

POWESHIEK COUNTY

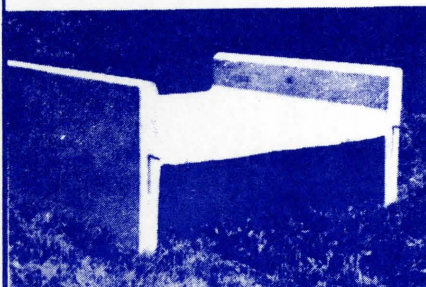


SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

1976

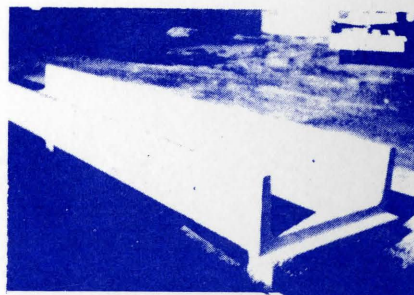
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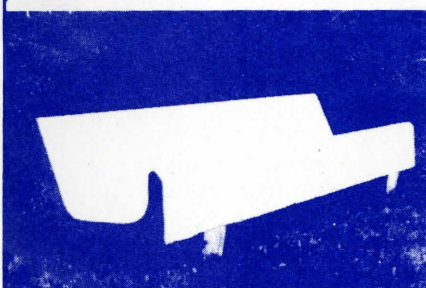
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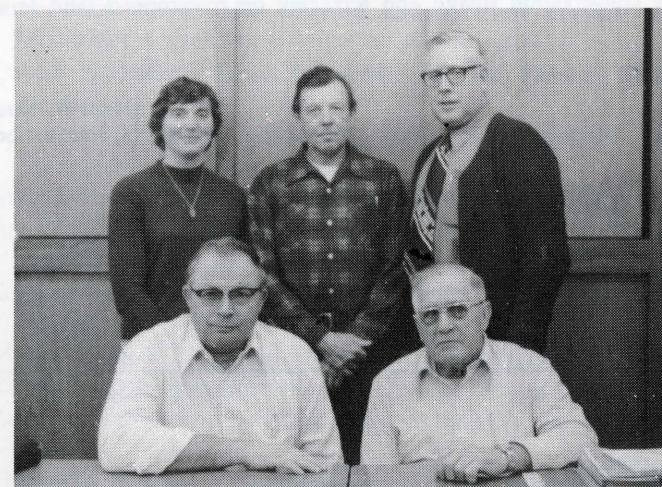
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Groups Who Assist the District

1. Soil Conservation Service
2. State Soil Conservation Committee
3. County A S C S (RECP Program)
4. County Extension Service
5. State Conservation Commission
6. Federal Fish & Wildlife Service
7. State & National Assn. of District Commissioners
8. Grinnell Kiwanis Club
9. Newspapers
10. Radio & TV Stations
11. County Board of Supervisors
12. Contractors
13. Vocational Agriculture
14. 4-H Clubs
15. Boy Scouts
16. Public Schools
17. County Farm Bureau
18. County Grange
19. County Conservation Board
20. F H A
21. Professional & Business personnel
22. Izaak Walton League
23. N F O



SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE- [L to R]: Ed Fenner, Soil Conservation Technician [WAE], Carol McCain, Clerk, David W. Kudej, District Conservationist, and Robert Malin, Soil Conservation Aide.



COMMISSIONERS-Seated: [L to R] Charles Fenner, Chairman and Lauren Wright, Commissioner. Standing: [L to R] Mrs. Robert [Helen] Renaud, Commissioner, Loren Roorda, Assistant Commissioner and Miles Clayton, Commissioner. Absent: Carl Boget, Commissioner and Ken Christiansen, Assistant Commissioner.

District Commissioners wish to extend a special thanks to the Area personnel for their assistance which includes: A. Keith Glandon, Area Conservationist; Marvin Palmer, Civil Engineer; Francis W. Vos, Civil Engineer Technician; Wilma D. Kimball, Area Clerk.

SOIL CONSERVATION - MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

Conservation of our soil is as important as ever. More land in Poweshiek County is in rowcrop than ever before, with the emphasis on all out food production. Most of the sidehill soils in the county have only about plow layer depth topsoils. Some fields are eroding at the rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of soil per year on the average.

Conservation tillage (sometimes called minimum or mulch tillage) is a valuable means of reducing soil erosion on land used for rowcrop. It involves leaving a portion of the crop residue on the soil surface at planting time. The more residue left, the more soil protection there is from soil erosion.

A 100 bushel corn crop will produce about 5600 pounds of crop residue. If between 2000 and 3000 pounds of residue are left on the soil surface at planting time, soil erosion is reduced by 26%. With 3000 to 4000 pounds of residue left, erosion is reduced 34%. That's assuming the residue is distributed over $\frac{2}{3}$ of the soil surface. Erosion control through this means is significant.

The most effective means of erosion control on land used for intensive rowcropping is terracing. Terraces are now built as parallel as possible using tile for outlets. Using tile for outlets also eliminates the need for grass waterways. Terracing can reduce soil erosion about 80% over up and down hill farming and reduce erosion 66% or more compared to contouring alone. Combining conservation tillage and terracing on rowcropped land is even better.

David W. Kudej,
District Conservationist

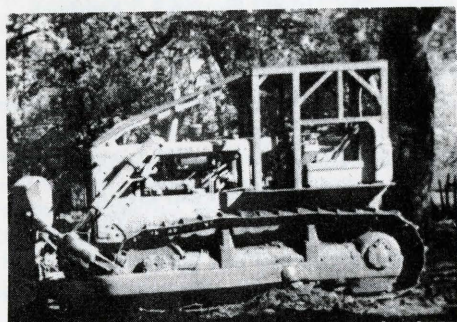
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- 1968 - Ralph Phillips, Richard Seeland*, Charles Fenner*, Donald Brau
- 1969 - Patricia Waterbury, Leonard Thys, Sylvan VeVerka, Raymond Cadden
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- 1971 - Richard Widmer, George Morrison
- 1972 - Robert Renaud, Dorothy and Royce Renaud, Arnout Dunnick
- 1973 - Farrell Siehl
- 1974 - Ross Mintle
- 1975 - Robert Haworth

*Region VII Sweepstakes Winners also.



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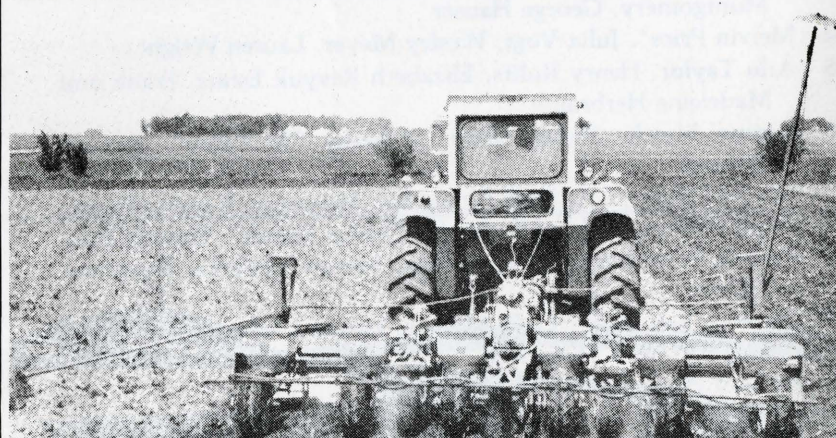


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Agricultural Stabilization And Conservation Service

The Poweshiek County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) administers the farm programs in the county.

All provisions of the various programs are carried out by regularly employed personnel who administer the program policies established by the elected committeemen.

Processing of Price Support Loans, administering the Feed Grain program, providing loans for on-farm storage and dryers, and providing information and funds for farmers participating in the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) are some of the programs for which ASCS has responsibility. Their office phone number is 528-4115.

The Poweshiek County ASC Committee consists of Evan Johnston, chairman, Warren Dee, Vice Chairman, and Jack Grier, regular member.



ASCS PERSONNEL-[L to R] Frances Schlesselman, Administrative and ACP, Gordon Braley, County Executive Director, and Roger Johannes, Production Adjustment and Price Support.

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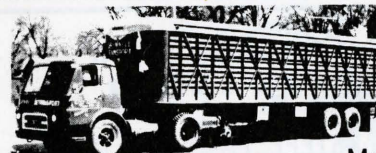
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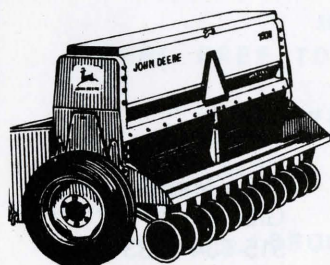
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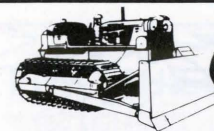


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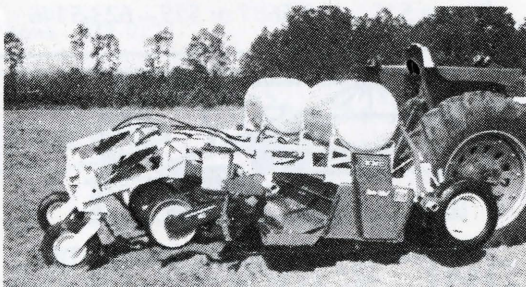
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| 5. J. Ronald Everist | 34. Kenneth L. Johnson |
| 6. J. Ronald Everist | 35. Carroll Schafbuch |
| 7. Wilbur A. Rozendaal | 36. A.S. Moffett |
| 8. Roy D. James | 37. G. Harold Newell, Farm Mgr. |
| 9. Alvah F. Watson | 38. John Krumm |
| 10. Eugene Van De Voorde | 39. LaVerne Kriegel |
| 11. Richard M. Sears | 40. Robert E. Ochs |
| 12. Philip B. Collins | 41. Gordon Lewis |
| 13. William J. Kriegel | 42. Gordon Lewis |
| 14. Melvin Doty | 43. Loanna Bloethe |
| 15. Don Purdum | 44. Claire Meyer |
| 16. James H. McIlrath | 45. Laverne Neitzel |
| 17. Paul J. Prusha | 46. Emil Arvidson |
| 18. Lowell L. Pickhardt | 47. Robert Rutherford |
| 19. Faith Santoro | 48. Ellsworth Hudnutt |
| 20. Chuck Mayo | 49. Steven R. Veverka |
| 21. Harris Van Kooten | 50. Robert M. Overturf |
| 22. Lyle M. Brown | 51. Ross Mitchell |
| 23. Charles Mayo | 52. Allen L. Latcham |
| 24. Raymond Watson | 53. Bill F. Kuntz |
| 25. Harry Duffus | 54. Kenneth R. Hanssen |
| 26. Charles W. Henry | 55. Hansen Bros. |
| 27. Jerry E. Dale | 56. County Conservation Board |
| 28. Ralph Williams | 57. William H. Henkle |
| 29. Thomas Ogle | |

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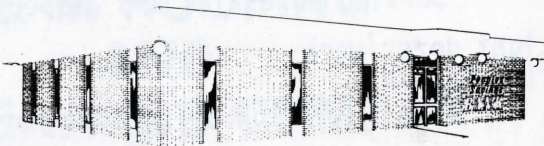
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Frequently it is beneficial to look back in order that one might recognize areas to be improved in the future. With that in mind, the following is a listing of the major areas of accomplishment within the Marshalltown Forestry District.

State Nursery seedlings ordered, by county (number of orders in parenthesis):

Benton	26,700	(17)
Black Hawk	56,900	(40)
Buchanan	24,000	(21)
Iowa	38,000	(25)
Grundy	13,000	(10)
Jasper	22,200	(35)
Marshall	19,800	(35)
Poweshiek	13,000	(10)
Tama	12,700	(14)
TOTAL:	226,300	(207)

All totals include seedlings for County Conservation Board areas. Benton and Tama County totals include seedlings ordered by the Wildlife Biologist for State land. The Iowa County total includes 19,000 seedlings planted by the Amana Society.

Only two forest landowners, one in Marshall County and one in Buchanan County, took advantage of federal cost-share payments for timber stand improvement. The work consisted primarily of removal of weed trees and elimination of deformed trees. Acreage treated totaled 45 acres. By my own estimate, roughly 80% of Iowa's woodlands are pastured. In order to perpetuate the forest resource, protection of existing timber and improvement of that timber must increase in the future.

Eight landowners currently have 7,342 board feet of walnut on the District Forester's "Timber for Sale" listing. Another 52 thousand bd ft of mixed species is also on this listing, which is maintained and distributed to selected buyers throughout the winter months.

To promote better forest management in Iowa, thirty-six programs were presented. This included tree planting meetings, service club talks, and outdoor classrooms for school students. Thirty-five radio programs were made, over one-half of which were regularly scheduled Izaak Walton League broadcasts in Marshall County. Fourteen articles appeared in newspapers around the entire district. The Marshalltown District was also responsible for the 1976 State Fair display. One additional paper was published in the *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science*, 82:3-4, May 1976.

It is hoped that timber protection and improvement will increase in future years. More effort will also have to be directed towards increasing the amount of tree planting, particularly in Tama and Poweshiek Counties. With this as a review of the past for a plan for the future. I would like to thank the staff of the Soil Conservation Service and the landowners with whom I have worked in the past year.



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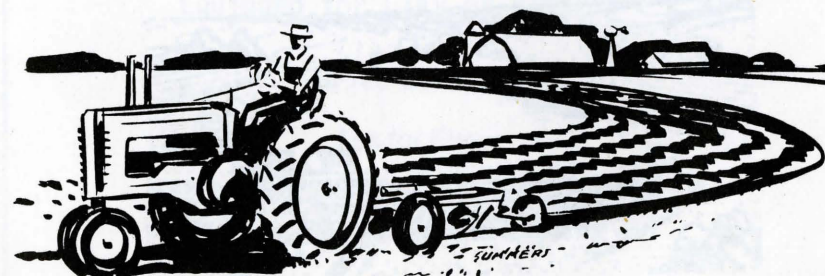
PHONE 515-236-4634

Expenditure of Funds Provided by State of Iowa 1975 - 1976 Fiscal Year

1-M BUDGET	\$1,475.00
Commissioners mileage, meals, hotel	667.20
Office Supplies	144.70
Printing	0.00
Prizes for Contests	30.00
Rental for Meeting Halls	9.00
Office Expense	321.72
Meeting Expense	243.49
	\$1,416.11
Balance	\$58.89

2-M BUDGET	\$10,600.00
Gross Earnings (Clerk & Technicians)	6417.00
State Retirement	173.70
Federal	471.99
Health	228.00
Clerk's Travel	83.35
Equipment	188.97
Life Insurance	39.00
	\$7602.01
Balance	\$2997.99

3-M BUDGET [State Cost-Share Funds]	\$25,500.00
Amount approved and disbursed for conservation practices	21,224.15
Amount approved pending completion	4090.00
Balance	\$185.85



Wildlife Habitat Improvement

Wild animals are products of the soil; they flourish or decline according to what is done with the land. Like by-products of industry, they are often wasted. But the far-sighted landowner will add their value to his enjoyment of the place in which he lives.

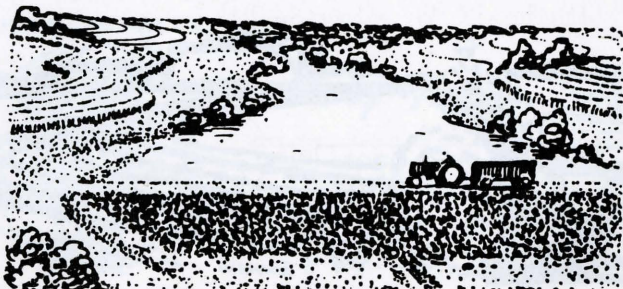
Build up the soil and you will enrich all life that lives on it or in it. How do you increase wild birds and animals? The most important thing is to care for the land. Caring for the land means providing homes for animals to live, and also nesting and brooding areas to raise their young.

A combination of trees and shrubs is usually necessary to provide adequate winter cover for wildlife. Shrubs adaptable to this part of Iowa include honeysuckle, autumn olive, dogwood, ninebark, wild plum and osage-orange. Trees that make excellent wildlife habitat when planted with any of the above listed shrubs include red pine, white pine, scotch pine, norway spruce, red cedar and black hills spruce.

Tree and shrub plantings could be located around farm ponds, odd areas, steep hillsides, along ditches or creek banks, or along fencerows. What area would work best on your farm? I'm sure every farmer has at least one area on his farm that could be planted to better cover for wildlife.

If you are interested in improving the environment on your farm for wildlife and future generations, get in touch with the Soil Conservation Service office in Malcom or write directly to me. I will be happy to help you improve your farm for wildlife.

ROBERT KURT
Wildlife Biologist
Otter Creek Wildlife Unit
203 W. High Street
Toledo, Iowa 52342



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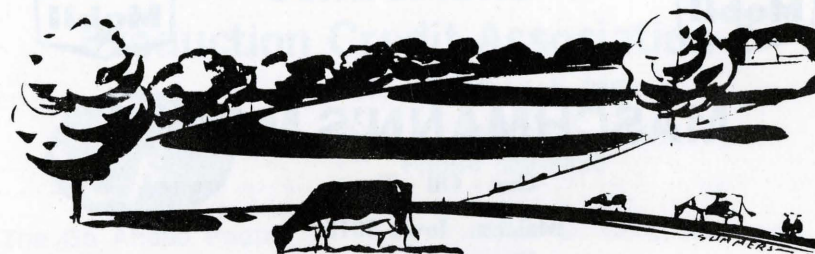
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Andy Conn
Box 11
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

Residence phone (515) 236-8438

Accomplishment Summary for 1976

	No.	Unit Of Measure
New District Cooperators.....	57.....	10,734 Ac.
Basic Conservation Plans.....	9.....	1,487 Ac.
Group Plans Prepared.....	5.....	
Strip Cropping.....		163 Ac.
Grassed Waterway.....		62.5 Ac.
Ponds Built.....	8.....	
Terraces.....		57,500 L. Ft.
Grade Stabilization.....	5.....	
Tile Drains.....		251,857 L. Ft.
Tree Planting.....		17.5 Ac.
Pasture and Hayland Planting.....		569 Ac.
Critical Area Planting.....		19.0 Ac.

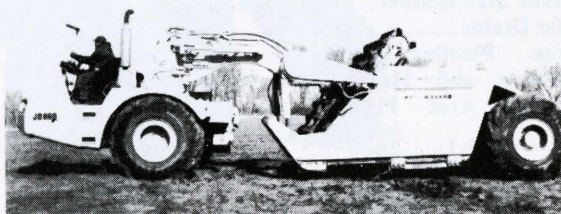


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SOIL SCIENTISTS-[L to R]: Elmer Harvey, Lorne Nestrud, Party Chief, and James Hart.

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1976 Soil Survey Progress

by Lorne M. Nestrud,
Soil Scientist

The Poweshiek County Soil Survey will be completed in 1977. Since the last report, 113,460 acres were soil surveyed in 1976 and a total of 337,940 acres have been mapped since the survey started in 1973. The shaded area of the county map indicates the area that has been soil surveyed.

Field soil surveys are made by walking across the land, and at certain places on the landscape, the soils are examined, identified, and the boundaries of the soils are plotted on the maps (aerial photographs). The main features to identify the soil are texture, steepness of slope and the degree of erosion. Other land and physical features are also shown such as streams, sand and clayey spots, rock outcrops, severe erosion and quarries.

A soil survey is an inventory of the soil resources in a given area. This inventory provides detailed information concerning the location of each kind of soil on each acre of ground in the county. Each kind of soil has unique properties and responds to management and treatment that is needed for that particular soil. This detailed information is available for each type of soil indicating its productivity, physical characteristics, its potential for various uses, and its susceptibility to certain problems such as flooding or high water table. Over 120 different mapping units have been identified in Poweshiek County.

Soil surveys are made for everyone to use - farmers, homeowners, builders, developers, appraisers, sanitarians, planners, engineers and for recreation and wildlife managers.

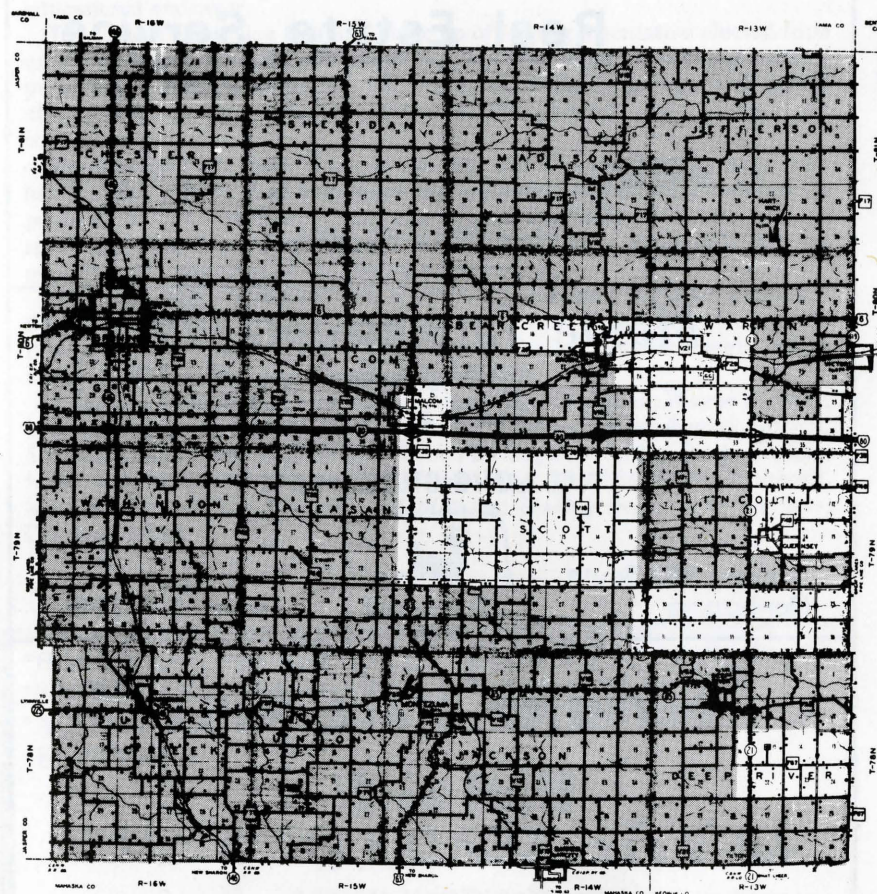
In 1977 watch for the announcement of a "Last Acre" ceremony and plan to attend and see first hand how a soil survey is made.

The soil survey party in Poweshiek County consists of Lorne Nestrud, Party Leader, assisted by Elmer Harvey and James Hart. We also had part time assistance from Gary Lindgren and Robert Russell.



SOIL SURVEY IN POWESHIEK COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT IOWA

Area soil surveyed as of December, 1976



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Services Available From The Extension Office

by Charles S. Wengert,
County Extension Director

The Extension Service is the educational arm of Iowa State University. Its purpose is to bring the results of studies and research conducted at Iowa State to the people. The assistance of the Extension Service is available to all of the people of the county, both rural and urban.

The cooperative Extension Service is set up so that Iowa State University at Ames and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperate in the educational endeavor.

The County Extension Council, made up of one representative elected from each township and the city of Grinnell together with committees on agricultural production, home economics, 4-H, community development, and public affairs, plan a yearly program to suit the educational needs of the people of the county.

The Extension Director, Home Economist, and 4-H and Youth Leader have had training at Iowa State University and are approved and recommended for positions in the counties by the state Extension Staff. With the help of specialists and supervisors from this staff, they are responsible for the planning and execution of the county program.

Extension Staff Members are Charles S. Wengert, County Extension Director; Deborah Van Arkel, Extension Home Economist; Donald L. Buzzingham, Jr., Extension 4-H and Youth Leader; Phyllis Sheetz, office assistant. Their office phone number is 623-5188.

Extension Council Members are: Robert Jordan, Chairman; Wayne Farnum, Vice-Chairman; Gregory Brown, Treasurer; Loretta (Mrs. Roger) Gritsch, Secretary; Mrs. William Warwick; Elwood Burlingame; LeRoy Sterk; William Nolte; Dan Rieder; Phil Heishman; Melvin Hohl; Mrs. Ed (Linda) Eichhorn; Mrs. Jim (Janet) Van Ersvelde; Ed Watkins; Stanley Gray; Larry Sanders; Charles Lusher.

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Farmers Home Administration, as agency of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, makes loans to farmers, families of low and moderate income and rural communities. This general purpose credit service contributes in a variety of ways to the vitality and expansion of the rural economy. It provides financial assistance for the development of essential public services and the growth of rural communities. The programs that would be most commonly used in Poweshiek County are as follows:

Individual Homeownership Loans:

Purpose: To buy, build, improve or relocate homes or farm service buildings; to buy building sites; to refinance certain debts.

For: Low to moderate income families who will occupy homes in rural areas. Rental and Cooperative Housing Loans:

Purpose: To build, buy, improve or repair rental or cooperatively owned houses or apartments for independent living by senior citizens and low to moderate income families.

For: Nonprofit corporations, cooperatives, municipal bodies, individuals, partnerships and corporations.

Repair and Rehabilitation Housing Loans:

Purpose: To make minor repairs for safety or to remove health hazards.

For: Very low income owner-occupants who cannot qualify for housing loans but do have repayment capability.

Conditional Commitments to Builders:

Purpose: To encourage quantity building in rural areas.

For: Public agencies or nonprofit corporations.

Farm Ownership Loans:

Purpose: To buy land; refinance debts; construct, repair or improve buildings; improve farmland; develop water facilities and establish farm-based business enterprises to supplement farming income.

For: Qualified persons who will get a substantial share of their income from farming.

Farm Operating Loans:

Purpose: To buy livestock, equipment, feed, seed, fertilizer, birds or supplies for farm and home operations; refinance debts or pay interest on them; pay depreciation on equipment; make minor real estate improvements; improve forest lands; establish non-farm enterprises to supplement farm income.

For: Eligible operators of not larger-than-family farms.

Farm Emergency Loans:

Purpose: For operating or living expenses and to replace livestock and equipment needed to restore normal operations after severe loss from natural disaster. Repairs to homes, essential farm buildings and related facilities are included.

For: Eligible farmers, ranchers and oyster planters.

Soil and Water Conservation Loans:

Purpose: To finance land and water development measures, forestation, drainage of farm land, irrigation, pasture improvement and related land and water use adjustments.

For: An eligible owner, tenant, leaseholder, partnership or corporation.

Byron Witt
Supervisor



Farmers Home Administration Personnel:

Left to right: Byron Witt, County Supervisor, Janice Reinig, County Office Clerk, Karlene Foreman, County Office Assistant and Norm Lanning, Assistant County Supervisor.

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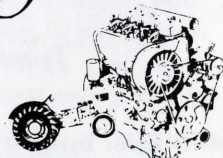
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DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS FOR 1976

January

District Conservationist attended an area meeting in Newton and an ASCS Development meeting at the ASCS office.

February

Annual contractors meeting.

District Conservationist attended a pasture improvement meeting.
Loren Roorda was appointed Assistant Commissioner.

March

District Conservationist attended a meeting on minimum tillage.

District Conservationist, Commissioners and Clerk attend regional meeting in Iowa City.

State Clerk attended an area meeting in Newton.

April

District Conservationist attended a Rural Development meeting.

May

Soil Stewardship Week.

June

District Conservationist attended SCSA meeting.

District Conservationist gave a talk to the Lady Landowners club.

September

District Conservationist attended a management meeting in Fairfield.

Soil Conservation Week.

District Conservationist attended a defensive driving meeting.

District Conservationist attended a Rural Development meeting.

District Conservationist attended a SCSA meeting in Ames.

November

District Conservationist attended a Rural Development meeting.

District Conservationist attended Commissioners Conference.

December

District Conservationist attended pesticide meeting.

Soil Conservation District and families attend Christmas party at Carnforth Inn.

Poweshiek-Jasper Farm Service Co.



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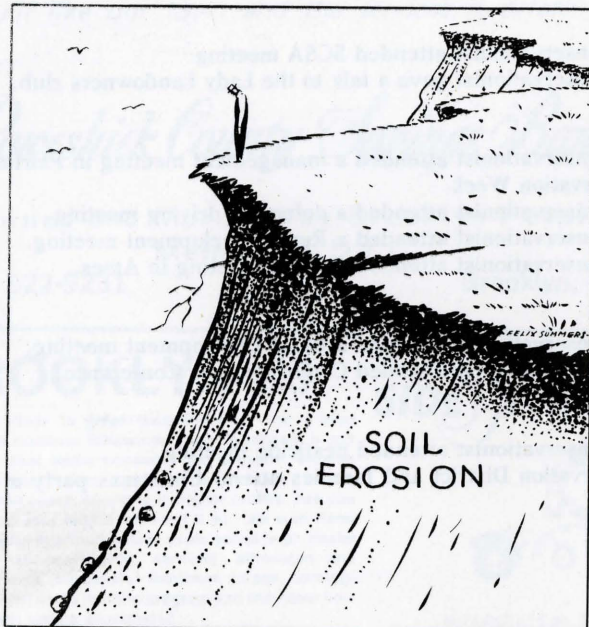
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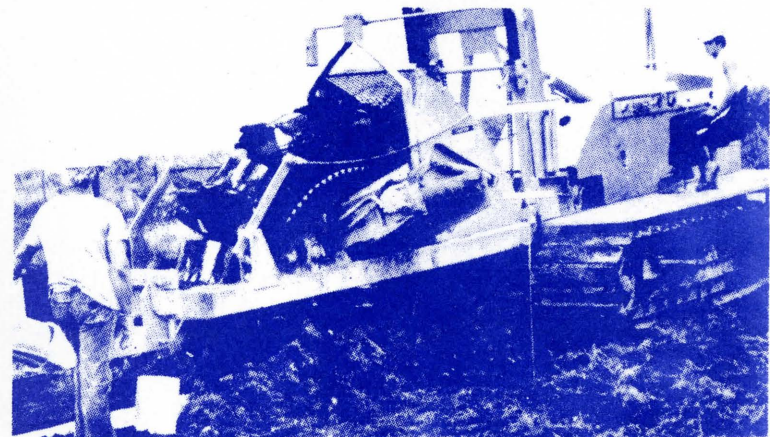
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