



Newspaper Articles

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The Scribbler

June 13, 1978 - August 25, 1983





Clarke County Soil Conservation District

820A North Main Street

Osceola, Iowa 50213

342-2917

NEWSLETTER

We, The Commissioners of the Clarke County Soil Conservation wish to present our first quarterly newsletter hoping that you will find it interesting and informative.

THE COMMISSIONERS

Richard Gonseth, Chairman

Merrill Thornton, Vice Chairman

Glen Kimes

Adrian Fuller

Phillip Henrichs

Doyce Miller, Asst.

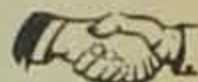
Betty Webb, Asst.

Fred Redman, Asst.

WHERE YOU FIT IN NOW—

SPECIAL LONG RANGE PLAN MEETING June 11, 1979, 7:30 p.m.

The Clarke County Soil Conservation district is forming task force committees to study our top resource problems. We could use your help June 11, 1979 at 7:30 p.m. in the Soil Conservation Office, 820A North Main Street, Osceola, as we develop programs on how to deal with these problems. Your soil conservation district will be making or revising a long range program that will note the present condition of resources, list goals for improving the condition of the resources during the next five years, and map strategies to guide conservation efforts in reaching the goals. You can start by coming to the June 11 meeting in the Soil Conservation Office. We want to know what you think, and need your help in formulating these programs.



NEW COOPERATORS

We would like to recognize the following landowners who have signed up since July 1978 as cooperators with the District. They are:

Lyle Berven - 212 Acres, Green Bay Township
Larry Carson - 240 Acres, Liberty Township
F. Wayne Walker - 400 Acres, Osceola Township
Tom R. Tyree - 798 Acres, Washington, Fremont, Green Bay and Doyle Townships
B.R. Musselman - 80 Acres, Doyle Township
North Central Properties - 720 Acres, Madison Township
William C. Busse - 80 Acres, Knox Township
Durwood C. Anderson - 79 Acres, Green Bay Township
Charlie McDonough - 80 Acres, Washington Township
Lynn George - 120 Acres, Knox Township
Robert Howe - 40 Acres, Liberty Township
Craig Barcus - 15 Acres, Osceola Township
Robert Clough - 60 Acres, Doyle Township
Frank Riley - 240 Acres, Osceola Township
Wayne Thomas - 320 Acres, Madison Township
Richard Wallace - 11 Acres, Franklin Township

IOWA OPEN MEETING LAW

Iowa open meetings law, Chapter 28A of the Code of Iowa, was passed and signed into law by Governor Ray, to take effect January 1, 1979. A board, council, commission or other governing bodies, expressly created by the statutes of this state or by executive order, is considered a governmental body.

The Soil Conservation Districts are political subdivisions created by state statutes. Our elected board of District Commissioners, therefore, constitutes a "governmental body", and meetings of the board are subject to the provisions of the Iowa Open Meetings Law.

The Commissioners of the Clarke County Soil Conservation District hold regular monthly meetings every third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m., in the District Office at 820A North Main Street. All our meetings are open to the general public, and you are welcome anytime you can join us.



COST-SHARE PROGRAM

The District is out of state cost-share funds, but beginning July 1, we will have a new allocation. We are accepting application on terraces, grade stabilization structures, diversions, and sediment and water control basins. The cost-share rate is 50 percent of actual cost or estimate cost whichever is the lesser. If you applied for cost-share last year and did not get approved, you will need to sign up again as applications are not held over from sign-ups previous to December 31, 1978 date.



There are two programs available to landowners and operators in Clarke County. The state cost share program is administered by the Soil Conservation District and the ACP cost share program is administered by the ASCS. The two programs are somewhat similar. Both are to be used to install permanent soil conservation practices. Practices that are installed must be maintained for a ten year period or the cost share funds must be refunded. Applications must be made and approved before starting a practice to be sure funds will be available.

If you have one of these or some other project on your mind, the district staff would be glad to assist you in planning it. Stop in at the district office and discuss your needs with Keith Edwards and T.J. Laing.

INCOME TAX EXEMPTIONS



As a result of amendments made to the Internal Revenue Code and signed into law by President Carter late last year, landowners receiving federal or state cost-share assistance after October 1, 1979, will be able to exclude such monies from their gross income on federal tax returns.

We received this information from our State office in January, but specific interpretations should be made by a qualified tax preparer, the Iowa Department of Revenue or the Internal Revenue Service.

1979 SOIL CONSERVATION BOOSTERS

Our current list of contributors (74) have contributed \$907.15 so far in 1979. Your support is greatly appreciated. These funds are put to good use for conservation education; stewardship materials for the churches; district membership in the national and state association; promotional activities such as local awards; contest prizes; conservation booklets for local schools; and many other activities that promote conservation in Clarke County.

Our sincere thanks to everyone on the following list for your financial support:

Jerry & Eva Kelly	Kenneth Sickels	Carl Handrock
Simpson College Farms	Wm. R. Young	G. Allen Heston
Clarke County State Bank	Jacob Cozad	Jack Heilman
C. & L. Const. Co. Inc.	Lloyd H. Miller	Saylor Feed & Grain Co.
Larry Van Werden	M.H. Keeler	Osceola Sale Co.
Robert Kitchell	The Levine Company, Inc.	Osceola State Bank & Trust Co.
Wilma Casey McFarland	Harry Winship	Ronald Whitham
Osceola Realty, Inc.	M.W. Jack Beaman	Miller Farm Account
Richard Barr	Henry Staubus	The Pines Shorthorn Ranch
J.J. Nolan	Morris E. Gonseth	Beardsley Pasture Account
Carl Brammer	Donald Green	Bill Kelso
Arthur Anderson	R.E. Killmar	Madeline Meyer
Price Farms, Inc.	W.J. Emary	Wayne Swegle
Robinsons	V.R. McCartney & Son	Willard Brittin
Charles Emmack	Floyd McComas	Vern L. Minnich
Samuel Edgington	Eldon C. Graves	Lloyd Morgan
Donald Edgington	Merlin Newman	Melvin Goeldner
R.M. Overholtzer	Robert S. Toland	Farm Service Co., Humeston
Loren Davis	Orval Coffman	Keith E. Kent, Inc.
W.W. Reynoldson	Barnard Bros.	James Macholz
Bell & Sons, Inc.	Elvin H. Sunds	Chester Woods
Robert Liggitt	Barr & Sanders Const. Co.	Merrill Thornton
Col. M.M. Milletich	Brian Oehlert	Bob Andrew
Robins Farms	William Oehlert	E.W. Touet
Jessie Powell	Rick Eddy	

Weed Control

Results Good

There's been a widespread belief that weeds are much more difficult to control on conservation (minimum) tillage fields than on conventionally tilled fields. But evaluations in northeastern Iowa and other tests say otherwise.

Weed control evaluations by the Iowa State University Extensions Service in northeast Iowa conclude that "the performance of pre-emergence and post-emergence herbicides evaluated was basically the same as that with conventional tillage systems." The Extension Service has been studying herbicide performance there since 1971.

"They found good weed control with residue amounts of 3,000 - 4,000 pounds an acre, the same amount needed for good erosion control," says state agronomist Ernie Hintz of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. But he cautions area farmers to be ready with a back-up system in case weather or other factors made herbicides less effective.

"Most years, a properly selected herbicide will do a good job of controlling weeds in fields planted with conservation tillage systems. But there are times when weather and other factors made herbicides less effective, and a back-up weed control system is needed, he says.

Planning now can save headaches later in those cases. "Adapting your cultivator to handle cornstalks is the most important step you could make now for a back-up system".

"The most common and a practical way to make your cultivator work in residues is to attach disc hillers to the cultivator. Then it's a trial and error system of adjusting them to work best," Greg says.

The rolling cultivator is one of the most widely accepted machines for weed control in "trashy" fields. Most manufacturers have one and most machinery dealers in Iowa sell them.

Greg Kent,
Soil Conservation Aid

Need More Support for Whitebreast Water Project

"More support and interest is needed," stated Charley McDonough, "if the Whitebreast Rural Watershed Project is to become a reality."

McDonough, president of the Whitebreast Watershed Project in Clarke County and a representative on the Southern Iowa Water Association Board serving a seven county area, made the statement after spending the last six years seeing little progress on the needed water facility in Clarke County.

Originally, the Southern Iowa Water Association was estab-

lished in the early 1970s and included a seven county area of Clarke, Union, Decatur, Ringgold, Wayne, Lucas and Madison. Because the Federal Home Administration, (FHA) providing the funding for the projects, saw the need was greater than the amount of money they could allow at one time, the areas were broken up into smaller divisions to spread out the funding over a period of time. Whitebreast Watershed will serve all of Clarke County and parts of Union and Decatur Counties.

"Several steps must be followed when applying for federal grants for such a project," commented McDonough. Through the Southern Iowa Water Association, Western-Hoskins Engineering firm of Lincoln, Nebraska, was hired to complete a feasibility study of the different areas to discover their rural water needs. Because of the time element, the Whitebreast Water Board hired Lynn Sickels of Midstate Engineering firm, in Creston, to make a separate feasibility study of Whitebreast to attempt to speed up the application process for funding.

Another requirement that FHA requires on such a project is a sign-up of all area residents to be affected by the watershed to show the support of such a project. This phase of the requirement has been complete in Clarke County and has been sent to FHA.

McDonough stated that the Little River Rural Water Project in Decatur County is quite a bit further along than Whitebreast and still has a ways to go before actual work can be started. According to McDonough, the project has been accepted by FHA, but the actual plans for cost must still be approved.

"Clarke County still has a ways to go before application for the funding can be made," stated McDonough, "and before Whitebreast can become a reality, more interest and participation is going to have to be shown on the part of Clarke County residents."

Osceola Tribune

November 28, 1978

No Tillage Tour

Slated Thursday

Raising corn without any tillage (plowing, disking, field cultivator) will be the subject of a tour being conducted by the Clarke County Soil Conservation District and the Clarke County Extension Service. The tour will assemble at the Grace Fertilizer Plant on the north side of Osceola at 6:15 p.m., Thursday, July 26.

The objective of no-till farming is to reduce 1) soil loss, on steep or rolling land to be row cropped; 2) use of fuel to put in the crop; 3) amount of time needed to put in a crop. The group will be looking at the use of herbicides, land suitability, and the ability to achieve a stand, as well as some of the limitation of no-till crop production. Equipment used in the operation will also be available for viewing.

Most important of all the farmers whose crops you will see will be available for comments and questions.

The first stop will be at the Hugh Carroll farm three miles south and two miles east of Osceola on the Osceola and Greenbay township line. Hugh has some no-till corn on alfalfa sod.

Any interested person or persons are invited to attend this tour.

Raising Corn With No-Tillage

WHAT: A No-Till Tour

WHERE: 3 Farms in Clarke County

Tour will assemble at Grace Fertilizer North of Osceola.

When: 6:15 p.m. July 26, 1979

Who: Any and all interested persons in No-Till Crop Production.

Refreshments Will Be Served.

Sponsored by the Clarke County Soil Conservation District and the Clarke County Extension Service in Cooperation with Ortho Chemical Company.

*July 24, 1979
Osceola Tribune*

Clarke Co. Farmers Attend No-Till Tour

Approximately 27 area farmers attended a no-till tour held in Clarke County on Thursday, July 26. The tour, sponsored by the Clarke County SCS and Extension Service in cooperation with Grace Fertilizer and Ortho Chemical Co., visited the farms owned by Hugh Carroll, Lyle Berven and Richard Barr.

Participants observed corn, beans and milo being grown in fields that were planted without the use of tillage implements. This type of planting is quite different from that normally practiced in this area of the country. Reasons for changing to this type of a system, as discussed by the farm operators

were: less time needed to put in the crop, less cost for both equipment and fuel and a way to utilize land that is highly susceptible to erosion.

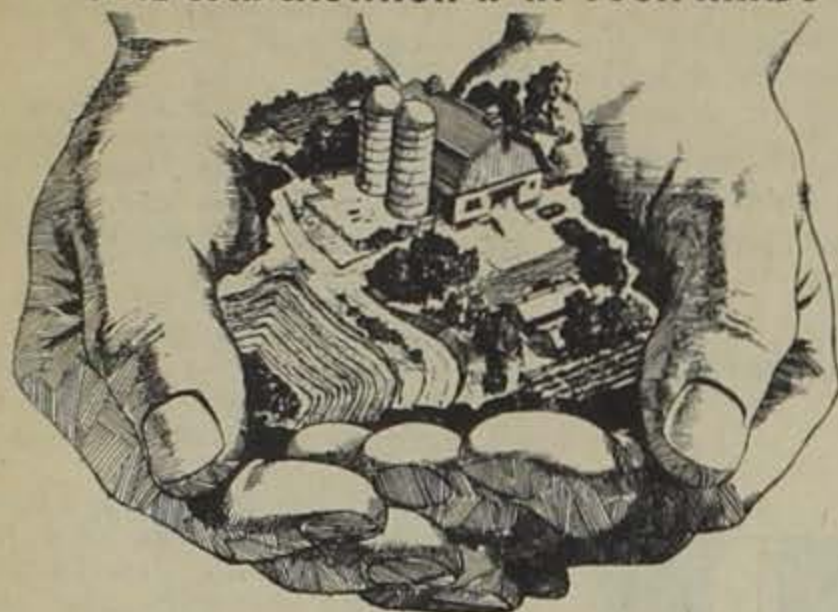
Discussion was conducted at each site by Keith Edwards, Soil District Conservationist, and Alan Teel, County Extension Director. Most of the questions concerned herbicide use, site selection, sprayer calibration use, insecticide use and planned management.

Teel commented, "we are looking at a new practice, mistakes will be made, some will like it and others won't, but we must at least be aware of what it is and what it can and cannot do. We must become more aware of our soil loss problems and this is one way to reduce this problem."

A follow up, comparing costs and yield data will be conducted later this fall.

*July 31, 1979
Osceola Tribune*

SOIL CONSERVATION IS IN YOUR HANDS



**Observe
Soil Conservation Week
September 9 - 15**

[See page 6 for conservation practices.]

Sixth Graders Enjoy Nature Tour Oct. 10

The 128 sixth graders from Clarke and Murray schools enjoyed brisk October weather, hiked trails, and learned about our environment last Wednesday in the woods of Melvin Goeldner's "Patch."

"Nature Day" for county sixth graders was a field trip organized by Donna West of the Clarke County Conservation Board. "The kids had an excellent opportunity to observe and discuss their natural environment with conservation professionals," said West. Those professionals included John Tibben, area forester; Melvin Moe, wildlife biologist; Keith Edwards, soil conservationist; and Mike McGhee, fisheries biologist. Donna West and John Klein of the Conservation Board assisted also. Melvin Goeldner, longtime environmentalist and former Board member led the nature hike. Alverda Goeldner presented a segment on local history and changes in our land use.

Each class visited six stations around the "Patch" which is a wooded nature preserve with a pond. At each station, they got a lesson in natural resources and their protection. The day was full of learning and fun in a natural classroom. This learning will be used in future years to make wise choices about our land use.

To Accept Nominations

For 'Teacher of Year'

Nominations are being accepted for the seventh national "Conservation Teacher-of-the-Year" awards program according to Richard Gonseth, Chairman of the Clarke County Soil Conservation District. Competition is open to all full-time teachers working at the kindergarten through high school level who have developed an outstanding program of environmental education.

The National Conservation Teacher of the Year will receive \$1000 in cash and an expense paid trip to San Francisco, California for the 1981 annual convention of the National Association of Conservation Districts. The national second place winner receives a \$500 cash award and the first place regional winner will be given \$200.

Co-sponsored by NACD and

the Allis Chalmers Corporation, the purpose of the awards program is to encourage the development of creative learning experiences in conservation for young people.

"Any teacher in a public or private school in our conservation district who puts emphasis on environmental conservation as a regular part of the instructional program is eligible for nomination," said Gonseth.

Interested teachers can obtain additional information and nomination forms from Clarke County Soil Conservation Service.

The awards program also includes equivalent prizes for the conservation district judged nationally to have provided the most effective stimulus and help for conservation education programs within the district.

October 18, 1979
Osceola Sentinel

Dry Fall Causes Concern for West Lake Water Supply

Water usage in Osceola averages close to a million gallons per day. In figures compiled at the Osceola Water Treatment Plant, Steve Squires reported that during the month of November, just over 24 million gallons of water were treated and used by water patrons.

Concern has been expressed by citizens over the increased usage of water during the past years and the 125 acre West Lake that serves as reservoir for Osceola's water supply. Keith Edwards, District Soil and Water Conservationist, reports that at capacity, the reservoir holds approximately 491 million gallons of water. If there were no evaporation out of or runoff of water in to West Lake, there would be approximately 491 days of water available for use. At the present time, the lake is 46 inches below the spillway which means it is down 40 percent from capacity.

According to Edwards, there is approximately 292,000 million gallons of water in the reservoir.

With the coating of ice that covers West Lake at the present time, this prevents evaporation and should remain in this position until spring when the ice melts.

A measurement of the level of the lake was taken December 18 and showed that the lake level was 46 inches below the level of the spillway. This means that approximately 199 million gallons of water have been used since the water was at the level of the spillway, or since it was last at capacity.

Water is presently being pumped into the treatment plant and processed from the second intake pipe. At the present rate of usage, there are 130 days of water available before the next intake pipe is reached. It is hoped that by this time, spring rains will have arrived and replenish the lake after a dry fall that failed to perform that task.

Residents recall that in 1977 after a dry spring the reservoir was low. At that point, pipe was obtained and pumping from Sargent Quarries was started on

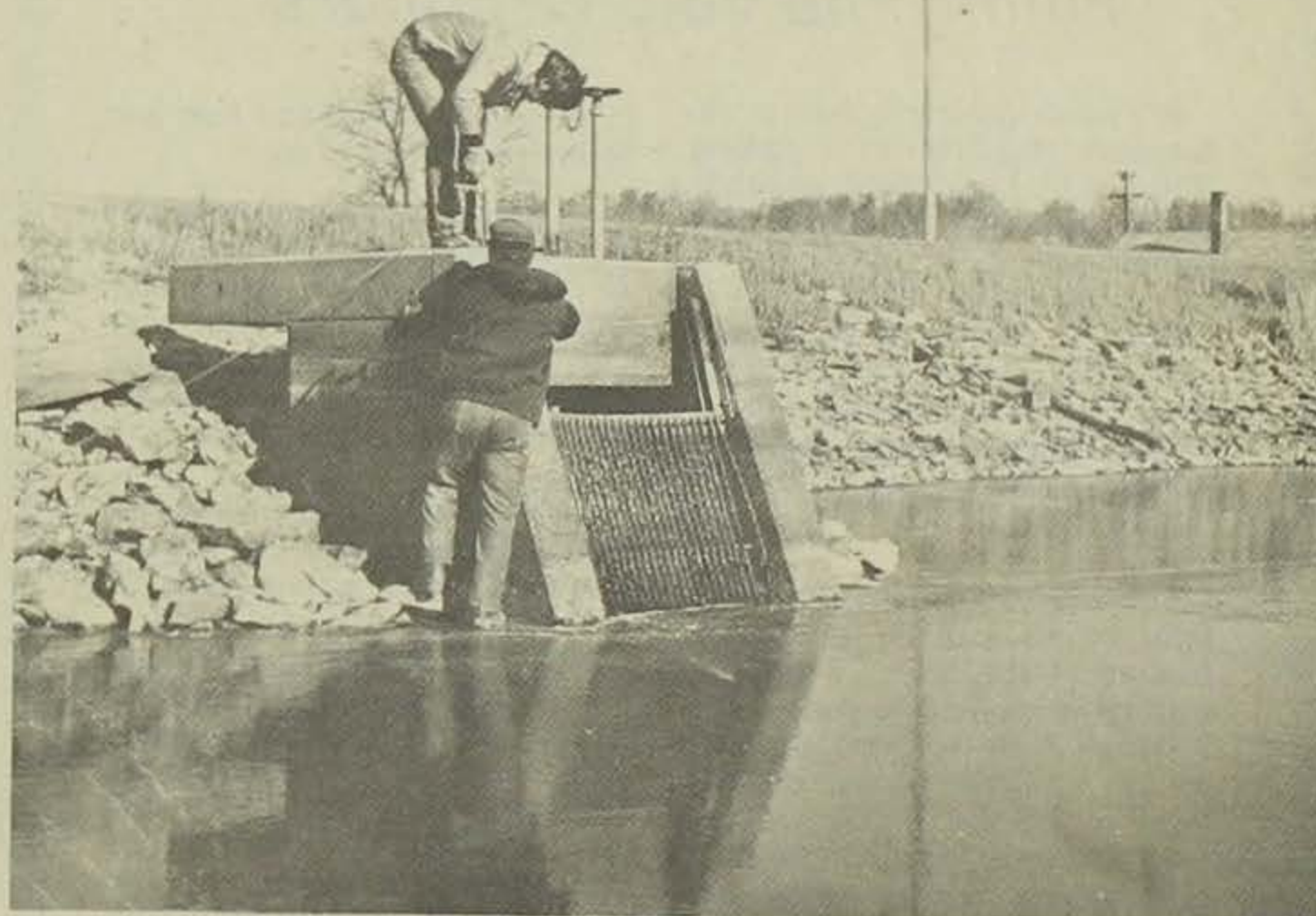
July 6 to aid in supplying water for use. The eight-inch pipe was laid for approximately one-quarter mile to the reservoir and about 2,000 gallons of water per minute was pumped through July and August until late summer rains quickly filled the lake once again.

At the lowest point, the lake was 83 inches below spillway level before recovering.

West Lake has a water shed of approximately 6300 acres which means that when rains do come, runoff is sufficient to quickly fill the reservoir.

Members of the Water Board have explored possibilities of increasing the capacity of the existing lake and of securing another source of water to supplement West Lake. Present planning centers around obtaining this additional water from White Breast.

At the present time, Water Board member Con Smith asks that citizenry be aware of the situation and to conserve water when possible.



CHECKING: Herman Gracey and Steve Squier break through the 3-inch ice coating on the intake at West Lake and measure the water level of the

reservoir. When the check was made Tuesday, the water was 46 inches below spillway level.

Osceola Sentinel
December 20, 1979

Edwards Reminds District Farmers of Switchgrass Cost-sharing Applications

Keith Edwards, District Conservationist of the Clarke County Soil Conservation District, reminds interested landowners that applications for 50 percent cost-sharing for establishment of switchgrass will be accepted through December 31, 1979.

Applications for landowner sign-up for switchgrass can be made at the Clarke County Soil Conservation District Office or from Iowa Conservation Commission Wildlife Biologist Melvin Moe, Mt. Ayr. Applications will be accepted through December 31, 1979, but at no time will it be cut closer than eight inches above the ground. b) Switchgrass seed may be harvested anytime upon maturity. c) Switchgrass may be left unharvested.

2) During the four years following the established year, the cooperating landowner will

have the following options: a) Switchgrass may be cut for hay anytime during July or August, but at no time will it be cut closer than eight inches above the ground. b) Switchgrass may be grazed anytime during July or August, but at no time will it be reviewed on the basis of site suitability, soil type, topography, field size, availability of water and adequate fencing for grazing animals and location in county. Switchgrass planting of 10 to 40 acres will be given preference.

All applicants will be notified of a decision by January 20, 1980.

Terms of the contract are- 1) During the establishment year, no grazing will be allowed, but the cooperating landowner will have the following options: a) Switchgrass may be clipped for weed control anytime during July

grazed closer than 8-10 inches above the ground. c) Switchgrass seed may be harvested anytime upon maturity. d) Switchgrass may be left unharvested.

Except as specified above, no other use will be made of the switchgrass during the five-year period covered by the contract.

The cooperating landowner will be expected to provide the Iowa Conservation Commission with receipts for seed, lime, fertilizer, and herbicide costs plus receipts or estimates for the cost of seedbed preparation, seeding, rolling, and application of lime, fertilizer, and herbicides prior to receiving cost-share payments.

The management contract may be amended at any time provided it is done with the consent of both parties. The Iowa Conservation Commission reserves the right to cancel the management contract at any time for noncompliance with the terms of the contract. If the contract is cancelled due to noncompliance, the landowner will reimburse the Commission for the full amount he has been paid.

The cooperating landowner will be encouraged but not required to allow hunting on lands covered by contract.

Applications Due on Switchgrass Cost-sharing

Cost-sharing for the establishment of switchgrass in 1980 is now available for Clarke County cattlemen from the Iowa Conservation Commission. Up to \$100,000 derived from the sale of Wildlife Habitat Stamps will be used to cost-share the establishment of switchgrass pastures beneficial to both cattlemen and wildlife in Adair, Clarke, Lucas, Madison, Ringgold, Union, and Warren counties.

Switchgrass is a warm season grass which provides good forage during the months of July and August when cool season grasses such as bluegrass, orchard grass, and fescue are dormant. A pasture rotation system that includes cool season grasses for spring and fall grazing and switchgrass for summer grazing is an efficient means of providing continuous grazing throughout the growing season.

Switchgrass pastures also provide valuable nesting cover for pheasants and songbirds. Proper management of switchgrass requires cutting or grazing no closer than eight to 10 inches above the ground. The resulting stubble provides birds with an attractive nesting site in the spring. Since switchgrass is not used for hay or pasture until July, birds nesting in it have adequate time to complete nesting, unlike those using cool season hay fields where most nests are destroyed by early mowing.

To promote the use of this practice which will benefit wildlife on private lands, the Iowa Conservation Commission will cost-share 50 percent of the cost of establishment, not to exceed \$50/acre the establishment year, and an additional 50 percent of the costs of chemicals and fertilizer, not to exceed \$15/acre, the year following establishment. In exchange for cost-sharing, landowners will be required to sign a five year contract covering management of the switchgrass planting. Funds are limited, and applications for cost-sharing must be submitted by December 31. Application forms and more information are available at your local SCS, ASCS, or Extension office or contact Melvin Moe, Mt. Ayr Wildlife Unit, SCS Office Bldg., Mt. Ayr, Iowa 50854.

Osceola Sentinel
December 27, 1979

Osceola Tribune
December 18, 1979

Soil...America's Most Valuable Resource

Farming practices based upon soil conservation techniques are a necessity. But they must be accomplished voluntarily.

The people who are screaming for mandatory conservation practices do not comprehend the differences among Iowa's soils. What they either do not understand, or choose to ignore, is many farmers spending their own dollars to conserve the soil. Others use cost sharing funds for specific conservation tillage practices.

Significant progress towards maintaining Iowa's soil resource is evident. But in times of low or negative farm profits, like those being predicted for next year, many farmers are financially unable to apply cost-intensive land practices. The farmer cannot, and should not have to

bear the entire cost of soil conservation alone.

Nearly half of Iowa's farm land is now being tilled under approved conservation practices. It's being done willingly, not by a government mandated directive.

Despite the call for compulsory directives, soil conservation can best be handled with a voluntary approach supplemented with incentives. More dollars must be allocated for cost sharing to meet increased needs already expressed by Iowa farmers.

For the year 1979-80, cost share requests from farmers totaled several million dollars more than the funds available. Farmers are dedicated conservationists. But, they need the total commitment of the remaining 96 percent of the public.

—By Mike Harris

Osceola Sentinel
December 27, 1979

Resource Coordinating Committee to Meet

The Clarke County Resource Coordinating Committee will meet Thursday, January 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Room, Clarke County Courthouse, Osceola.

The County Resource Coordinating Committee is responsible for passing the input from each county on to the Conservancy District Advisory Committee. The Clarke County Resource Coordinating Committee has input to the Southern Iowa Conservancy District and the Des Moines River Conservancy District.

Decisions are being made concerning development of conservancy district plans. These plans are to address water management problems on a watershed basis and provide a method for solving those problems. The plans to be successful, has to be based on the thinking of local people—what they see the problems to be and what the acceptable methods of solving these problems are.

The public is encouraged to attend this meeting.

Osceola Tribune
January 15, 1980

Heavy Demand For Nursery Stock

Because of the heavy demand this year for tree and shrub seedlings, some species are now sold out according to Gene Hertel, state forester for the Iowa Conservation Commission.

Species which are still in good supply include white pine, red pine, ponderosa pine, Austrian pine, European larch, amur honeysuckle and autumn olive.

Hertel urged interested people to place their orders as soon as possible. Assistance in determining what is best suited to plant on a particular area can be obtained by contacting a district forester or wildlife biologist.

Application forms for tree and shrub seedlings can be obtained from commission district foresters, wildlife biologists, ASCS offices, SCS offices and extension offices throughout the state.

Osceola Sentinel
January 24, 1980

Soil District Banquet Set

The Clarke Soil Conservation District Banquet will be held Monday, January 28, at the St. Bernard Catholic Church in Osceola starting at 6:30 p.m.

Ervin Koos, Shelby farmer and Commissioner in East Potawatamie Soil Conservation District for many years, will be the featured speaker. Koos is active in all levels of the soil conservation district program and is currently a director of the Upper Mississippi Region of the National Association of Conservation Districts.

He also served as chairman of the Iowa Temporary State Land Preservation Policy Commission making recommendations for future legislation to the Iowa General Assembly.

Tickets will be available through January 21 at the Soil Conservation District office, or from Soil District Commissioners.

Commissioners for 1980 are Adrian Fuller, chairman; Phillip Henrichs, vice chairman; Merrill Thornton, Glen Kimes and Fred Redman.

Assistant Commissioners are Betty Webb and Doyce Miller.

Make Soil Conservation Awards —

Recipients Honored at Banquet

Ervin Koos, Regional Director of the National Conservation Districts, was guest speaker at the annual Soil and Water Conservation District banquet held Monday evening, January 28, in the dining hall of St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Osceola.

The speaker urged farmers to practice conservation now, more than ever, as increasing demands are made on crop production to feed a hungry world. The continuing loss of productive soil is a cause for concern for all mankind.

"Ten years from now, Americans could be as concerned over the loss of the nation's prime and important farm lands as they are today over the shortages of oil and gasoline," is a quote from the District bulletin.

In other business of the evening, Betty Webb, chairman of the District, gave a welcome to the group and introduced board members. Keith Edwards, District Conservationist, told of plans for the 1980s.

Glen Kimes and Adrian Fuller, board members, presented awards.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Urich, farming five miles north of Osceola, received the new co-operator division award. Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Whitham received the landlord-tenant award for the work done on the Frankiin Township farm owned by Jim Emary. Mr. and Mrs. Olin

Reasoner, farming in Doyle Township were the recipients of the owner-operator award.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Urich are winners in the New Cooperator category. Gary signed a conservation agreement in September, 1976 indicating an interest in conserving the soil and water resources on his land. The Clarke District assisted in planning the activities needed to provide protection and improve production on the 16 acres located about five miles north of Osceola.

The plan outline included suggestions for improving the rural residence, and land used primarily for the production of woodland and wildlife for recreation.

Early work involved cutting undesirable brush and trees and piling for improved wildlife protection and to open areas for tree planting.

Other early work included grading and seeding the lawn and planting trees and shrubs in recreation areas.

In the last two years several hundred trees have been planted and an erosion control dam was built to stop gully development and provide livestock water and fishing recreation.

Olin Reasoner was recognized as an outstanding owner-operator. The initial cooperators agreement signed in February, 1963 serves to remind us all that dedication is needed to win the battle against soil erosion. A look at the plan developed in 1965 reveals controlling erosion by

land use utilizing crop rotations, shaping and seeding waterways, and renovating pastures as the major weapons used to control erosion at that time.

Diversions, terraces and erosion control dams were used in the most critical areas.

When looking at a more recent conservation plan on additional acres a greater emphasis on tillage practices and contouring replacing long rotations with more intensive row cropping and tile outlet terraces is found.

Winners in the Landlord-Tenant division were Jim Emary and Wayne Whitham. In 1973 Jim and Wayne contacted the SCS office to request assistance to properly design a drainage system for bottomland that was too wet to work. A proposal was drawn that included both open drains and tile drainage. Work on open drains began that season and tile drains were installed in late 1974 and again in 1976.

In 1975 an erosion control dam was installed to control head cutting and gulying in a pasture near the buildings. This structure impounds water for erosion control, but is also used as a source of livestock water and serves as a potential site for many hours of family recreation.

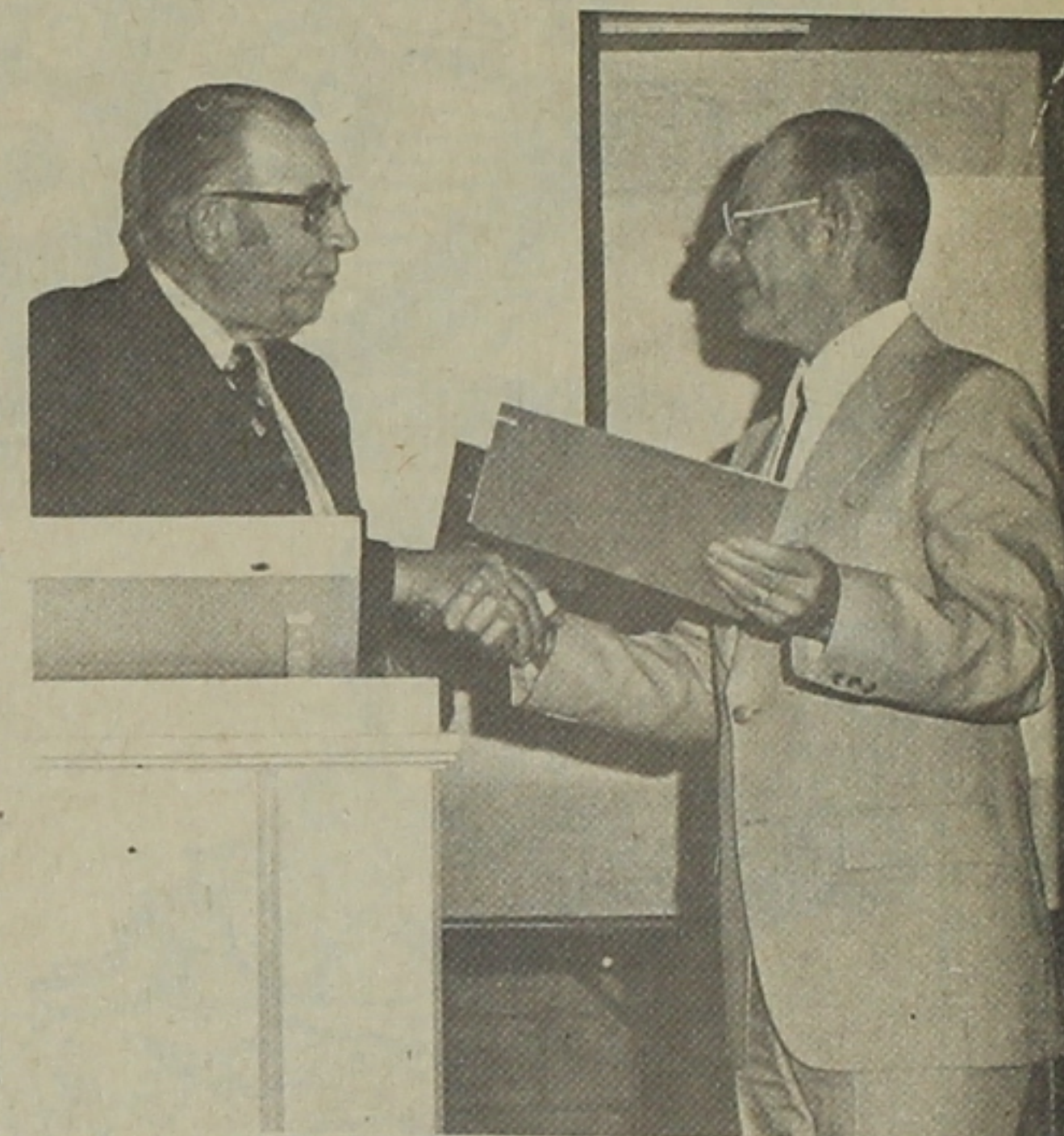
Early in 1977 plans were made to develop a system to control erosion on cropland. A tile outlet terrace system was discussed and installed in 1977 and 1978, adequately treating 70 acres of

cropland.

Ervin Koos presented Adrian Fuller with a certificate for 25 years of service on the Conservation District Board. Fred Redman was named to fill the

unexpired term of Fuller who moved to Osceola recently.

John Klein, Clarke County Conservation Board director, awarded Fred Redfern a certificate for his work in the county.



25 YEARS OF SERVICE: Ervin Koos, Regional Director of the National Association of Soil Districts, presents a 25 year certificate to Adrian Fuller for his 25 years of service to the Clarke County Soil Conservation District in Monday night's awards banquet.

Osceola Tribune
January 15, 1980

Osceola Sentinel
January 31, 1980

Edwards to Speak on Conservation Tillage

Plans are being made for a Conservation Tillage Day to be held Tuesday, February 19, at Sun Valley Country Club near Ellston, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Coffee will be on at 9:30 a.m. for early arrivals who can view some commercial displays of minimum tillage equipment, machinery, fertilizer, and ag chemicals.

The Conference will feature, Min Amemiya, Iowa State University Extension Agronomist

and Tillage Specialist. Min will give a presentation on various systems of reduced tillage, including machinery used and advantages and disadvantages of each system, as well as other management considerations.

Other topics covered will include fuel and soil savings under reduced tillage systems.

Stan Murdock, Area Extension Crop Specialist, will speak about proper pesticide usage and effectiveness under minimum tillage.

Bob Loudon, Southern Iowa RC&D Coordinator will give a slide presentation on conservation tillage practices.

Keith Edwards, Clarke County District Conservationist will have a short presentation on the conservation tillage tour held in Clarke County the past summer.

Also featured will be a panel of area farmers who will discuss the conservation tillage practices in use on their own farms.

The conference is being sponsored by the Rural Development Committees, Soil Conservation Districts, and Extension Offices of Clarke, Decatur, and Ringgold Counties and by the Southern Iowa Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Committees. The noon meal will be buffet at the Country Club. Interested parties should call their local Extension or Soil Conservation offices, if they wish to attend, so proper arrangements can be made.

Tree Windbreaks Can Save Future Fuel, Feed Costs

Planning your farm windbreak now may help you save on fuel bills and livestock feed costs in the future, says Alan Teel, County Extension Director.

A well-planned farm tree windbreak might save up to 30 percent on winter fuel bills, reports Phil Wray, Extension Forester at Iowa State University.

Farmers interested in planning a tree windbreak can start thinking about a possible location, types of trees to plant, and ordering those trees now during the winter months, says Alan.

Wray says the windbreak should be designed in an L shape with one leg on the north and the other on the west. To prevent excessive snow accumulation, it should be located approximately 100 feet away from the area the farmer wants to protect. For maximum protection, the windbreak should extend beyond the area to be protected, Wray adds.

For best protection, conifers should be used in a windbreak. A good windbreak consists of three rows of conifers and one or two rows of shrubs or hardwood trees, though a minimum of two rows of conifers and one row of shrubs may be planted.

Wray suggests a species mix when establishing a windbreak. The same species should be used within a row, but different species should be planted between rows. This mix of tree species reduces insect problems and disease damage, notes Wray.

Trees planted closest to the house should grow faster and be the largest, he says. The outer rows should grow slower and attain the shortest height. This arrangement will give the best protection from a mature windbreak.

Spacing is also an important consideration with a windbreak. For conifers, 18 to 25 feet should be allowed between rows and between trees within rows. Hardwoods require eight to 15 feet between trees and rows, according to Wray, except for eastern red cedar and northern white cedar which should be planted 10 to 15 feet apart and between rows.

Wray says stock trees for a windbreak may be purchased bare-rooted, balled and burlapped, or container-grown. Bare-root trees are cheaper and usually smaller. Care must be taken to make sure that the root system is kept moist and is not damaged during planting. The other type of stock trees are usually more expensive, says Wray, but may be larger and suffer less from transplant shock.

Tree species should be selected to match site conditions, advises Wray. For a listing of recommended species, farmers may obtain pamphlet Pm-543 from the Clarke County Extension Service or County Soil Conservation Service Office.

Cost share assistance for windbreaks is available in many Iowa counties. For Clarke County, check with the local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) for proper procedure information.

SOIL EROSION

The other day I glimpsed what it must have been like during the dust bowl. No, I didn't see farm machinery half covered with drifting soil. But while driving through north central Iowa, cars and trucks were turning on head-lights. Visibility was significantly reduced. The air was dark brown. Great clouds of prime Iowa top soil were swirling through the air. The snowbanks in the ditches looked more like massive blackened cliffs.

Looking out over the fields, an occasional corn stock was seen protruding through the fall plowed soil. Fortunately farming techniques are changing. Currently 55 percent of the state's cropland is farmed using minimum or no till practices thereby significantly reducing soil erosion. Iowa State University soil scientists estimate we lose 200 million tons of top soil from Iowa's cropland each year. That top soil cannot be replaced within our lifetimes nor those of our children.

But we need to do more. And we need to do it before the federal government mandates our tillage techniques.

To begin, every farmer should develop a conservation plan for his farm. That plan should be developed using such alternatives as minimum or no tillage, crop rotation, planting shelter belts, permanent buildings and other practices. Then farmers and landowners should carry out those plans, even though adequate low cost loans, tax incentives and cost sharing funds are not available.

If we intend to give our grandchildren the privilege of taking over today's farm, we are going to have to protect it from the ravages of erosion. And the best way to do that is not through government decree but by protecting Iowa's precious top soil voluntarily. And the only time that would have been better to begin than today, would have been yesterday.

By Mike Harris

Osceola Tribune
February 12, 1980

Osceola Tribune
February 12, 1980

Osceola Tribune
February 12, 1980

Set Monday Meet for Conservation Discussion

Issues concerning the payment of monies for soil and water conserving programs are the subject of a meeting called for Monday, March 17, at the Clarke County ASCS office. Keith Edwards invites the public to attend the meeting which will start at 7 p.m. The ASCS office is located at 820 North Main Street, Osceola.

Should agricultural producers be required to apply soil and water conservation measures on privately-owned land to benefit the national objectives? Or

should the use of conservation measures continue to be voluntary?

Who should pay for expensive conservation measures that provide few immediate benefits to farm operators but have great benefits to the public, such as improved water quality, cleaner air, or reduced sediment in streams and reservoirs?

There are some issues being discussed in public meetings to give all citizens a chance to help shape the future of conservation programs.

The meetings are being held to fulfill requirements of the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 (RCS). Under the Act, Congress has directed USDA to appraise the condition of the nation's renewable natural resources and to propose programs to guide future conservation activities.

National objectives have been set for reducing erosion and preserving prime farmlands; improving water quality; conserving water; improving fish and wildlife habitat, including the preservation of wetlands from destruction by agriculture and other means; reducing upstream flood damage; conserving energy and solving related resource problems.

Interested persons are being invited to comment on seven alternative conservation strategies being considered by USDA.

Osceola Sentinel
March 13, 1980

Soil Survey Monies Being Held in Contingency Fund

Clarke County's share of the cost of a projected 1982 county-wide soil survey, estimated to be about \$70,000, is being held in a contingency fund and added to gradually each tax year.

Explaining an expected contingency fund balance of about \$52,000 at the close of this current fiscal year June 30, county assessor Richard Horn stated this method of raising the needed \$70,000 was followed so there would be no need for a large tax jolt when 1982 rolled around.

At that time, federal and state matching funds (about three-fourths of the total cost) will be added to cover the cost of taking soil test borings in every section of every township in the county. Future assessments of individual

farms will be based upon the soil descriptions resulting from test borings.

Approval of the assessor's proposed operational budget asking was made at the January meeting of the Clarke County Conference Board, in the amount of \$49,840 for fiscal 1980-81. This is an increase of \$7,742 over last year and \$13,751 over two years ago.

Nine members of the board include county supervisors, Leland Hunt, Orval Coffman and Richard Hill, Osceola Mayor Gary Lamb, Woodburn Mayor Rex Marker and Murray Mayor Walter Hurt and three school board representatives: Helen Barnett from Clarke Community, Robert Reynolds from Interstate 35 and Larry O'Neill from Murray.

Osceola Sentinel
April 10, 1980

Conservation Commission Approves Co. 5-Year Plan

Approval by the Iowa Conservation Commission of the proposed five-year plans for Redfern Timber Reserve and East Lake Park were reported at the April 9 meeting of the Clarke County Conservation board.

Included in these plans is the construction of rest rooms at Redfern Reserve, approved by the board Wednesday; and several East Lake projects outlined below.

* Fenceline terracing agreement with J. D. Patterson and the Soil Conservation Service, will be implemented this fall. Purpose is to curb soil erosion runoff into East Lake.

Other approved East Lake projects include construction of physical fitness devices along the hiking trails, using donated materials; construction of a limestone sign; and approval of Hawkeye Lumber Company's low bid of \$6,397 for construction of a pole-type service building.

A resolution to permit use by fishermen of electric trolling motors up to one horsepower was approved.

Set Camping Fee

Adopted by the board were rules for group camping at East Lake, by reservation only, in a special camp area to be established. User fee was set at \$5.00 per night per group, with a refundable deposit for gate key and to guarantee clean-up. Other rules are available at the board's office at 104½ S. Fillmore.

Osceola Tribune
April 22, 1980

City Council Proceedings

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS May 6, 1980

The City Council of the City of Osceola did meet in regular session this 6th day of May, 1980 at City Hall at 7:00 p.m. All council persons were present.

Mayor Lamb called the meeting to order and the first item on the agenda was the public hearing in regards to partial tax exemption for improvements for industries. The hearing was set for 7:00 p.m. The Mayor asked if there were any comments from the persons present. There were no questions. The city attorney again explained what the purpose of the bill was and stated that in the bill it gives 75 percent exemption for the first year, 60 percent for the second year, 45 percent for the third year, 30 percent for the fourth year, and 15 percent for the fifth and final year. These are the maximum exemptions. The ordinance could be for less. There was no further discussion on the matter so the mayor declared the hearing closed.

Hazel Showman representing the Chamber of Commerce appeared before the council at this time and stated that the chamber would like to ask that the council okay the flower pot that was moved from the SE corner of the square to be replaced but further back than it was. She also stated that the chamber would like to ask the council not to okay any further removal of the flower pots. It was mentioned that the flower pot be moved 12 feet further west when replacing. The chamber would pay for the expense in relocating the flower pot. The council did not have any objections at this time, however they did feel that they should talk with Marvin Gray and ask his feelings if the pot was replaced. The decision will be made at the next council meeting.

Duayne Fletcher, representing the Osceola Country Club appeared before the council and wanted to know the status of the clean up work across the country club and when the sod or grass would be put down. The city engineer was not present at this time but was supposed to be at the meeting later and the council said that it would be discussed at that time. The easement called for everything to be done before May 1.

Estimate #4 from McAninch Corp. on Phase II of the sewer project in the amount of \$26,994.69 was presented to the council at this time. It was moved by Clark and seconded by Martin that the estimate be approved. Vote on the motion was, Ayes: All, Nays: None.

Robert Byers appeared before the council at this time in regards to the no-parking signs that had recently been installed on Jeffreys Drive. He stated that in the many years that he has had his business on Jeffreys Drive that there has only been one accident on the street. He stated that there is no place else for the truckers to park their trucks when they stay at the motel. He would like to ask the council if they could remove the signs or offer another solution. It was mentioned that the shoulder on the road is wide enough to park the trucks on if it was rocked. The city asked the street supt. if he would check to see if the parking was wide enough and how much rock it would cost to rock the shoulder for the parking.

things that he wanted to discuss. First he mentioned that he thought the meeting last Wednesday morning with the Jimmy Dean people went very well. The matter on how the sewer charges were arrived at had been discussed at this meeting and Bob proceeded to explain to the council how they were figured. The next item was that McAninch had asked for an extension of time of Phase II of the sewer project. There has been a problem getting some of the material. Bob stated that he would at a later date advise the council on how much of extension was needed. The next item was the work across the country club. He said that the shaping had been well done but the finishing work he was not satisfied with at this time. In regards to sod or grass seed he said that he would like to recommend grass seed. It was decided after discussion of the matter that Duayne Fletcher would get some of the board members of the club together along with either Bob or some other member of the engineering firm and walk the grounds and see where the sod was needed and if parts of the ground could be seeded. Bob also stated that when the plans were drawn up for Phase II of the sewer project that they included the best check valves available at that time, however in the meantime there were some new micro switches that act as a back up on the check valves for an additional cost of \$300.00. Bob was asking the council to okay these new micro switches and he would get it approved by EPA and be added to the grant. It was moved by Martin and seconded by McNeal that the micro switches be approved. Vote on the motion was, Ayes: All, Nays: None. Bob also presented an invoice for inspection services from February 29, 1980 thru April 25, 1980 in the amount of \$5,362.79. It was moved by Martin and seconded by Clark that the bill be approved. Vote on the motion was, Ayes: All, Nays: None.

Robert Toland representing Iowa Southern Utilities appeared before the council and stated that the franchise for the gas service for the city expires in December 1981 and the electricity expires in November, 1987. He was at the meeting asking that the council adopt new ordinances and have an election on the new franchise at this time. He stated that the company usually takes this action five years before it expires but they were a little less than that at this time. The franchises are for 25 years. The ordinances are passed by the council and then the company has a special election for the people to vote. He stated that the paper work takes about an hour to complete and wanted to know if the council wanted a special meeting or what. It was decided that the council would just meet an hour earlier at the next meeting which would be at 6:00 p.m. on May 20th.

Lowell Crawford, Street Supt. appeared before the council at this time. He said that the trees in the flower pots needed watering and did the council want the street dept. to do it on city time or hire a couple of the street dept. employees to water them on their time as we had done in the past. The council stated that they thought they should be watered now and that to go ahead and have the employees do it on their time for now. He also stated that Lewis Soper was retiring and did the council want to advertise for another employee. The council instructed the city clerk to put an ad in the paper for another employee. The

council also looked over a report from Keith Edwards in regards to the soil and water conservation of areas in the industrial park located adjacent to Jimmy Dean Road and Ticken Drive. The report also had a cost estimate. This matter was discussed with the council also along with the report of the concrete pipe under the entrance to Babson Brothers. There seems to be a problem in this area and does need immediate attention. The clerk was instructed to get in contact with the engineer and discuss the situation. Nothing else in the report was acted upon at this time.

*Osceola Tribune
May 13, 1980*

Recent Heavy Rains —

Washes Away Topsoil



TOPSOIL LOSS: This dramatic photo taken by Soil Conservationist Keith Edwards on a Clarke County farm shows the amount of top soil lost during recent heavy rains. The rate of loss of this topsoil is of grave concern to everyone. A series of pictures in upcoming issues will further demonstrate the problem.

*Osceola Sentinel
July 10, 1980*

Keith Edwards, Clarke County District Conservationist, says he believes the southern half of the county experienced rainstorms of duration and intensity that are expected to occur only once in 20 years. One field checked in Knox Township had areas of sheet erosion where between one and two inches of topsoil were removed. Silt was piled up two feet deep in ponds, in terraces and at fences at several locations checked.

By contrast fields of no-till corn in grass sod less than one mile away were completely free of rills. "A pond below a no-till corn in sod field planted on the contour showed no siltation," Edwards said.

Edwards estimates soil losses for the 80,000 acres of row crops planted in the county at more than 820,000 tons in June or greater than 10 tons/acre average—more than twice the yearly rate considered tolerable by SCS.

Edwards thinks that 60 percent of all row crop land in the county suffered soil losses that exceeded 10 tons/acre and 75 percent of row crop acres had soil losses in excess of five tons/acre in the last month.



NO-TILL TOURS: To emphasize the value of no-till farming, the Clarke County Soil Conservation Service is sponsoring several tours open to the public. The first tour is Thursday, July 17 with interested parties to meet at the SCS office at 6:30 p.m. for a pasture tour. The second meeting will be Monday, July 21 for a corn tour and the third on Tuesday, July 22 for a no-till corn and soybean tour. The above picture was taken on the Jim Jones farm in Doyle Township and shows the value of holding soil despite heavy rains.

Conservation Tours

The Clarke County Soil Conservation Service is sponsoring a series of tours open to the public featuring No-Till farming methods. All tours will begin at 6:30 p.m. on the following evenings:

Thursday, July 17 - No-Till Pasture Tour. Meet at SCS office in Osceola, Highway 69 North.

Monday, July 21 - No-Till Corn Tour. Meet at East Lake Park, just east of Osceola.

Tuesday, July 22 - No-Till Corn and Soybean Tour. Meet at Murray Community Center in Murray.

For further information interested parties may contact the SCS office in Osceola.

Osceola Sentinel
July 17, 1980



VALUE OF SWITCHGRASS: Sally Gearhart, Soil Conservationist summer student, Allen Weeda and Melvin Moe, Iowa Conservation Commission Biologist, inspect a pasture of

switchgrass belonging to Knox Township farmer Weeda. Switchgrass is one means of preventive soil erosion available to area farmers.

Osceola Tribune
August 5, 1980

To Fill Soil Posts Nov. 3

The terms of four Clarke County Soil Conservation District Commissioners expire this year, when their successors will be elected at the general election scheduled for November 3. There are three unexpired terms of office to be filled.

The individuals elected will take the oath of office and begin serving their term on November 4, 1980. The unexpired terms of office will be for a period of six years, four years and two years. The remaining term of office will be for six years. The individual will take oath of office and begin serving the term on January 2, 1981.

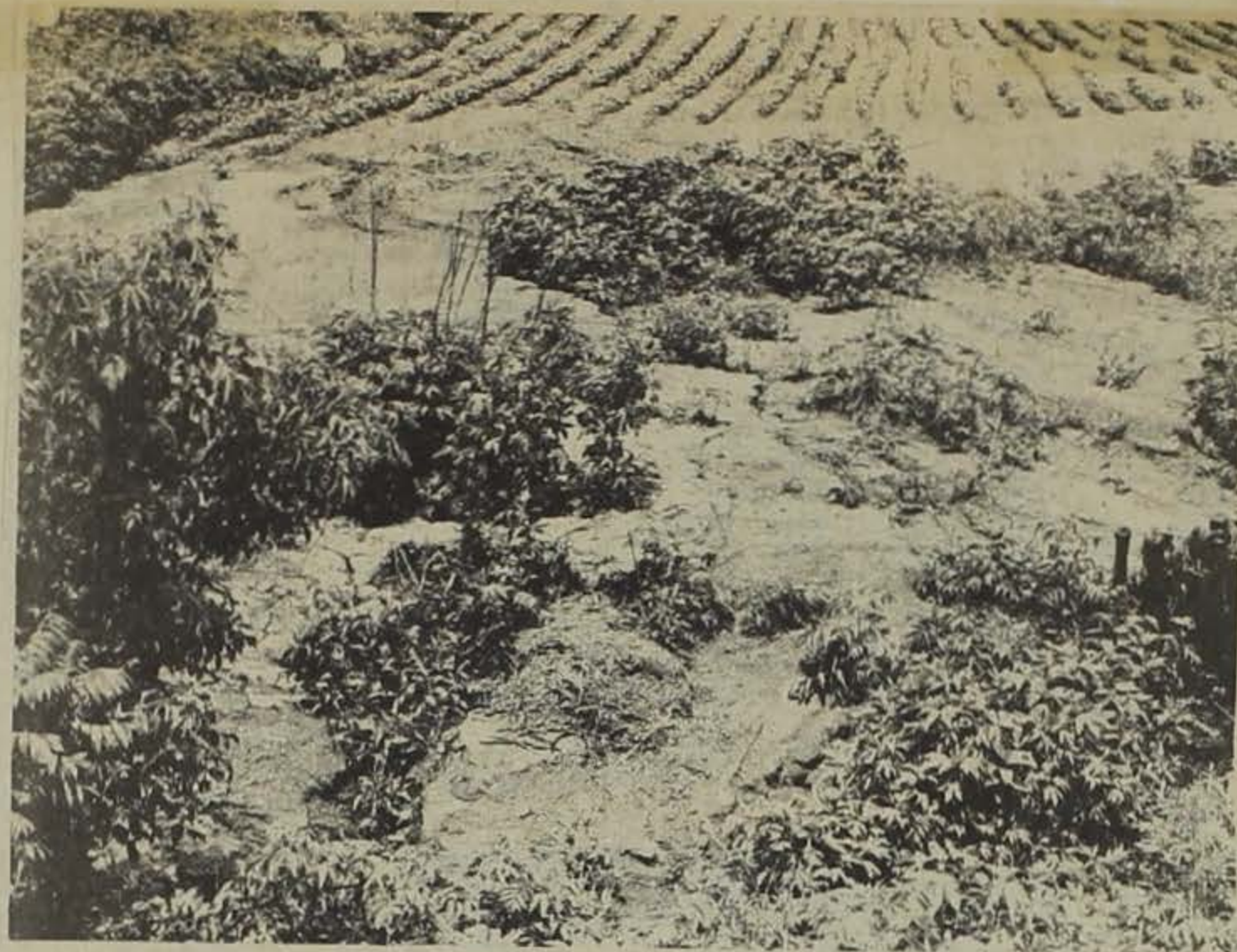
Any qualified elector residing in the soil conservation district, which is all of Clarke County including cities and towns, is eligible for the office of commissioner, except that no more than one commissioner may be a resident of any one township. Incumbent commissioner is Phillip Henrichs, Washington Township; therefore, residents of Washington Township would not be eligible for office at this time.

Prospective candidates seeking the office of soil conservation district commissioner must file nomination petitions in the same manner as for other elective positions at the general election, except that no political party is designated. Nomination petitions can be obtained from the County Auditor or Soil Conservation District Office.

These petitions, signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the County Auditor at the Clarke County Courthouse no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 10, 1980.

Soil Conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county. For further information pertaining to the responsibilities of a commissioner, persons should contact the Clarke County Soil Conservation District office, 820A North Main Street, Osceola.

Osceola Tribune
August 5, 1980



SHEET EROSION: Clarke County Soil Conservationist Keith Edwards, points out the problems of sheet erosion, as seen in this photograph taken in Knox Township. Many

ponds in the county were filled with sediment following rains, due to up and down hill farming practices.

Osceola Sentinel
August 7, 1980

Sept. 10 Deadline For SCD Election

Terms of four Clarke County Soil Conservation District Commissioners expire this year. Individuals interested in seeking the office of soil conservation district commissioner are reminded to pick up nomination petitions from the County Auditor or Soil Conservation District Office.

These petitions must be filed with the County Auditor at the Clarke County courthouse no later than 5 p.m. Wednesday, September 10.

For further information pertaining to the responsibilities of a commissioner, persons should contact the Clarke County Soil Conservation District Office, 820A North Main Street, Osceola.

Osceola Tribune
September 2, 1980

Soil Conservation Week, Sept. 14-20



CONSERVING WITH NO-TILL: Above picture compares no-till corn plants [at right] with conventionally planted stalks, showing that good stands are achieved with no-till method. This planting method will be stressed during Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Week, September 14-20.

Osceola Sentinel
September 4, 1980

How Much Time to Save Our Soil?

A Message From
Governor Robert D. Ray

September, 1980

Earlier this summer, Iowans witnessed some of the worst soil erosion to occur in the state for more than thirty years. Fast, hard rains swept through county after county, ravaging unprotected fields just after farmers had finished planting record acreages of corn and soybeans.

The resulting soil losses, which were highly visible and widespread, magnified what often occurs to a somewhat lesser degree each year. The amount of soil lost to erosion—261 million tons per year from cropland alone, or an average of 9.9 tons per acre per year for all lands in the state, is twice the acceptable erosion level for most soils.

The gullies, rills, and sediment-filled ditches we witnessed last spring and summer have long since been smoothed over by tillage equipment or covered by green foliage. And larger equipment, commercial fertilizers, and improved hybrids have masked losses in soil productivity due to erosion. Because erosion is usually a gradual process over time, most Americans have tended to develop a sense of complacency about it.

Do we have enough time to be complacent? Will the problem wait until 1985 or the year 2000? I think not.

Soil conservationists tell us that the topsoil might be gone from some of our more fragile land in less than 20 years. We are literally "Losing ground" to erosion, so we should recognize our

responsibility to do more to preserve this rich resource.

Improved program strategies developed in recent years at state and national levels must now be put into action. After all, those who use it today are its stewards for only a relatively short period of time.

We in Iowa have led the nation with the level of support and innovations we have offered to our soil conservation programs. We took a significant stride earlier this year when the state's soil conservation laws were amended, putting in place the "Iowa Soil 2000 Program", a 20 year plan to reduce the state's soil losses to acceptable limits. I recommended additional monies for cost-sharing with landowners even though our budget is tight. Nearly \$6 million in state funds

are now available for incentives to landowners for installing permanent and temporary soil conservation practices this coming year.

Commendable as all of this is, a renewed emphasis on this priority is the only way we will reach our ultimate objective of reducing erosion to acceptable limits by the year 2000.

While soil conservation districts and their elected commissioners have demonstrated their ability to deal with soil and water resource problems at the local level, accelerated soil conservation programs will require even greater coordination among federal, state, and local units of government.

I urge you to extend your support to conservation officials,

farmers, and landowners who are providing leadership to existing programs. Let's all commit ourselves to a better conservation ethic so that coming generations will know the same productivity and wealth of our beautiful state that we have so fortunately enjoyed.

Soil and Water Conservation Week is September 14-20.

Osceola Tribune
September 9, 1980

Soil and Water Conservation Week - September 14-20



Osceola Sentinel
September 11, 1980

Conservationist Edwards Warns of Soil Loss

There are still many farmers who question whether the soil loss figures they see and hear are accurate according to Keith Edwards, SCS district soil conservationist.

There are many who believe soil erosion is a problem in another part of Iowa, but not in their neighborhood or especially on their own farms.

On one hand, it's understandable, Edwards admits. A soil loss of 10 tons an acre (the Iowa average on cropland) is only 1/14 of an inch across the acre. That's very difficult to notice and there are years soil loss is less than that.

On the other hand, there are years when soil loss is much greater. The erosion that occurred this year over much of the state was all too easy to see. Or think about how your land looked 10 years ago and how it looks today. Anyone with any sloping land at all has probably seen lighter colored soil in spots and a

build-up of soil at fencelines—sure signs of erosion.

"Look at soil surveys, where topsoil depths are described," Edwards says, "then compare that to original topsoil estimates, and you'll find the soil loss figures being quoted fit the historical picture."

"Figures like two bushels of topsoil loss for a bushel of corn produced, and an inch of soil lost every 14 years are attempts to help visually explain soil losses."

"I have an idea, though, that deep down most of us who work with the land know if we're losing soil. The question then is whether we care enough to do something about it."

Only three months after Clarke County received heavy rains that resulted in some of the worst single erosion events in history Edwards reports having seen three fields of meadow fall plowed up and down the hill.

These fields will inevitably lose 10-14 tons of soil before corn becomes established next year and the vegetation can provide some needed protection, he states.

Good alternatives are available. Using a chisel plow and a disk on the contour would have cut losses to about five tons per acre per year and no-till on the contour would further reduce soil losses to about two tons.

Edwards recommends no fall plowing, due to danger of erosion from both wind and water.

Soil and Water Conservation Week September 14-20



LIVING MULCH: Hands of soil conservationist Keith Edwards hold foliage of crown vetch in a Bar-C-Bar plot five miles south of Osceola. Now in the establishment year of a five-year no-till program, the vetch will grow in the next six months to form a living mulch and reduce the need for herbicide application, Edwards says.

Osceola Sentinel
September 11, 1980

*Osceola Tribune
September 16, 1980*

school crossing zones. The beginning of school also means that our neighborhood streets will be crowded with students, many of them younger children experiencing a complex traffic environment on their own for the first time. According to McCarthy, "This necessitates extra driving care during both the early morning and afternoon hours and be especially observant of speed limits and school crossing signals in the community." McCarthy went on to say "that 20% of all children between the ages of 5 and 14 who die in an accident are pedestrians, and extra attention on the part of drivers during school times can substantially reduce that number." In addition, parents should remember to:

- 1.) Dress their children in lighter colored clothing as darker morning hours draw closer.
- 2.) Have children cross only at crosswalks.
- 3.) Teach them to look both ways before crossing. Be sure the way is clear before starting to cross.
- 4.) Teach children to cross only on proper signal.
- 5.) Be sure they watch for cars turning corners.
- 6.) Never let children go into the roadway from between parked cars.
- 7.) Where there is no sidewalk, and it is necessary to walk in roadway, have the children walk on left side, facing traffic.
- 8.) Familiarize your children with all traffic control signs, signals and markings.

COUNTY NEWS

The following real estate transfers were entered into the

Glenn Stuffers, Peru, theft in the 5th degree, \$58.00.
Larry Boylan, Des Moines, theft in the 5th degree, \$59.50.
Paul Johnson, Murray, failure to yield, \$26.00.
Glenn Stuffers, Peru, theft in the 5th degree, \$58.00.

\$34.50.
Beulah Elder, Chariton, failure to yield, \$26.00.
George Page, Osceola, no driver's license, \$21.00.
George Page, Osceola, theft in the 5th degree, \$29.50.
Richard Vets, Osceola, failure to drive on right side of road, \$21.00.
Ron West, Osceola, failure to have control, \$56.00.
Doug Rubendall, Osceola, reckless driving, \$109.50.
Gary Adkisson, Des Moines, speeding, \$65.00.
Randall Mathews, Murray, careless driving, \$24.50.
Karl Hansen, Sherrard, Illinois, unsafe vehicle, \$31.00.
Wilmer Knoll, Palos Heights, Illinois, speeding, \$46.00.
Joel Jessup, Osceola, possession of alcohol by person under age, 1 year probation.
Don Walrad, Osceola, reckless driving, \$51.50.
Frank Reed, Olathe, Kansas, speeding, \$26.00.
Don Anderson, Lee's Summit, Missouri, speeding, \$46.00.
Steven Block, Independence, Missouri, speeding, \$36.00.
Robert Bergquist, Minneapolis, Minnesota, speeding, \$26.00.
Randy Western, Kansas City, Missouri, \$46.00.
Richard Carrell, Kansas City, Missouri, speeding, \$46.00.

David Drey, Lewisville, Texas, speeding, \$36.00.
Cecil Miller, Bunkerville, Nevada, speeding, \$26.00.
Mary Nee, Leucadia, California, speeding, \$26.00.
David Brown, Des Moines, speeding, \$46.00.
Sherry Pilcher, Kansas City, Missouri, speeding, \$26.00.
Kenneth Summers, Kansas City, Missouri, speeding, \$46.00.
James Buxton, Ottumwa, speeding, \$46.00.
Thomas Giblin, Kansas City, Missouri, speeding, \$46.00.
Krandell Buffington, Colo, speeding, \$26.00.
Theresa Nelson, Manhattan, Kansas, speeding, \$26.00.
Susan Glyman, Columbus, Missouri, speeding, \$36.00.
Joseph Graham, Hudson, Wisconsin, speeding, \$36.00.

Need for More Farm Terracing

SCS Conservationist Keith Edwards Sees.....

N C

Property of

notified that t

are needed," says SCS District

saving practice and a lot more

"Terraces are a proven soil

Conservationist Edwards Says —

Erosion Control A Must

"Contour stripcropping systems offer efficient erosion control", notes Keith Edwards, District Conservationist.

A quick look at a soil map reveals that within most cropland fields there are several soil types. These soils have different production potentials and should be managed individually.

Soil erosion reduces crop yields by two major effects. Soil erosion removes valuable nutrients and thus reduces the fertility of the soil. The other effect is the loss of organic matter which affects the soil's ability to absorb and store water. As a result, the soil becomes more droughty.

"Contour stripcropping has several advantages" says Edwards. You can match crops to the productivity of the soil. This may involve gearing seeding rates and fertility and herbicide rates to each individual soil type.

Contour strip cropping increases fuel and time efficiency.

All areas of the field are productive. Waterways, headlands and odd areas can be utilized for hay production.

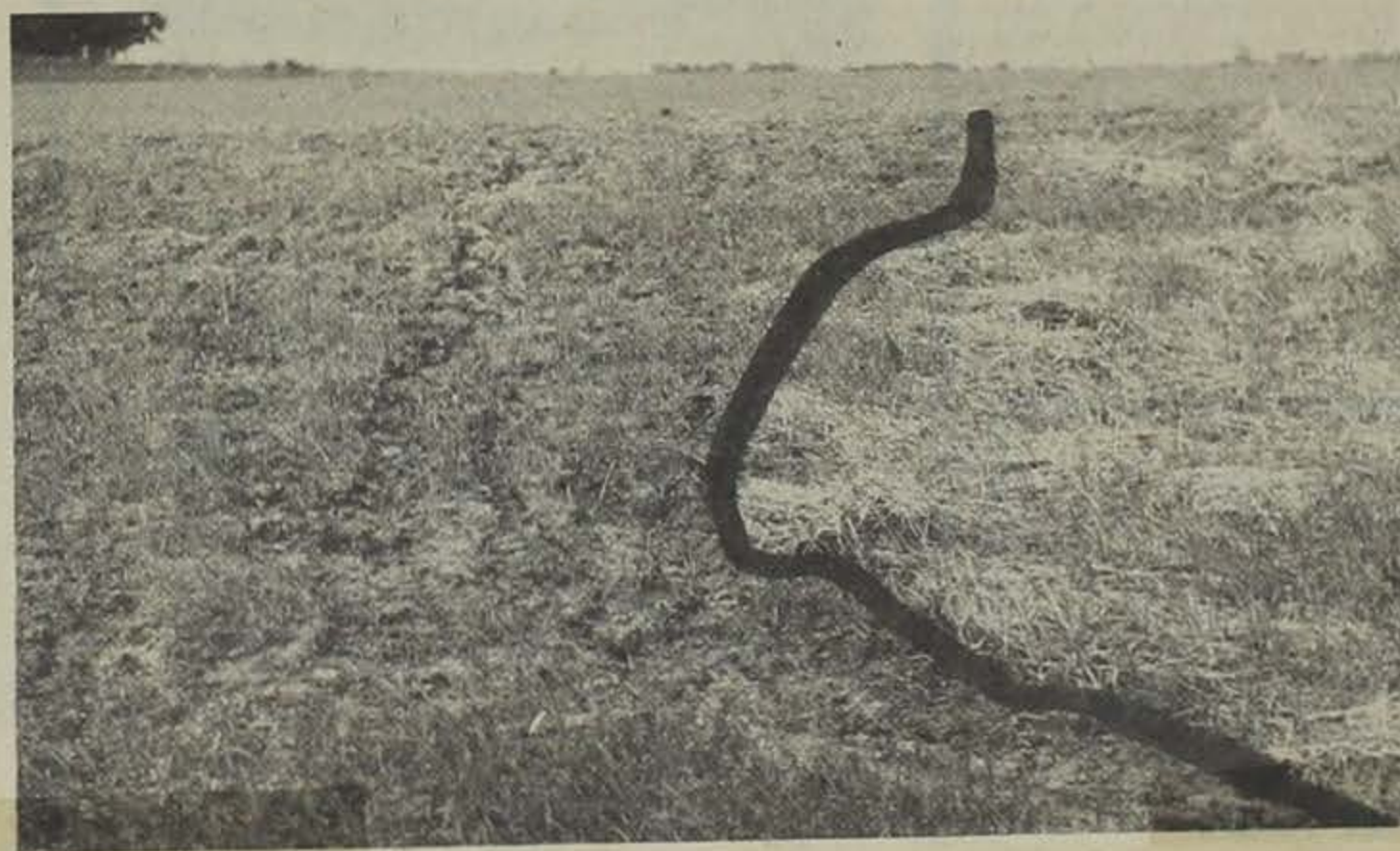
And finally contour stripcropping is a cheap and effective erosion control practice.

Inexpensive Soil Practices



INEXPENSIVE SOIL PRACTICES: Two inexpensive soil conservation practices being stressed during Soil and Water Conservation Week, September 14-20, are shown in the pictures above and below. Above, strip farming of hilly ground is shown at the Cecile Marquis farm, six miles east of Osceola, where a strip of orchard grass and

alfalfa separates two strips of corn. Below, the effect of simple straw mulching on new grass seeding can be seen at the new high school track. At left, rill erosion is quite evident on the unmulched section; while at right of the black line no erosion at all is noted in the mulched section. In addition, the seeding was taller and denser.



*Osceola Sentinel
September 18, 1980*

*Osceola Sentinel
September 18, 1980*

SCS Conservationist Keith Edwards Sees

Need for More Farm Terracing

"Terraces are a proven soil saving practice and a lot more are needed," says SCS District Conservationist Keith Edwards. "But what we're really advocating during Soil and Water Conservation Week is a resource management system."

"Conservation practices need to be selected that best fit each farmer's operation and his land."

Edwards says that if you grow corn and soybeans in a rotation or cut corn silage from a field you probably need terraces. The reason these fields are so critical is they lack adequate amounts of residue cover.

Also soybeans and corn for silage are usually planted later and are harvested earlier leaving the soil unprotected for a longer time.

Edwards expects about 30,000 acres were planted to soybeans in Clarke County in 1980 and that about 60,000 acres need conservation treatment.

"Terraces alone rarely provide adequate protection," Edwards admits. "We see a lot of terrace in fields that have been tilled with a moldboard plow and disk that need maintenance. Farmers need to change to no-till farming or rotate meadow with corn and soybeans if their terraces are filling up with silt."

SCS designs terraces to hold 2" of runoff water from the field above them. However, at current average erosion rates a field loses 1" of topsoil every 14 years so a terrace would be full of silt in about 28 years.

Applying no-till could extend the life to over 100 years and increase maintenance intervals, thus reducing the costs.

A new type of terrace is being tried in Iowa, with an advantage over other terrace types of its comparatively low price tag. It's referred to as a narrow base terrace. Narrow base terraces cost about 40 percent less than grassed backslope terraces because earthwork is less.

Narrow base terraces have other advantages. Farmers don't have to farm around the intake, so equipment size isn't a factor and there is added safety since farm machinery never is operating on the terrace.

Edwards feels terraces will be used to combat erosion in the future, but soil conservationists will stress a blend of permanent conservation practices with temporary conservation measures and recurring managements.

"It's a lot like making a cake" Edwards says. "It takes a proper blend of ingredients in sequence for it to come out right."



NEW TERRACES: Soil and Water Conservation Week, September 14-20, is a good time to stress construction of farm terraces and the benefits to be accrued, says SCS district soil conservationist Keith Edwards. Above, he is shown inspecting a new terrace on the Enquist-Murray farm, just

north of the Ottawa Corner, that curves around over a quarter-mile. In the picture below, a slightly older terrace in the same farm plan has already grown a good protective grass cover [outlined by black lines].



*Oscola Tribune
September 16, 1980*

Clean Field, No Weeds Is Fuller's No-Till Experience

A clean field, no weeds, and a hoped-for yield of 100 bushel corn, is Adrian Fuller's first experience with no-till corn planting.

He and district soil conservationist Keith Edwards, worked out a no-till program for a 20-acre test plot on Fuller's Knox Township farm and got underway with soil preparation on April 28.

First the ground was sprayed with 110 pounds of liquid nitrogen, followed by the application of one quart Paraquat, one pound of Bladex and one-half-gallon of Lasso per acre.

Ten days later, on May 8, an

early variety of corn was planted with a no-till planter at the rate of 22,000 kernels per acre. Nine and a half gallons of tractor fuel was required to plant the 20 acres.

Fuller wasn't in the field to check it until it was about three feet high, and then again on September 18 he checked it again and found the clean, weed-free field mentioned earlier and stalks standing well above his head—many with two ears.

He will start picking this corn soon, and will report on the yield achieved—which he hopes to be in the 100 bushels per acre range.



NO-TILL CORN: Adrian Fuller is shown with stalks of corn from a 20-acre no-till test plot on his Knox Township farm. Many stalks have two ears, he states.

*Osceola Tribune
September 23, 1980*



EROSION DAMAGE: Rill erosion between the rows of a conventionally tilled Clarke County farm, ranging from four to six inches deep, and two to three feet wide, shows the soil loss that can accompany poor stewardship conservation practices.



tices. This corn was about four feet tall by the Fourth of July and had good canopy cover, but it needed the double protection of last year's corn residue for adequate soil protection, according to soil conservationist Keith Edwards.

*Osceola Sentinel
September 25, 1980*

Annual Soil Speech Contest

The Soil Conservation Annual Speech Contest will be held Thursday, October 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the Soil Conservation District Office.

The topic this year is "Water, Air, Soil—Means of Survival". All Clarke County students (grades 7 through 12) may participate on the district level. Awards will be given, first place \$25.00, second place \$15.00, and third place \$10.00.

The speeches given by contestants must be five to ten minutes long. Contestants will be asked two general questions about the topic. Speeches will be judged on originality, aptness of thought, accuracy of information, and the manner in which they are delivered.

The district first place winner will compete on the regional level with nine other district winners. The regional winner will go to the state level to compete.

To enter, contact the Soil Conservation District office, Voa instructor or speech instructor. They will be able to supply information on the topic.

Osceola Sentinel
October 2, 1980

Clarke County voters followed the national trend in helping put a new president into the White House. By almost a two-thirds majority, 2,417 votes for Ronald Reagan to 1,619 votes for President Jimmy Carter. Clarke County gave their support to the Republican candidate. Independent candidate John Anderson finished with approximately seven percent of the vote with 310 votes.

Despite pollsters predictions of the race being closely contested, a record turnout of voters in many places invalidated the call for a close contest and gave GOP Senate candidates control of the Senate for the first time in 26 years.

Fair weather aided in promoting a good turnout of voters as the number voting exceeded the general election turnout of voters in 1976 by approximately 400 persons in unofficial returns. The predicted race between incumbent Senator John Culver and challenger Charles Grassley was close, but rural area voting strength gave the six year office to Grassley.

Joe Gross of Mt. Ayr defeated incumbent Arlo Hullinger of Leon for the seat of Iowa Representative from the 47th Congressional District. Gross carried Clarke, Ringgold and Union counties by narrow margins with Decatur County supporting Hullinger. Unofficial returns give Gross the seat with approximately 600 votes. In Clarke County, Gross received 1,751 votes to 1,534 for Hullinger.

Republican Cal Hultman, challenging incumbent Tom Harkin for the Fifth District U.S. Congressional seat, was defeated by a large margin, 2,874 to 1,333.

Stearns Reelected

In local races, Democratic incumbent John Stearns was reelected as Sheriff of Clarke County. Stearns received 2,385 votes to 1,929 for challenger Bob Elmore in a close contest.

County Auditor Emil Rinderspacher was unchallenged for reelection and polled a total of 3,233 votes. Clerk of Court Frances Winship, also unchallenged, polled 3,180 votes for return to office.

Republican supervisor Leeland Hunt was returned to office over a bid by challenger Linda Ballard. Hunt garnered 907 votes to 637 for Ballard.

Leonard Siefkas, Democrat, will serve as the new supervisor from District 3 as he won the contest over Gary Duggar, 648 to 520. Incumbent Richard Hill did not seek reelection.

For Soil District Commissioners, Adrian Fuller received 2,262 votes for the two year term and Thomas Whitehill received 2,125 votes for the four year term.

Switchgrass Available On Cost/Share Basis

District Soil Conservationist Keith Edwards reported that monies are being made available to farmers on a cost-sharing basis for the planting of switchgrass. Clarke County is one of the counties affected by the program that will affect farmers in Adair, Lucas, Madison, Ringgold, Union and Warren counties as well as those in Clarke.

Switchgrass, a tall, warm-season native prairie grass, can supply excellent forage for cattle during hot summer months when cool season grasses are dormant. A good stand of switchblade grass may require a year or two to become established, but will last indefinitely when this is accomplished.

Edwards stated that a good system of pasture rotation incorporates both grasses that can withstand winter cold as well as summer, drought-like conditions. Nebraska has served as a pioneer in this pilot program

with cattlemen achieving excellent results with switchgrass. It has exceeded bromegrass in the production of dry matter.

The Iowa Conservation Commission will spend \$100,000 per year derived from the sale of Wildlife Habitat stamps to cost-share the establishment of switchgrass on private land in selected Iowa counties. If the program is successful it will be continued for 10 years.

Much of Iowa's upland wildlife is produced on privately-owned agricultural lands. Declines in pheasants and other wildlife have been associated with agricultural land-use changes that have reduced nesting and winter cover. In order to remedy this situation, an agricultural crop that is both economically desirable to the landowner and beneficial to the nesting wildlife is needed. Southern Iowa meets the requirements for the wildlife and of land that will fit into this pattern.

Sign-up for the program will be from September 1 to December 31 of this year for farmers living in the seven counties listed and for the 1981 crop year. Applications will be reviewed by the Iowa Conservation Commission on the basis of site suitability, soil type, topography, field size, availability of water and fencing.

Cost sharing will be set at 50 percent of the cost of seed, agricultural lime, other fertilizers, seed bed preparation, seeding, rolling not to exceed \$50 per acres. After the first year, the cost will not exceed \$15 per acre with farmers required to sign a five-year contract.

Edwards asks that any farmers interested in following up on the program, to visit with him in the conservation office.

Osceola Tribune
November 11, 1980

Conservation Tillage Seminar Osceola 4-H Building January 8, 1981

EXHIBITS • DOOR PRIZES • SPEAKERS • PRODUCER PANEL

— PROGRAM —

- 9:30 View Exhibits
- 10:30 Insect Control in Heavy Residue
- 11:00 Determining Your Soil Loss
- 11:30 Problems with Pesticide Application
- 12:00 Lunch, View Exhibits, Door Prizes
- 1:00 Weed Control in Heavy Residue
- 1:30 Soil Fertility and Conservation Tillage
- 2:00 Conservation Tillage Practitioner



SPONSORED BY: Soil Conservation Service and Clarke County Extension Service, and Local Planning Committee: Bob Cooley, Richard Barr and Jack Ames.



SOIL TILLAGE DISPLAYS: Keith Edwards, district soil conservationist, right, inspects commercial displays at the soil tillage seminar conducted by county USDA units at the 4-H

fairgrounds building last Thursday. The seminar attracted a good number of farmers from Clarke and surrounding counties.

*Osceola Sentinel
January 15, 1981*

*The Advertiser
January 6, 1981*

Tickets on Sale for

Conservation Meet

Tickets are now on sale for the annual Clarke Soil Conservation District banquet to be held Monday evening, January 26, at the Osceola Methodist Church.

They may be purchased at the district's office, 820A North Main Street, or from individual district commissioners.

*Osceola Sentinel
January 15, 1981*

*Osceola Tribune
January 20, 1981*

Aust Will Speak At Soil Banquet

Erwin Aust of Shenandoah, area soil conservationist, will be the featured speaker at the annual Clarke Soil Conservation District banquet, scheduled for Monday night, January 26, at the Osceola Methodist Church. Time of the banquet is 6:30 p.m.

Among other items on the evening program will be showing of no till slides by district soil conservationist Keith Edwards; and presentation of awards to cooperators in several categories.

Tickets will be available through January 20 at the soil district office on North Main Street; or may be obtained from soil district commissioners.

Young Farmers Form at Murray

A Murray Young Farmers Organization has been formed through the High School Vocational Agriculture Department. Those on the advisory council are Steve Chamberlain, chairman, Gary Dugger, Randy Dunfee, Frank Jones and Tim Shell.

Young farmers are invited to attend an educational meeting Thursday, January 29, at the Murray High School lunch room at 7:30 p.m. Topic of discussion will be "Conservation Tillage". Keith Edwards, Clarke County Soil Conservationist will be present to show visual aids and answer questions on the subject.

*Osceola Tribune
January 27, 1981*

Seven Receive Awards at Annual SWCD Conservation Banquet Mon.

Recognition was given to those persons in Clarke County who have worked with the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District during the past year and been successful in their projects. Awards were made at the Monday night, January 26 district banquet held at the United Methodist Church in Osceola.

A 6:30 p.m. dinner was served in the dining room at the church following an invocation given by Pastor Richard Eis. Adrian Fuller, district commissioner,

served as master of ceremonies for the occasion and introduced Phil Henrich, commissioner and assistant commissioners Faye Webb and Doyce Miller. Past commissioner Carl Handrock was in attendance and introduced as well as charter member Melvin Goeldner.

Receiving recognition were Wendell Christensen and Brad Shipman of the Bar-C-Bar Farms Inc. who were presented with the New Cooperator Award.

Keith Davis was the recipient

of the owner-operator award for water and land use management.

The landlord-tenant award was given to W. W. Reynoldson and Steve Shaw for erosion control and windbreak projects.

This was followed by the Sweepstakes Award presented to the Clarke County Development Corporation and accepted by Corporation vice-president Bob Toland. The award was given to the Corporation for their interest and cooperation in working with the Soil District in water and land control struc-

tures on the industrial site in west Osceola.

John Klein, Clarke County Conservation Board officer, reported on the work being done by the organization and showed slides of projects currently underway in the county and of the educational program that has been initiated.

Keith Edwards, SCS District Conservationist, made a slide presentation that stressed the need for conservation and gave graphic examples of the amount of soil loss each year in Clarke County. The percentages of soil loss on farms in southern Iowa is alarming.

"Since the district was formed 36 years ago," said Edwards, "the need for all types of soil and water conservation has increased rather than decreased." Slides taken in various townships proved the points made by Edwards. For those farmers who have experimented with no till planting, the results have been encouraging and are such that more emphasis is needed to increase the number of acres under this type of soil management.

Erwin O. Aust, Area Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service from Red Oak, was introduced and told of the need for the adoption of additional acres in the no-till program.

Aust used an overhead projector to show figures pertinent to Clarke County on gains farmers might make with a soil management, crop rotation program that incorporates no-till farming. Examples of farmers who had made the change-over in Montgomery County were cited via a slide presentation.

Master of ceremonies concluded the evening with a drawing of gifts donated for the occasion and an invitation to attend the third district banquet.

Monday night's Soil Conservation banquet had an aftermath that was not thought of in advance by one of those attending. When door prize gifts were being made at the conclusion of the evening, Eva Kelly had a choice of gifts to choose. Without much hesitation she selected a gallon of paint and carried it over to husband Jerry and set it before him. Jerry didn't appear too happy with his spouse's choice of prizes. "Looks like work to me," grumped Jerry.

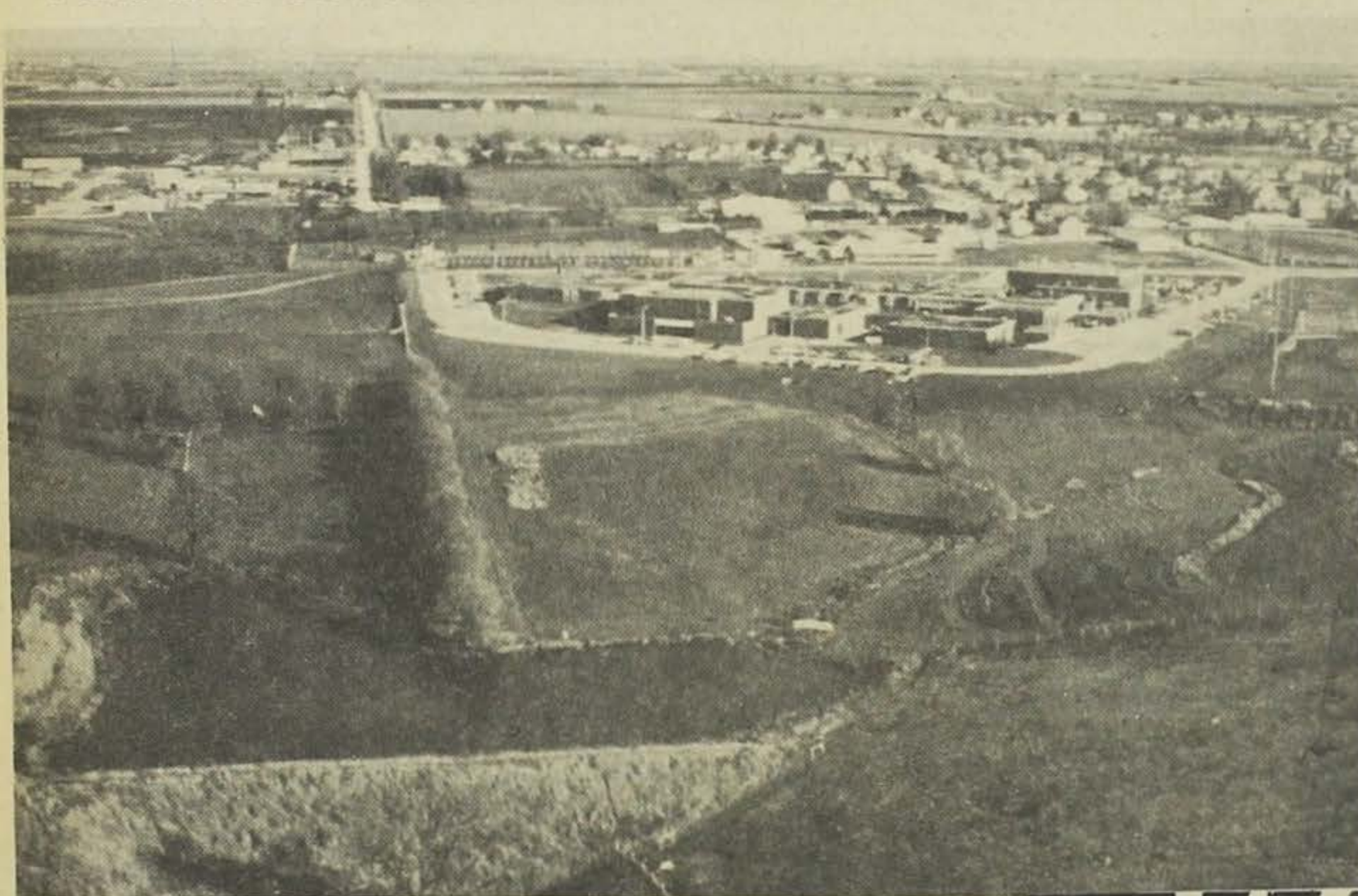
*Osceola Sentinel
January 29, 1981*



CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS: Recipients of soil, water and management awards at Monday night's banquet included Robert Toland, representing the Clarke County Development

Corporation, Mr. and Mrs. Brad Shipman and Wendell Christensen, Keith Davis, W. W. Reynoldson and Steve Shaw.

Full Use Schedule for Outdoor Classroom



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM PANORAMA: Large aerial photo of the Clarke Community junior high-senior high school complex (top is east) in northwest Osceola clearly shows the 14-acre outdoor classroom area in the center foreground — directly west between the pond and the building complex. Small walk bridge is seen spanning a small arm of the one and a half acre pond. Obliquely upward to the

left, a light-colored area is a seed bed. Following the gully southeasterly plantings and forage plots supervisory location for the viewer, the gravel going east from Circle B Cash boundary of Osceola city.

Clarke Community school district's award-winning 14-acre outdoor classroom

portion of a pasture area be-

would never have gotten off the ground."

Marvin, Jr., Judy Mason, Lloyd
Dr. Fred Wood and Don Wub
Promoting the Economic Dev
OSCEOLA PUBLIC
300 S. Fifth
Phone 342-294
Hours: 1:00-5:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.
Board of Trustees Meeting la
7:00 p.m.

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RUST CO.	COUNTY	Clarke	FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT N	7
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TREE PLANTING PROJECT: Students plant, stake and record species of trees on the Clarke 14-acre outdoor classroom.



SOIL SAMPLES: Learning to take soil sample cores is part of the science class training for these elementary school youngsters at the Clarke outdoor classroom.

*Osceola Tribune
February 3, 1981*

Coal May Be The Answer —

County Sits on Energy

By Terry Knudson

In a day when "beat inflation" is on everyone's mind the prospect of rekindling the energies of coal are seriously being considered. Geological surveys have

been conducted in various counties of Iowa locating one of man's cheapest sources of energy. Clarke County has coal beneath it, but how much and where the largest veins are is not known. The only attempt to mine it was

in 1876 when the Osceola Coal Company was formed and tried



JUSTIN TINDLE, a four year old from Osceola, points toward the abandoned coal mine site at Woodburn. Justin's generation may see coal production be attempted again in Clarke and surrounding counties.

*Osceola Sentinel
February 5, 1981*

in 1876 when the Osceola Coal Company was formed and tried to mine it. The company failed after a few years because of the high cost of mining and the fact that the coal was of poor quality. The coal was found in the Clarke County area, but the veins were too small to mine profitably. The only attempt to mine it was in 1876 when the Osceola Coal Company was formed and tried to mine it. The company failed after a few years because of the high cost of mining and the fact that the coal was of poor quality. The coal was found in the Clarke County area, but the veins were too small to mine profitably.

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Water Board Proceedings

WATER BOARD PROCEEDINGS
February 5, 1981

The Water Works Board of Trustees did meet in regular session this 5th day of February, 1981 at City Hall at 7:30 p.m. All members were present.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wood and the following bills and claims were presented for approval.

General Telephone Co., Service	31.93
Great Plains Gas, Propane gas	112.00
I.S.U. Co., Ser. plant, tower	1,537.26
University Hygienic Lab, Water tests	51.00
Herman Gracey, Mileage, school fees	43.80
I.S.U. Co., Repairs on hot water heater	27.36
Acco Unlimited Corp., Chemicals	3,483.54
Hawkeye Lumber Co.,	

Open Ho

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MC

PLUS

- Tops
- Coats
- Lingerie

SAI
PRESIDENT

Seek West Lake Control Method

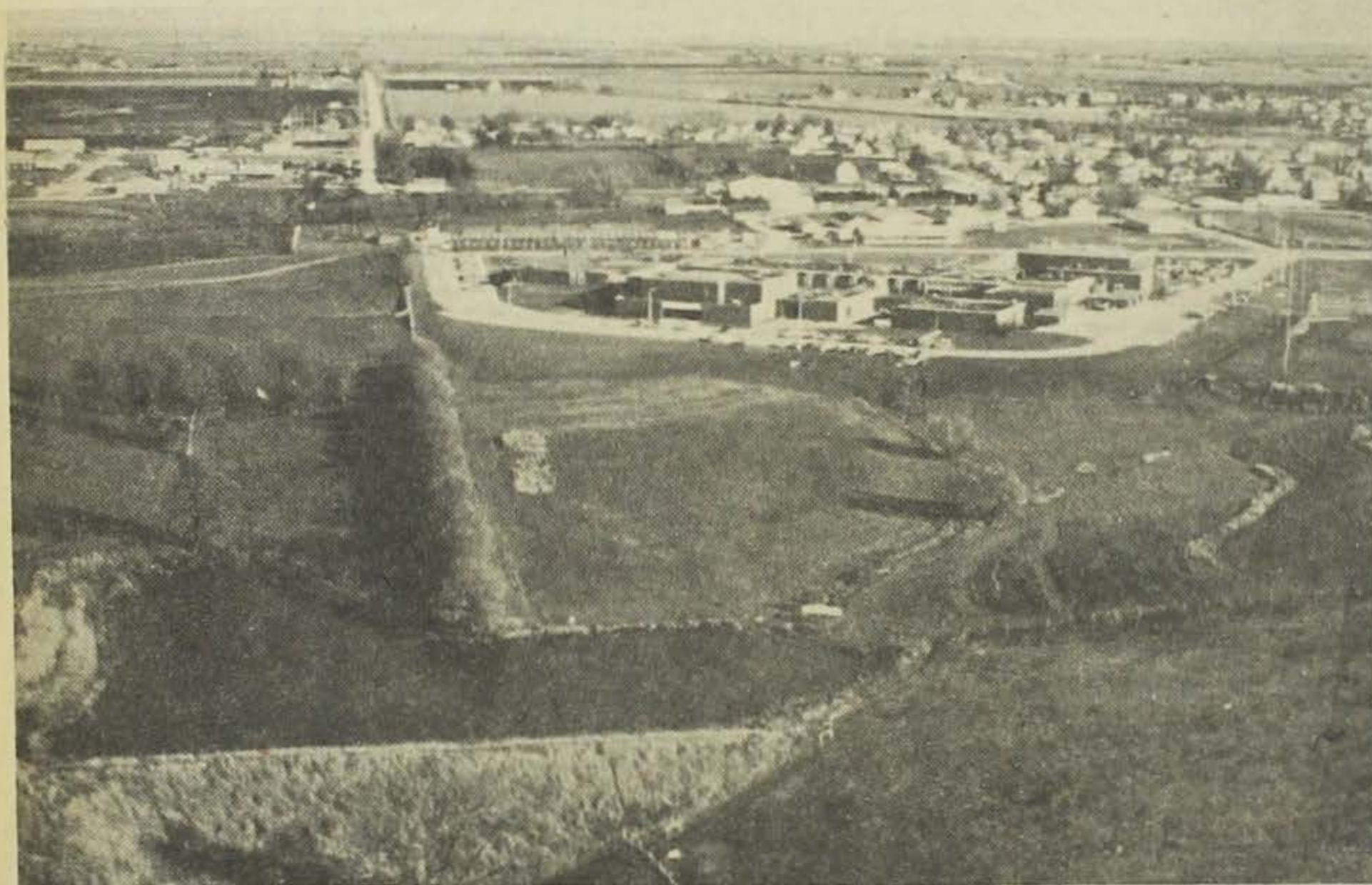
The public is invited to participate in the environmental evaluation of the West Lake measure planning area within the Southern Iowa Resource Conservation and Development Area.

The objective, identified by sponsoring the Osceola Municipal Water Board and the Clarke Soil Conservation District, is to install best management practices to reduce sediment delivery to West Lake.

A public meeting will be held to obtain public comment and to explain planning procedures as set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act and other laws. The meeting will be February 17 at 10 a.m. at the Soil Conservation Office in Osceola located at 820A North Main.

*Osceola Sentinel
February 12, 1981*

Full Use Schedule for Outdoor Classroom



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM PANORAMA: Large aerial photo of the Clarke Community junior high-senior high school complex [top is east] in northwest Osceola clearly shows the 14-acre outdoor classroom area in the center foreground—directly west between the pond and the building complex. Small walk bridge is seen spanning a small arm of the one and a half acre pond. Obliquely upward to the

Clarke Community school district's award-winning 14-acre outdoor classroom, located southwest of the high school building in Osceola, will be reevaluated in 1981 to determine future plans for its development and use.

Originally conceived in early 1971 by Leland Dolecheck, Clarke vocational agriculture instructor, the project was enthusiastically carried forward by the Clarke FFA chapter and won it a silver award and a \$270 cash prize in the 1978 national FFA "Building Our American Communities Award" program.

Completion in its present size and form required the cooperation of many people and organizations.

Eight acres of the total had been used by the Clarke ag classes as a demonstration plot for farming and conservation practices, but there was a large gully cutting away a portion of the school district's land and a

portion of a pasture area belonging to Charles Morgan.

Donates Land

First step was acquisition of about five acres of land occupied by the gully and adjacent drainage area and this was achieved when owner Charles Morgan donated this amount of land to the school board, to be used for the outdoor classroom project.

The Soil Conservation District became a cooperator in the project and aided in two ways: First, by helping secure a Rural Conservation and Development grant to fund construction of a dam; and second, by surveying and designing the water control measures to be undertaken and then overseeing construction.

This was achieved under the direction of Keith Ticknor, district soil conservationist at the time, and in Dolecheck's words, "with the interest and assistance the project

left, a light-colored area is a section planted to native grasses. Following the gully southeasterly can be seen some of the tree plantings and forage plots supervised by ag students. To adjust the location for the viewer, the gravel road at top left center is the road going east from Circle B Cashway store corner—the northern boundary of Osceola city.

would never have gotten off the ground."

Dam Came First

Construction of the dam for the one and a half acre pond was the first construction step, in 1973, and when it was completed other work then began.

School administrators, teachers, students, FFA, youth conservation board, and the Soil Conservation Service put together a development plan for the 14-acre area—and every one of these groups made definite contributions to the completed project, especially the elementary, junior high and senior high school students who provided most of the labor force.

Trees and shrubs were planted, a bridge was constructed, a native grasses plot was laid out and other domestic grasses and legumes were planted in the area including

brome, orchard grass, timothy, tall fescue, crown vetch, birds-foot trefoil and red clover.

The lake, when filled, was stocked with bass, catfish and bluegills provided by the Iowa Conservation Commission fish hatcheries and it—as well as the balance of the area—is open to public use. Dolecheck states that it is not heavily fished and there should be some unwary beauties awaiting an angler's hook.

Leadership

Leadership of the outdoor classroom use has been accepted by David Johannes, high school biology instructor.

According to him at the present time—when weather permits—the area is used by the junior high Earth and Life classes; by the senior high biology and environmental science classes; and by the FFA Chapter in its soil conservation, forage



TREE PLANTING PROJECT: Students plant, stake and record species of trees on the Clarke 14-acre outdoor classroom.



and soil surveying studies. An estimated 400 to 500 students use the area during a typical year.

Side Benefit

A side benefit has accrued from the project, control of the tremendous amounts of water flowing from the huge concrete parking lot, tennis courts and athletic field around the school complex.

About 40 acres is drained altogether and most of the water makes its way down through the former gully. The lake also serves as a biology and wildlife laboratory.

Ongoing Plan

Johannes and Dolecheck would like to see an ongoing plan developed, including planting of more trees and native grasses permitting growth participation by future classes.

to take soil sample cores is part of the these elementary school youngsters at the

Tribune
3, 1981

Nelson to Speak At Spray School

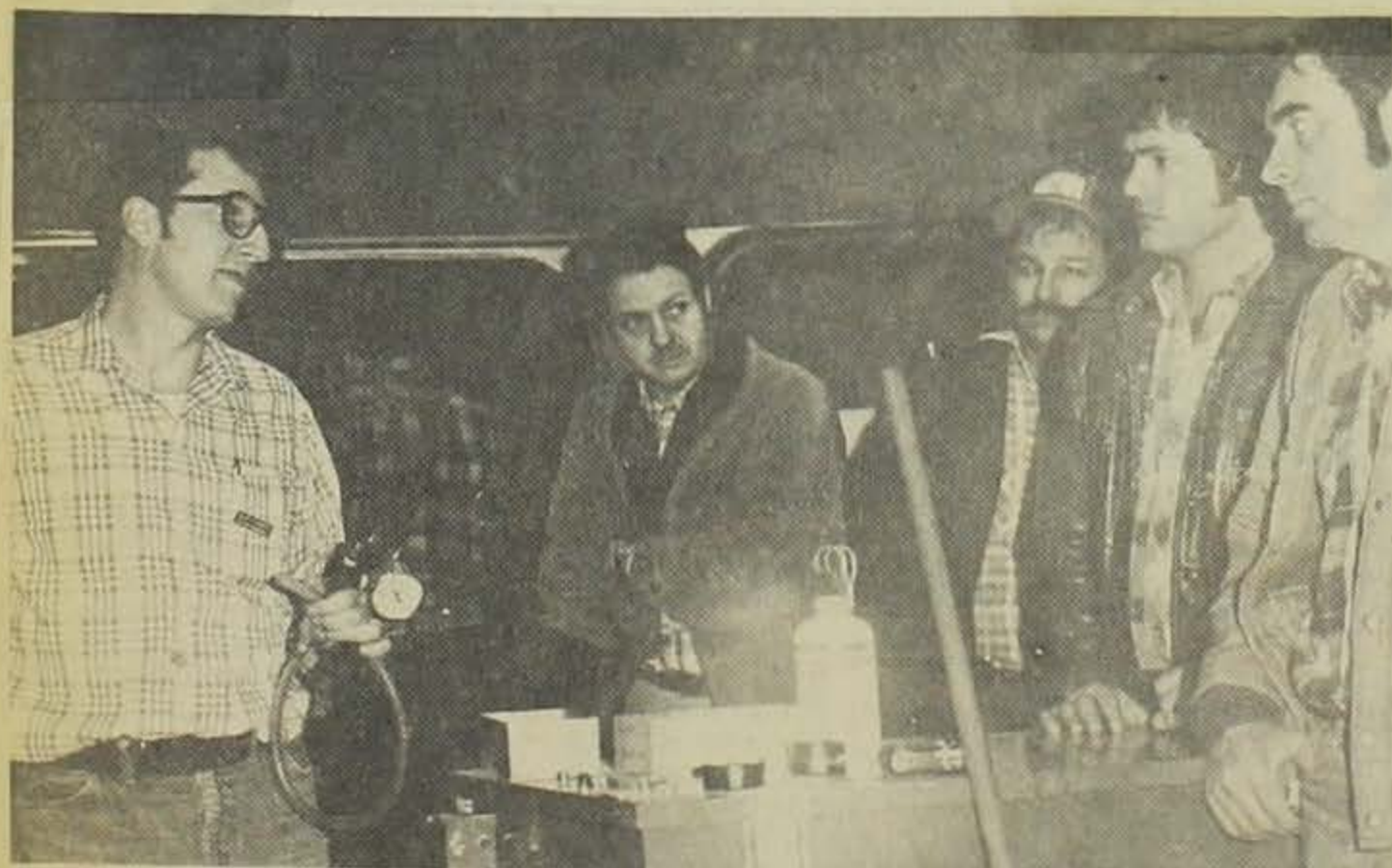
Jim Nelson, Iowa State University extension weed specialist, will be in Osceola to address an extension sprayer school to be held Friday morning, March 6, at the 4-H building beginning at 10 a.m.

Among the subjects to be covered are maintenance, plumbing, calibration and general operating principles.

Slanted to tie-in with zero cultivation practices, extension director Alan Teel says the meeting will attempt to answer questions about most common sprayer failures.

Teel says that use of highly abrasive wettable powders—under high pressure—causes calibration variables that do not always permit fullest efficient use of sprayer equipment. This will be addressed at the school.

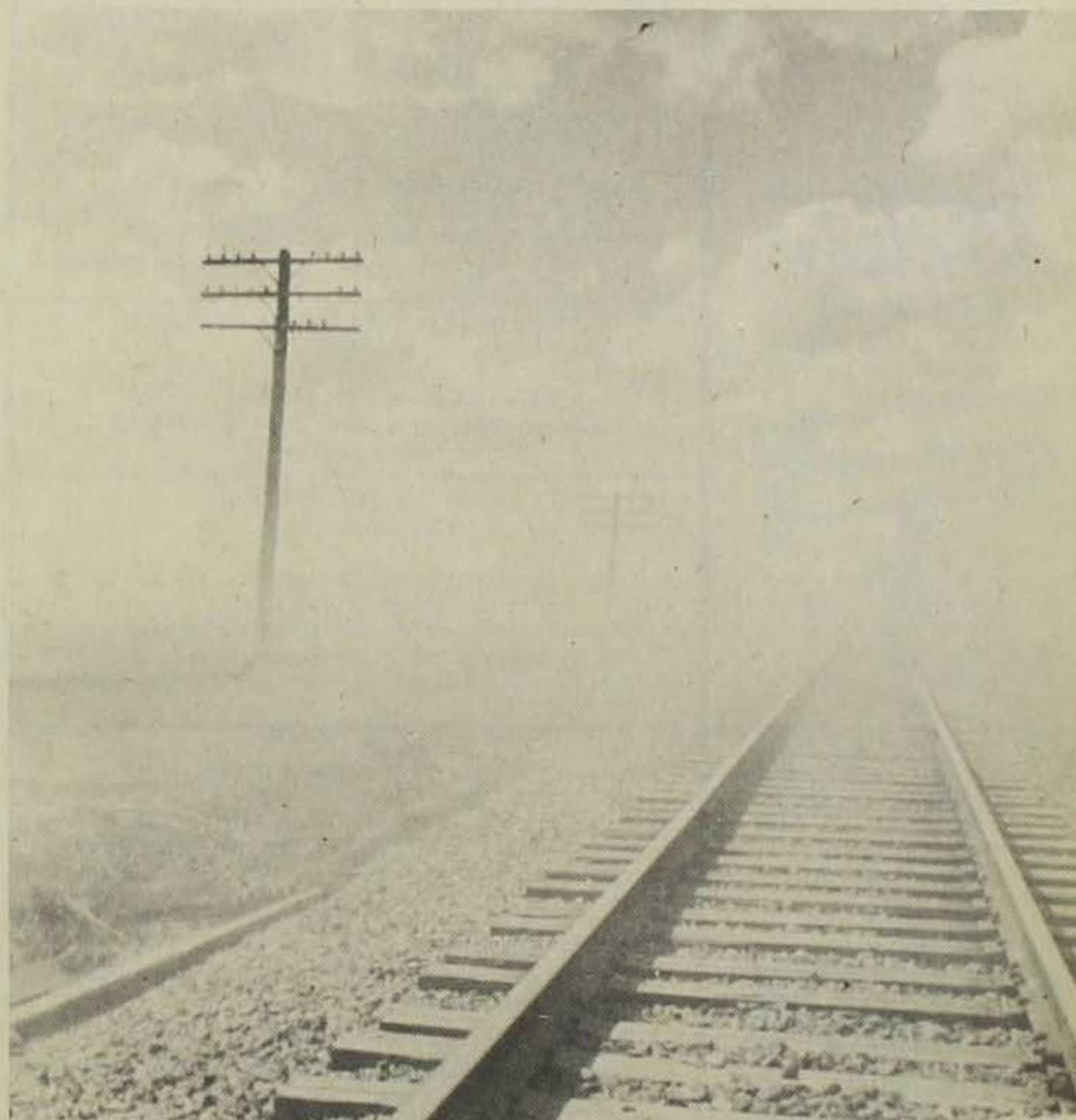
Osceola Tribune
March 3, 1981



50 ATTEND SPRAY SCHOOL: Wendal Saunders of Delavan Corp. explains sprayer maintenance and adjustment techniques to some of the nearly 50 farmers attending the extension sprayer school at the Osceola 4-H Building last Friday. Jim Nelson, extension weed control specialist, also took part in the school.

Osceola Tribune
March 10, 1981

March — Out Like A Lion —



SHADES OF 1936: What could be blowing snow on the last day of March—isn't. It's dust from a fall plowed field coupled with winds that gusted up to 35 miles per hour Tuesday. The small amount of rain received recently was not enough

to prevent soil from blowing. The picture was taken northwest of Osceola and shows how tracks and power lines are blotted from view in the quarter mile pictured above.

Osceola Sentinel
April 2, 1981

Edwards Fears Erosion —

Lack of Moisture

"Iowa farmers may be faced with another year of severe soil erosion," said Keith Edwards, local SWCD officer. Present soil and moisture conditions could make 1981 a repeat of last year, when June rains caused severe soil loss on more than four million acres of Iowa cropland. In the hardest hit areas of southwest Iowa, soil losses approached 150 tons per acre.

At the moment, conservationists are especially worried about wind erosion. "We've got the potential for a very serious wind erosion problem," said Edwards.

"Some people think wind erosion is only a problem in north central Iowa, but that's a fallacy," says Edwards. "Wind erosion can occur anytime the soil is bare, smooth, loose, dry and finely granulated. It only takes a 13 miles per hour wind to start soil particles moving."

"The unusually nice fall weather allowed farmers to do a lot of fall tillage and there's been little snow to cover the bare, dry soil," Edwards continued, "and now, our mild weather is prompting

farmers to get an early start on spring tillage."

Edwards is encouraged by the growing number of farmers using conservation tillage. "About two-thirds of Iowa's farmers are leaving some crop residue on the soil surface over winter for protection," he says. "But most of them aren't leaving nearly enough residue. You need half the original residue left on the soil surface after planting to eliminate wind erosion and significantly reduce water erosion. Most farmers are still doing too much tillage."

Osceola Tribune
April 7, 1981

'No Till' Meet

Set April 14

Increased interest in "no till farming" has resulted in additional information being made available on the subject. Keith Edwards, District Soil Conservationist, announced that a public meeting will be held at the 4-H building in Osceola on Tuesday, April 14, to provide information on the subject.

Two films, one on application of herbicides and insecticides, and the other on application and the necessity of accuracy, will be shown at the meeting which will start at 7:30 p.m.

The Clarke Community Soil Conservation District will be sponsor for the meeting.

Osceola Sentinel
April 9, 1981

Teachers May Attend Program

The Iowa Teachers Conservation program will be offered in Indianola from June 8-26. A blend of activities, lectures and direct experience in the environment with local resource people makes the program valuable to teachers in any subject field at any grade level. Participants learn the environmental education process by using it in hands-on activities which are suitable for various teaching situations.

The program is co-sponsored by the University of Northern Iowa, Warren County Conservation Board, Dept. of Public Instruction, Warren County Soil District, and the Iowa Conservation Commission. Three semester hours of graduate credit are offered for the 15-day course.

Osceola Tribune
April 14, 1981

Summer Conservation Camp Set for June 8-26

The award winning Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp programs will be held June 8-26 in Indianola and July 6-24 in Fort Dodge. The 32-year old program is co-sponsored by the University of Northern Iowa, the State Conservation Commission, the Department of Public Instruction and local conservation agencies. Enrollment is open to teachers in any subject field at any grade level and also to non-teachers.

"The whole objective of the program is improvement of instruction in conservation and environmental studies," said Bernard Clausen, director of the ITCC since 1960.

Two courses are offered in the program—the field-oriented Iowa Conservation Problems and an advanced course in Environmental Education Program Development. Each course runs for three weeks and is worth three hours of graduate credit. Class

days are from 8:30-4:30 Monday through Friday.

The general course sequence begins with local natural history, basic ecology and environmental awareness, and continues with natural resource use and management. Socioeconomic considerations and political controversies concerning environment are also discussed.

Some of the topics covered in the course include ecological principles, teaching on the school grounds, and the development of programs for the participant's school.

The program is held in different locations each summer to give those who might not be able to travel a chance to attend. Moving the camp also allows the localization of course material.

Local environmental problems and issues are used in the courses to show teachers how to use their surroundings in the

classroom. Teachers are also introduced to environmental experts in their community who can help them with their teaching during the year.

These resource people include local Soil Conservation Commissioners, people from the county conservation boards and planning agencies, public officials involved with conservation policy making, farmers, and local experts such as bird watchers and history buffs.

"Personal experience in the environment has been the fundamental guideline for the program since its inception," said Clausen. "Participants learn the environmental education process by using it in hands-on activities which are suitable for various teaching situations. We teach the theories along with specific local examples for the class, and show the class working models of environmental problem solving."

Over 2,000 people have participated in the program since 1950. For more information about tuition and enrollment contact: Bernard Clausen, Director-Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614.

Osceola Sentinel
April 16, 1981

CCCB Inspects East Lake Dam

At a meeting of the Clarke County Conservation Board earlier this month at East Lake Park the dam there was inspected and executive officer John Klein was instructed to sign an approved inspection report, when it is prepared.

Also at that meeting the board approved certain activities for the May 30 Folk Arts in the Forest at the East Lake site.

These included approval of the use of horses at the park that day; allow the sale of lunch by LDS church women; allow the use of muzzle-loading firearms for display purposes; and allow the use of one area for a mud tug-o-war.

The board also directed Klein to begin a multiflora rose control program in county parks, and approved the loan of picnic tables from Hopeville Park for the Grand River Centennial celebration.

Scenes at Folk Art in Forest Saturday



SATURDAY SCENES: Some of the folks exhibiting at the third annual Folk Arts in the Forest Festival at East Lake Park last Saturday are seen above. Top left, Aletha and Howard Ruble of near Woodburn are shown with two of their Edsel collection. Upper right, behind the scenes at the shelter house, while musicians are

performing. Lower left, local artist Doris Canavan illustrates landscape painting procedures; and lower right, Clarke County Conservation Board officer John Klein takes a well-deserved breather after getting the show on the road.

*Osceola Tribune
May 26, 1981*

Workshop

Set for July 5-10

The Iowa Teachers Conservation Workshop will be held at the Springbrook Conservation Education Center near Guthrie Center, July 5-10.

The program will provide an intense, but balanced variety of topics demonstrating ecological relationships, energy flow, and ideas for presenting these topics.

For additional information and registration forms, contact the Soil Conservation Service, 820A N. Main Street, Osceola.

*Osceola Tribune
June 2, 1981*

*Osceola Tribune
June 2, 1981*

Drenching Rains, High Winds Damage Area



MUTE TESTIMONY: Mute testimony to the force of Sunday night's twister which set down at the Osceola airport is the wreckage of a plane belonging to Irving Taylor of New Virginia. Eight

of the 10 hangar spaces were demolished, and Gerald Clark's Cessna was flipped 60 or 80 feet and only the fuselage remains. Estimated total damage is \$80,000 to \$100,000.

*Osceola Tribune
June 9, 1981*

Southern Iowa's drought came to a wet and windy ending Sunday afternoon and evening as up to six inches of rainfall (unofficially) was received locally with high winds damaging trees, buildings, power lines and planes at the Osceola airport.

Local weather statistician Trenneth Johnson recorded 4.83 inches of rain over the four hour period when thunder, lightning and a tornado warning kept area residents inside. Low flying clouds dropped torrents of rain as winds veered from the north to south and east. Hail accompanied the rain with reports from various parts of the county placing as much as two inches of stones in the southeast part of Clarke County and badly damaging newly emerged corn.

Threatening skies brought a tornado watch in late afternoon and the report was changed to a tornado watch shortly after 6 p.m. The tornado whistle was blown at approximately 9 p.m. at the height of the storm with most area residents seeking shelter in basements. It was at this time that winds of up to 70 miles per hour were received and hangers

and planes at the Osceola Municipal Airport were either blown away or damaged.

Nine of the ten hangers at the airport were either blown away or badly damaged—the exception being the one owned by Delbert Denly, airport manager. The hanger contained an antique bi-wing OTW Meyers, and received little damage.

A Cessna 150 owned by Gerald Clark was torn loose from its moorings and turned upside down about 70 yards to the west of the runway. Other planes received varying amounts of damage.

Woodburn Damaged

A furniture warehouse in Woodburn belonging to Charles Rodgers was completely destroyed by high winds that were estimated in the 60 to 70 mile per hour range. The warehouse, located on the southeast edge of town, contained furniture and carpeting that was blown out of the store when the walls and roof were torn loose. No estimate of the damage was immediately available.

Trees were blown down, blocking streets, and cleanup of the area will take considerable time. Harold Edgarton, living immediately south of Woodburn, reported that considerable damage was done to low lying areas that were flooded when over three inches of rain was received in the area.

Edwards Says SCS to Continue Soil Survey

During the next two years, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service will continue to examine "sample units" of land in the county, as part of its national resources inventory.

"We're looking at a total of about 70 sample units in the county that have been randomly selected," says Keith Edwards, SCS district conservationist. "On each of those 160-acre units, we sample three points."

Edwards says 109 different information items are being recorded. They include such things as soil type, whether the land is prime farmland, cropping history, water and wind erosion potential, and conservation practices being used.

Other information being recorded includes the present type of land use, the condition of the land, and extent of conservation treatment needed to control soil erosion.

"We've studied the land and made inventories before," says Edwards. "It's a little like a professional sports team. You come back each season with mostly the same players but you evaluate them to see how they've changed, and you make adjustments."

Our evaluations may not be every year, but SCS is in the inventory and monitoring business now to stay. It will be a part of our job to keep up with how our resources are changing."

But Edwards stressed that the ongoing study was not accurate enough to be reliable on the county level. "It would be too costly to sample enough points for statistically reliable information locally. It will be reliable on a regional or statewide level, though, and we may be able to make judgments about our resources locally. None of the information gathered identifies any landowners; it's strictly a resource accounting study."

The SCS goal is to get 40 percent of the field work finished this year, and to complete the work in 1982. The results will be computerized nationally through a laboratory at Iowa State University and presented to Congress.

"The plan is to repeat the inventory every five years, and use the information to help guide voluntary conservation programs nationwide," says Edwards. The Resources Conservation Act of 1977 calls for a continual appraisal of natural resources.

*Osceola Sentinel
June 11, 1981*

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Soil Erosion

Keith Edwards, local district soil and water conservationist, reported that damage to crops varied in the county with early reports showing that hail damage in the southeast part of the county appeared to be the worst.

Topsoil that was on steeper slopes that were being row cropped were especially vulnerable to the heavy rains with some areas probably having to be replanted as crops were badly damaged by the washing.

The bright side of the picture was that farm ponds, many of them dangerously low, were replenished by the moisture and filled to overflowing in many instances.

West Lake

A potential rationing of water for city water users was averted with the rains that fell Sunday. Bob Collins, city water plant employee, reported that with 4.6 inches of rainfall registering at the plant, West Lake rose a dramatic four feet 11 inches from the time the rain started until the Monday morning measurement at 9 a.m.

The level of water is presently 16 inches below the spillway of the dam with Squaw Creek still running and raising the level of the reservoir.

Members of the City Water department had expressed concern over the level of West Lake and were making plans for water conservation at the time of Sunday's rains.

Service Restored

Power failure was a matter of individual lines being down to customers in various parts of the county. Work crews from Clarke Electric Cooperative fanned out in all directions Monday to restore service where wind had toppled trees and branches over power lines.

Service was expected to be restored by noon Monday.

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changed, and you make adjust- continual appraisal of natural
ments. resources.

Osceola Sentinel
June 11, 1981

Ask Questions

About No-Till

No-till or not to till is a question that a lot of farmers have been asking this past winter and this spring. It is a good question and one that we don't have all the answers to.

However, we do have some research experience with no-till and we have quite a few farmers who have been successfully using no-till for a number of years. There are advantages and some problems also.

Some of the advantages include reduced soil erosion, reduced time to put in a crop and reduced fuel consumption. Some potential problems include weed control and getting a stand. Disease and insect problems are generally no different from conventional tillage.

I don't think there is any question anymore that no-till will reduce soil erosion, especially compared to conventional mold-

ing in the fun at the Grand River



Osceola Tribune
June 23, 1981

Moisture Totals over 7" For June after Dry Spring

Wednesday's early morning rain brought the June moisture total to nearly seven inches locally and aided in bringing the 1981 total a bit more in line with the yearly average.

Clarke Countians were well below the average at the start of June and farmers were concerned over crop prospects and low farm ponds. Starting with the .06 of an inch rain on June 3, the heavy 4.83 inches received on June 7 which was followed by six other rains of smaller amounts, moisture has ceased to be a

pressing problem at the present time.

The heavy June 7 rain, which was accompanied by hail, washed soil in most fields in the central and eastern part of the county. Soil conservationist Keith Edwards reported that the rains of that magnitude, five inches in three to four hours, occur only once in every 100 years. The soil damage is heavy in Clarke County as a result of the runoff.

Temperatures have been relatively mild for the month with no 90 degree readings having been recorded to date.

Osceola Sentinel
June 25, 1981



STOCKING CANADIAN GEESE: As part of the attempt to stock Canadian gees in southern Iowa, eight of the big birds were released Monday at East Lake. Adrian Fuller holds one of the geese just before it was released. Four females and four males were placed at the lake

in the hopes that they will make it their home. The birds are presently molting and unable to fly. Since they normally nest in April, they will have time to become acclimated to their new home before migrating.

Osceola Sentinel
July 9, 1981

1981 June 30, 1981
receiving low on the card were Jo Newport, Freda Gordon, Sue Brandhorst, Martha Rowland and Erma Scritchfield (tie), CeCe McDowell, Sally Riekena, Marla Hart, Ann Smith, Inez Davenport and Guyla Patrick.

Committee for Tuesday, June 30 will be Freda Gordon and Linda Reed.

N. B. Bridge Club Enjoys Afternoon

The N.B. Club met Tuesday, June 23 in the home of Lila Westerfield with Mrs. Ted Nannen and Pauline Hall as guests.

Prizes were earned by Mrs. Clarence Shearer and Mrs. Melvin Goeldner.

Club will meet Tuesday, July 7 at the home of Mrs. Helen Wilcox.

candles. Ushers were David Snyder, brother of the bride and Jess Caswell of Des Moines.

Following the ceremony a reception was held in the church fellowship hall. A three-tiered wedding cake was served by the members of the United Methodist women.

Attending the guest book was Mrs. Sharon Pontier of Des Moines, sister-in-law of the groom. Presiding at the gift table were Brenda and Carla Appleget of Norwalk.

The bride is a 1981 graduate of Drake University. She is Departmental Supervisor of Peterson Harned Von Maur. Jay is Burger Chef evening manager on Fleur Drive, in Des Moines. Jay is a 1980 graduate of Morning-side College in Sioux City.

The bride and groom will reside in Des Moines following their honeymoon.

Family Attend Birthday Party

Leah Henry was honored Sunday, June 21, at a birthday supper given by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Denny Henry at her grandparents home, Mr. and Mrs. Kent White. Leah was celebrating her first birthday.

Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Henry and Dan, Vera Dougherty, Mr. and Mrs. Ed White, Ryan and Angie, Mr. and Mrs. Dan White and Missy, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Marker, Lori and Lucy, Mr. and Mrs. Doug Henry, Paul and Michael and Julie and Karla Ballard.



-Public Notice- It Is Dangerous and Unlawful to Shoot Fireworks

For some years there has been an Iowa law declaring the sale and shooting of fireworks unlawful.

In recent years a number of incidents involving the shooting of fireworks in Osceola have occurred. U. S. mail boxes damaged. Persons can be seriously injured by them, and property damaged. Some years ago, in nearby Chariton, an Iowa youth lost an eye.

Therefore, we want to put everyone on notice that city and state statutes covering firecracker violations will be rigidly enforced.

Such violations are subject to a fine of \$100, or 30 days in jail, or both. They will be enforced in Osceola!

By Order of Chief of Police
BILL HARLEY
OSCEOLA, IOWA

OSCEOLA,
IOWA



Your Home Town



COUPON

Lg. for price of Med. Med. for Price of Sm.

This offer void where prohibited by law. Good only at participating Pizza Hut restaurants listed below.

Offer Good June 29 to July 5

NOT GOOD WITH ANY OTHER PROMOTIONS

Good At—

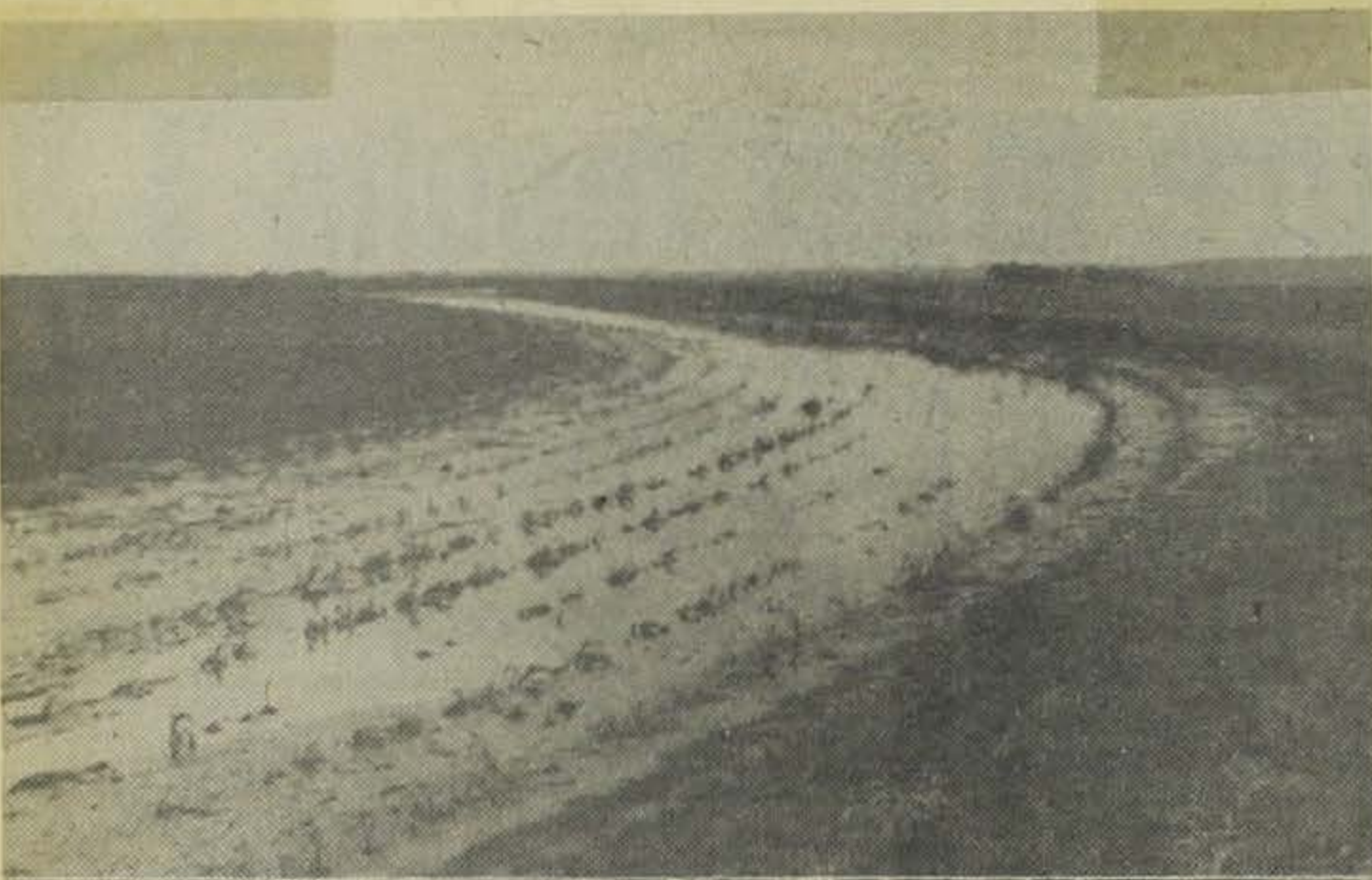
OSCEOLA 342-8008

&

CRESTON 782-8448



35th ANNUAL REPORT OF PROGRESS - FISCAL JULY 1979 - JUNE 1980



TERRACES REDUCE EROSION
crops in the recent deluge which af
Clarke County was reduced wher
installed conservation practices st
intake terrace (above and below).

Emergency

Bonanza offers a complete range of
and industrial buildings. The exclu



**Estate of Kenneth Sherwood
Deceased:**
You are hereby notified that
on the 2nd day of July, 1981, the
Last Will and Testament of
Kenneth Sherwood Willamuth,
deceased bearing date of the 20th
day of June, 1981, was admitted
to probate in the above named
Court and that John Sherwood
Willamuth was appointed execu-
tor of said estate.
Notice is further given that
any action is set aside said Will
must be brought in the District
Court of said County within six
months from the date of the
second publication of this notice,
or thereafter be forever barred.
Notice is further given that all
persons indebted to said estate

s this suffered severe silting and
young plants. Terraces like these
re water, later releasing it at a
le.

Osceola Tribune
July 14, 1981

State Tests Show No Yield Loss in Conservation Tillage

"The results show that conser-
vation tillage systems can be
used in a corn-soybean rotation
with reduced soil loss and with-
out sacrificing yields," says
Keith Edwards, district soil con-
servationist.

Ten years of tillage studies
that offer answers to many
complex questions surrounding
tillage systems, Edwards states.

One 5-year study, comparing
seven tillage systems with con-
tinuous corn at Iowa State Uni-
versity found the conventional
fall plowing system produced the
top yields.

However, a similar 5-year
study, comparing five tillage
systems with a corn-soybean
rotation, found little difference in
either bean or corn yields due to
the tillage systems.

"One of the most important
things found, so far as farm
application of erosion control
practices is concerned, was the
unexpected high level of soil
protection provided by soybean
residue," Edwards said.

Before spring tillage or plant-
ing, soybean residue covered 73

percent of the soil surface. Corn
residues covered 76 percent.

However, soybean residues
are very fragile, are easily
damaged, and very little tillage
was required to destroy the soil
coverage.

Slot planting in a no-till system
reduced soil coverage to about 37
percent. Disking and planting
left only 12 percent of the soil
covered, about the same as fall
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Corn residue is tougher. Slot
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The corn-soybean rotation
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corn, except that slot-planting
without ridges and the spring
plowing systems were not includ-
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Average yield results for the
two 5-year studies, adjusted for
unusual conditions, were:

Bushels Per Acre, Compared:

	Corn After Corn	Corn After Beans	Beans After Corn
Fall plow, spring disk and drag	143	139	40
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Fall chisel, spring field cultivation	129	138	40
Slot-plant	124	---	---

Osceola Tribune
August 11, 1981

Osceola Tribune
September 8, 1981

named District Court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance; and unless so filed within six months from the second publication of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) such claim shall thereafter be forever barred.

Dated this 31st day of August, 1981.

William E. Green, Box 145, Truro, Iowa 50257 and Donald L. Green, Rt. 2, Box 123, Osceola, Iowa 50213, Executors of said Estate.

James H. Cothern, 122 W. Jefferson, Osceola, Iowa 50213, Attorney for said Executor.

Date of second publication

and family, Ray Leggett and family, Lyle Leggett and family and Robb Leggett and wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Banks and daughter, Kathy from Wisconsin.

Midwest F

Hwy. 69 N.

NOW DOING B
CLARKE & SURROU

★ Certified

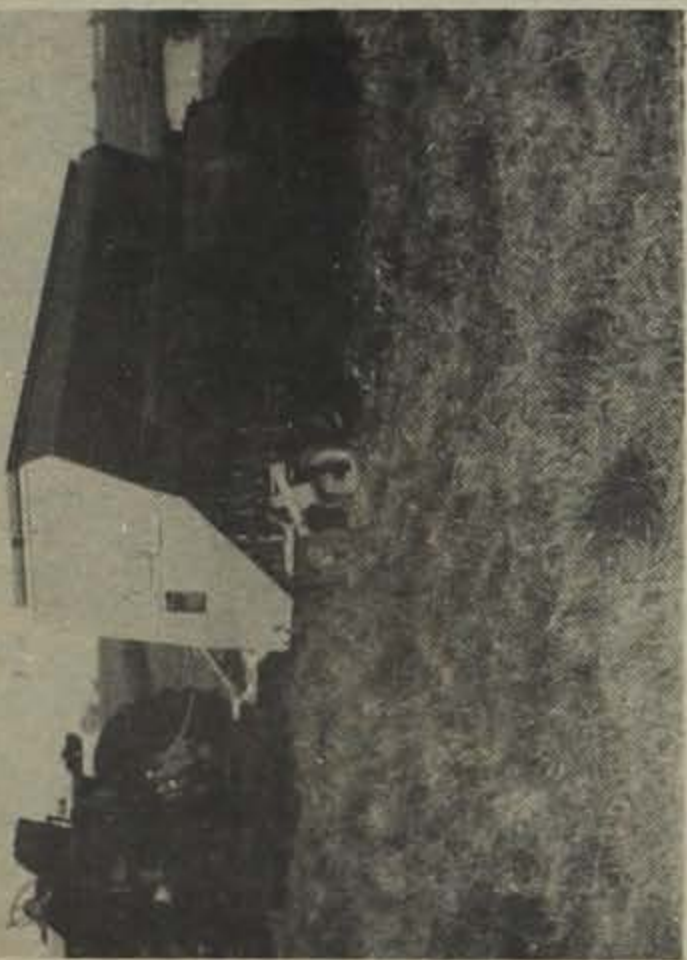
Question — Going back to the machine a little as it sits here, I thought we could go through and describe to the people some of the component parts that make the drill work. Let's start, as it passes over the ground. What is the first step as the machine puts the seed in?

Continued from Page 1

Interseeder Interview

More about—

BULKY MACHINE: And heavy, too, is the 6,100-pound empty interseeder used in drilling alfalfa seed into 40 acres of bluegrass sod on the Ed Ratashak farm in Ward Township. Picture was taken August 21.



ANY LENGTH FOR YOU!
Made, Installed On The Spot.



Aluminum baked-on enamel finish with 30 year limited warranty.

RUST FREE

Colors: white, brown, black, ivory in stock. Other colors available upon request.

MATES, Check My Prices!

Seamless Rain Gutters

RR No. 1 Woodburn, Iowa Ph: 515-342-7007

Answer — I've done about 600 of these with this

comment on that?

Question — In Soil Conservation programs we are getting a lot of interest in no-till row crop. It seems this piece of equipment would have some possible potential in narrow row soybeans going no-till. Do you want to comment on that?

Answer — In this particular situation I've done a lot of no-till soybeans, but I haven't done any wheat yet, but will be starting that soon.

Question — Today we are in a pasture situation. Do you want to tell us a little bit about what you are doing for this farmer?

Answer — It's a Haybuster Micro seeder drill, 12 foot, 6 inch spacings, used for no-till in oats, no-till in soybeans, pasture inter-seeding, no-till milo and in various stages of tillage. I haven't done any wheat yet, but will be starting that soon.

Question — John, tell us about your interseeder: Model number, where it is available and what you've used it on so far this year.

Answer — I've done a variety of things with it. I'm keeping it real busy eight months out of the year. It is truly a year around piece of equipment that I think will really "catch on" with farmers in southern Iowa. A 70-80 HP tractor is required to pull it.

Answer — I'd been looking for a drill that would cover a variety of situations for about five years. I could see a need for such a piece of equipment and last fall a neighbor of mine brought one of these in to no-till in some wheat ground. I went over and looked at it, looked at the literature, called the company and I ordered one two days later. It has a "whale" of a future in southern Iowa. Like I said, I've done a variety of things with it. I'm keeping it real busy eight months out of the year. It is truly a year around piece of equipment that I think will really "catch on" with farmers in southern Iowa. A 70-80 HP tractor is required to pull it.

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Interseeder Interview Leads Into Soil Conservation Week

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A Wayne County interseeding contractor, John Sellers, Jr. was interviewed on the Ratashak farm by Keith Edwards, Clarke County soil conservationist. Forty acres were seeded in this project. Interview follows:

Regular council meetings the month at 7:00 p.m. at Senic Special Council meetings are board.

CLARKE DEVELOPMENT

Bob Toland, Vice-President
Clayton Scott, Secretary
Kenneth Dunn, Gerald Edw Flaherty, Bob Horton, Denis Marvin, Jr., Judy Mason, Lloyd Dr. Fred Wood and Don Wuhl

"Regular Meetings at 10:00 a at Clarke Electric Co-op, open Promoting the Economic Dev

OSCEOLA PUB

300 S. Fill
Phone 34
Hours: 1:00-5:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.
Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 p.m.

SOUTH CENTRAL CHI

Dr. James A. Kinnard, P.C.
Chiropractor
Corydon, Ia. 50060, 410 Eas
Leon, Ia. 50147, P.O. Box 307,



TERRACES REDUCE EROSION: Damage to crops in the recent deluge which afflicted crops in Clarke County was reduced where farmers had installed conservation practices such as the tile intake terrace (above and below). Those without

practices such as this suffered severe silting and washing out of young plants. Terraces like these temporarily store water, later releasing it at a non-corrosive rate.

Emergency Funds Available for ASCS

Friday's rain storm caused severe damage in Clarke County. Farms suffering severe damage may be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program administered by the county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) if the damage is unusual in character and is not the type which would recur

frequently; materially affects the productive capacity of the farmland; if not treated will impair or endanger the land; and will be so costly to correct that the farmer cannot do it without Federal assistance and is truly an emergency condition for the farmer. That is, it is so severe that the farmer cannot correct it using his normal labor supply and farm equipment that is normal for the area and his other resources are such that assistance is required to restore the land.

A farmer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost-share levels not to exceed 64 percent of the cost for performing the following type of measure:

Restoring conservation structures and other similar installations. Farmers who feel the damage is sufficiently severe and their capabilities are such that assistance is necessary to correct the problem, should contact the county ASCS office and request assistance by not later than August 10, 1981, the deadline for filing requests.

The ECP is a short term program and requires that those producers participating must complete the conservation work in 1981. Practices should not be started until an "on-site" inspection of the damaged area has been made by the COC or its representative. The COC will review this inspection when considering the request for cost-share assistance.

Answer— In this particular situation we are interseeding

Interview Leads Conservation Week

Answer— I'd been looking for a drill that would cover a variety of situations for about five years. I could see a need for such a piece of equipment and last fall a neighbor of mine brought one of these in to no-till in some wheat ground. I went over and looked at it, looked at the literature, called the company and I ordered one two days later. It has a "whale" of a future in southern Iowa. Like I said, I've done a variety of things with it. I'm out of the year. It is truly a year around piece of equipment that I think will really "catch on" with farmers in southern Iowa. A 70-80 HP tractor is required to pull it.

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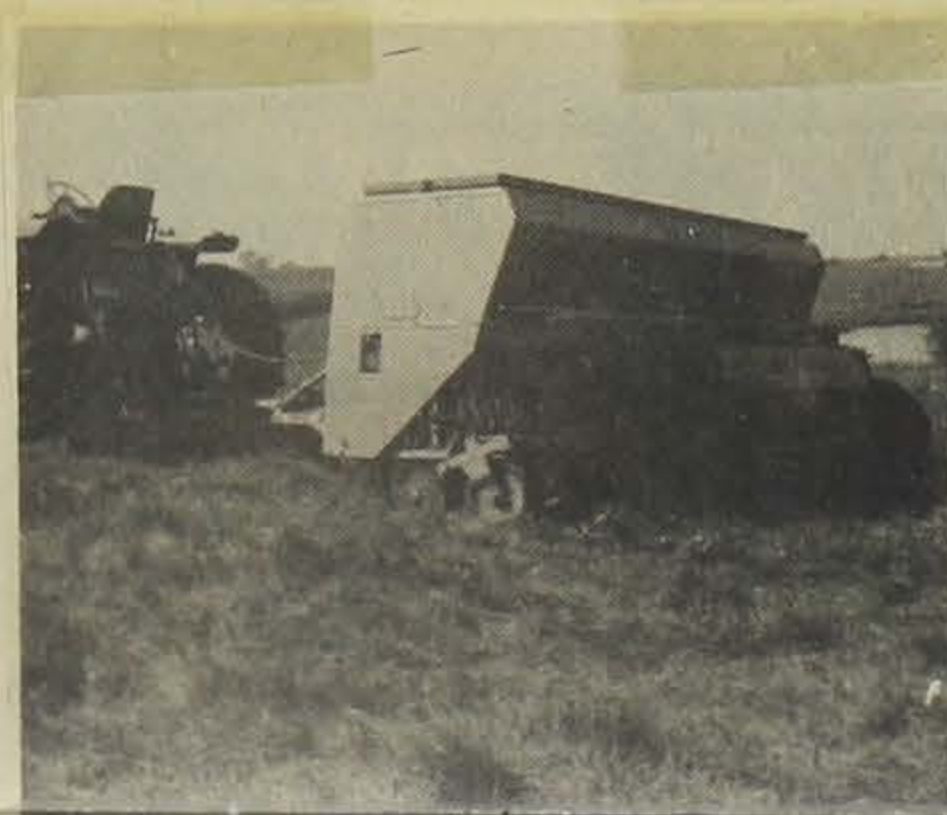
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Osceola Tribune
August 11, 1981

Osceola Tribune
July 14, 1981



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More about—

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Question— Today we are in a pasture situation. Do you want to tell us a little bit about what you are doing for this farmer?

Answer— In this particular situation we are interseeding alfalfa into Bluegrass sod. He has spread fertilizer, cut weeds off of the top and got the canopy down low. I'm coming in right behind that and interseeding the alfalfa and then when I am done he will spray Paraquat [a contact herbicide] on it and wait for a rain.

Question— John, I'm interested in how you got started in doing interseeding? What was your first contact, and what do you think of the progress so far in southern Iowa?

due to the late date of publication on Labor Day weekend, must be in by 5 p.m. Friday before the Friday night games or postmarked on Friday by that time.

Changed to Sentinel

The following week's contest entries will be published in this week's Sentinel and will permit a longer period of time for contestants to get their entries in. Watch for the following week's games in this issue of the Sentinel.

The contest entry blanks for the remainder of the football season will be published in the Sentinel.

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Answer— I've done about 300 acres of no-till soybeans with this drill this year in a variety of situations from sod that was used with Paraquat and Roundup to corn stalk ground that was no-tilled to soybeans into hail damaged wheat and harvested wheat, and they have all just come in like "gang busters". They are some of the best beans in Wayne County.

Question— So you've followed up on these fields—have you noticed any difference in erosion, comparing beans you put in no-till vs. some that were conventionally tilled or chisel plow minimum tillage?

Answer— There is no comparison this year. As you know, the rain fall we've had here in southern Iowa was really abnormal in July. There is just no comparison between the no-till and the conventional tillage. We've got very little erosion in the no-till beans, and in conventional there is sheet and rill erosion and gully erosion you wouldn't believe, especially in the northern part of Wayne County.

[Continued on Page 8]



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More about—

Interseeder Interview

[Continued from Page 1]

Question— Going back to the machine a little as it sits here, I thought we could go through and describe to the people some of the component parts that make the drill work. Let's start, as it passes over the ground. What is the first step as the machine puts the seed in?

Answer— Well, basically it is a very heavy duty, double disc opener and this penetrates through the foliage, the ground cover and cuts down into the desired depth into the ground. The seed is deposited inside these double disc cuts and then a cast iron presswheel follows this up. It is possible with this drill to get nearly 10,000 lbs. of down pressure weight on these 24 rows, so that is adequate to cut through most any ground cover that a farmer would be facing.

Question— Does it have the capability of putting on mixed species and fertilizer? Would you also comment on how is the depth adjustment on this machine?

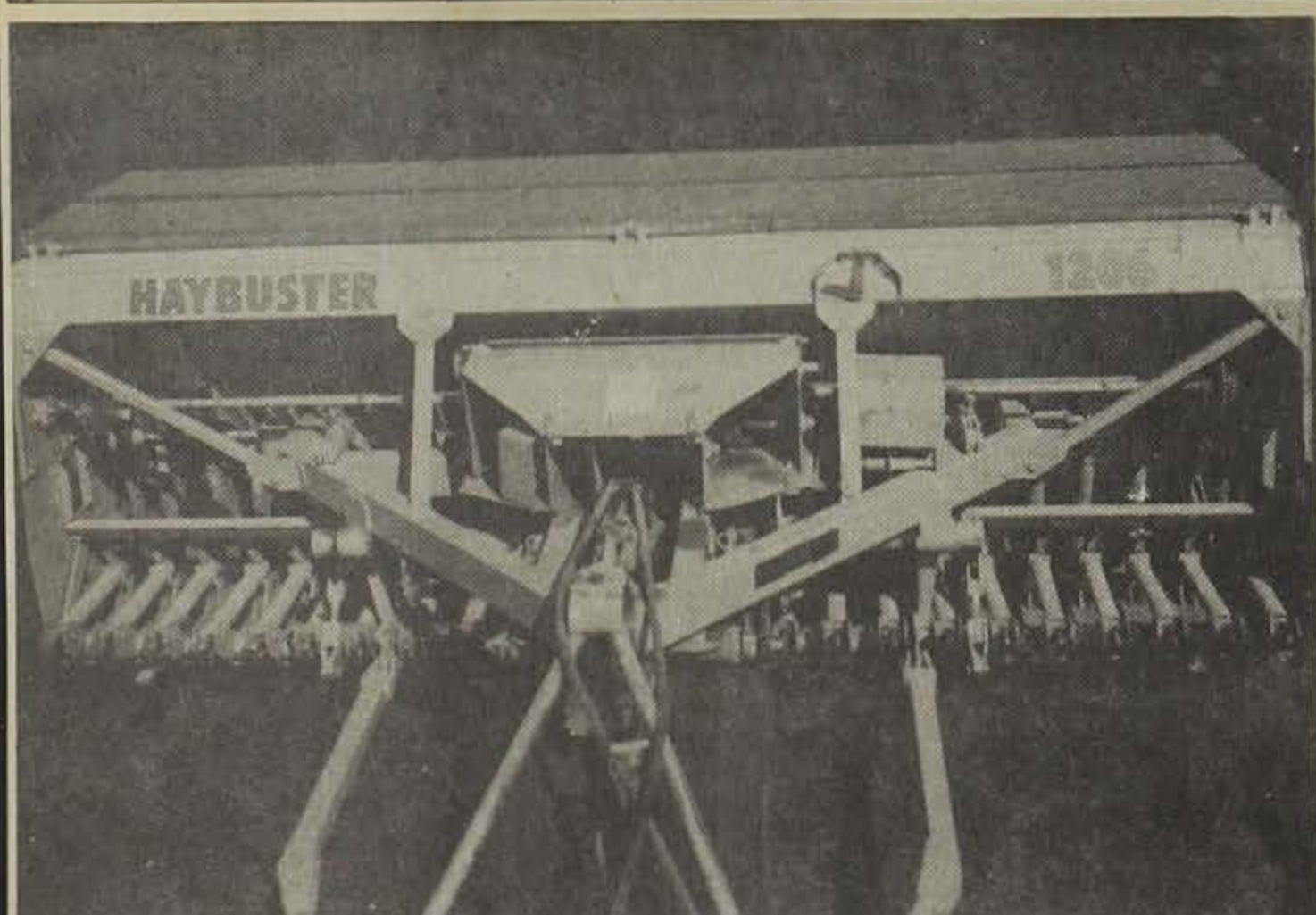
Answer— You can put fertilizer with it if you want to and as far as mixed species, there is no problem there. You just mix it up. Because of the weight of the drill—the thing weighs 6100 lbs. completely empty—it doesn't shake going down through the field, therefore, there is no separation of different densities of seed.

There are two different ways you can adjust your depth: One is with your hydraulic system—the amount of force you put on the

double disc; [two] With press wheels acting as a depth gauge adjustment. Thus you have two different ways to set your depth, according to what kind of field conditions met.

Question— Does this drill also have the possibility of interseeding warm season grasses? I know that hasn't been tried much but there are some people interested in going into sites that have steep slopes and do not want to do a tillage either with a brush disc or with a heavy disc and would like to renovate pastures and there is a lot of interest now in some summer grazing.

Answer— Yes, this thing will work for that. I did 13 acres on the south side of Stephens Forest planting Indiangrass in just this type of terrain.



24-ROW INTERSEEDER: Above 24-row seeder drill, weighing three tons empty, was used in a 40-acre interseeding project on the Ed Ratashak farm in Ward Township on August 21. Alfalfa

seed was introduced into bluegrass sod. The interseeder contractor, John Sellers, Jr. of Wayne County, is also a conservation district commissioner.

Propose New Rules for Land Disturbances

Clarke County Soil Conservation District is proposing rules for certain land disturbing activities on nonagricultural and construction sites.

A hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. on September 21, 1981 at the Clarke County Soil Conservation District Office in Osceola to receive comments from those

affected and other interested members of the public.

District commissioners will consider all comments received at the hearing prior to adopting the final version of the rules.

New Iowa law no longer requires the filing of erosion control plans for review and approval by soil conservation district commissioners.

Effective October 1, 1981, the law requires that, before land disturbing activities occur, the land disturber must sign an affidavit stating that he will comply with established soil loss limits.

Land disturbing activities are defined as land changes—clearing grading, excavating—which may result in soil erosion from wind and water. In most cases, single family residences or areas of less than 25,000 square feet are exempt.

Copies of the law and rules proposed by the soil conservation district commissioners are available for review at the Clarke County Soil Conservation District office, 820A North Main Street. Interested persons may file written comments with the district.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON RULES FOR CERTAIN LAND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES ON NONAGRICULTURAL AND CONSTRUCTION SITES CLARKE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Under authority set forth in Chapter 467A, Code of Iowa 1981 (amended by Senate File 262, 69th Iowa General Assembly, 1981 session), the commissioners of Clarke County Soil Conservation District have proposed rules for filing affidavits related to erosion control in conjunction with certain land disturbing activities on nonagricultural and construction sites.

A copy of these proposed rules may be obtained at the Clarke County Soil Conservation District Office, 820A North Main Street, Osceola, Iowa.

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held at the Clarke County Soil Conservation District Office, 820A North Main Street, Osceola, Iowa, 7:30 p.m., September 21, 1981, at which time an explanation of the proposed rules will be made and opportunity to comment on the proposed rules will be provided.

Commissioners of Clarke County Soil Conservation District
By: Richard Carson,
Chairman

*Osceola Sentinel
September 10, 1981*

Explain County, State Conservation Roles

Conservation agencies in Iowa often cooperate on joint projects because they have similar goals in conserving natural resources. But through this co-operation some confusion may exist about what each does.

Because this is Soil Conservation Week, September 13-19, it appears that now would be a good time to clear up some of this confusion; to name the agencies in Clarke County, and the people who make them run.

For example, if a farmer wants to build terraces to protect his land, he gets involved with more than one agency.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service gives technical help on where to put terraces and how to build them; while the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) or the soil conservation district provide cost-sharing funds. Soil conservation district funds come through the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

Other major agencies involved in conservation are the Iowa Conservation Commission and county conservation boards. A brief description of each of these agencies may help you keep them straight.

There are 100 local soil conservation districts in Iowa—one per county and two in Pottawattamie County. The districts set policy for local conservation projects. Each district is governed by five locally elected commissioners who serve without pay.

In Clarke County the soil conservation district commissioners are Richard Carson, chairman, and members Adrian Fuller, Phillip Henrichs and E. Lloyd Morgan. One seat on the district board is vacant because of a resignation. Assistant commissioners are Doyce Miller and Betty Webb.

Keith Edwards is the district soil conservationist, who carries out the policies of the district board of commissioners.

County conservation boards, another local agency, are established at the discretion of each county. The county board of supervisors appoints five per-

sonnel to administer the county conservation program and its staff.

County conservation boards

are authorized to levy up to one mill of property tax for acquisition, development and management of county parks, museums, wildlife areas and other natural areas.

Members of the Clarke County Conservation Board are chairman Ron Whitham, and members Frank Riley, John O'Neill, James Asmus, and Harold Bonnett. Executive and operating officer is John Klein.

Agencies

The Iowa Conservation Commission is the state agency that provides recreation areas, wildlife areas, forests and natural and cultural preserves. The commission also regulates outdoor recreation activities and helps coordinate the county conservation boards.

The Iowa Department of Soil Conservation, also at the state level, assists soil conservation districts with local resource management programs and allocates state financial incentive program funds.

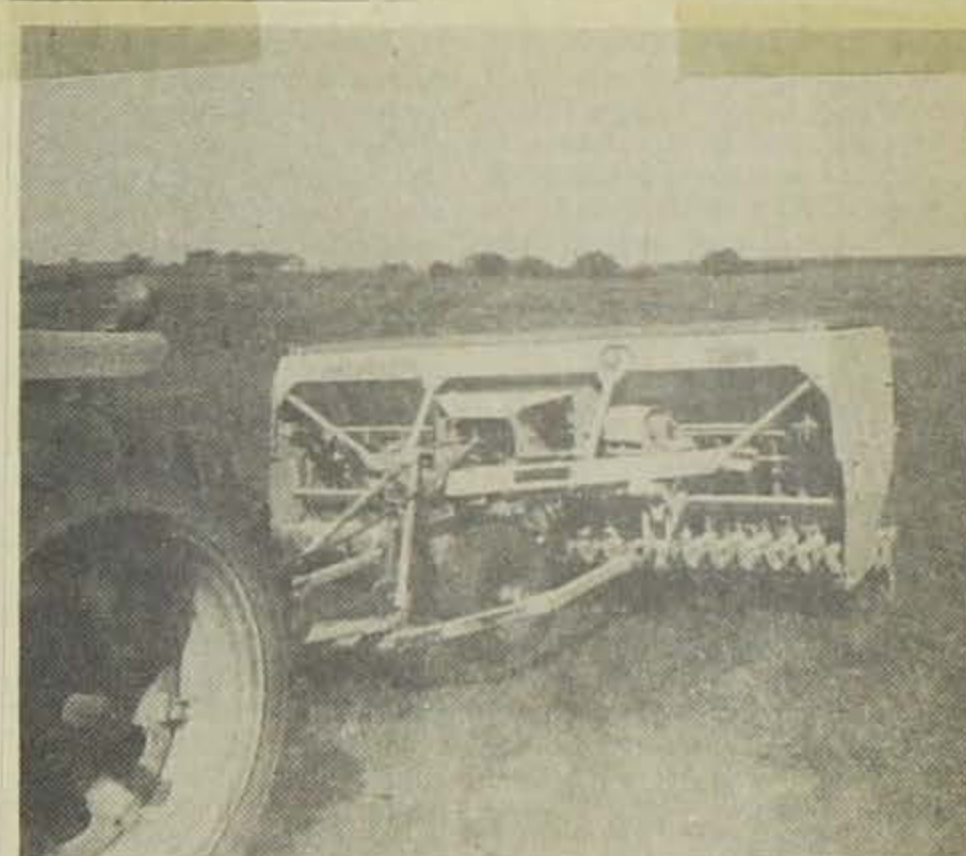
The department also administers the state's mine reclamation laws and assists conservancy districts in developing water management plans for the state's six major river basins.

On the federal level, the USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service administers most of the cost-sharing programs for soil conservation.

These include federal funds for a basic cost-sharing program with farmers, forestry incentives, emergency conservation funds and special projects. Other programs include loans and price supports, crop disaster relief, rural clean water and production adjustment.

ASCS is guided at the county level by locally elected, three-member county committees. Members of the Clarke County Committee are: Billie Chase, chairman, and members John T. O'Neill and Merrill McCarty.

Another USDA agency is the Soil Conservation Service. SCS provides technical assistance to land owners and operators applying soil conservation practices. This agency is responsible for developing soil surveys, monitoring soil and water resources and flood prevention programs. SCS personnel work through the soil conservation districts.



INTERSEEDER SIDE VIEW: Side view of the interseeder drill used in a 40-acre project on the Ed Ratashak farm on August 21, when alfalfa was interseeded into bluegrass sod.

*Osceola Tribune
September 15, 1981*

Emphasize Conservation Needs During Week

Changing weather patterns point out the need for effective soil and water conservation efforts on a year-round basis, and district soil conservationist Keith Edwards cites the 1981 cropping season as an example.

An open winter and warm, dry spring caused heavy wind erosion in Iowa, especially on fields that had been fall-tilled with a moldboard plow. Dry soil conditions worsened when excessive pre-plant tillage caused scarce soil moisture to be lost through evaporation.

In late spring and early summer, intense rainstorms caused excessive runoff and soil erosion on many corn and soybean fields. Many fields required replanting—some more than once.

Soil erosion occurs when soil is not protected from the forces of blowing wind, raindrop impact and flowing runoff water. On unprotected soils, erosion is a problem between harvest and the following spring until a crop canopy is established in early summer.

The critical period for wind erosion is during March and April when Iowa has its highest winds.

Water erosion is critical between and mid-April and mid-July. Two-thirds of Iowa's water erosion occurs during this period, with more than half occurring in June. This means that much erosion can occur after planting.

An effective means of minimizing excessive soil erosion is with conservation tillage. Edwards said conservation tillage is essentially a residue management system that leaves a mulch of crop residue on the surface. The effectiveness of conservation tillage in reducing erosion hazards is determined by the distribution and quantity of residue on the soil surface during critical periods.

Some Iowa farmers have adopted conservation tillage systems to protect the soil. Some

do no fall tillage; others substitute chisel plowing or disking for the moldboard plow to leave about half the residue on the soil surface after fall tillage following corn.

In either case erosion-control benefits of crop residue can be further maintained by planting with a slot or no-till planter, or with light tillage before planting.

Erosion control starts in the fall. Edwards said following soybeans absolutely no fall tillage should be done. In the spring slot or no-till planting can be done directly into bean stubble, or, light spring tillage just prior to conventional planting can be done with a field cultivator or disk.

After corn consider delaying all tillage until spring, Edwards suggests. This is especially recommended for soils high in silt and sand, and low in organic matter. In the spring slot or no-till plant directly into residue, or till lightly with a straight shank chisel plow, disk or field cultivator prior to planting.

On heavily textured, poorly drained fields where fall tillage is necessary, use a chisel plow or disk instead of a moldboard plow. Edwards said these implements loosen the soil and leave at least half the cornstalks on the surface for erosion control. Tillage should be done on the contour or at least across the dominant slope. Keep spring tillage to a minimum—one or two passes with a field cultivator or light disking before planting.

In most instances yields from

county. The county board of supervisors appoints five persons to oversee the operation of the county conservation program and its staff.

County conservation boards

developing soil surveys, monitoring soil and water resources and

flood prevention programs. SCS personnel work through the soil conservation districts.

conservation tillage are comparable to those from conventional tillage. Exceptions can occur on heavily textured, poorly drained fields where high amounts of crop residue retard early crop growth because of colder and wetter conditions than a bare soil surface.

As with conventional tillage good stands and effective pest control are required with conservation tillage for maximum yields. Equipment, techniques and materials are available today to deal with these concerns in a residue environment, the specialist said.

"Conservation tillage is the single most effective and least costly means of reducing soil erosion," according to Edwards. A growing number of Iowa farmers are discovering that it can be adapted to a broad range of soils and slopes. Conservation tillage alone on level to gently sloping ground can keep erosion losses within acceptable limits. On steeper soils the use of conservation tillage in combination with other soil conservation practices is necessary.

Conservation tillage requires high level management and greater attention to detail. But the benefits of reduced soil and water losses, fuel consumption, labor, field time and more timely planting greatly outweigh the increased management requirements.



COREY AND THE DUKES: Corey Quayle and his friends Bo and Luke [Dukes of Hazzard] inspect a wild mushroom he found during the third graders September 14 tour of Redfern Timber Reserve. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rick Quayle of Weldon.

113 Third Graders Take Redfern Timber Field Trip

One hundred and thirteen third graders from the Clarke and Murray school districts took part in a nature field trip to the Redfern Timber Reserve, south of Osceola, on Monday, September 14.

After a tour of the area, the children, their teachers and adult leaders split up into smaller groups and took part in four planned activities.

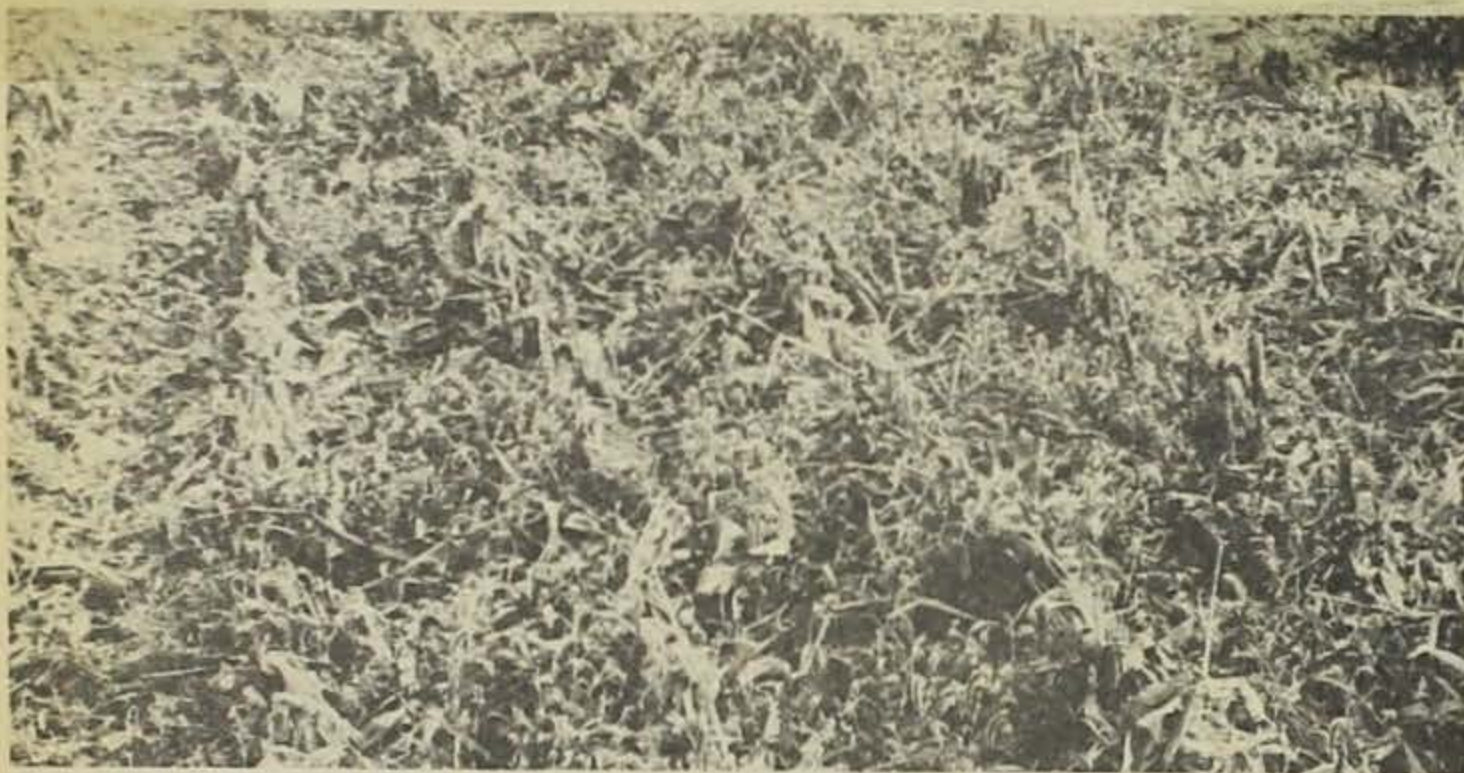
These included a five senses hike, when the children inspected objects visually, and by touch, taste and feel; a seed

dispersion game, where youngsters learned how seeds were

dispersed. The children also learned about the importance of the forest and the role of the forest in the environment. The trip was a great success and the children enjoyed every minute of it.

Osceola Sentinel
September 17, 1981

Osceola Tribune
September 22, 1981



DON'T PLOW THIS NOW! Keith Edwards, district soil conservationist says "Don't plow newly harvested corn fields this fall," and this picture taken at the Vallee Halvorsen farm south of Osceola shows why. Crop residue like this left for spring plowing provides three principal

benefits—[1] It prevents field erosion by wind and water; [2] It helps retain moisture from rain and snow, and slows evaporation of sub-soil moisture; and, [3] It provides a necessary wildlife habitat.

Clarke Farmers Increase No-Till Operations 450 Pct.

This year Clarke county no-till farming operations increased 450 percent over last year, with 50 different farmers taking part in 1981 as compared with only nine in 1980.

Planted acres went up in about the same proportion, to a total of 2,200 in 1981, or about two percent of the county's cropland.

Across the fourteen counties of south and southwestern Iowa, stretching from Monroe and Appanoose to the Missouri River, the number of reporting farmers increased from 139 to 375—an increase of about 175 percent.

The following were entered in Clarke County records this past week by Clerk Frances Winship. Deaths: Floyd William McComas, 85, Osceola, September 5; Eva May Glenn, 82, Osceola, September 12.

VIOLATIONS

Lucinda Miner, Van Wert, theft in the fifth degree, five counts, restitution.

crop—with substantially less erosion.

"Over the long haul, this means that no-till farming will give greater yields for the same investment, because the land will not require so much added nutrient to make up for that lost in erosion.

"After seeing the erosion damage caused by this early summer's destructive rains, I can't help but believe the number of no-till operations in the county next year will increase as dramatically as they did this year—possibly even more.

"Instead of gearing up for fall plowing, gear up for no-tillage next spring and save soil, toil and oil," he said.

Osceola Tribune
September 22, 1981



BETH'S GROUP: Beth Brown of Osceola, upper right, and the group of Weldon third graders she guided during the September 14 tour of Redfern Timber Reserve. Top row, from left, Stacy Duff, Tanya Reynolds and Jennifer Gilbert. Middle row, from left, Kim Collins, Donna Akins and Vicki Miler. Bottom row, from left, Shawn Wade, Greg Bassett and Marty Hitt.

Osceola Sentinel
September 24, 1981



FOR RENT—3 bedroom home, newly decorated, not more than 2 children, no pets, refer-
ence 612 S. Main. \$200.00. a
s-38*

For Sale



EVERYTHING IS INTERESTING: Adult leaders Beth Brown, Melvin Goeldner and John Klein watch as third grade kids find something

interesting on the ground during the Redfern Timber tour September 14.

Sixth Graders Enjoy Nature Day Program

Clarke County sixth grade students enjoyed a beautiful day of outdoor experience and conservation education Monday, September 21.

A nature day was planned by the Clarke County Conservation Board to give students the basics of practical conservation. Professionals in conservation fields provided the teaching.

Keith Edwards of the soil conservation service spoke on

soils and soil protection. Melvin Moe, wildlife biologist, explained habitat and wildlife. Steve Swinonos, District Forester, told of tree growth and wood utilization.

Melvin Goeldner, former extension agent and historian, spoke on land use history in Clarke County. John Klein, County Conservation Director, explained energy flow in a forest and plant ecology.

Larry Mitzner, fisheries biologist, spoke on fish population management. Other local citizens helped during the day also. Betty Eis, Beth Brown and Adrian Fuller assisted in teaching the forest ecology session.

The nature day was held at Goeldner's Patch south of Osceola. Each class moved around the pond on the patch in the course of a teaching session. This gave the students first hand experience in seeing the conservation practices at work.

One hundred and thirty, sixth graders attended, four classes from Osceola, one from Weldon and one from Murray. This has been the third year that a sixth grade Nature Day has been held at Goeldner's Patch.

*Osceola Tribune
September 29, 1981*

*Osceola Sentinel
September 24, 1981*



AQUATIC LIFE: Learning about aquatic life from John Klein, county conservation officer, are Clarke third graders. Over 110 children took part

in the September 14 Redfern Timber tour activities.

*Osceola Sentinel
October 1, 1981*



CROWN VETCH THRIVES: Crown vetch at the Wendell Christensen farm south of Osceola—now in its second year—thrives beneath the canopy of

unharvested corn. This is the second year of a test project at the Christensen farm, employing no-till practices and crown vetch companion crop.

Osceola Sentinel
October 1, 1981

Editorially Speaking—

A Tax Credit For Conservation

Soil conservation problems are neither new nor uncontrollable. The problems have been officially recognized by the federal government for nearly 50 years. Extensive federal, state, local and private efforts have produced significant results in managing erosion problem.

But the problem is still not solved. We still need to target our soil conservation dollars. Currently, less than five percent of the federal conservation budget goes for installation of erosion-control practices on cropland with an erosion problem. We must do better.

An investment in conservation practices must be considered a long-term investment. It may have a 15-year payback period. But without such investments, USDA says we face a 50-year decline in production potential of 13 to 23 percent.

Now there are a lot of farmers willing to make the investments for conservation. But many of them also need some financial assistance. And financial assistance from the federal government is frequently not available because of a lack of funds. But even when cost-sharing funds are available, they only produce \$2 of conservation for each federal dollar spent.

What is needed is a 10 percent investment tax credit for private landowners and operators. The credit could be applied when they invest their own money in installing and maintaining conservation practices on their land. Then each dollar of federal tax not paid would reflect \$10 of conservation—a five-fold increase in purchasing power of federal conservation efforts.

—Mike Harris

Osceola Sentinel
November 5, 1981

Tree Seedling Applications Soon to Be Available

Because of the demand for tree seedlings from the State Tree Nursery, the annual rush to get a completed order is soon to begin. Orders are not taken until the forms come out next week. But now is the time to formulate in

your mind and on paper where you want to plant trees, how many trees to order, and what species to plant. The trees will be shipped in early April.

As soon as the forms are available, the Clarke County Conservation Board will place them on the conservation pamphlet display in the courthouse in Osceola. Forms will also be available from the Soil Conservation and Extension Offices.

The State Nursery handles hundreds of thousands of tree seedlings. But the demand for some species is so great that some types are sold out within a week after the forms come out. For this reason it is wise to have your order planned and prepared so it may be sent in as soon as the order forms are available.

Anyone seeking help in planning for the tree order should contact the Soil Conservation Office or the County Conservation Board Office, or Area Foresters. Our Area Foresters are Duane Bedford in Chariton and Steve Swinonos in Creston.

Osceola Tribune
November 17, 1981

May Terminate

White Breast Plan

The National Soil Conservation Service office in Washington, D.C. has announced a list of 135 watershed projects on which planning authorizations will be terminated on January 4, 1982.

William J. Brune, State Conservationist, Iowa, has confirmed that planning activities in the 64,400 acre White Breast Creek will be terminated unless a one year extension is sought to include rationale for the extension and a time schedule for carrying the plan into interagency review.

Osceola Sentinel
December 17, 1981

Seedling Seminar Set For Monday, Nov. 30

"Do you plan to plant a windbreak next spring?" asked John Klein, County Conservation Director. "Do you want your woodlot to last forever? Do you like to have abundant wildlife around your farm? Do you have an erosion problem spot that needs special attention?"

If yes, is the answer to any of these questions, then a person may want to consider improving

land with trees by planting tree seedlings this coming spring. Now is the time to plan what to do. A variety of trees are available from private nursery companies and the State Tree Nursery in Ames.

To help in improving land by planting trees, a meeting has been set up to get landowners and experts in trees, soils and wildlife habitat together.

This tree seedling seminar will be held Monday, November 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the Clarke County Conservation Board office in East Lake Park, one mile east of Osceola on the north side of Highway 34.

Duane Bedford, State Forester for Stephens State Forest, will be available to answer questions on which trees to plant and how to improve your existing timber stands.

Keith Edwards, Soil Conservationist, will answer questions on soil erosion by wind and water and how tree plantings can prevent it.

John Klein, County Conservation Director, will address questions on wildlife habitat for food, nesting, and cover, and answer questions on windbreak plantings for farmsteads.

Everyone is invited to this seminar. It is sponsored by the Clarke County Conservation Board to provide conservation education and to improve the quality of the environment.

Osceola Sentinel
November 19, 1981

Tree Seedling Forms Available Now

The order forms for tree seedlings are available at the Soil Conservation office, County Conservation office, Extension office, or the conservation pamphlet display from the state forest nursery should pick up the order forms and send in their order as soon as possible.

Some new species of trees and shrubs have been added to the list of available plants this year. These include hard maple, red oak, or mixed oaks, and common lilac. These new species are few in number and probably will sell out fast.

The usual selection of tree and shrub species is available this year. These include various pines, oaks, ashes, honeysuckles and other varieties.

Prices have increased this year. Black Walnut and the pines are \$5.80 per hundred trees. Everything else is \$5.30 per hundred. Information about the trees and spacing requirements are on the order form. Planting instructions will come with the plants in April. Plants are usually shipped by U.P.S.

A meeting on tree planting and general forestry will be held on November 30 at the County Conservation Board headquarters at East Lake Park. It will begin at 7:30 p.m. Anyone wishing more information before that time should contact the County Conservation Board office at East Lake.

Osceola Tribune
November 24, 1981

Soil Clinic Is Scheduled

Corn and soybean production and soil erosion control, two opposites? Not necessarily says Keith Edwards, District Conservationist and Alan Teel, County Extension Director.

Those two topics will be discussed at length on Thursday, January 7 starting at 10 a.m. at the Eagles building in Osceola. To preserve the productivity of soil resources in the United States, farmers must reduce soil loss. To preserve farm units, farmers must produce grain crops. The meshing of these two ideas will be the program for this year's No-Till Crop Clinic.

Chet Randolph, well known IPBN TV personality and ag economist, will be the noon speaker. Those wishing to hear Randolph must purchase a noon meal ticket on or before January 5 at either the SCS office or the Extension office.

No-till machinery, chemicals and seed dealers will have displays



BUILDING TERRACES: The dozer moves dirt on the R.J. Kirkpatrick farm, located west of Osceola in Ward Township. The tile outlet terraces are being constructed as part of a federally funded project sponsored by the Clarke County Soil Conservation District and the Clarke County Water Board. Keith Edwards, overseeing the project known as the West Lake Quality Management reporting it to be different for this

area, in that it protects the water resource as well as the land. Funding for the program is \$240,000, 75 percent cost shared federal resource conservation development money. The project set up on a three year completion date, is scheduled to protect 100 acres, reducing sediment loads and improving the water clarity and fish populations in West Lake. To date, 7,000 feet have been staked for construction.

*Osceola Sentinel
December 24, 1981*

*Osceola Sentinel
December 24, 1981*

Conservation Office Plan Open House

Clarke County Soil Conservation District will kick off the 1982 state cost-share program with an open house January 4-6, at the SCS office, 820A North Main Street, Osceola.

Iowa Financial Incentives Program cost-share applications will be taken for permanent soil conservation work to be started after July 1, 1982 when funds become available.

The commissioners and staff invite farmers to come in and visit and to plan your 1982 conservation work.

Plan Termination of Watershed Projects

William J. Brune, Iowa State Conservationist, announced that planning activities in the 64,400 acre White Breast Creek will be terminated unless a one year extension is sought to include rational for the extension and time schedule for carrying the plan into interagency review.

The White Breast Creek project is one of 135 watershed projects which will be terminated on January 4, 1982.

*Osceola Tribune
December 29, 1981*

NO-TILL CROP CLINIC January 7, 1982

10:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Eagles Club in Osceola

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

Our Soil Erosion Problems
Sprayer Requirements for No-Till
Soil and Crop Management to Control Erosion
Weed and Insect Control

NOON SPEAKER:

Chet Randolph from IPBN Farm Economic Programs Clayton Brokerage

Noon Meal tickets **MUST** be purchased in advance from the Extension Office or SCS Office at \$3.75 each by January 5.

Plan to Attend—January 7

For more information call SCS office 342-2917

Extension Office 342-3316

*Osceola Tribune
January 5, 1982*



NO-TILL CROP CLINIC

January 7, 1982

10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Eagles Club in Osceola

Topics to be discussed:

Our Soil Erosion Problems
Sprayer Requirements for No-Till
Soil and Crop Management to Control Erosion
Weed and Insect Control

Noon Speaker:

Chet Randolph from IPBN Farm Economic Programs and Clayton Brokerage

Noon meal tickets MUST be purchased in advance from the Extension Office or SCS Office at \$3.75 each by January 5.

Displays by chemical, machinery and seed companies.

Plan to Attend -- January 7

For more information call SCS office. 342-2917 - Extension office 342-3316

The Advertiser
January 4, 1982

Soil Conservation

Soil—productive soil—is the lifeblood of Iowa's agriculture. The state's farmers protect their soil as best they can. Farmers realize that without adequate, well-preserved topsoil, they have no effective way to produce crops. Without crops they cannot support families, feed livestock, or feed the consumers throughout the nation and the world.

Farmers are the stewards of the soil. They are charged with the trust of future generations whose livelihood will be dependent on the way agricultural cropland is managed today.

Our farmers have demonstrated their willingness to participate voluntarily in programs designed by the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

For long-range soil conservation practices to succeed, though, farmers are going to need some help. Help from incentive programs such as cost-sharing payments and tax reductions through

investment credits. Such incentives provide the maximum return on tax dollars because they are used for on-farm practices and not on expensive governmental planning efforts.

Yes, the primary responsibility for wise land management does rest with those who own and operate the land. But the general public also has a vested interest in assistance and support to conservation efforts.

That's why to really be effective with their own conservation efforts Iowa farmers need to see the results of educational studies on practices like minimum tillage. They need to know the results of research on the best management practices for soil conservation that has been localized to soil type, climate and topography.

And when farmers install permanent soil conservation structures, structures like terraces, they need tax credits and investment credits.

—Mike Harris

No-Till Show

Slated Jan. 30

Speakers for the Southern Iowa No-Till Show to be held at Southwestern Community College in Creston January 30, were announced this week by Roger Schnoor, show committee chairman.

In the morning, beginning at 9:15, there will be five speakers discussing weed and insect control, fertilization and sprayer operation. Included are Rod Beeler with United Suppliers of Truro; Steve Young, commercial sprayer from Monroe County; Wendell Saunders with Delavan Corporation of Des Moines; Dave Mick with Lavery Sprayers of Indianola; and Dave Foster, Extension Entomologist with Iowa State University.

The afternoon program begins at 1:15 with three area farmers discussing their no-till operations. They are Deane McCunn and Bob Cerven of Montgomery County and Jerry Hall of Decatur County.

Lunch will be available over the noon hour. Tickets must be purchased before January 25, and can be obtained from either S.C.S. Office or the County Extension Office in Adair, Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Ringgold, Taylor or Union Counties, or at the R.C.&D. or Area Extension Offices in Creston.

Commercial exhibits and educational displays will be included in the show, according to Schnoor.

The show is sponsored by the Southern Iowa Conservation Tillage Committee, Iowa State University Extension Service, Soil Conservation Districts and U.S.D.A. agencies are cooperating in developing the show.

White Breast

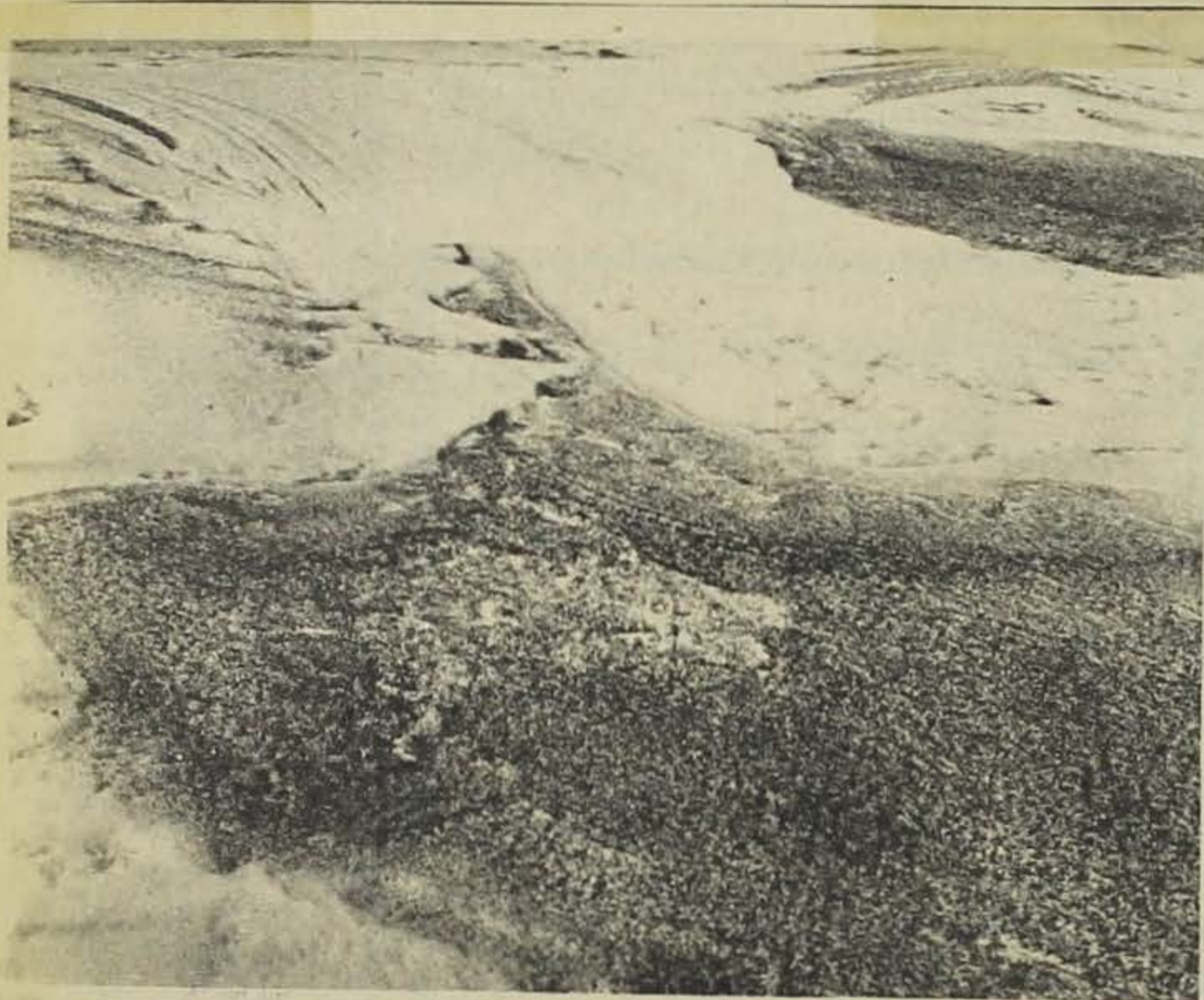
Meet Called

The Soil Conservation Service will present a summary of the planning on White Breast Creek Watershed at a public meeting to be held Thursday, January 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the ASCS Office, 822 North Main Street, Osceola.

Don Short, Chairman of the Watershed Directors, says the meeting is being called in response to a notice by Soil Conservation Service officials that planning on White Breast Creek will be terminated unless just cause can be given for an extension.

Keith Edwards, District Conservationist for Clarke County Soil Conservation District, says that Jim Reel, Soil Conservation Service planning in Des Moines, will present the summary.

Osceola Sentinel
January 14, 1982



TOP SOIL: Even with the glaze of ice that covers much of southern Iowa, strong winds continue to blow topsoil from fall plowed fields onto snow

drifts. The above picture, taken southwest of Osceola, shows some of the results as it blackens snow along the right-of-way.

Osceola Tribune
February 2, 1982



A planning authorization was approved for the White Breast Creek Watershed project through Public Law 566 on August 4, 1971.

Thirty-six different alternatives were evaluated. No economically feasible alternative was determined. Therefore, planning authorization for the White Breast Creek Watershed is hereby terminated.

Local sponsors for the White Breast Creek project were the Clarke County Soil Conservation Board, Lucas County Soil Conservation District and the Lucas County Board of Supervisors. William J. Brune, SCS, 693 Federal Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

Osceola Tribune
February 9, 1982

State 'First' Attempted —

Seeder Available to Farmers

"As far as I know, Clarke County is the first in Iowa to come up with an arrangement such as this," said Alan Teel, County Extension Director.

Teel was referring to the three-way working agreement between the Clarke County Con-

servation Board, the Soil Conservation District and the County Extension office to make available to county farmers a Haybuster Micro Seeder. The piece of equipment was purchased to improve pastures in the county by providing a piece

of equipment that is especially built for seeding in no-till, minimum till or conventional pasture seeding situations.

Purchase of the seeder was made possible by a grant from the Iowa Conservation Commission in the amount of \$7,500 through monies made available through sales of the Wildlife Habitat stamps. The seeder, that sells for \$9,100, will have the balance of the price made up by renting it to farmers in the county who have need of a drill that is versatile and heavy duty.

The Conservation Board plans to use the seeder to plant wildlife areas with warm season grasses to aid in providing cover for hatching and wildlife.

Scheduling of the planter will be done through the Soil Conservation office. A charge of \$6 per acre of seeding will be made with the fee charged to go toward repayment of the initial cost of the piece of equipment. Any monies made in excess of this will be used for educational purposes. Promotion of the seeder will be done through the Extension office.



ON DISPLAY: The Haybuster Micro Seeder was on display this week by the Clarke County Conservation Board. The unit may be rented by county farmers for seeding operations.

Osceola Sentinel
March 18, 1982

Name Adrian Fuller New SICOOG President

Adrian Fuller of rural Osceola, was elected to serve as President of the Southern Iowa Council on Governments, at their annual meeting, held Tuesday, March 16

in Clearfield. SICOOG represents a seven county area in Southern Iowa, with the purpose of preparing information for community project grant funds for the communities it serves. Included in the seven counties are: Adair, Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Ringgold, Taylor and Union.

The annual meeting, their tenth anniversary, was attended by over 65 persons from the seven counties. Rollin Swank, of the Soil Conservation Service was the guest speaker.

Clarke County Board Proceedings

Osceola, Iowa March 8, 1982
The Board of Supervisors of Clarke County, Iowa met pursuant to law, the rules of said Board and to adjournment. Members present: Leonard Siefkas, Floyd E. Mason and Leland Hunt.

FARM TO MARKET RESOLUTION
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Clarke County, Iowa on this 12th day February, 1982, initiates and recommends that the following projects be approved by the Iowa Department of Transportation for improvement with Farm to Market Funds. Be it further resolved that this resolution becomes void if no work, using Farm to Market funds, is initiated within five years of the above date.

Item No.	F.M. Rt. No.	Project Number	Type of work and Location of Project	Estimated Cost	Length
1	H-48	FM-20(3)	Engineering, Bridge located at the NW Cor. SW 1/4 SW 1/4 Sec. 22-71-25	\$52,790.00	42.5'
2	H-28	FM-20(4)	Engineering, Bridge	\$41,500.00	32'

seed a 12-foot wide swath and is heavy enough to be used in all types of situations. A towing package is part of the unit for easy transporting from farm to farm.

"We foresee a lot of usage for it, even in August and September where it can possibly be used for seeding rye in places where silage has been cut," he said.

"We invite area farmers to attend a meeting on it which will be held at the 4-H building on Thursday, March 25. The session will start at 1 p.m. and Steve Barnhart, pasture specialist from Iowa State University, will be present to answer questions," Teel said.

Name Adrian Fuller New SICOG President

Adrian Fuller of rural Osceola, was elected to serve as President of the Southern Iowa Council on Governments, at their annual meeting, held Tuesday, March 16



Adrian Fuller

Osceola Tribune
March 23, 1982

in Clearfield.

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The annual meeting, their tenth anniversary, was attended by over 65 persons from the seven counties. Rollin Swank, of the Soil Conservation Service was the guest speaker, talking on the formation of SICOG in 1971.

Other elected officers to the SICOG Executive Board were: Vice President Robert Brunch of Decatur County, Secretary Dean Davis of Adams County and Treasurer Dale Jurgens of Taylor County.

In each county, there is a steering committee, made up of elected officials in both county and city governments. Clarke County Steering Committee is made up of Chairman Adrian Fuller, Vice Chairman Lyle Persels, and members Bob Wright, Leonard Siefkas, Walter Johnson, Clayton Scott and Tom O'Neill.

In Clarke County last year, SICOG was responsible for getting an EDA grant to raise the dam on East Lake and grants for the terrace project above the West Lake Watershed.

This year, according to Fuller, the number one priority of the Clarke County Steering Committee, will be to up-date the Clarke County Comprehensive Plan.

SICOG is in the process of helping five communities in Decatur County with a waste water project. Prior to this year, grants had to go through the Housing and Urban Development program, however this year, grants must be approved through OPP, and they, are in the process of reorganizing the rules and criteria for community grants. SICOG should know more about the criteria in May of this year.

Clarke County Board Proceedings

Osceola, Iowa

March 8, 1982

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FARM TO MARKET RESOLUTION

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2	H-28	FM-20(4)	Engineering, Bridge located at the NW Cor. SW 1/4 NW 1/4 Sec. 3-72-25	\$41,500.00	32'
3	H-28	FM-20(5)	Engineering, Bridge located at NW Cor. SW 1/4 SE 1/4 Sec. 34-73-25	\$42,500.00	32'

Leland Hunt offered and moved the adoption of the resolution, seconded by Floyd E. Mason. Upon roll call the vote was: "Ayes": Leland Hunt, Floyd E. Mason and Leonard Siefkas. "Nays": None.

Leonard Siefkas, Chairman I, Emil L. Rinderspacher, Auditor in and for Clarke County, Iowa do hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a true and exact copy of a resolution passed and approved by the Board of Supervisors of Clarke County, Iowa at its meeting on February 12, 1982.

Auditor: Emil L. Rinderspacher

REVENUE SHARING HEARING

The Revenue Sharing hearing convened at 10:00 A.M. February 17, 1982, in the Supervisor's room, Clarke County Courthouse. Board members present: Leonard Siefkas, Chairman; Leland Hunt and Floyd E. Mason.

Leonard Siefkas announced to those in attendance that the Revenue Sharing money for the fiscal year 1982-83 was \$127,174.00.

Richard Carson and Adrian Fuller requested funds to help support the soil conservation programs, namely to hire two soil conservation technician aides to help farmers apply soil conservation practices.

Discussion followed after which Leonard Siefkas adjourned the meeting.

Signed this 17th day of February, 1982.

Attest: Emil L. Rinderspacher
(Clarke Co. Auditor)

Chairman: Leonard Siefkas
(Bd. of Supervisors)

Osceola Sentinel
March 25, 1982

... through the Extension office.
seed a 12-100t wide swath and is heavy enough to be used in all types of situations. A towing package is part of the unit for easy transporting from farm to farm.

"We foresee a lot of usage for it, even in August and September where it can possibly be used for seeding rye in places where silage has been cut," he said.

"We invite area farmers to attend a meeting on it which will be held at the 4-H building on Thursday, March 25. The session will start at 1 p.m. and Steve Barnhart, pasture specialist from Iowa State University, will be present to answer questions," Teel said.

Editorially Speaking—

A Bit of Tomorrow

During the next few weeks huge billowing clouds of dust will be seen swirling through the air. Underneath, tractors will be crisscrossing fields tilling the soil.

Urban newspapers will publish stories pointing out that enough land is being lost each year through erosion and conversion to feed, clothe and provide lumber annually for more than 850,000 people, that's more than twice the number living in the greater Des Moines area.

The emotion-filled stories will leave impressions in urban dwellers' minds that farmers are poor stewards of the soil. Such stories will be printed in newspapers and shown on television and people will believe.

During the past 18 months almost every major U.S. newspaper has prominently featured stories about soil conservation problems. Newspapers like the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington Post and Chicago Tribune.

In a Los Angeles Times editorial last July it was noted that grad-

ually we are doing to ourselves what no external enemy has ever been able to achieve. The editorial concluded that the wasting of our land is as much a threat to America as any foreign army or ideology.

City folks are getting worried about the soil loss in the country. They are worried about their future abilities to obtain food in their supermarkets. And they are starting to form pressure groups to lobby in Congress for nationwide soil conservation laws.

Here in Iowa more than half of our 21 million acres devoted to corn and soybeans were planted through crop residue on top of the soil. That's good. But there is still more land that can be planted without using the mold board plow.

Farmers must voluntarily practice soil erosion control measures or there are many people who would have such practices mandated.

It is not just soil that is washing or blowing away, it is a bit of tomorrow.

IOWA: SOIL-LOSS LEADER

More and more people are becoming aware of the fact that American's farmland is being threatened by erosion, and that something needs to be done quickly if this invaluable resource is to be protected. What many Iowans might not know, however, is that the state actually leads the nation in total soil erosion losses.

That unpleasant fact was pointed out in a recent news release by Robert Wemer, assistant soil commissioner for Poweshiek County. Current soil loss averages at least 10 tons per acre per year in Iowa, more than twice the rate of new soil being formed.

To say that this is a dangerous situation is an understatement. Topsoil loss greatly reduced the productivity of land. And, as erosion continues, the length of time for land to recover its original productivity increases and the problems of feeding so many become almost insurmountable, all measures to preserve the productivity of crop-producing land must be taken.

According to Wemer, options available for erosion control include continuous pasture, crop

rotation, contouring, terrace construction and the most obvious, conservation tillage, which is the most economical and lasting solution.

"If used to its fullest potential, it would most likely bring soil losses below the break-even of five tons per acre per year on most land," Wemer said. Conservation tillage allows farmers to avoid the practice of plowing twice a year. As Wemer pointed out, the practice can be used immediately and at little or no additional cost.

Moreover, crop yields are usually equal to or higher than they are with conventional tillage. And the technique reduces machinery investment and operating costs. With all these advantages, it is no surprise that more farmers are moving away from tillage. It is a practice that makes sense both immediately and in the long term. Given the urgency of the world's hunger problem and food shortage, advice to employ reduced tillage or no-tillage methods should be taken to heart—if Iowa is to remain the breadbasket of the world.

—Grinnell Herald-Register

Osceola Sentinel
April 22, 1982

Osceola Sentinel
May 20, 1982

Fuller, Yuva To Kentucky

Adrian Fuller of Osceola, chairman of the Southern Iowa Council of Governments executive Board and Gary Yuva, SICOG Director from Creston, attended the 16th Annual Conference of the National Association of Regional Councils May 16 through 19. The Conference was held in Louisville, Kentucky at the Commonwealth Convention Center.

Much of their time was spent attending workshops dealing with ways of working on projects for the seven-county area served by SICOG.

Highlights included the keynote address by John Y. Brown, Jr., Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and an address by Mayor Andrew Young of Atlanta, Georgia, formerly U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations under President Carter.

Sightseeing included a tour of Louisville, with stops at the J.B. Speed Art Museum, Louisville Museum of History and Science, Locust Grove, a lovely 1790 Georgian home; and an afternoon at Churchill Downs.

Franklin Township Farmer —

Sold on 'No Till' Operation

A staunch advocate of no-till farming and becoming more convinced all the time that it is the method all farmers will use in the future is 77-year old Bryan Bay of Franklin Township.

The former Missourian has been on his farm located five miles south of Woodburn for the past 10 years and has had the opportunity to compare what has been happening to farms—first in Missouri and then in Iowa, when it comes to soil loss.

"Soil loss in areas of southern Missouri has become so severe that it cannot produce crops sufficient to pay for the cost of the seed and fertilizer," he said.

"And this has happened in my lifetime."

He pointed out that the pressure on farmers to constantly produce more, to put marginal land into row crops and the failure to practice good soil conservation on ground that demands either contour farming or terracing has increased the rate of soil erosion dramatically.

To counter this, Bay has initiated a program of conservation that incorporates conservation on the 300 acres that comprise his farm. His latest interest is a 25-acre plot of ground on which he has practiced no-till farming for corn. During

the past five years he has replanted to corn each year and this year, the sixth year, the corn is one of the few fields in the county that was planted on time and has withstood the heavy rains that have covered much of the county.

He feels that the corn, planted April 28, is above average in quality and is probably one of the few fields that is at an average height for the first week in July. Bay stated that because of the no-till practices that have been used on the 25-acre plot, that practically no soil has been lost due to the amount of cover and the fact that corn has been planted on the contour of the sloping ground.

"For people who are aware of the need for conservation, no-till farming is the most effective method I have every seen," he said. "And we've got to go to it in the next few years or we will see Iowa ground in the same shape as in the area of Missouri I came from where ground cash rents for \$30 an acre because it has eroded to the point that it can no longer produce."

Of the 300 acres on the Bay farm, 41 acres are in timber, 160 acres devoted to row crops, 10 to pasture and the balance in alfalfa. This is presently being farmed by neighbors with Bay maintaining his 25 acres in corn.

Bays background is one in education and a continuing interest in farming. A graduate of the University of Missouri, he taught school from 1922 to 1969—a total of 47 years before retirement. He taught mathematics, English and social studies and also served as a chemist during World War II years.

His farming experience came as a youngster and later during summer months during vacations.

He feels that attention must be drawn to the needs for conserving soil if America is to continue to rely upon its most basic industry—farming—and be successful in this pursuit.

It is fortunate that the conservationists have a strong ally in attempting to get the message to Iowans.



SIX FEET HIGH: An April 28 planting date has helped this corn to be of the size it should by July 4. Bryan Bay shows what no-till farming has accomplished on his 25 acre experimental plot. The 77-year old Franklin Township farmer is a staunch advocate of conservation measures and reports that contour farming is part of a planned program to maintain soil fertility.

*Osceola Tribune
June 1, 1982*

*Osceola Sentinel
July 8, 1982*

Work Starts on Dam to Create 640-Acre Lake

Construction began last Monday on the main dam in 12-Mile Creek Watershed which will create a 640 acre lake. This is the second of four proposed large dams to be built in southern Iowa by the Soil Conservation Service through the small watershed program reports Erwin Aust, Area Conservationist at Shenandoah.

The 12-Mile Creek Watershed dam is being built jointly by the Soil Conservation Service and Creston Waterworks Board of Trustees and is located about five miles east of Creston, north

of Highway 34. The main dam which creates the 640 acre lake will be used for Creston's basic water supply and will hold over 10,000 acre feet of water. To provide the necessary land for the dam and lake the Creston Waterworks Board of Trustees purchased 1,567 acres. The lake will meet the water supply needed for any commercial or industrial expansion in Creston. The lake will also be available as a water supply for rural water use and some small communities in the area may also be able to purchase water if they desire.

Including the purchase of the land, relocation of utilities, fencing and engineering fees for design of the dam, Water Board Member, E.J. VanNostrand said the 12-Mile project has so far cost the board almost 1.8 million dollars. He said two Farmers Home Administration loans have been taken out for this cost. The cost of the dam will be shared between the Creston Water Board and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service with SCS paying for 52.6 percent. The Water Board share of 47.4 percent will be paid when Creston begins using water from the reservoir or in 10 years, whichever occurs first.

Aust reports the first dam of this type was built in Walters Creek Watershed north of Corning and was completed in 1976 creating Lake Icaria. The Walters Creek project was built as a recreation and wildlife dam is being built for flood prevention, water supply, recreation and wildlife development and the local sponsors which include City of Leon and Decatur

County have acquired the necessary land to build that project. It is hoped that construction will begin on it next year. No land has yet been acquired for the Three Mile Creek project.

Over 20 years of work in planning and construction by local sponsors and government agencies has already gone into completing the 12-Mile Creek project. Thirteen bids were opened on May 27 ranging from a low bid of 1.4 million dollars submitted by Saxton Construction of Leon to a high of 1.8 million dollars. All bids were within the engineers estimated cost.

The Soil Conservation Service Engineering Office at Creston will inspect the construction work. Larry Dorgan is appointed project engineer and Elmer Vanderpluym as chief inspector to check the work performance.

Total drainage area in the 12-Mile Creek Watershed project is 50,030 acres which is primarily in the Union County Soil Conservation District. The total project includes 33 smaller dam structures of which 32 have been built. There are 325 farms in the watershed area. Farmers in the watershed have applied land treatment measures such as improving pastures, following crop rotations, contour farming, terracing and building small gully control structures to support the project by stopping gully and sheet erosion. They have also provided landrights for construction of the 32 smaller gully control and flood prevention structures built as part of the 12-Mile Creek Watershed project.

Designate Clarke County One of 15 'Disaster Areas'

Clarke County was among 14 southern Iowa counties and one northwestern county that were declared disaster areas by Governor Robert Ray last week. The areas were racked by floods over the July Fourth Holiday weekend.

Other counties declared disaster areas were Lucas,

Monroe, Davis, Wapello, Van Buren, Madison, Marion, Mahaska, Jefferson, Wayne, Appanoose and Decatur. In northwestern Iowa, Lyon was declared a disaster area.

According to Clarke County ASCS Director Charles Bacon, Clarke County was more fortunate than counties to the east of Clarke.

"Although we haven't had near the flood conditions as Monroe County, Clarke County has had a large crop loss to area farmers," commented Bacon, "of the some 1,500 farms in our area, crop loss on corn, oats and beans has ranged to a high of 50 percent for some farmers and no lower than 20 percent for many."

Bacon reports no building or livestock loss in the county over this period of time, but has had some hay loss turned in.

"Soil erosion in the county has been high this year," stated Bacon, "but not equal to that of last year, when the county experienced another rainy spring and summer. With all of the rain, many farmers were unable to plant their crops early this year, and we (ASCS Board) are seeking information as to the eligibility for low interest rate farm loans to cover the losses."

Clarke County Engineer Jim

Connell reported no problems with bridges in the county over the holiday.

"We are fortunate to have kept good repair of our bridges in the county," commented Connell, "the major share of our budget has gone toward repairing and replacing bridges on county roads over that last few years and when flood waters occur, you need to be able to depend on our county roads and bridges to get you through."

In Monroe County, Burlington Northern railroad workers were trying to repair 20 miles of double main-line track between Albia to four miles west of Melrose.

Freight trains were rerouted on various lines and Amtrak passenger trains were rerouted to Chicago and Northwestern tracks between Chicago and Omaha.

Trains were running again the first part of this week. Soil erosion and crop loss has been greatest to the east of Clarke County, and state and federal assistance will be sought to help with the disaster.

Soil erosion and crop loss has been greatest to the east of Clarke County, and state and federal assistance will be sought to help with the disaster.

Osceola Sentinel
July 15, 1982

Osceola Sentinel
July 8, 1982

Emergency Funds Available For Conservation Structures

Spring and summer rainstorms have caused considerable damage to conservation structures the past few months. Producers suffering severe damage may be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by ASCS if the damage is unusual in character, materially affects the productive capacity of the land, and if not repaired, will endanger the land.

The cost to correct the erosion problem has to be so costly that it would be burdensome to the producer and could not be per-

formed with his own equipment and labor. A minimum dollar cost will be established by the Clarke County ASC Committee. Practices repaired for less than \$350.00 will probably not be eligible for cost-sharing.

Cost-sharing earned will be computed at 64% of the eligible cost items.

Only the following damaged practices will be eligible for cost-sharing: dams, ponds or other water impoundment for agricultural uses, sod waterways, drainage ditches, terrace systems or other structure-type outlets and water channels.

The ECP program is a short term program. Producers must file their requests by October 10, 1982 and have the practice completed by December 31, 1982. No conservation work will be cost-shared when the work is completed before ASCS makes an on-site inspection and Soil Conservation Service gives technical assistance.

*Osceola Sentinel
July 29, 1982*

To Elect Four to Soil Dist. Posts

Terms of four Clarke County Soil Conservation District Commissioners expire this year. Successors will be elected at the general election November 2. The terms of Adrian Fuller, Osceola Township, and Phillip Henrichs, Washington Township, will expire at noon on January 3, 1983.

Individuals elected to fill these vacancies will serve a six year term. The terms of E. Lloyd Morgan, Knox Township, and Eldon Barnard, Fremont Township, will expire November 2, with individuals filling these vacancies to serve a two-year term and a four-year term respectively and will begin serving after election results are official.

Any qualified elector residing in the soil conservation district, which is all of Clarke County including cities and towns, is

eligible for the office of commissioner, except that no more than one commissioner may be a resident of any one township.

Incumbent commissioner is Richard Carson of Jackson Township; therefore, residents of this township would not be eligible for office at this time.

Prospective candidates seeking the office of soil conservation district commissioner must file nomination petitions in the same manner as for other elective positions at the general election, except that no political party is designated. Nomination petitions can be obtained from County Auditor Emil Rinderspacher.

These petitions, signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the County Auditor at the Clarke County courthouse no later than 5:00 p.m. September 8, 1982.

Soil conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county. For further information pertaining to the responsibilities of a commissioner, contact the Clarke County Soil Conservation District office, 820A North Main Street, Osceola.

*Osceola Sentinel
August 19, 1982*

Plan No-Till Demonstration

Clarke County farmers using no-till, or thinking of switching to the no-till farming system, are invited to attend a no-till machinery demonstration Wednesday, September 15, says Keith Edwards, District Conservationist, Clarke County.

The demonstration will be held on Highway 14 the Wayne-Lucas County line, approximately three miles north of Millerton.

Seven no-till planters are expected from Allis-Chalmers, Buffalo, Hiniker, International Harvester, John Deere, Kinze and White.

Dakon, Haybuster, Marliss and Moore no-till drills will be demonstrated.

Also Buffalo, Dakon and Hiniker no-till row crop cultivators will be operated.

Field sprayers, set up for no-till farming, will also be demonstrated.

Edwards says many of the machines will be operated by local farmers who use them in their own no-till farming operation.

Although September may seem an odd time for a no-till planting demonstration, Edwards says farmers need to be checking no-till fields now to compare crop performance, weed control, and erosion control. Farmers should begin the switch to no-till in '83 with harvest and fall fertilization plans now.

The no-till demonstration is sponsored by six southern Iowa soil conservation districts including Appanoose, Clarke, Decatur, Lucas, Monroe and Wayne County.

For more information call the Clarke SCS office

*Osceola Tribune
August 31, 1982*

Soil Conservation —

A 'Must' for ALL Americans

It is often said that Iowa has lost half its topsoil due to erosion over the years. There is some truth to this, but erosion is not the only factor that contributes to soil loss.

Topsoil is lost by water erosion, wind erosion and oxidation of organic matter. Each of these occurs naturally, however, most forms of Iowa agriculture increase the rate of soil loss.

Soils on steep slopes that have been cropped with minimum conservation practices have lost 40 to 80 percent of their topsoil from water erosion.

Water erosion occurs on sloping land when raindrops detach soil particles by striking exposed or incompletely vegetated soil. These detached particles move downslope in runoff that occurs when rainfall exceeds the soil's capacity to absorb it. The steeper the slope, the greater the potential for soil erosion.

Soil erosion by wind occurs when the force of wind blowing over unprotected soil is great enough to detach soil particles.

These detached particles are blown against other soil particles and the erosion process accelerates.

Oxidation of topsoil decreases organic matter of all Iowa soils. Tillage exposes the soil to increased amounts of oxygen and also increases the extent of the wetting and drying of the soil. These processes accelerate the rate of organic matter loss in the form of carbon dioxide. Soils that have been continuously cropped contain only about half as much organic matter as similar soils maintained under native vegetation.

Clarke County farmers and businessmen are actively supporting National Soil Conservation Week, September 19 through 25. In an effort to promote soil conservation in Clarke County, a list of area farmers practicing No-Tillage farming can be found on page seven of this issue of the Sentinel, along with those businesses supporting their efforts: Hy-Vee Food Store, Clarke County State Bank, Farmers Co-op Association, Production Credit Association, Osceola State Bank, Barrett International, Osceola Farm and Home, Sport Wade, Inc., Federal Land Bank and Saylor-Cooley Grain.

*Osceola Sentinel
September 16, 1982*

Money Leaves County

As Watershed Projects Lag

Soil conservation measures on the surrounding farmland are improving the water quality of West Lake in Clarke County, says Keith Edwards, district conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service.

In 1981 funds were obtained from the Soil Conservation Services Resource Conservation and Development Program to begin protection measures at West Lake. This is a three year program to install on-land treatments to control sediment coming into the lake.

Best-management practices are applied on the land in the watershed as landowners enter into contracts with the Clarke County Soil Conservation District. Cost-share rates of 75 percent are available to landowners for the on-land treatment.

Three of the 43 landowners signed work agreements for installation of best management practices in 1982, Edwards noted. Work completed includes 14,717 feet of terraces.

West Lake, located two miles west of Osceola, was formed in 1933 as an impoundment near Osceola.

The lake has serious water quality problems such as excessive algae growth, turbidity, taste and odor problems in the water and fish, low dissolved

oxygen levels and sedimentation.

The source of the lake's water quality problems is pollution from the 6,350 acre watershed, which is 80 percent cropland. The amount of sediment delivered to the lake has been estimated at nearly 44,900 tons per year. Runoff water also transports large quantities of phosphorus and nitrogen into the lake.

Edwards says the treatments being implemented should restore quality to the lake and reduce erosion in the farmland of the watershed.

Federal grant money allocated to Clarke County in 1982 for the West Lake Watershed project was \$108,000. Cost-share rates to the land owners was 75 percent for on-land treatment. Of this total amount granted, only three land owners participated in the first year, spending \$28,557.64 in government funds of a total construction cost of \$35,697.05.

With the year ending, Edwards has turned back \$60,000 of the original grant of \$108,000 to be used in other Southern Iowa counties.

"I don't like to see the grant money leave the county," commented Edwards, "and now we will have to work extra hard to keep within our time frame of three years to complete the project."

*Osceola Sentinel
September 9, 1982*

Sept. 19-26 designated Soil Conservation Week

Conservation improves West Lake

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Edwards noted. Work completed includes 13,917 feet of terraces.

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Asghar A. Chowdhery Begins Clarke County Soil Survey

The Standard Soil Survey of Clarke County has started, according to Keith Edwards of the Clarke County Soil Conservation Service.

Asghar A. Chowdhery of Pakistan has been transferred from Fairfield to head the soil survey operations in Clarke County. Chowdhery, a graduate of Agricultural University in 1962, completed his Master's degree specialization in Soil Science in 1964. He has worked as an Assistant Soil Survey Research Officer in the Reconnaissance Soil Survey Project of Pakistan before coming to the U.S. in 1970. Prior to his present job with the Soil Conservation Service, he was employed by a chemical company

in Ohio for five years. He and his wife, Shamim have three daughters, Umbreen, 12; Noreen, nine; and Robina, six.

Soil survey is made by the cooperative efforts of Soil Conservation Service, and Iowa Agriculture Experiment Station. The financing of soil survey operations is shared by the county, state and federal government. The laboratory work, special studies and public information programs are supported by Iowa State University and the Cooperative Extension Service.

The objective of the soil survey is to make available soils information for use by farmers, conservation officials, contractors, land appraisers and real-

tors, recreation planners, etc.

The soil scientists make this soil survey by observing landscapes, slope changes, type of vegetation, drainage patterns and probing the soil to a depth of 4 to 6 feet to determine natural internal drainage, erosion, soil structure, and the content of sand, silt and clay. This information is recorded on aerial photographs at a scale of four inches equal to one mile.

During the fall of this year, soil scientists will be working in different parts of the county to make a preliminary list of mapping unit legend and also collect samples for laboratory analyses.

Upon completion of soil survey, a soil survey report will be published. The soil survey report will be available to farmers, realtors, bankers and other interested parties free of any cost. The soil survey report will contain the soil maps of the county and the descriptions of the soils as well as interpretations about the uses of the soils for different purposes.

*Osceola Tribune
September 21, 1982*

*Iowa Farm Bureau Spokesman
September 18, 1982*

Begin 4-Year Inventory Of Soil Types in County

A four-year effort to inventory all of the soil types in Clarke County will commence officially Wednesday, October 6 during a "First Acre" ceremony at the Clarke County Fairgrounds.

State and federal soil conservationists will join city and county officials in the commemorative program marking a major update of the outmoded soil survey compiled in 1926.

The program will start at 10:00 a.m. and will include William J. Brune, State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service and James Gulliford, Director, State Department of Soil Conservation, both from Des Moines. Clifford Stille, Macedonia, a member of the Iowa Soil Conservation Committee, Dr. John Pesek, Head of Agronomy Department, and Gerald Miller, Extension Agronomist, Iowa State University, Ames, will represent cooperating agencies assisting the Clarke County soil survey.

The brief ceremony will mark the first acre to be included in the Clarke County soil survey. The soil survey team, under the direction of Asghar Chowdhery, the soil survey party leader, will map all 274,496 acres of Clarke County. Alan Teel, County Extension Director for Clarke County, stated that the soils inventory will be accomplished by the soil surveyors walking across all the land in the county and observing the characteristics of the soil and the soil patterns on the land. The information will be recorded on aerial photographs.

Teel said "Clarke County is the 94th county in Iowa to start a modern soil survey. Seventy-three counties have completed soil surveys and 20 counties are currently being surveyed. Five counties have starting dates scheduled between now and 1984."

Teel said that copies of each photograph will be available in the County Soil Conservation Office. After the fieldwork for the soil survey is completed, all of the soil maps will be published in booklet form and copies will be distributed to county residents.

All county residents are invited to attend the "First Acre" ceremony.



BEGIN SOIL SURVEY: Steve Ernst and Asghar Chowdhery check over their Clarke County maps, before starting work on the soil survey for the county. Ernst, a native of Illinois is a soil scientist with Iowa State University. Prior to coming to Osceola he had been working in Decatur County. Chowdhery is a native of Pakistan and employed by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. The survey is slated to run four years through December of 1986.

*Osceola Sentinel
September 30, 1982*

*Osceola Tribune
October 5, 1982*

Hold Clarke County First Acre Soil Survey Ceremony, Wednes.

The first acre ceremony for the standard soil survey in Clarke County, was held Wednesday morning, October 6 with Clarke County Extension Director Alan Teel and Clarke County Soil Conservation Director Keith Edwards present along with several guests.

The soil survey, to take place in Clarke County, stems from an agreement made by the Clarke County Board of Supervisors, the State of Iowa and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, each paying a third of the cost of the survey.

Clarke County's share of the project amounts to approximately \$68,000, over a four year period that the survey and

mapping is being conducted.

William J. Brune, State Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Department, emphasized to the Clarke County farmers to take advantage of the survey, and work the land to its best use. He commended the people involved with getting the survey underway, remarking that Clarke was one of six left in the state to begin a modern soil survey.

James Gulliford, Director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation explained to those present, to use the surveys as planning devices not only for agricultural needs, but for residential planning.

Gerald Miller, Extension

Agronomist at Iowa State University told listeners that the maps should begin to be available to land owners in approximately 18 months from the local Soil Conservation Office and there many uses in tillage, fertilization, drainage, yield goals and herbicide management.

Asghar Chowdhery, who will be doing the actual mapping in Clarke County along with Steve Ernst, explained that over 274,560 acres of Clarke County land will be studied and mapped in the survey. The previous soil survey in Clarke County was conducted in 1923, with only eight different soil types identified at that time. According to Asghar, with all the new modern technology, he feels there will be over 108 different soil types plotted in the Clarke County area.

Others present for the ceremony were: Richard Carson, Chairman of the Clarke County Soil Conservation District Commission; Clifford Still, Chairman of the State Soil Conservation Committee; and Dr. John Pesek, Head of the Agronomy Department at Iowa State University.

*Osceola Tribune
October 12, 1982*



SOIL SURVEY CEREMONIES: Present for the Clarke County Soil Survey Ceremonies held Wednesday morning, October 6 at the Clarke County Fairgrounds were: Back row, Dr. John

Pesek, William Brune, James Gulliford, Clifford Stille, Alan Teel and Keith Edwards; Front row, Richard Carson, Gerald Miller and Asghar Chowdhery.

Select Terraces That Best Fit Your Farm

Several types of terraces are available so farmers can fit terraces to their land and farming operations, says Dale Chidester conservationist with the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

A farmer should weigh the advantages and disadvantages of the various terrace types and decide which best fits his farm Chidester says. The SCS gives free technical advice to help farmers determine which terraces are best.

All terraces operate on the principle of cutting long slopes into a series of shorter slopes to reduce erosion. All are designed

to hold two inches of runoff water from the area above.

The narrow-base terrace has become popular recently and can be used on slopes up to 14 percent. Its side view is triangular with two sides grassed. This type is cheaper to build than others because only about half as much soil is moved. However, the narrow-base terrace takes about four rows out of production and may be more difficult to maintain than the others.

The broad-base terrace takes no land out of production and has been used for about 40 years in Iowa. This type of terrace shouldn't be used on slopes steeper than 8 percent. The slopes on the downhill side of the terrace are steeper than before it was built. Construction costs for broad-base terraces are high because of the amount of soil needed.

Grass-backslope terraces are farmed on the uphill side of the terrace with the downhill side seeded to grass and taken out of production. The slope below the terrace becomes flat over time. These terraces can be used on slopes up to 18 percent and the cost is between that of broad-base and narrow-base terraces.

Cost-share funds for building terraces are available from Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), local conservation districts and some county governments. Farmers should consider cost-sharing because terraces can cost as much as \$750 per acre. Cost-share rates are usually 50/50 but some go as high as 75 percent of the cost paid by the government.

Terraces are only part of needed conservation systems, Chidester points out. Other practices such as crop rotations and conservation tillage likely will be needed with terraces. Detailed information and on-site assessment of terrace needs are available from Clarke County conservation district office.

*Osceola Sentinel
October 21, 1982*

Control Erosion Through Conservation Tillage

Conservation tillage is a good way for grain farmers to control erosion. But those who chop corn for silage don't have stalks left to work with. What do they do, or what should they do, for erosion control?

A fairly inexpensive, but effective idea is an old one—cover crops. Interest in cover crops is regenerating because a lot of farmers are more concerned about soil erosion.

One cover crop being used is rye. The rye is seeded in the fall and gives soil protection in the winter and spring.

Cutting the rye as ryeage in the spring before planting is a possibility for those that can use it.

Another option is to burn the rye back with chemicals like Paraquat and plant by no-till. This gives extended erosion control because the dead rye will give the soil cover as the corn or beans grow.

"It's a good system for the no-till farmer," says SCS District Conservationist, Keith Edwards. "The no-till farmer is going to use burndown anyway and you can't argue with its erosion control effectiveness." For residual chemical weed control, you need to remember that atrazine shouldn't be applied so heavily that the rye would be killed in the fall.

Rye isn't the only cover crop available. Wheat is an option, and so is oats. Wheat is used

fairly commonly as a double crop with soybeans in other states, where the growing season is longer.

While oats are not used much as a cover crop, oats may well be the cheapest and best way to go. For one thing, they're easy to seed and relatively cheap (\$1.50-\$2.00/bu.) for field run oats. For another, oats are not winter hardy.

The advantage there is that the oats will winterkill. Rye is winter hardy and can be tough to kill in the spring. When the oats winterkill, that means they don't take moisture out of the soil in the spring. Also, the winter killed mulch is easier to get a planter through.

"A cover crop is not a permanent solution to erosion problems," explains Edwards. "However, if you seed the fall after chopping, it's a lot better than plowing or disking or leaving the chopped ground bare," he points out. The cover crop can be seeded no-till in the fall without any seed bed preparations by using a drill designed to do planting in crop residues. No-till seeding would give the best erosion control.

Edwards says that you should get a 75% ground cover by winter if you sow or drill the seed in September. That kind of ground cover will control wind erosion and also slow water erosion from April through June, especially with the no-till method.

Osceola Sentinel
November 2, 1982

Tree Planning Meeting Set for Wednesday, Dec. 8

For landowners who want shelterbelts, farm pond sanctuaries, erosion control materials, future Christmas trees, ongoing fuel wood production, and improved wildlife habitat, NOW is the time to make plans for next spring's trees and time to place your order.

Osceola Tribune
November 23, 1982

the 1983 tree and shrub order forms from the State Forest Nursery are available now. All trees are seedlings (6 to 18 inches tall). Pines, larch, and walnut sell at \$6.30 per hundred plants. Ash, hickory, oaks, olives and numerous shrubs including lilac sell for \$5.80 per hundred plants.

The application order forms are available at these locations in Clarke County: the Clarke County Conservation Board office at East Lake County Park, the Soil Conservation Service office in Osceola (just north of the Dairy Queen) and the conservation pamphlet display at the south entrance to the Courthouse in Osceola.

Applications are also included in the November issue of the Iowa Conservationist Magazine.

To assist landowners in planning for their tree needs, a public meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will be held at the small room of the 4-H Building on the Fairgrounds in north Osceola. The District Forester, Steve Swinonos of Afton, will be present to advise landowners on what to plant and how to be successful in growing trees.

Any questions prior to this meeting can be directed to John Klein at the County Conservation Board office at East Lake Park.

Report On Interseeder

Reports on the first year's experience with the interseeder purchased jointly by several agencies will be given during the Monday, December 6 meeting of the Interseeder Management Committee. The meeting will be held at Gus and Tom's Steak House at 1 p.m.

Chairman Fred Redfern will call the meeting to order with Soil Conservationist Keith Ed-

wards reporting on the growing season and usage of the seeder.

Alan Teel, Extension director, will report on application of the interseeder during the 1982 year and Edwards will give the financial report.

Plans for the upcoming season will be discussed and change in policies if necessary governing the interseeder.

No-Till Farming Increases in Iowa

The acreage of Iowa corn and soybeans planted by no-till methods this year is a 55 percent increase from 1981, according to estimates from the USDA Soil Conservation Service. The practice was used by 4467 farmers on 344,480 acres in 1982, compared to 3118 farmers on 222,820 acres in 1981.

"That's almost 50 percent increase in the number of farmers trying this soil-saving way of farming, and that's what encourages us most," says William Brune, SCS State Conservationist. While admitting less than four percent of the state's farmers are using no-till, Brune says the increase means more will try it in the future. "There's more than triple the acreage and number of farmers from our 1980 survey, and that shows me more and more farmers are seeing it work for their neighbors," Brune says.

The SCS survey, made annually from estimates of SCS district conservationists, also shows a substantial increase in other reduced tillage methods. "We found that 16,394,000 acres of corn and beans were planted without use of the moldboard plow," says SCS resource conservationist Mark Berkland. "That's almost 75 percent of the row cropland."

The USDA Statistical Reporting Service reported 13.7 million acres of corn and 8.6 million acres of beans planted in Iowa in June of this year.

The chisel plow was used for 8.1 million acres and discs or other implements were used on about 7.7 million acres. That is a 20 percent increase from 1981. The till-plant method increased from 222,000 acres (1,083 farmers) in 1981 to 266,387 acres (1255 farmers) this year. The 1982 figures bring the use of till plant back to the 1980 level—use of that practice dropped in 1981.

Leaving cornstalks or bean residues on the soil surface year-round for soil protection was not a popular farming practice until the 1970's. In the past 10 years, Iowa farmers have learned to manage crop residues. The trend now is to cut as many trips across a field out as possible, leaving most of the residues on the soil surface. The result is a savings in fuel, soil and time.

Osceola Sentinel
November 25, 1982

Osceola Tribune
December 7, 1982

Report on Interseeder Management for 1982 Year

The Interseeder Management Committee met Monday, December 6 at the Clarke County Courthouse, with members: Jim Asmus, Adrian Fuller and Forest Lewis present. Others attending the meeting and reporting on the progress and use of the interseeder were: Alan Teel from the Clarke County Extension Service; Keith Edwards of the Clarke Soil Conservation Service and Ron Whitham, Tom O'Neill, Harold Bonnett and John Klein

from the Clarke County Conservation Board.

Edwards reported that maintenance on the interseeder averaged 50 cents per acre with an anticipated increase to 60 cents to a dollar for next season.

It was approved by the committee to reimburse the Clarke County Conservation Fund \$2,350 from the user fees collected to pay the local share of the initial purchase cost.

In another motion, it was approved to stock approximately \$200 worth of parts for the interseeder next season.

It was suggested that experienced users of the interseeder in each township, help to assist their neighbors in their initial try at interseeding this next season.

In final business, Adrian Fuller and Forest Lewis' terms on the committee expire. Fuller accepted reappointment while Lewis was not able to. Jack Callison was appointed to fill Lewis vacancy.

A spring meeting was set for March 3, 1983 to make spring plans and elect new officers.

Osceola Tribune
December 21, 1982

Plan Tillage Conf. Jan. 12

Learn the latest on conservation tillage systems, the effects of soil erosion on yields, economics of land treatment, and more from fellow farmers, conservationists, and various specialists at a conference to be held at Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, Missouri.

Twenty-four concurrent sessions, all dealing with various aspects (economic, social, technical, and political) of soil conservation will be offered at a conference, "Men-Women-The Land: Mid America's Future," January 12, 1983.

Osceola Sentinel
December 30, 1982

No-Till Show Set for Febr. 5

Weed control, fertilizer use, and economics will be the topics discussed at the second annual Southern Iowa No-Till Show to be held on February 5, 1983 at Southwestern Community College in Creston.

Speakers during the morning program will be Darrell Clark, Farmland Industries Agronomist, discussing fertilizer use under no-till and reduced tillage situations, and Mike Owens, Iowa State University Weed Specialist, discussing weed control in high residue cropping systems. A panel of three area farmers will tell about their experiences with fertilizer and herbicides on their farms.

The afternoon program will feature Paul Rosenberry, USDA Agricultural Economist, discussing the economics of no-till and reduced tillage systems. Three area farmers will then tell about the economics of their no-till cropping systems.

Commercial and educational exhibits will be available before the program begins at 9:45 a.m., over the noon hour, and at the end of the speaking program.

The show is sponsored by the Southern Iowa Conservation Tillage Committee of the Southern Iowa Resource Conservation and Development Area. Area farmers, Iowa State University Extension Service, Soil Conservation Districts, FmHA, A.S.C.S., and Southwestern Community College are co-operating in developing the show.

Admission is free, however, lunch tickets must be purchased in advance from the Extension or Soil Conservation Service office before February 1.



WHAT'S GOING ON?: Tom Carson peers intently into the innards of the Haybuster. The picture was taken at the Clarke Community High School's vo-ag shop recently as eight people gathered to completely tear down and repair the interseeder that was purchased last year.

Interested people working on the project include Adrian Fuller, Ron Whitham, Keith Edwards, Ed Robins, Richard Carson, John Klein, Dean Frantz and Tom Carson. The interseeder will be available on a rental basis again this spring.

Osceola Tribune
January 11, 1983

Slate Summer Youth Program

The County Conservation Boards, Soil Conservation Districts, and Cooperative Extension Service will co-sponsor 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.

A maximum of 50 students will be allowed to attend each session. The cost of the four day and three night program is \$50. High school students interested in attending the Youth Leadership Conservation Program should contact John Klein of the County Conservation Board; Lois Manchester of the Soil Conservation District; or Alan Teel of the Cooperative Extension office for further information.

Osceola Tribune
January 18, 1983

Area Farmers to Speak At No-Till Show Febr. 5

Six area farmers will speak on two separate topics at the Southern Iowa No-Till Show to be held February 5 at Southwestern Community College in Creston.

Craig Harris, Coin; Quinton Wakefield, Greenfield; and Harold Selim, Shannon City will discuss their experiences with no-till, especially as to how it relates to fertilizer, herbicide and insecticide use.

In the afternoon, Phil Gibson, Coin; Ron Dunphy, Creston; and Gary Ehm, Creston will cover their no-till operations with emphasis on the economics of a no-till system.

The Southern Iowa No-Till Show will open its doors at Southwestern Community College at 8:30 a.m. and the program will begin at 9:45. Lunch will be available over the noon hour. Tickets must be purchased in advance by February 1 and are available at any county office of the S.C.S., FmHA, A.S.C.S., or Extension Service.

There will be free coffee and donuts and an opportunity to

view exhibits and displays from 8:30 to 9:45. Exhibits and displays will also be open over the noon hour as well as for a time at the end of the show.

Other speakers at the show are Darrell Clark, Farmland Industries Agronomist; Mike Owens, Iowa State University Extension Weed Specialist; and Paul Rosenberry, USDA Agricultural Economist.

Phil Gibson and Craig Harris no-till 1200 acres of corn and soybeans near Coin with Phil's father, Quinton. They quit plowing in 1973, first using a chisel-disk system, then Buffalo-tilled, and today use a 12-row slot-till planter on terraced hill land.

Quinton Wakefield farms about 1000 acres near Greenfield. He has no-tilled two years with a 12-row John Deere 7000 on 660 acres, about half corn and half beans.

Harold Selim, Shannon City, is a Union County SCD Commissioner. He started no-tilling in 1973 and uses a John Deere 7000 with ACRA PLANT trash whippers to ridge till 280 acres of corn and 100 acres of soybeans.

Ron Dunphy, Creston, farms with his brother, Tom. They use crop rotation and no-till on 1100 row crop acres. They use an 8-row planter with no-till coulters and a Hiniker cultivator.

Gary Ehm farms near Creston. He uses a 6-row, 30-inch slot-till planter to plant about 170 acres of row crops.

Plan No-Till

Directory

A no-till equipment directory is being planned to help match owners of no-till equipment, with landusers who wish to rent no-till equipment or hire custom no-till plantings, announced Richard Carson, Chairman of the Clarke County Soil Conservation District.

Anyone wishing to be included in the directory is asked to contact the Clarke County Soil Conservation District office by March 10.

Keith Edwards, District Conservationist, serving Clarke County says he hopes to see several no-till planters listed as well as no-till drills, cultivators, fertilizer toolbars and sprayers modified for no-till.

No-till requires more careful equipment calibration and operation, notes Edwards, and a no-till equipment directory may help some no-tillers with similar equipment to overcome equipment adjustment problems encountered when planting no-till crops.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
February 24, 1983*

Set No-Till Program Mar. 30

The Ringgold County Soil Conservation District will sponsor a Pre-Plant No-Till Demonstration Wednesday, March 30, from 1 to 4 p.m. according to Roger Schnoor, Chairman of the Districts no-till committee. The demonstration will be held at the former Grout farm two and one

half miles southeast of Tingley. Schnoor said demonstrations will be held on no-till attachments for conventional planters, sprayer calibrations, no-till drill for soybeans and no-till drill for pasture and hayland seeding.

All questions will be answered at this demonstration.

To Offer No-till

Equipment Directory

A no-till equipment directory is now available from the Clarke County Soil-Conservation District. Owners of no-till equipment have listed planters, interseeders and anhydrous toolbars that are for rent or custom hire. For your free copy that describes each no-till machine contact the Clarke County Soil Conservation office.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
March 24, 1983*

Soil Survey and Mapping Project Is Underway in Clarke County

Soil Scientists, Asghar Chowdhery and Steve Ernst are hard at work on the Soil Survey of Clarke County. During this spring, they will map in Franklin, Ward and Osceola Townships and will map diverted acres and pasture ground during summer months. Soil scientists will also map the individual farms in other townships if the district needs soil information for conservation practices.

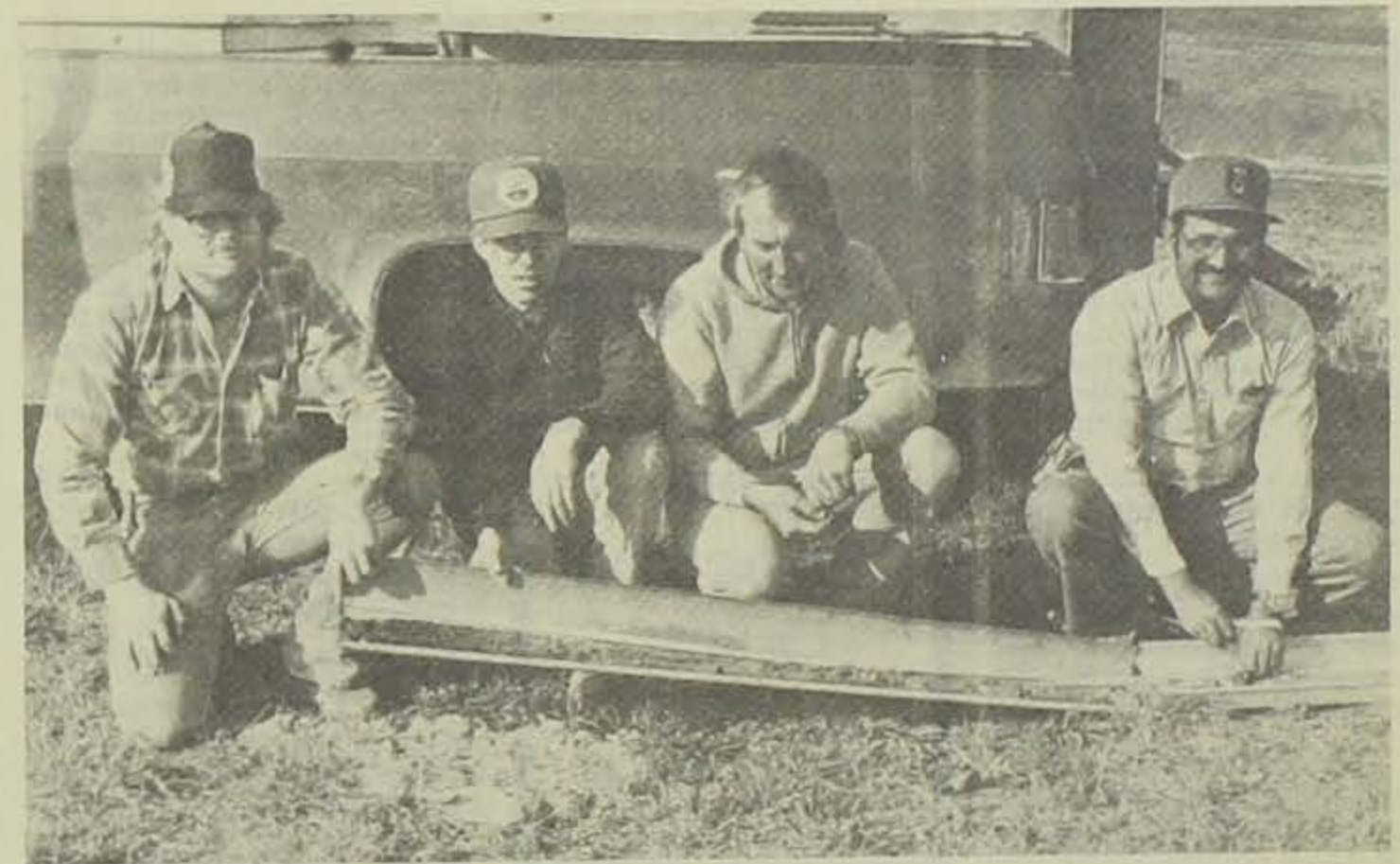
The Soil Survey will be an excellent resource inventory and a very useful tool in the future development of Clarke County. The last soil maps of Clarke County were made more than 50 years ago when only eight soil types were identified.

Today, about 150 mapping units will be pinpointed and delineated on aerial photographs. These aerial photographs will be the base map of the Clarke County Soil Survey.

Soil surveys are designed for many different uses. Farmers, foresters, and agronomist use them to evaluate the potential of the soil and the management needed for maximum food and fiber production.

Community officials, engineers, developers, builders, and homebuyers can use the survey to plan specific land uses, select sites for construction and identify special practices needed to insure proper performance.

Great differences in soil properties can occur within short distances. Some soils are seasonally wet or subject to flooding. Clay or wet soils are poorly suited to use as septic tank absorption fields. A high water table makes a soil poorly suited to basements or underground installations. These and many other soil properties that affect land use will be described in this



SOIL SURVEY: Members of the soil survey team check samples of their work extracted from underground some 10 feet below the surface. The team of Asghar Chowdhery and Steve Ernst are hard at work in Clarke County, typing the

different soil and mapping the area. Pictured are: Steve Ernst; Ron Kuehl, Iowa State Soil Specialist; Louis Boeckman, Soil Survey Party Leader in Ringgold and Taylor Counties and Asghar Chowdhery.

soil survey. The location of each soil will be shown on the detailed soil maps, with each soil in the county described. Information on specific uses will be given for each soil.

Soil Scientists are making this survey to learn what soils are in Clarke County, where they occur and how they can be used. They are observing the steepness, length and shape of slopes, the size of streams and the general pattern of drainage and the kinds of native plants or crops.

Using a hand probe to examine soil profiles, a soil scientist covers about 320 acres per day. A soil profile is a sequence of

natural layers or horizons in a soil. It extends from the surface down into parent material which has been changed very little by leaching or by plant roots. Major characteristics of each profile are studied and recorded and are compared with others in nearby counties and states. Soil scientists classify and name the soils according to nationwide uniform procedures. They draw soil boundaries on aerial photographs. These photographs show trees, buildings, fields, roads, and other details that help in drawing soil boundaries accurately. The Clarke County soil survey publication will contain

soil maps prepared from aerial photographs.

The Soil Survey is a cooperative effort of the USDA Soil Conservation Service, the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation, the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service of Iowa State University and Clarke County.

A newsletter from Extension Director will be mailed to the landowners and operators informing them that the Soil Scientists will be making soil maps of their farms in the coming days or weeks, weather permitting of course.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
April 28, 1983*

NOTICE OF HEARING ON AN APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT TO STORE WATER IN CLARKE COUNTY, IOWA

Notice is hereby given that there is now on file in the Office of the Iowa Natural Resources Council, an application from Mark Larson (Log #13,131) for a permit to store water for erosion control purposes in the maximum amount of 40.7 acre-feet at a maximum rate of natural runoff from 158 acres throughout each year on his land generally described as the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 26, T71N, R25W, Clarke County, Iowa.

Notice is further given that pursuant to 455A.18 and 455A.19, Code of Iowa, a public hearing has been scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on June 27, 1983, at the Office of the Water Commissioner, Iowa Natural Resources Council, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa, 50319. At the hearing, the Water Commissioner or his Deputy will take evidence either in support of or in opposition to the granting of the permit requested. The criteria for approval pertinent to the application are set forth in 455A.2, 455A.20 through 455A.24, and 455A.27, Code of Iowa, and Chapter 3 of the Iowa administrative rules (Agency Number 580, Iowa Administrative Code).

Any person desiring to appear at the hearing herein announced must file a statement of intent to appear at the hearing. Statements of intent to appear at the hearing must be submitted in writing to the Office of the Water Commissioner on or before June 20, 1983, and must specify the application of interest by applicant's name and log number.

James F. Wiegand
Deputy Water Commissioner
s-22,2

Give Tentative Okay to West Lake Dam Project

Continuation with plans to raise the dam of the West Lake reservoir were discussed at the Thursday evening, July 7 meeting of the Osceola City Water Board.

Approval was given by the two Board members present, Bayard Shadley and Robert Horton with Chairman Dr. Fred Wood absent.

Original plans had called for raising the dam. When bids were received they were above the engineer's estimates and no action was taken pending further discussion.

It was then decided to see if cutting back on the height of the dam would cut back on costs sufficiently to warrant going with a lower dam and lower figure. Investigation

proved that it was not feasible to proceed with new plans and a lower dam height than originally planned.

Approval was then given to accept the low bids with R.G. Elder and Son for two portions of the project in the amounts of \$513,298.50 and a third portion amounting to \$930,315 from Hanson Construction Company with the understanding that contractors be cleared by EDA and HUD and accepted by the two government agencies.

Contracts will be drawn for the projects and await approval by all parties.

No action was taken concerning the hiring of a water superintendent—the post vacated by retiring Ralph Squier.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
7/14/83



SEVERAL VIEW CANOE RACES: A large turnout of area residents position themselves along the banks of East Lake, Monday, July 4, to watch the canoe races, sponsored by the Clarke County Conservation Board. Eight heats were held that

day with the finals held at the end. It was estimated that over 500 interested spectators lined the East Lake Dam, and plans for a second canoe race next July 4 are being arranged.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
7/21/83

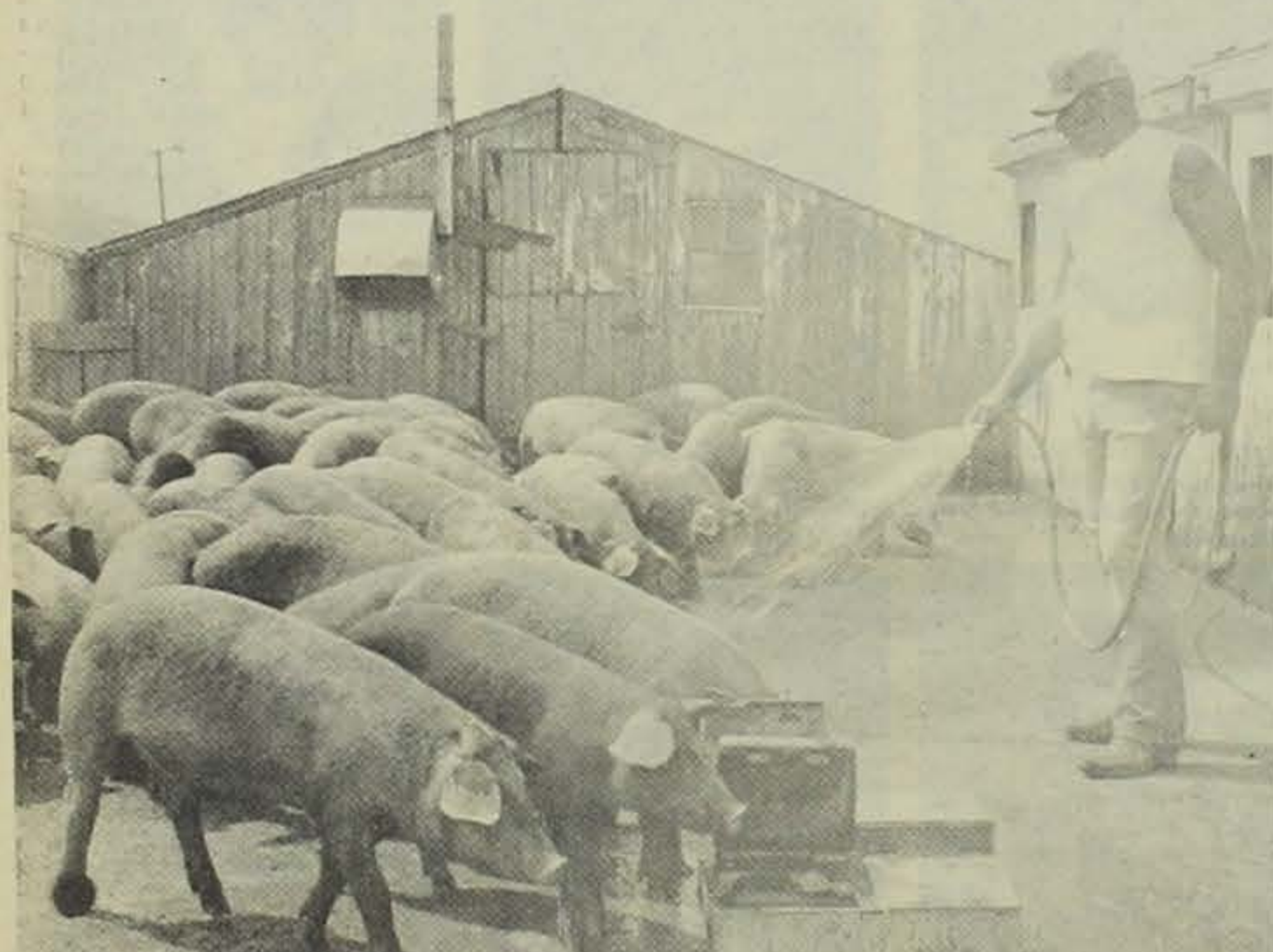
SAVE THE STUBBLE BURY THE PLOW



Osceola Sentinel + Tribune
7/28/83

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
6/19/83

Evidences of the Elements...



SAVE LIVESTOCK: Lavern Hildreth, farming north of Osceola, was forced to water down his hogs three times a day during the heat wave to prevent losing them. "With such heat conditions, the hogs don't eat much," stated Hildreth, "and a person is lucky just to keep from losing any."



HEAT WAVE: Temperatures reached well above the 100 mark last week, as recorded on the Clarke County State Bank clock.



TURN AROUND: Passers-by the White's Furniture store last week were amused with Santa Clause in their window, predicting a cold winter to come. Meanwhile temperatures outside remained above the century mark.



SMALL YIELD: This ear of corn is representative of this year's corn crop in Clarke County, said to be a disaster with yields in the county expected to be 75 to 85 percent damaged.



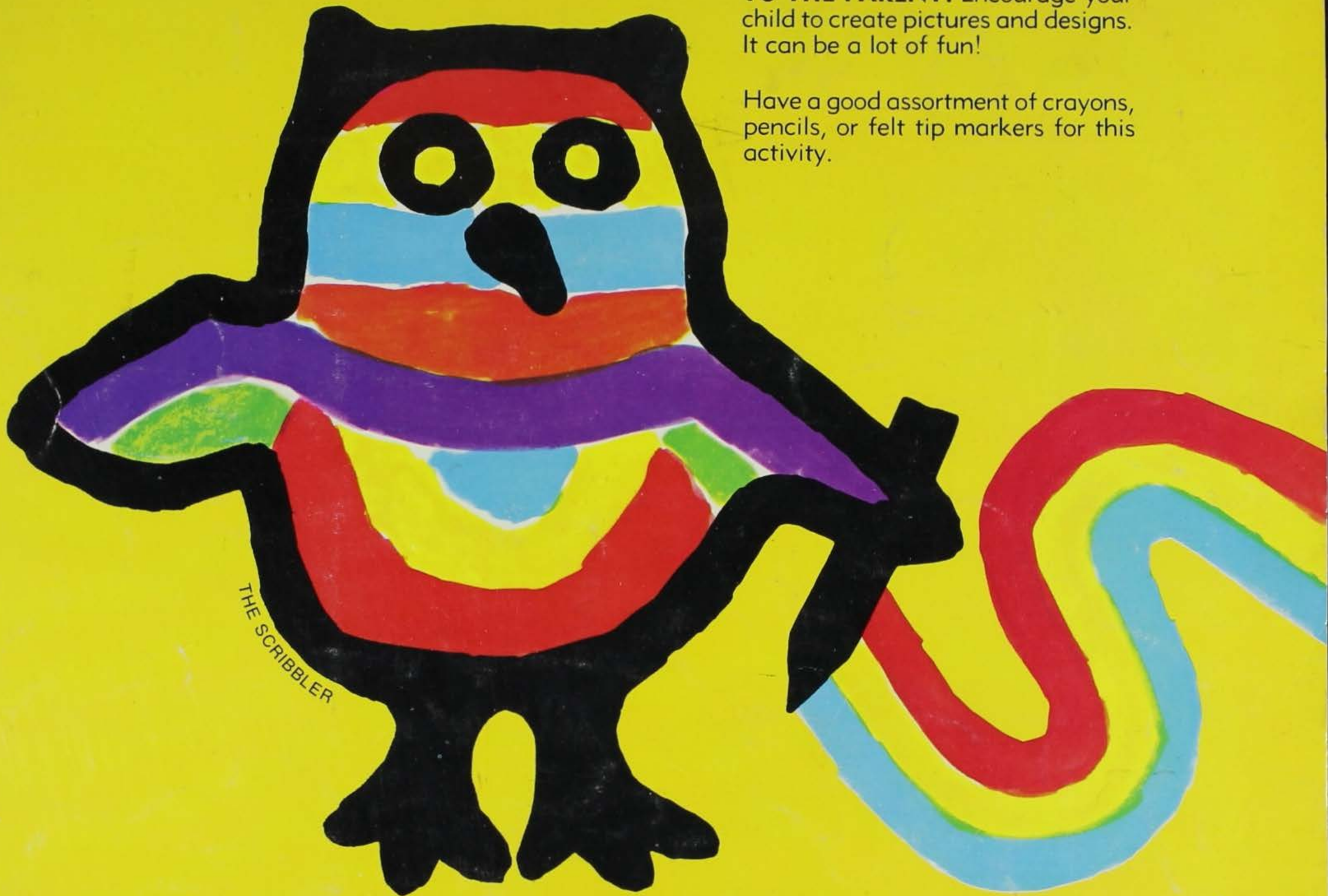
DEEP: Rain-starved land in Clarke County is evidenced in the large crevice in the soil. Here is a random check with a yardstick reading of 28 inches deep. Other erosion crevices reported have been as deep as 44 inches.

Rainfall Totals

July	2.22
August	10.45

TO THE PARENT: Encourage your child to create pictures and designs. It can be a lot of fun!

Have a good assortment of crayons, pencils, or felt tip markers for this activity.



THE SCRIBBLER