job done by the Agriculture Department."

Poor Understanding

Agriculture Secretary Richard E. Lyng — blaming the poor showing on lack of understanding by farmers — said he would reopen registration for the program May 5.

"We expect the response to the program will be more favorable at that time," Lyng said.

The program, viewed by conservationists as the most significant development in U.S. soil conservation efforts in 50 years, is aimed at taking out of production the nation's most vulnerable 40 to 45 million acres of cropland over the next several years.

Peter Myers, department undersecretary for conservation programs, said he believed farmers were "testing" the new program to see whether the federal government would accept relatively high bids to get land out of production.

"Now they'll realize we're not going to take these astronomically high bids, and those who really want to get into the program will resubmit bids," he said. "I hope we'll make it."

Each landowner submitted a bid to the Agricultural Stabilization and Con-

servation Service for the amount of annual rent he or she would accept in return for idling that erodible land.

The rental fee considered acceptable by the government varied with local land prices and the productivity of the land.

Bids were received from 44,480 farms for 4.8 million acres, but many of those bids were too expensive to be acceptable, Myers said.

The bids accepted by the department from 10,307 farms ranged from \$5 to \$90 per acre, with a national average of \$41.82.

As expected, officials said, the cost per acre idled tended to be highest in the Midwest and lowest in the Southwest.

Bill Steinkruger, ASCS program specialist in the Nebraska office, said he did not know exactly how the Agriculture Department decided which bids to accept, reported United Press International.

"That was a Washington decision," he said. "It wasn't made here."

Some farmers who submitted low bids may be disappointed by the range

of bids accepted, Steinkruger said.

Although one western Nebraska bid was as low as \$18.45 an acre, the highest accepted from that area was \$40 an acre, he said.

In eastern Nebraska, where the government will pay up to \$70 an acre for annual rent, he said, the lowest bid was \$35 an acre.

Colorado Leads

Total annual cost of idling the accepted acreage will be \$35 million nationally, far less than the ultimate anticipated annual cost of \$1 billion.

Under the program, only land that has been used to grow crops in at least two of the past five years, and which has been classified as highly erodible, will be idled for at least 10 years.

The acreage must be planted with protective vegetative cover such as trees or grasses. The government will pay half the cost of establishing that cover.

Leading entrants in the program, by acres, were Colorado, 97,063; Minnesota, 79,008; Missouri, 49,375; Kansas, 47,437; Nebraska, 42,080; Iowa, 40,951; Georgia, 40,027; and Mississippi, 37,875.

Program Acres Listed by State

The Associated Press

Here, by state, are the numbers of farms accepted for entry into the soil conservation reserve, the total acres and the annual cost. States not listed had no accepted bids:

Midwest:

Illinois, 540, 21,466, \$1.3 million; Indiana, 157, 4,714, \$223,000; Iowa, 742, 40,951, \$2.7 million; Michigan, 108, 4,545, \$223,000; Minnesota, 1,079, 79,008, \$3.8 million; Missouri, 637, 49,375, \$2.4 million; Ohio, 107, 3,071, \$184,000; Wisconsin, 424, 12,592, \$705,000.

Northeast:

Maine, 26, 976, \$39,000; Maryland, 8, 271, \$11,000; Massachusetts, 3, 33, \$1,400; New Jersey, 4, 49, \$2,500; New York, 87, 3,331, \$167,000; Pennsylvania, 93, 2,463, \$110,000; Vermont, 1, 8, \$400; West Virginia, 3, 80, \$3,300.

Northwest:

Alaska, 2, 1,691, \$61,000; Idaho, 45, 9,

345, \$309,000; Montana, 46, 16,612, \$518,000; Nebraska, 415, 42,080, \$2 million; North Dakota, 112, 15,950, \$495,000; Oregon, 69, 21,073, \$921,000; South Dakota, 136, 12,841, \$468,000; Washington, 80, 22,722, \$1 million; Wyoming, 7, 4,151, \$115,000.

Southeast:

Alabama, 456, 35,757, \$1 million; Arkansas, 160, 11,035, \$475,000; Florida, 157, 12,629, \$321,000; Georgia, 832, 40,027, \$1.3 million; Kentucky, 382, 24,436, \$1.2 million; Louisiana, 33, 2,959, \$105,000; Mississippi, 665, 37,875, \$1.1 million; North Carolina, 182, 5,423, \$215,000; South Carolina, 276, 11,940, \$337,000; Tennessee, 716, 30,470, \$1.3 million; Virginia, 114, 2,867, \$112,000.

Southwest:

California, 19, 8,716, \$405,000; Colorado, 214, 97,063, \$3.4 million; Kansas, 681, 47,437, \$2.1 million; New Mexico, 115, 33,962, \$1 million; Oklahoma, 170, 28,815, \$1 million; Texas, 161, 30,170, \$930,000; Utah, 40, 7,313, \$254,000.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper *Neola Gazette*Where published *Neola, IA*Date of issue *4-17-86*Sent by *Hammitt*S. C. D. *West Pott*Stationed at *Council Bluffs*

CLASSIFICATION:

Weekly column	☐
Story (SCS)	☐
(Other)	☐
Feature (SCS)	☐
(Other)	☒
Editorial	☐
Advertisement	☐
Cons. picture	☐

*District Release***No-till incentive
policy change**

At their recent meeting, the West Pott Soil Conservation District Commissioners voted to amend their current policy on a \$10/acre incentive payment for no-till. Previous no-till farmers will now be eligible for the payment if they are renting the no-till drill or planter needed to do the planting and can show a receipt for the rental fee.

In all other cases, the previous policy still applies. The farmer must be first-time no-tiller and must be planting into heavy residue cover such as corn stalks, sod, alfalfa, or oat stubble. All planting must be done on the contour.

Applications can be signed at the West Pott District Office, Room 221 Federal Building, Council Bluffs. Applications must be signed before planting starts.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper *Neola Gazette*Where published *Neola, IA*Date of issue *FEBRUARY 6, 1986*Sent by *Bill Hammitt*S. C. D. *WEST POT.*Stationed at *COUNCIL BLUFFS*

CLASSIFICATION:

NEWS
*RELEASE*Weekly column ☐Story (SCS) ☐(Other) ☒Feature (SCS) ☐(Other) ☐Editorial ☐Advertisement ☐Cons. picture ☐

Conservation Reserve should remove erodible land from rowcrops

The Conservation Reserve, a USDA program designed to remove erodible land from rowcrops, was announced earlier this month as Secretary of Agriculture John Block termed it "the most comprehensive conservation program this country has ever seen."

Locally, the program will be administered primarily by the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) and the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). The Extension Service, Soil Conservation District, County Conservation Board, Iowa Conservation Commission, and others will help with the program.

"We don't have complete program details or rules yet," says Norma Tradel, executive director of ASCS for West Pottawattamie County. "But, we have received preliminary information and can answer many of the questions a farmer might have on this program."

Under the program, farmers may submit bids to the ASCS on their highly erodible land. The winning bidders will then be asked to sign a 10-year contract requiring them to take the land out of crop production and plant it to grasses and legumes, wildlife plantings, or trees.

Farmers will receive yearly rental fees for the 10 year period, as well as half the planting costs for establishment of ground cover.

"Plans now call for a sign-up in early March for this year, and another

sign-up this summer for 1987," says Mrs. Tradel.

Cropland is eligible for the program if it's in capability class 6 or higher, or if it's in capability class 2 to 5 and is eroding at a rate more than twice the tolerance level for the soil involved, as specified by SCS technical guidelines. On most soils, that means erosion rates above 10 tons an acre.

ASCS determines whether the land qualifies as cropland. Basically, it's land that has been planted to produce an annual agricultural commodity at least two of the 1981 through 1985 crop years.

Bill Hammitt, District Conservationist for SCS in West Pottawattamie County, says using the soil survey is a good way to see if your land meets erosion qualifications. "The soil survey lists capability classes for each soil. We can also help determine erosion rates and consult with landowners about the reserve program if they'll call or stop by the office."

All agencies involved plan to have question and answer information sheets available on the program soon.

"Already we're hearing rumors and misconceptions about the program," Hammitt says. "One is that there are some so-called average bid figures being put out. We want to stress that the bidding process will be just that. A farmer should bid what he thinks is the right price for himself. There are no pre-established bid prices."

Neola family welcomes Soviet agronomist

The John Fischer family of Neola had an extra member for ten days recently: Sergei Ivanovich Pavlovich of Byelorussia was staying with the Fischers as part of a Young Agricultural Specialists Exchange Program between the United States and the Soviet Union.

The program, which is coordinated in the United States through the National 4-H Council, was recently reinstated after six years. The first such exchange was conducted over a four-year period from 1976-1979 and included forty-six men and women from the United States and a similar number from the Soviet Union.

John and Mary Fischer read about the need for host families in a newspaper, applied, and were selected as one of the Iowa host homes.

The four Soviet specialists taking part in the exchange arrived for orientation in Washington, D.C. on August 5, then traveled to Iowa for orientation and a visit to the State Fair before joining their host families. On Sunday, they regathered at Ames where they will remain at Iowa State University until September 3.

After a stay with host families in Wisconsin and a week of travel, they will stop back at the National 4-H Council in Washington, D.C. for consultation and evaluation.

The Fischers have already made their own evaluation and say the one thing that stands out in their minds is, "People around the world are more

alike than they are different."

Adds John, "We all have the same basic wants and needs—food, shelter, a better future for our children."

"This is a very good program," says Sergei. The Fischers say he hopes the program will help improve the situation between young agriculturalists in the United States and the Soviet Union when they learn more about how each other lives.

As the Fischers were driving to Denison to meet Sergei for the first time, they agreed it was "the biggest blind date we've ever been on."

They were hoping to broaden their own cultural experience and learn more about the Soviet Union, which is so often in the news.

The blind date was a success. Asked what things he liked most about his stay with the Fischers, Sergei grinned and said simply, "All!"

He especially enjoyed working on the farm with John—and John adds that he especially enjoyed the help! The Fischers farm 690 acres, raising corn, beans, cattle, hogs, and a garden.

Sergei also toured Blue Star Foods, the Cargill grain elevator, Younkerman Seed Co. and was a guest of the Rotary Club in Council Bluffs for lunch; visited the trial gardens and radio station KMA in Shenandoah; toured Mercy Hospital (where Mary is a nurse), Midlands Mall and local supermarkets; and even tried his hand at baseball for the first time at a picnic.

Although Sergei had studied English for only four months, John says, "He was very personable. We were able to overcome the language barrier. He was very well-read and we've talked about everything you can think of from international tensions to 'How did you meet your wife?'"

Sergei, 30, and his wife Valentina, 23, have a six-month-old daughter, Polina. They live in Minsk, the capital city of Byelorussia.

Byelorussia is the fifth largest republic in the Soviet Union, with a population of about nine million, over one million in Minsk.

It is bordered on the west by Poland and in this century was ravaged by two world wars and the Russian Civil War. After World War II, it was devastated and a period of hunger followed until resources could be rebuilt. Both Sergei's grandfathers were killed during the conflict.

John and Mary Fischer report that the continuing progress of Byelorussia is rebuilding and working toward a better future is very important to Sergei and to his work.

Says Mary, "He is very proud of his country and the plans to improve his country. It is very important to him that he is helping to improve his country."

Sergei's specialty is potato research, working to develop strains especially suited to Byelorussia, where a million hectares produce twelve to thirteen million tons of potatoes each year.



Soviet agronomist Sergei Pavlovich [right] enjoyed the opportunity to work alongside host John Fischer. Fischer combines livestock and crop operations on his farm near Neola.—Gazette photo

Sergei grew up on a collective farm which his father has managed for 27 years. A graduate of the Grodno Agricultural Institute, he worked as senior agronomist on a collective farm for two years before beginning postgraduate studies and work as a junior researcher.

A member of the Young Scientists Council, he is presently a research scientist at the Byelorussian Research Institute of Potatoes and Fruit and Vegetable Growing.

Mary brought out a potato for comparisons, and Sergei explained that at home the potatoes are rounder, have a more golden color and shallower eyes, and have a higher starch content. He also says they taste better, drawing grins from the Fischers.

Sergei was impressed by Iowa's climate and growing conditions. Byelorussia is further north and, interestingly, as close to Canada as to Mongolia.

He enjoyed seeing firsthand the life of a farmer and meeting the "good, simple souls" in the area. He adds, "I like to work together with John and I like to sit around the table in the evening and talk."

Some of the things he is interested in learning more about during his stay in the United States are research and techniques used here in selection of potatoes and other agricultural crops, including the use of computers; the industrial processing of potatoes; and more about the economic relationship between farmers and agro-industrial firms.

Both Sergei Pavlovich and the Fischers feel it is important for people in the United States and the Soviet Union to learn more about each other's lifestyles.

"When he compared the two lifestyles," says John, "communism versus capitalism, he really defended his system from the standpoint of all people being equal and not having the wealthy making money at poorer people's expense. Whereas we think of capitalism as a system that offers you the opportunity to better your situation in life."

As Sergei said of the exchange program, "It is a good way to introduce people in the Soviet Union and the United States to different ways of life."



Mary Fischer, Tony Fischer, Sergei Pavlovich and John Fischer shared family life for ten days recently as part of an exchange program for young

agriculturalists in the Soviet Union and the United States. The Fischer family also includes [not pictured] daughters Anne and Emily.—Gazette photo

Conservation efforts honored

UNDERWOOD — Approximately 150 people gathered here Monday night to honor conservation-minded farmers, landowners and farm managers for their efforts in protecting Iowa's soil.

Awards were presented in nine categories at the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District annual awards banquet held at UMBA Hall.

"We do this every year to recognize people for doing a good job of conservation on their farms," said district conservationist Bill Hammitt. "And by recognizing them, we hope we promote conservation and encourage other people to do a good job on their land."

THE AWARDS and their recipients were:

- **Owner-operator:** Keith and Betty Gunderson of Neola. The award, Hammitt said, goes to someone "with high quality conservation work on

their farm ... usually someone that has pretty well completed all that needs to be done."

- **New cooperator:** Mr. and Mrs. Jack Barrier of Council Bluffs. "This goes to a landowner that has just become a cooperator (with SCS programs) in the last year," Hammitt said. "Someone that has had their first plans drawn up and most of the work of that plan has been done."

- **LANDLORD-TENANT:** Robert Sweeney, Aurora, Colo., landlord, and Tom Eitmann, Treynor, tenant. This award honors "a landowner and tenant who work together to develop a conservation system on the farm to control erosion," Hammitt said. "A lot of times this means the construction of terraces on the landlord's part and contour or no-till farming on the tenant's part," Hammitt said.

- **Farm manager-landowner-tenant:** Leo Bell of Farmers National Co. in

Omaha, farm manager; Erna Burger Trust, owner; and Jerome Messerschmidt, Neola, tenant. A new category in Iowa, this is similar to the landlord-tenant award, Hammitt said, "except there is another party involved who has to be willing to spend the time to get a conservation plan done for the farm and work with the owner to make sure the money is available to get the conservation work done."

- **ELDON RAVLIN Memorial Award:** Mr. and Mrs. Don Larsen, Underwood. The award, named for the late soil conservation commissioner, honors "the top conservation farm in the district," Hammitt said. "We try to pick people who have best completed a conservation system on their farm."

- **Izaak Walton Windbreak Award:** Mr. and Mrs. Bill Geise, Underwood. People with windbreaks five years old

or older that "do a good job protecting what they were designed to protect" are nominated by counties for state competition sponsored by the Izaak Walton League, a national conservation organization, Hammitt said.

- **No-Till Corn Yield Contest:** Mick Ring, Neola, 201.03 bushels per acre.

- **No-Till Soybean Yield Contest:** Charles and Darol Jensen, Neola, 53.87 bushels per acre.

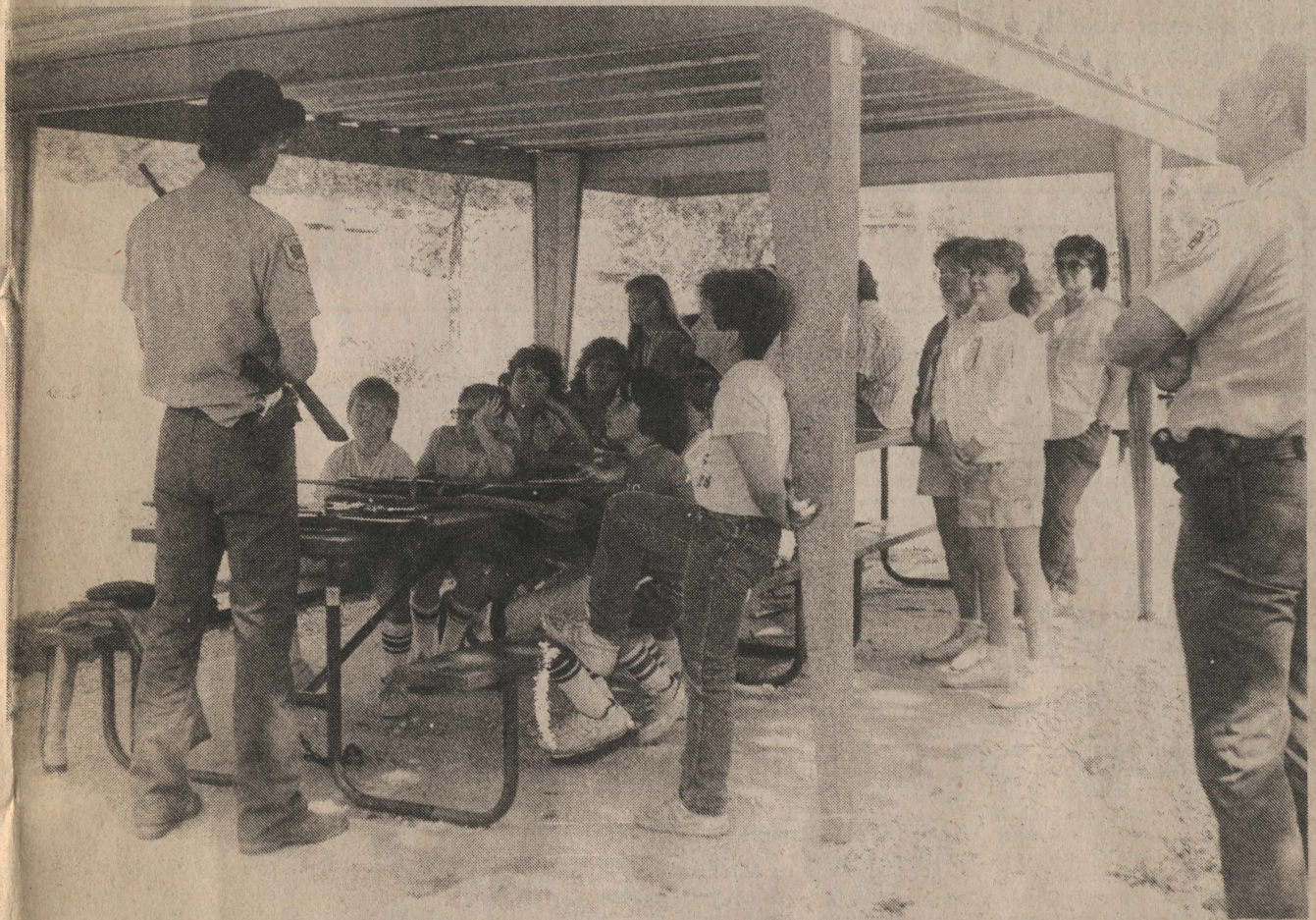
"**WE HOLD** our own no-till yield contest," Hammitt said, "since there is no state contest specifically for no-till." The growers usually do compete in the Iowa Masters contest under the general conservation category, he said.

- **John Fischer** was awarded a "Distinguished Service as a Commissioner" award for serving the SCS from 1983-1987. Fischer resigned the SCS post when he was recently elected to the ASCS county committee.

Area sixth graders enjoy Environmental Field Day at Arrowhead Park near Neola



Ronda Elias and Arlon Jensen [on the left] were two of the Tri-Center High School students who helped instruct area sixth graders in archery at the Environmental Field Day held last Friday in Arrowhead Park.—Gazette photo



Conservation officers Doug Clayton and Eric Sansgaard taught gun safety in one of nine different workshops offered throughout the day. In the evening, students enjoyed a cookout, performed skits

demonstrating what they had learned, and enjoyed professional storyteller Duane Hutchinson of Lincoln.
—Gazette photo

5-14-87

Soil Saving Suggestions

Question: Can you explain what government agencies are involved in Soil Conservation and what each one's job is; I am always confused by the difference between SCS, ASCS, Districts, and the DSC.

Answer: The task of Soil Conservation in Iowa is so large that many levels of government are involved in protecting this valuable resource. It all starts at the local level with the Soil Conservation District. Governed by a board of five commissioners, the district encompassed a county-wide area with the exception of Pottawattamie which has two districts. It is where your decisions are made and priorities are set for your soil conservation program.

In order to carry out its program the district receives help from the State and Federal Government. The Iowa Department of Soil Conservation (DSC) appropriates money for commissioners expenses, supplies, and most importantly it administers a cost-sharing program for conservation practices. It also provides each district with a clerk-secretary and a soil conservation aid. The money for cost-sharing is appropriated to each district to be used

under the authority of the district commissioners.

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS), a federal agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides technical assistance to the district through personnel, equipment and office facilities. SCS provides each district with a Soil Conservationist (District Conservationist) who manages the office and sees that the program is properly carried out.

Another federal agency involved in Soil Conservation is the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). ASCS offers a number of programs such as commodity loans, target price supports, etc., but the agriculture conservation program (ACP) is the segment that offers cost-sharing to farmers for the installation of conservation practices. It is similar to the state cost-sharing program. SCS is involved in design and installation of the practices for this program.

If the organization sounds complex to you, you're right. No matter how complex though, it is an effective network of people working together toward a common goal of putting conservation on the land where it benefits us all.