



A break with tradition

Mike Smith of Owasa is pictured planting beans down the middle of old corn rows with a new "plant-till" system. His planter is equipped

with a "trash whipper" that throws debris from the middle of the row. Smith is hoping the system will save him time, money and moisture not to mention cutting down on wind and soil erosion. Smith's farm, as well as several others in the county, will be featured on a Conservation Tillage Tour June 17 which is sponsored by the Soil Conservation District and the Hardin County Extension Service.

Scott's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Van Gelder of Rock Rapids, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Van Ukaseck of Springfield, Missouri.

on Conservation Tillage Tour June 17 sponsored by the Soil Conservation District and the Hardin County Extension Service.

"The idea of doing this makes a lot of the older farmers shudder," said Smith. "Especially planting beans right in with the corn stalks. I'm hoping besides what I save in fuel that it will cut down on the wind and water erosion also."

Smith is planting 60 acres of beans on old corn ground, 70 acres of corn on old corn ground and 180 acres of corn on old bean ground with the system. Smith says he figures he is saving over half his previous field costs by using the system and also cutting down on his time in the field. An added bonus is that the ground holds more moisture when it has not been worked over so much.

"This system should control wind and water erosion by leaving more residue on the ground," stated Steve Manternach, District Conservationist for the Soil Conservation District. "He also uses less fuel, about one gallon to the acre, to get the crops in the ground."

The "trash whippers" resemble two disc blades that throw the debris from the path. Herbicide is banded on, also cutting costs there, and the land is cultivated with a Buffalo Till Cultivator which is designed to work in heavy trash.

The system is not the same as no-till planting and this is the first year Smith has tried it.

"People have to try different things to see if they work," said Manternach. "You will never know if it works until you give it a try."

Smith's corn is coming up and "looking pretty good" and bean planting should be complete this week. Smith says he also might start to cultivate his corn ground this week.

Area farmers will get a chance to look at this system on the tour June 17 which will look at various other types of conservation tillage also.

According to Manternach the tour will try to see what type of practices are working and which are not. Smith is hoping his will be one system which is working.

"This might not be the ultimate system," said Manternach. "But we are trying--and hoping--it will work."

Iowa Falls Citizen

MAY 27, 1981 ISSUE

Soil Stewardship Week Underway

Soil Stewardship Week will be held nationwide this year, May 24 through 31, according to Gary Walters, chairman of the Hardin County Soil Conservation District.

Since 1955, Soil Stewardship Week has been recognized in millions of churches and schools across the nation. It is designed to focus on the nation's natural resource problems and to consider ways to solve them.

"This country must, at whatever cost, maintain the capacity of the land to produce food and fiber," cites the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) in its booklet for the 1981 observance. NACD sponsors Soil Stewardship Week in cooperation with the nation's 3,000 soil and water conservation districts.

"With our own population at 220 million and growing and with many regions of the world depending on the United States to supplement their food supply, the need to maintain our productive capacity be-

comes increasingly apparent," according to NACD.

This year's event focuses on "Society's Pressure Points" as its theme and covers such topics as soil and water conservation, urbanization and loss of prime farmland.

Information and materials for the 1981 observance of Soil Stewardship Week are available from the Hardin County Soil Conservation District Office, located below the post office in Eldora.

Hardin County Index
MAY 29, 1981

Iowa Falls Citizen
June 25, 1981



Looking over corn
on a tillage tour

Approximately 50 people attended the Hardin County Conservation Tillage Tour Wednesday, June 17, sponsored by the Hardin County Extension Service and **Soil Conservation District**. Here, onlookers hear crop specialist Sorel Brown talk about cutworm damage in a

field near Steamboat Rock farmed by Jack Smith. The tour looked at six fields in the county that used different types of reduced, conservation, or no-till systems, including step-by-step procedures used, and a look at the tillage equipment.

Allocate More Funds For Soil Conservation Work

The Hardin County Soil Conservation District has received notice of approval for supplemental cost-share funds of \$46,271.12 for permanent soil conservation practices, to be completed in 1981-82 fiscal year. This is in addition to the \$22,491.00 allocated by the Department of Soil Conservation on July 1, 1981.

According to Gary Walters, Chairman of the Hardin S.C.D., farmers in Hardin county are showing increasing interest in permanent structures to reduce soil erosion. The numbers of acres of conservation tillage used in Hardin county has increased markedly this year.

Walters states that the S.C.D. staff has worked hard this spring and summer with farmers enabling the Hardin S.C.D. to receive these additional funds for soil conservation practices in Hardin county.

*HARDIN Co. INDEX
August 28, 1981*

No-till corn on rocky soil is producing good results

By VALERIE GERDES
Hardin County
Soil conservationist

"It really looks good!" "This corn is so tall!"

These were some of the comments that the Hardin County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Committee members gave when they saw Jack Smith's no-till corn.

Smith's field is west of Steamboat Rock, where the stony condition of



Jack
Smith

the soil made reducing tillage a desirable alternative. The field previously produced hay when Smith and his son Mike decided to try no-till corn into the standing alfalfa.

He used 2,4-D at the rate of 1.6 pints and 120 units of 28 percent liquid nitrogen, which was applied to burn down the alfalfa. A week later, the corn was planted using a planter with a population of about 25,000. A herbicide at 1.6 pints per acre was applied after planting.

Soil Conservation people had to look twice to see if the field has been

planted. The little planter strips were difficult to see in the dying alfalfa. Three pounds of a second herbicide was applied after emergence to control weeds. There was 99 percent crop residue cover after planting.

The field was part of the Hardin Soil Conservation District and Extension Service Conservation Tillage Tour in June. There was a great deal of skepticism when the Smiths planted the field, but curiosity brought many to see the corn for themselves and check for weed control and insect problems.

Many people also came to visit with Smith through the summer about this field. We are all anxious to see the yield results when the Smiths take the corn in a few weeks. The future plans for the field are to plant it to corn this spring with the no-till system.

Smith suggests to those thinking of trying no-till in alfalfa or any kind of minimum tillage to see some farmers who have tried different minimum or reduced tillage systems for a few years.

Your Soil Conservation Service and County Extension Service have information to share for the asking. Call or stop by and visit them. If you and several neighbors are interested, we can help you arrange a meeting at your convenience to discuss the alternatives of conservation tillage. There are several farmers, such as the Smiths, who are willing to discuss their reduced tillage systems with you.

Hot, dry winds rob moisture from new plantings

THE balmy breezes of summer often turn to hot, moisture-robbing, dust-carrying windstorms.

Many trees and shrubs were planted this spring in landscapes and farmstead windbreaks. These young plants do not have fully developed root systems yet. While the amount of leaf surface may seem extensive, there is probably not enough root surface area for balance.

The leaf presents surface area to the hot sun's drying winds. Moisture is literally sucked up through the tree system. The limited root zone cannot contend with this rapid uptake and loss of water which causes stress on young plants.

Often the root zone is the same zone that is occupied by turf, weeds, or existing plant materials. This means additional competition for moisture.

Heavy, frequent waterings will help relieve the stress on young trees and shrubs.

The following information was developed by Iowa State University and the Iowa Conservation Commission.

Bare root stock

1st year	1 to 2 gal. water every 10 to 15 days
2nd year	3 gal. once a month
3rd year	5 gal. every 4 to 6 weeks

Balled and burlapped stock

1st year	3 to 5 gal. every 2 weeks
2nd year	10 gal. every 3 weeks

Potted stock such as evergreen trees and shrubs should receive the same rates as balled and burlapped stock.

These watering rates exclude any precipitation. Adjustments should be made accordingly. The better times for watering are late evening when heat from the sun begins to decrease.

Three or 4 in. of mulch around new plants in an area 2 x 2 ft. will reduce weed competition. The mulch of wood chips, ground corncobs, or other woody material will absorb some of the moisture during waterings, so allow for extra water.

Soak the mulch thoroughly, then saturate the root zone. The mulch also acts as an insulator to maintain a more even ground temperature.

Care now and sufficient waterings this fall will help new plantings through the winter ahead and make for a greener spring next year.

—Val Gerdes, Soil Conservation Service

*WALLACES FARMER
JUNE 27, 1981*

Hardin County Times

No-till field "looking

By Tom Hawley

STEAMBOAT ROCK—You might say Jack Smith, who farms near here, went out on a limb this year. You might even say Smith took a gamble.

He planted 12 acres of rented ground in corn—which in itself is not so unusual—but he used a practice of no-till on the ground. In other words, Smith did nothing to prepare the seed bed, he just planted corn into what had been an alfalfa field the year before.

"It looks really great," says Smith. "It's amazing how well it looks. I guess I'm surprised."

Smith has been interested in no-till or minimum till farming for years now, but says there were several things that kept him from trying the practice earlier.

"We experimented with minimum till 10 years ago," says Smith. "But it didn't work out too well because we lacked a good herbicide and a good planter. The idea has been around a long time and I think technology is finally catching up with farmers' ideas. We now have the means to successfully use low tillage."

Just the 12 acres of land were planted no-till, the rest of the Smith farm, about 200 acres, was planted in a till plant fashion—meaning the planter had a device on it called a "trash whipper" which cleared a bed for the seed.

The advantages with minimum till practices are three-fold; first, it helps cut down on wind and water erosion; second, it holds water better; and third, it is more economical.

This week is Soil Conservation Week,

and this type of farming may be an important tool in preserving the valuable farmland found in Iowa. Controlling soil loss is achieved by installing a system of conservation practices. It often requires a combination of practices to reduce the loss. The practices, terraces and conservation tillage, are the main practices used in Hardin County to reduce soil losses. The Soil Conservation office says it can give landowners an idea of what their soil loss is and what practices they need on their own land to control soil loss.

Smith realizes that farmers have been blamed for much of the soil erosion, but says farmers were not insensitive to erosion—they just didn't know what to do about it. "Now we know," he says.

As important as soil conservation is to farmers, another important factor of the no-till and till plant system is economics.

Smith figures it took only a little over a gallon of gasoline per acre to get his corn into the ground. That figure includes the spraying of 2-4D and Ramrod. He has never gone over the field again. All the work in the no-till field was done with a 70 horsepower gas tractor.

Besides the amount of money saved—there is also the labor factor.

"I have 2,000 head of hogs so I really didn't have a lot of time to mess around in the field," says Smith. "I would just as soon not go out there if I don't have to—and with this system I don't have to."

Smith, who farms with his son Mike,

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A no-till stand

Steamboat Rock farmer Jack Smith stands on the edge of his cornfield which was planted with the no-till system, in other words, corn was

planted into an alfalfa field without first working the ground in any manner. Smith says he "is amazed" with the stand of corn he is producing. The no-till and till plant systems used by Smith and other Hardin County farmers save time and money as well as help stop soil erosion.

SEPTEMBER 16, 1981 - IOWA FALLS CITIZEN

To mark end of Hardin soil survey

The six-year job of mapping soil types in Hardin County will come to an end Monday, Sept. 14, with a "last acre" ceremony at Setchell Park three miles northwest of Steamboat Rock.

The program will begin at 1:15 p.m. and will be attended by state and federal Soil Conservation Service officials as well as representatives of county and city governments.

Field work started in September, 1975, under the direction of Kermit Voy, survey party leader. When completed, 367,168 acres will have been mapped in the county.

Hardin is the 70th Iowa county to conduct a soil survey. The remaining 29 counties in the state are either in the process of mapping their soils or have surveys scheduled. James Johnson, Hardin County Extension director, says that the volume containing all of the county's soil maps will be about 1½ inches thick. This will not be available for three to four years, but partial advance reports will be distributed through the Soil Conservation Service and Extension Service.

Soil surveys are based on the characteristics of the soils as they occur on the land. Since each soil type is defined

according to its characteristics, interpretation can be made as to how soils will react to various types and levels of management. The survey, therefore, is not only an inventory, but also includes ratings, limitations and potentials for each soil type.

This information is useful to farmers for planning herbicide application rates, tillage systems and soil testing programs. Information is offered for each soil type which tells the range of organic matter, range of soil pH, the acidity, amount of sand, silt and clay and water-holding capacity. The levels of phosphorus and potassium are also listed.

Commercial land developers and highway builders will also find uses for the survey. It will rate each type for road fill and highway location, foundation suitability, sources of topsoil, sand and gravel, for septic tank fields and sewage lagoons.

Depth of water tables will also be noted as will the natural internal drainage of the soil and the potential of soil to being flooded.

Monday's "last acre" ceremony will be open to the public.

IOWA FALLS CITIZEN

SEPT. 9, 1981



Final sample of Hardin soil

Soil Scientist Kermit Voy takes the last sample of Hardin County soil for the county's Soil Survey during a "Last Acre" ceremony north of Steamboat Rock

Monday. The survey began in 1975 with a "First Acre" ceremony. Finished copies of the Soil Survey are expected to be distributed in three years. Forty-seven counties have completed modern soil surveys with another 19 counties awaiting the survey to be published. Nineteen more counties are presently being surveyed.

Last Acre Ceremony To Mark End Of Soil Survey

A six-year effort to inventory all of the soil types in Hardin County will be officially concluded on Monday, Sept. 14 during a "last acre" ceremony at Setchell Area County Conservation Park, three miles northwest of Steamboat Rock.

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 1928.

The program will start at 1:15 p.m. and will include Bill Brune, State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service and Larry Vance, Director, State Dept. of Soil Conservation both from Des Moines. Kennel Kassel, Ayrshire, a member of the Iowa Soil Conservation Committee; Jerry Miller, Extension Agronomist and Sorrel

Brown, Area Extension Crop Specialist, Iowa State University, Ames, will represent cooperating agencies assisting the Hardin county soil survey.

The field work started in September, 1975. The ceremony will mark the mapping of the final acre in Hardin county following the six years of field work. The soil survey team, under the direction of Kermit Voy, the soil survey party leader, mapped all 367,168 acres of Hardin county.

Jim Johnson, County Extension Director for Hardin county said, "Hardin County is the 70th county in Iowa to complete a modern soil survey. Nineteen counties are currently being surveyed and 10 counties have starting dates scheduled between now and 1982."

Johnson said that a publication approximately one and one-half inches thick can be expected in three to four years. In the interval an advance report will be available at the local Soil Conservation Service and County Extension offices.

The completed Soil Survey of Hardin county has the potential for a large number of agricultural and non-agricultural uses, reports Gerald Miller, Extension Agronomist, Iowa State University.

The completed soil survey is a comprehensive inventory of all of the soil resources of the county. The soil survey is based on the characteristics of the soils as they occur on the land. Since each soil

Soil Survey

(Continued from page 1)

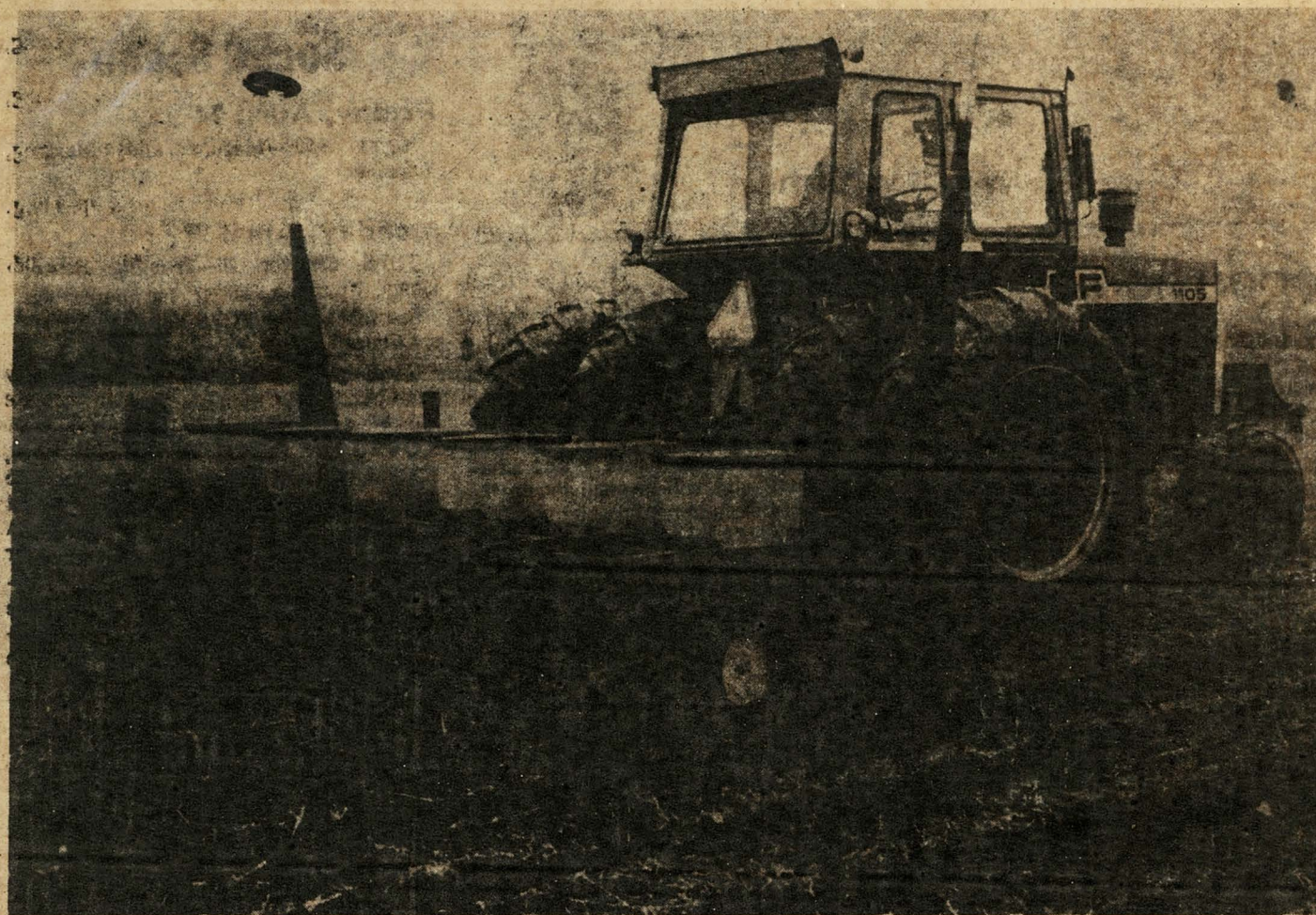
type is defined according to its characteristics, interpretation can be made as to how soils will react to different types and levels of management. Therefore, the soil survey is not only an inventory of soil resources, but also includes ratings, limitations, and potentials for many uses for each soil type in the inventory.

The farmer can use the soil survey to obtain specific information for planning crop production systems. For example, the soil survey report is useful for planning herbicide application rates, irrigation rates, tillage systems, and soil testing programs. For each soil type in the soil inventory, information is presented for the range of organic matter, range of soil pH, the presence or absence of lime, the amount of sand, silt, and clay, and the available water holding capacity. The availability of phosphorus and potassium is also given. Also, farmers can use the soil survey to plan and develop a soil and water conservation plan.

Engineers, land developers, realtors, and home builders can find answers to the limitations and potentials of the soil. The soil survey report rates each soil type for road fill and highway location, for foundation and suitability, for sources of topsoil, sand, and gravel, for septic tank disposal fields, and for sewage lagoons. Other information presented in the soil survey which is important for non-agricultural uses includes depth to water table, natural internal drainage of the soil, and potential of the soil to being flooded.

Other groups which use the soil survey report, include land appraisers, banks and land credit agencies, oil and gas companies, public officials, and planning groups.

SEP. 8, 1981
HARDIN
INDEX



Till-Planting Begins In South Hardin County Early This Week

While most area farmers were this week preparing their fields for corn planting, Gary Walters was busy putting seed into the soil. It wasn't that he started his land preparation that much earlier, to the contrary, he didn't worry about it at all. He was till-planting. Walters, who farms southwest of Eldora in Pleasant township, is an active supporter of conservation tillage. "This is the third year that we've till-planted corn on

bean ground and our yields have increased some 20 percent over the conventional planting method. I'm really sold on it." For his only trip across the field, Walters has added sweeps to the front of his corn planter to push residue away from the planting row. Removal of the sweeps would mean no-tillage planting and Walters is considering that on a limited number of acres this spring.

Eldora Ledger 2-26-82

Dirt-Covered Snowdrifts Not Art, Show Soil Loss

by Valerie Gerdes
Soil Conservationist

Their life-like forms moved silently across the surface of the land. The gentle curves and the delicate beauty of the patterns on their surface are deceiving. There is no beauty in the dirt covered snowdrifts that cover our farmsteads, roads and fields. Only a stark reality that

one of our most precious resources, our topsoil, is literally gone with the wind.

Take a look around, not only in the country, but in town. Topsoil makes striking patterns on the snowdrifts. Patterns that remind one of modern art. There is nothing modern about the blowing of topsoil. People have been talking about how bad the winter of 1936

was. The snowbanks were covered with dirt then too. There has been a lot of soil moved by the wind since 1936. The soil left in the road ditches is only a small part of the total soil lost. Many tons of soil are carried for miles before being dropped.

In 1936 and 1962, as in other years, similar field conditions such as lack of soil cover caused by fall plowing and windy

days made severe wind erosion a problem. Under normal field conditions, soil movement begins when wind speed reaches 13 m.p.h. one foot above the ground surface. The amount of soil movement depends on the strength of the wind, soil type and particle size and the unsheltered distance.

Wind erosion doesn't stop when winter is over. Fields that are plowed and have blown through winter will really have problems this spring when winds blow. The amount of soil loss is often above what a young crop can tolerate. Crops are damaged by sandblasting or buried in silt.

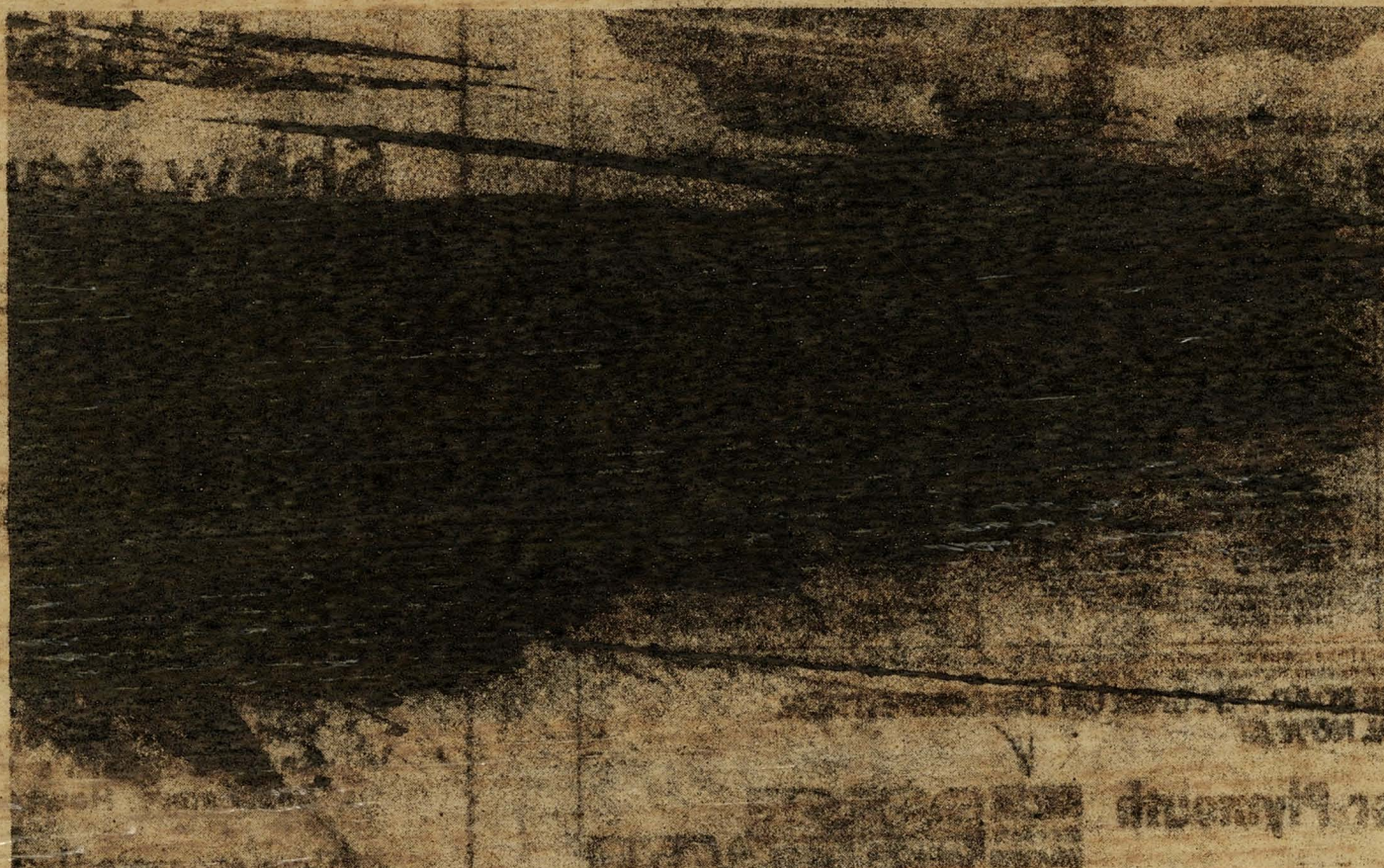
There are three basic ways to control wind erosion.

1. Keep the soil covered. Use cover crops or crop residues to reduce the impact of wind blown particles.
2. Reduce the distance the wind blows across the field. Use field windbreaks, grass strips, or hedge rows to shorten distances.
3. Keep the soil surface rough. This is only a temporary measure and tends to dry out the soil.

The solution that is most workable for the farmer is conservation tillage. Conservation tillage and no-till farming leave crop residues on the surface of the fields. This residue protects the topsoil, holds it in place, and builds soil tilth.

If you have questions about conservation tillage, or wind erosion contact the Soil Conservation Service in Eldora. The staff will be happy to work with you.

While the contrast of topsoil on snow is striking, try to imagine the loss of soil your fields are facing and the possibility that more topsoil may be going.



Snow cover didn't protect the field that this soil came from in section 15 of Pleasant township. Soil loss caused by wind

erosion on fall-plowed cropland will range from 7 to 12 tons per acre per week.

YGM:R

Iowa soil chief named

A Pennsylvania state official, Walter N. Peechatka, 42, has been hired as executive vice president of the Iowa-based Soil Conservation Society of America.



WALTER
PEECHATKA

Peechatka is now the director of the bureau of soil and water conservation in the state department of environmental resources for Pennsylvania, with offices at Harrisburg.

He will assume the top office in the Soil Conservation Society of America at its international headquarters south of Ankeny on March 1. The society, a non-profit scientific and educational association with 14,000 members, is dedicated to promoting the wise use of land and water resources.

The Pennsylvania man has been with the state soil and water conservation there since 1971. Prior to that he worked for the state conservation commission in that state. He is a native of Pennsylvania and a 1961 Pennsylvania State University graduate in forestry.

He will fill a post vacant since the death, last summer, of Walter E. Jeske of Washington, D. C.

SCS-INF-74

Rev. 9-69

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper North Central Iowa
FARMER

Where published Iowa Falls

Date of issue 3-11-82

Sent by EIDORA F.O. U. Gerdes

S. C. D. HARDIN

Stationed at _____

CLASSIFICATION: Weekly column ☐
Story (SCS) ☐
(Other) ☐
Feature (SCS) ☐
(Other) ☐
Editorial ☐
Advertisement ☒

windbreak meeting planned

A meeting on windbreak, wildlife plantings and timber production and management will be held April 1, 1982 at 1:00 p.m., Room 101, McClure Hall, Ellsworth Community College, Iowa Falls.

Jean Olson, ISU Extension Landscape Architect, Carl Priebe, Wildlife Biologist, Mike Brandrup, District Forester, and Chuck Kiepe, District Conservationist from

the Soil Conservation Service, will be the speakers for the afternoon meeting.

All Franklin and Hardin County residents interested in tree plantings for wildlife, firewood, or windbreaks are encouraged to attend.

Sponsored by Franklin and Hardin County Cooperative Extension Service and Franklin and Hardin County Soil Conservation Service.

LANDOWNERS

which type of lease best fits

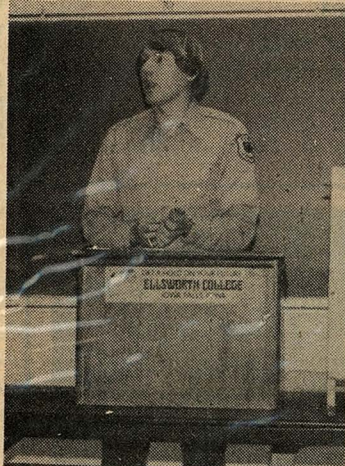
YOUR FARM and YOUR SITUATION Windbreaks And Wildlife

Story and Photos By Stephanie Hamilton Stenzel

The Extension Service and Soil Conservation Service from both Hardin and Franklin Counties sponsored a meeting on planning windbreaks and providing for wildlife.

Jean Olson, ISU Landscape Architect, explained that windbreaks can represent a fuel savings. Windbreaks planted on the north only can save 25%. North and west windbreaks can mean a 33% savings. Olson said you probably can't justify a windbreak in cold hard cash, but, he added, neither can you put a value on a baby's smile.

Carl Priebe, Wildlife Biologist, pointed out that at least seven rows of trees and shrubs are needed to provide shelter for wildlife. Two rows should be shrubs and five rows of trees are needed.



Carl Priebe



Jean Olson

Priebe said there is a bill pending in the legislature that would provide a tax break for land left for wildlife. This would include old farmstead groves, marshes and grassland.

Mike Brandrup, District Forester, discussed timber stand improvement. He said well managed trees can produce higher quality wood and can sell for more money. He emphasized that when harvesting a timber area, harvest the small and poorer quality trees first.

Brandrup pointed out that 5-7 acres of wooded area is needed to supply wood heat for one home. He said before investing in all the equipment needed to heat your home with wood, be sure you have access to the required acres of wood.

Brandrup said there are two reasons tree planting is unsuccessful. Controlling weeds is extremely important. Proper handling is also very important. 30 seconds in direct sunlight can kill bareroot seedlings. Keeping the root systems wet is also vital said Brandrup. Brandrup suggests planting in mid-April and no later than the beginning of May.

Weeds can be controlled with herbicides said Brandrup. He discussed several herbicides he has had success with. Princep® will kill broadleaf weeds. It is a preemergent and should be applied at a rate a 2-4 pounds of active ingredient per acre. The same rate is used when tank mixing Surflan® and Princep®. Brandrup said these should be applied with a minimum of 40 gallons per acre.



Mike Brandrup



Chuck Kiepe

Goal® is used mainly on evergreens. It can be sprayed on top of the evergreens if they are not actively growing. Velpar® can also be used but is hard to get. However, it is a soil sterilant and can be used only on red pine, Scotch pine and Austrian pine.

Chuck Kiepe, District Conservationist, briefly talked about requirements for the cost share program. The minimum requirement is one row of shrubs and two rows of conifers. The minimum distance needed is 100 feet from the outside row to the building.

Kiepe said making sure the tree will adapt to the soil is extremely important. Cost share money varies from county to county, so check with your County Conservation Service.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Eldora Herald LedgerWhere published EldoraDate of issue 5-4-82Sent by Gary WaltersS. C. D. HARDINStationed at Eldora, IA

CLASSIFICATION:

Weekly column ☐Story (SCS) ☐(Other) ☐Feature (SCS) ☐(Other) ☒Editorial ☐Advertisement ☐**Soil Stewardship Week Set May 16-23**

The Hardin Soil Conservation District will join in the nationwide celebration of Soil Stewardship Week to take place on May 16-23, 1982, according to an announcement by Gary Walters, Chairman of the district. The theme of this year's celebration is "A Time for Tenacity."

"This is 'A Time for Tenacity' in our faith, in concept, in communication, in cooperation, in the political arena, in experiments and research, in leadership, in priorities, and in total commitment," cites the National Association of Conservation Districts [NACD] in the 16-page Soil Stewardship Week booklet. Forward for the publication was written by President Ronald Reagan. NACD has sponsored Soil Stewardship Week since 1955, in cooperation with the nation's

nearly 3,000 soil and water conservation districts.

Informative material on the Soil Stewardship Week theme each year is distributed through local conservation districts to clergymen, lay leaders, churches, civic and educational organizations and to individuals participating in the observance.

"With the growth of population and the world demand for food and with the clearing and development of most land that is suitable for cultivation, we must turn our attention to the task of saving every acre," according to NACD. "The dream of adequate supplies of food and shelter must cover a period that extends far into the future because this is the only world we have and the total heritage of our descendants."

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper IOWA FALLS CitizenWhere published IOWA FALLSDate of issue 6-9-82Sent by ExtensionS. C. D. Hardin Co.Stationed at Eldora

CLASSIFICATION:

Weekly column ☐Story (SCS) ☐(Other) ☐Feature (SCS) ☐(Other) ☒Editorial ☐Advertisement ☐Cons. picture ☐**Conservation tillage tour in county June 16**

A conservation tillage tour of farms doing unique or different types of reduced tillage systems will be held on Wednesday afternoon, June 16, beginning at 1:15 p.m., according to Jim Johnson, Hardin County extension director.

The tour, co-sponsored by the Hardin County Extension Service and the Hardin County Soil Conservation District, will begin at the co-op elevator in Owasa. Special no-till herbicide plots will be viewed in that area before touring north Hardin County farms.

Several farms in the county will be viewed by car caravan. Information sheets on each farm will be provided at each of the stops, including step-by-step procedures used. Tillage equipment will be displayed. In addition, herbicides in reduced tillage will be demonstrated in a no-till herbicide plot at one of the stops. Insect activity in tillage systems will also be covered on the tour.

All area farmers, agri-business personnel, and others interested in conservation tillage are invited to attend the free tour.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper *Hardin County Times*Where published *IOWA FALLS*Date of issue *5-31-82*Sent by *VAL GERDES*S. C. D. *HARDIN*Stationed at *EIDORA*

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Heavy rains halt planting and cause serious erosion

With more than seven inches of rainfall this month planting activities have come to a halt, but the soil has been moving -- eroding, that is.

Soil conservationists have reported heavy soil losses this spring due to rainfall at a time when the soil is extremely susceptible to erosion. According to some estimates, 50,000 acres of Hardin County soil have suffered losses of more than 20 tons per acre during rains so far this month. The average allowable loss, according to law, is five tons per acre per year in Hardin County. That varies depending on soil type.

The soil erosion has been "serious" this spring because of the timing of the rain, according to Val Gerdes, soil conservationist with the Hardin County Soil Conservation Service office.

"Water erosion is the worst kind," Gerdes said. "We've had so much snow melt this spring and now the rain. The snow melt loosened the soil and started the erosion and the rains came along and carried the soil away."

Gerdes said the amount of fall plowing done last year was a big factor in the erosion this spring. Fields with a slope of more than 5 percent, planted in

soybeans last year, plowed straight up and down the hills and fall plowed have shown the greatest soil losses.

"The rains came at the worst time possible from the standpoint of susceptibility to erosion," Extension Director Jim Johnson said. Many fields had been tilled for planting and were laying bare when the rain came. With no plant cover to protect the soil, the rain carried much of the topsoil with it into ditches, fence lines, streams and rivers.

Conservation tillage, which has been pushed hard by soil conservationists and the Extension in the past few years has helped, but not prevented soil runoff, Gerdes said. Farmers who practice conservation tillage have reported their fields are in better shape than other fields.

The heavy rain and soil runoff which resulted has shown many farmers the need for a conservation system, Gerdes said.

"Many farmers didn't realize they were losing soil until this spring when they could see it," she explained. "Until something like this -- which accelerates the loss -- happens they don't realize how bad it is."

Several farmers have contacted the

Soil Conservation Office looking for help in establishing a soil conservation system so they "don't make the same mistake next year," Gerdes said.

Conservation systems, she explained, incorporate more than one conservation practice. For example, a farmer may change his row patterns, terrace his fields, or establish waterways in addition to converting to conservation tillage. Each practice reduces soil loss and when combined with other measures the soil savings are multiplied.

Conservation tillage was practiced on 10,000 acres of Hardin County cropland last year, Gerdes said. She expects the acreage to be even higher this year and to increase each year.

"It's something that is just hitting the general market," she said. "We've had a big push on the last couple of years, really making an education effort to inform farmers about conservation tillage."

While farmers are considering what conservation practices they may employ next year they are also considering what varieties of corn to plant this year. Because corn planting has been delayed so long many farmers are going

to have to change their varieties to shorten the growing season, said Extension Director Johnson.

"I haven't seen any large panic to shift from corn to soybeans," Johnson said. "There are some individuals, but I don't think the number is large at this point."

Johnson said it is getting to a critical date, especially for seed corn growers. Many have already planted their female corn, but not their male corn and the timing is critical.

Corn which has been planted isn't doing well, Johnson reported. The cool, wet soil and lack of sunlight has slowed corn growth and, in many cases, produced yellowish, weak-looking corn. Given better conditions later it can catch up, Johnson said.

Less than 5 percent of the soybeans have been planted and that may be a good thing, he said. Soybeans are sensitive to cool, wet soil.

Farmers are not the only ones who are having problems because of the wet weather. Johnson said homeowners and gardeners should watch their lawns and vegetables for fungus. Wet weather and humidity are conducive to the growth of fungus on plants, and he expects a lot of problems this year. Individuals who have problems with fungus on their plants may contact the Extension office for help in combating it, Johnson said.

Ken Reece Experiments With No-Till

by Virginia Stiles
[H-I Editor]

If you think no-till farming is a risky business, you haven't been talking with Ken Reece of rural Eldora.

This spring, Reece is planting approximately 980 acres in the no-till method and is hopeful the decision will pay off in the fall. Reece has been investigating the area of no-till for the last four years, and has done limited amounts of no-till in the past - not as extensively as he is doing this year.

Reece knows that no-till is an excellent erosion control practice, but says it should be part of an erosion control system. In most cases, planting should be on the contour or at least across the slope, according to conservation officials. Leaving grass waterways in field depressions is important, they say, because runoff water in those concentrated areas still needs to be controlled. Terraces may be needed with no-till on steep land to reduce erosion to acceptable levels.

Reece forseees no difference in crop yields this fall from conventional planting methods. Other areas he planted before the rainfall are already up. He completed his corn planting last week, saying he had no real difficulty in returning to the fields

after the rain.

Conservation officials note that no-till farming will save the soil. Average soil losses on cropland in Iowa are 10 tons per acre per year, twice what is considered allowable on most soils. No-till can cut soil losses to well under five tons per acre a year on gentle slopes. On steep slopes, with a corn-soybean rotation, no-till in combination with other conservation practices may be the only way to get soil losses to within the five ton figure.

It is believed that no-till saves fuel and time. No-till takes three to four gallons per acre less than conventional tillage and field time is cut in half with no-till. It saves moisture because soils don't dry out as fast if they are undisturbed.

No-till will not solve all the problems. If weeds or insects were a problem in a conventionally-tilled field, they're likely going to be a problem if the field is no-tilled. The same is true for wet soils and other conditions. No-till farming faces the same problems as conventional corn and soybean production; it's just a case of coping differently with the problems.

Conservation officials say more and more Iowa farmers are deciding against any tillage in the fall. Particularly on soybean stubble, there's no evidence that fall tillage increases yields.

There are a number of advantages of no tillage in the fall, however:

- leaving residues untouched in the fall keeps options wide open for no-till, till plant, etc., the next spring.
- residues prevent wind erosion in the winter, keeping the countryside beautiful and soil in fields rather than road ditches.
- turn livestock into corn stalks for extra feed.
- residues provide some food and shelter for wildlife.
- snow caught by standing stubble is moisture for the next year's crop.
- with no fall tillage, both time and fuel are saved, reducing the fall workload.

Those interested in the advantages and disadvantages of using no-till are encouraged to contact the Hardin County Soil Conservation District for further information.



Ken Reece, Eldora area farmer, inspects a row of newly-planted corn in a field east of Eldora planted last Thursday. The planter pushes the residue of the field together and plants the corn seed in a clearly-marked row. The field was not fall plowed.



This 12-row Henneker planter goes easily through the field east of Eldora, planting corn in a field planted to soybeans last

year. Hardin County Conservation officials are promoting no-till planting in the area this year to cut erosion of topsoil.

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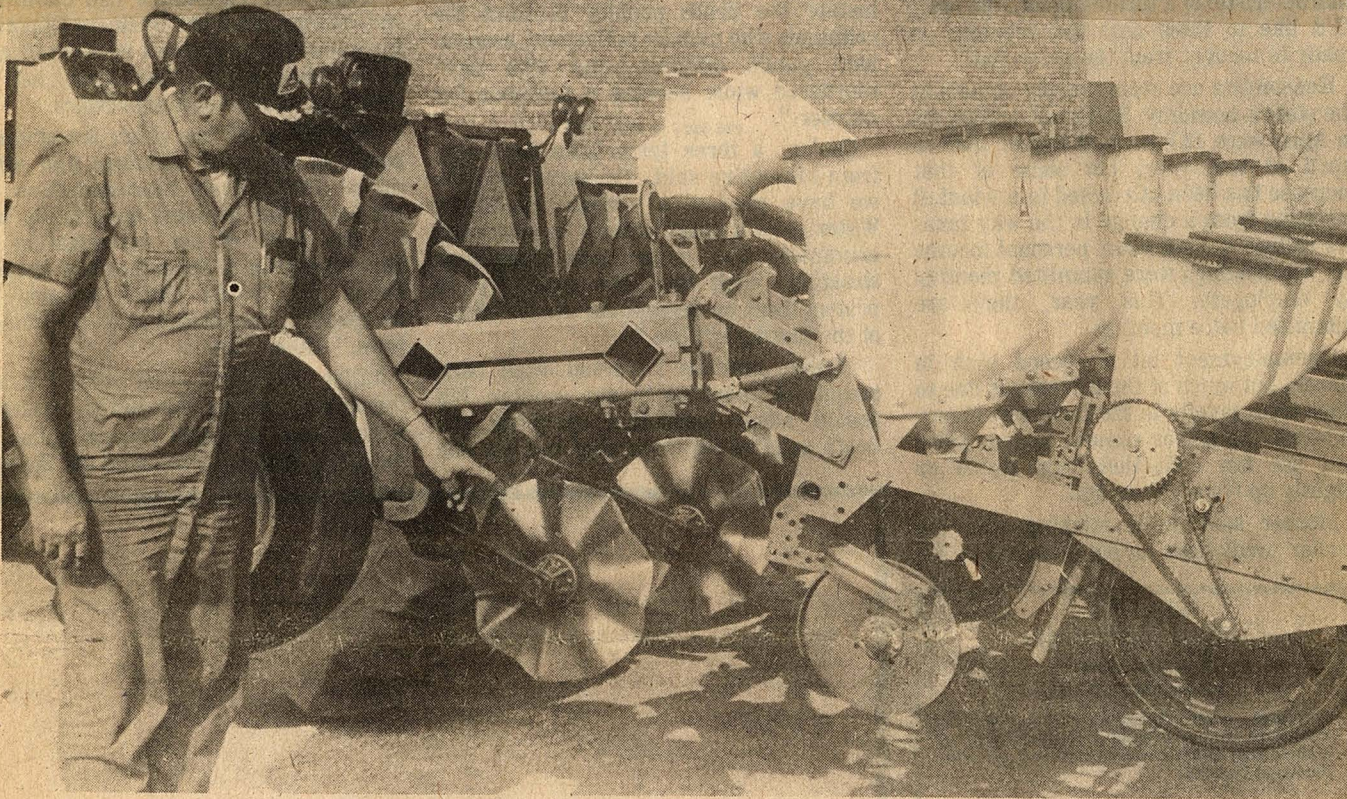
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Carl King demonstrates how this special planter works in providing minimum tillage for planting corn in his field near Owasa.

Advocates Using Minimum Tillage To Save Hardin Soil

by Virginia Stiles
[H-I Editor]

There is a large emphasis being placed on soil conservation practices during the growing season of 1982.

Carl King of rural Owasa is no exception and this year undertook practices to carry out his regular schedule of emphasizing conservation tillage on his farm.

King rented a special planter from Pine Lake Implement in Eldora which utilizes minimum tillage and which he used to plant 40 acres of corn last week. Forty acres is the maximum allowed on the ASC program which provides financial assistance for those practicing conservation tillage in their planting procedures.

Use of minimum tillage is not new to King, who has not cultivated his fields for approximately 10 years, even though this is the first time he has taken advantage of the special planter for the process. The planter is rented through arrangements with the implement dealer at a cost per acre.

King says he feels there is no difference in yield experienced through the use of minimum tillage as compared to the conventional tillage process.

Officials at the Hardin County Soil Conservation District are promoting the use of minimum tillage and no tillage this year for various reasons. First, they feel the use of these practices will save Iowa's valuable

soil.

Average soil losses on cropland in Iowa are 10 tons per acre per year, twice what's considered allowable on most soils. No-till or minimum tillage can cut soil losses to well under five tons per acre a year on gentle slopes. On steep slopes, with a corn-soybean rotation, no-till in combination with other conservation practices may be the only way to get soil losses to within the five ton figure.

It can save fuel. No-till takes 3 to 4 gallons per acre less than conventional tillage. It can save time. Field time is cut in half. It can save moisture. Soils won't dry out as fast if they are undisturbed.

It can work for the farmer. Conservation officials say that farmers all over Iowa are proving no-till works.

Officials state, however, that no-till farming won't control all erosion. As good as no-till is for erosion control, it won't solve all problems. On soybean stubble, for instance, a heavy rain will often cause erosion. Concentrated runoff water in no-till fields also causes gully erosion. So, in most cases, no-till is just a part of a complete soil conservation system.

It won't solve all problems. If weeds or insects were a problem in a conventionally-tilled field, they're likely going to be a problem if the field is not tilled. The same is true for wet soils and other conditions.

No-till farming faces the same problems as conventional corn and

soybean production, it's just a case of coping differently with the problems.

No-till farming won't necessarily produce higher yields. Iowa farmers have found yields of no-till are comparable to conventional tillage.

No-till is an excellent erosion control practice, but it should be part of an erosion control system. In most cases, planting should be on the contour or at least across the slope. Leaving grass waterways in field depressions is important, because runoff water in those concentrated areas still needs to be controlled. Terraces may be needed with no-till on steep land to reduce erosion to acceptable levels.

It's probably true, officials state, that farming no-till takes better management than conventional farming. Fields should be checked regularly for weed and insect problems and be treated promptly for those problems.

At any rate, anyone considering the use of no-till or minimum tillage are asked to contact the Hardin County Soil Conservation District for the guidance needed in making those changes.

It is important for all persons - either rural or urban - to be conscious of the effect of these procedures on the agricultural community. Using the conservation practices may sound risky at first, officials state, but will go a long way in saving Iowa's cropland for many generations to come.

If you aren't sure about that - just contact Carl King.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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 Advertisement ☐
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Set Windbreak Clinic Feb. 9

Officials from the Hardin County Soil Conservation Office note that December ice storms damaged many windbreaks in the area and anyone who had damage to their trees at that time should plan to attend a windbreak clinic at the Ackley Country Club at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9.

Renovation of existing windbreaks will be covered in detail. Mike Brandrup, district forester, will discuss looking for diseases, selective thinning of existing or damaged trees, selecting trees compatible with existing species and various aspects of maintenance.

Paul Wray, extension forester from Iowa State University will also cover establishing new windbreaks, how to plant, prune and water. He will also update the honeysuckle aphid problem.

Windbreak clinic set for Feb. 9 at Ackley

A three county Windbreak Clinic will be held at the Ackley Country Club starting at 1:00 p.m. Feb. 9. A short program will be presented on the establishment and maintenance of windbreaks.

Paul Wray, Extension Forester, ISU, and Mike Brandrup, District Forester, and Bill Welker, Soil Conservation Service Biologist will be on hand to answer specific questions about trees to use, when and how to plant, fertilization, weed control, renovation of existing

windbreaks or any other problems. The cost-share program for each county will also be covered.

If you have any questions, please contact your local Soil Conservation Service Office.

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No-Till Program February 13-15

It won't work! Corn won't grow that way! Not so long ago this was the reaction of many Hardin County Farmers to no-till farming says Gary Walters, Soil Conservation District Chairman. But now these same farmers have seen the success of their neighbors no-till farming methods and are interested in finding out how to use no-till methods in their own farming operations according to Walters.

Walters says attending informational meetings such as the Merle Hay No-Till Days at Merle Hay Mall, Des Moines, February 14 and 15th, is a good way to learn about this new farming method. The Merle Hay No-Till Days program will highlight farmers talking to farmers, as central Iowa farmers tell what is working for them. At the same time farmers can see and talk to equipment and machinery, fertilizer, and chemical dealers at their exhibits throughout the Mall from

Sunday, February 13, to Tuesday, February 15.

The two-day program will be held in the Plaza Theater at the Mall, according to Walters, and will cover four major areas of farmer concerns about no-till farming. The Monday morning, February 14, program will feature farmer systems while the afternoon program will center around chemicals and their selection and use. The Tuesday morning, February 15, program will concentrate on farmer machinery modifications, and the afternoon program will be on fertilizers and their placement. Programs will begin daily at 10 a.m. and adjourn by 3:15 p.m.

Merle Hay No-Till Days are sponsored by the nine central Iowa Soil Conservation Districts surrounding Polk County. The Hardin Soil Conservation District Commissioners hope to see you there.

10 Iowa Farm Bureau Spokesman
Feb. 12, 1983

NEWS FROM . . .

**HARDIN
COUNTY**

Merle Hay no-till days scheduled Feb. 13-15

Area farmers have one last opportunity to attend a major tillage conference and learn about new no-till farming methods before the '83 planting season, according to Gary Walters, Soil Conservation District commissioner. That opportunity is the Merle Hay no-till days at Merle Hay Mall in Des Moines, Feb. 13 through Feb. 15.

Equipment, machinery, fertilizer and chemical dealers will be displaying their

products in exhibits throughout the mall during the 3-day show.

The program will be 2 days only on Feb. 14 and 15. The program will highlight central Iowa farmers telling what's been successful to them in systems management, chemical selection and use, machinery modification, and fertilizer placement, Walters said. Programs will begin each day at 10 a.m. in the Plaza Theater and adjourn by 3:25 p.m.

Merle Hay no-till days are sponsored by the nine central Iowa Soil Conservation Districts which include Marshall and Story counties. Your Hardin Soil Conservation District commissioners hope to see you there.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Less Fall Tillage Done In Hardin Co.

Hardin County ranks above the state average in the percentage of land not tilled last fall, according to the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

"In Hardin County, we estimate 97 percent of the soybean land wasn't tilled last fall, and 70 percent of the corn ground wasn't plowed with a moldboard plow," says District Conservationist Steve Manternach. "The corresponding state wide figures are 80 percent for soybean ground and 82 percent for corn ground."

Across the state, there was less tillage last fall than probably any other year, because of the weather and changing farmer attitudes.

"The plowing of corn stalks and tillage of soybean ground were singled out for the survey because of their impact on soil erosion," Manternach says. "If there were no moldboard plowing of cornstalks, and bean ground was planted into directly with no-till, we'd have a significant amount of soil savings."

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Editorial ☐

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Sponsor 'Untillage' Club Here

Hardin County Soil Conservation District and Hardin County Farm Bureau are sponsoring an untillage club this spring.

"Thousands of acres of corn and soybeans were left untouched last fall which did a good job of protecting the soil during the winter and we would like to see as much of that residue left on top of the ground after planting this spring," says Gary Walters, Chairman Hardin County Soil Conservation District.

"To join the untillage club all you have to do is sign a pledge card saying you will reduce tillage or try no-till this spring. This will leave corn stalks and bean residue on the soil surface after planting," says Steven Manternach, District Conservationist. "When you sign a pledge card you will receive a free bumper sticker. The pledge cards will be used for a drawing for free preemergence herbicide. The names which are drawn will win the chemicals if they have left adequate crop residue on the soil surface after planting. The fields must be planted to either corn or soybeans."

The amount of crop residue required will depend on the type of residue. For

soybeans residue 30% ground cover and for corn stalks 40% cover is required. Residues will be measured after planting.

"In order to leave this amount of residue on top a farmer is going to have to greatly reduce his tillage operations," says Walters. "No-tilling corn into bean stubble is the best way to leave this amount of residue. One light trip with a field cultivator might also be used in a field that wasn't touched last fall. But even one trip will probably cover too much residue."

Cornstalks could be disked and field cultivated prior to planting. If the cornstalks were fall chiseled the number of diskings should be reduced in order to leave enough residue.

"We are hoping farmers take advantage of the PIK and Reduced Acreage Program to try a few acres of no-till this spring. This program should allow them more time to develop and evaluate their no-till system," Manternach said.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Little Time To Plow Might Be Benefit

Story And Photo By Stephanie Hamilton Stenzel

1982 will obviously be a year farmers will remember. It was a continuous battle - first to get crops into the ground, then trying to keep them clean and finally wading through the mud to get them out. Getting much plowing done was probably very unlikely.

The Hardin County Soil Conservation Service (SCS) feels that less plowing may, in the long run, be a wiser idea.

Val Gerdes, with the S.C.S., said perhaps this would be a good time to try different tillage systems, such as chisel disking, offset disking or no-till. She added that if a farmer is unsure just how a new method will fit into his or her present operation to call the Hardin County S.C.S. in Eldora.

Cost is becoming an important consideration when switching methods, said Gerdes. Fuel prices continue to climb and with minimum-till or preferably no-till, costs are reduced. Less trips through the fields obviously reduces fuel used and cuts down on the wear and tear of machinery.

Farms continue to grow in size and some fields may be quite a distance from the home place. Gerdes said one farmer pointed out he spends less time on the road hauling machinery back and forth.

Erosion is becoming more important to farmers, said Gerdes. They hate to see that good, rich black soil blowing in the wind and often times ending up in the ditches.

Gerdes did add that a

ag report

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Weather conditions weren't optimum for many farmers to get this year's fall plowing done. That might be a good thing according to soil conservation officials who believe farmers should check into reduced tillage. (Ag Report photo by Stephanie Stenzel)

Gerdes talked with some area farmers who are trying new methods. Gerdes pointed out farmers are finding less time to plow, and this year even more so.

farmer has to have good weed control before switching methods. "You can't expect to have clean fields with no-till if you didn't have clean fields

interested to attend.

"Not only will a reduced tillage system help cut your spring work load, but it can reduce soil losses and increase soil tilth."

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Hardin County untillage club forming

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Youth Leadership Conservation Camps Available This Summer

County conservation boards, soil conservation districts and cooperative extension service offices will be co-sponsoring 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, which will be held at the Conservation Education Center near Guthrie Center and August 1-4, to be held at the State 4-H Center near Madrid.

Various conservation careers and topics to be covered include geology, soils, wildlife, forestry and waters. Participants

will be actively involved in field techniques associated with these careers. College scholarships will be awarded based on results of a written examination given at the end of the program.

A maximum of 50 students will be allowed to attend each session. Cost of the four-day and three-night program is \$50. High school students interested in attending the Youth Leadership Conservation Program should contact Steve Manternach at the Soil Conservation District office at 858-5692 or Jim Johnson of the Extension Service office at 858-5425 for further information.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Iowa Falls CitizenWhere published Iowa FallsDate of issue March 30, 1983

Sent by _____

S. C. D. HardinStationed at Eldora

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

Farmers who reduce tillage eligible for SCS prizes

Farmers who pledge to use reduced tillage methods on their fields this planting season are eligible for prizes from the Hardin County Untillage Club.

The Untillage Club, which was just recently formed to promote conservation tillage methods, will have a drawing and award free pre-emergence chemicals to the winners.

To participate in the contest, farmers should fill out a pledge card. They are available at many county implement dealers and elevators. Anyone who returns a pledge card will be eligible for a free bumper sticker promoting reduced tillage.

To enter the contest, farmers must pledge to leave a minimum of 30 percent ground cover for soybean stubble or residue and 40 percent ground cover for cornstalks. In order to win this drawing, fields must have adequate crop residue on the soil surface after planting and the field must be planted to either corn or soybeans. The percent of the ground covered by crop residue after planting will decide who is eligible to win.

The Untillage Club will check the fields of those farmers whose names are drawn. The residue will be measured by Soil Conservation Service personnel.

For more information on the Untillage Club's contest, call the county Soil Conservation Service at 858-5692.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Herald IndexWhere published EldoraDate of issue April 19, 1983Sent by ManternachS. C. D. HardinStationed at Eldora

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

Soil Conservation Officials Looking For Volunteers

Since this week - April 17-23 - is Volunteer Week across the nation, Steve Manternach of the USDA Soil Conservation Service says soil conservation is a good choice for a person willing to volunteer his or her skills for a worthwhile cause.

"Helping save soil is rewarding, interesting work, and you'd be surprised at the variety of the kind of help that's needed," Manternach says.

Manternach, the SCS District Conservationist for Hardin county, says SCS is asking for volunteers to help keep government costs down while accelerating the rate of soil conservation work.

Volunteers can work any hours, and as many hours as they choose. Work ranges from engineering to laying out conservation practices to contacting farmers on their conservation needs. People with office skills and education backgrounds can also assist.

To volunteer for soil conservation, call or visit the Soil Conservation Service office under the post office in Eldora.

SCD, FB are sponsors of an untillage club

Hardin County Soil Conservation District and Hardin County Farm Bureau are sponsoring an untillage club this spring.

"Thousands of acres of corn and soybeans were left untouched last fall which did a good job of protecting the soil during the winter and we would like to see as much of that residue left on top the ground after planting this spring," says Gary Walters, chairman of Hardin County Soil Conservation District.

"To join the untillage club all you have to do is sign a pledge card saying you will reduce tillage or try no-till this spring. This will leave cornstalks and bean residue on the soil surface after planting," says Steven Manternach, district conservationist.

"When you sign a pledge card you will receive a free bumper sticker. The pledge cards will be used for a drawing for free peremergence herbicide. The names which are drawn will win the chemicals if they have left adequate crop residue on the soil surface after planting. The fields must be planted to either corn or soybeans."

The amount of crop residue required will depend on the type of residue. For soybeans residue 30 percent ground cover and for cornstalks 40 percent cover is required. Residues will be measured after planting.

"In order to leave this amount of residue on top a farmer is going to have to greatly reduce his tillage operations," says Walters. "No-tilling corn into bean stubble is the best way to leave this amount of residue. One light trip with a field cultivator might also be used in a field that wasn't touched last fall. But even one trip will probably cover too much residue."

Cornstalks could be disked and field cultivated prior to planting. If the cornstalks were fall chiseled the number of diskings should be reduced in order to leave enough residue.

We are hoping farmers take advantage of the PIK and reduced acreage program to try a few acres of no-till this spring. This program should allow them more time to develop and evaluate their no-till system.

High school youth sessions offered on conservation

The county conservation boards, soil conservation districts, and cooperative extension service will be cosponsoring the youth leadership conservation program this summer.

The statewide program is developed for high school students who are interested in conservation.

Two sessions will be offered: June 20-23, which will be held at the conservation education center near Guthrie Center and Aug. 1-4, to be held at the state 4-H center near Madrid.

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

A maximum of 50 students will be allowed to attend each session. The cost of the 4 day and 3 night program is \$50.

High school students interested in attending the youth leadership conservation program should contact Steve Manternach of the soil conservation district at 858-

Continued on page 25

SCS-INF-74

Rev. 9-69

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Hardin Co Times

Where published Iowa Falls

Date of issue March 14, 1983

Sent by Manternach

S. C. D. Hardin

Stationed at Eldora

CLASSIFICATION:

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

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Continued on page 25

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Hardin Co Times

Where published Iowa Falls

Date of issue March 14, 1983

Sent by Manternach

S. C. D. Hardin

Stationed at Eldora

CLASSIFICATION: Weekly column ☐
Story (SCS) ☐
(Other) ☐
Feature (SCS) ☐
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Cons. picture ☐

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SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Herald IndexWhere published EldoraDate of issue April 26, 1983

Sent by _____

S. C. D. HardinStationed at Eldora

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Entries Open For Conservation Tillage In Corn Yield Contest

Area farmers interested in entering the 1983 corn yield contest may enroll in the conservation tillage division.

To qualify, a field must have at least 35 percent ground cover at planting time. Fields with three percent or more slope must be tilled and planted on a reasonable contour.

The residue measurements must be made not later than two weeks following planting. Contestants are urged to notify the Hardin County Extension Service within 48 hours after planting that they wish to have the land checked to see whether or not it qualifies for conservation

tillage.

The ground cover measurements will be made by the Hardin County Extension Service. Contestants may change their entry from conservation tillage to general tillage later in the year, if they desire.

Entry fee is \$23 and can be made at the Trading Post of the Farmer in Eldora.

Farmers not planning to enter the conservation tillage, but enter the conventional or contour corn division, have until the deadline of July 18 to enter those or the soybean yield contests. The contests are all sponsored through the effort of the Eldora Chamber of Commerce.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Eldora Herald-IndexWhere published EldoraDate of issue June 7, 1983Sent by SCDS. C. D. Hardin

Stationed at _____

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Iowa River Future Development To Be Reviewed Here June 20

Those interested in the future development of the Iowa River and its tributaries should attend the next board meeting of the Hardin County Resource Coordinating Committee.

The Hardin County Resource Coordinating Committee will meet Monday, June 20, 7:30 p.m. at the youth building on the fairgrounds in Eldora.

A complete draft of the Action Plan for the Iowa-Cedar Conservancy District will be presented for committee comments and suggestions.

The plan will be presented by Warren Severs, who represents the nine county area of Ward 2 of the Iowa-Cedar Conservancy District Board of Directors. A copy of the Draft Plan is available for review at the Hardin County Soil Conservation District Office under the Post Office in Eldora.

The Action Plan is based on problem

identification meetings held in the counties a year ago in April. Goals and objectives have been revised. The foundation for an implementation program has been written. A method for assigning priorities to individual watersheds has been developed. Local residents are asked to inspect and comment on the soundness of the foundation before the rest of the plan is completed.

Conservation officials state this may be the most critical stage of the planning process, so anyone interested is encouraged to be present.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Hardin

S. C. D. _____

Stationed at Eldora

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10 Hardin Farms Win Herbicide In First Untillage Club Contest

Ten Hardin county farmers were winners of herbicide in the first drawing provided through the Untillage Club sponsored by the Hardin Soil Conservation District and the Hardin County Farm Bureau.

Purpose of establishing the club was to encourage people to reduce tillage on corn and soybean residue this spring. This was part of a state-wide promotion for reduced tillage.

Farmers who pledged to reduce tillage signed a pledge card stating the number of acres pledged and the type of residue to be left. The pledge cards were used in a drawing, with the winners to receive a certificate good for one five-gallon container of Lasso herbicide provided by Ralph Friesen, area sales representative for Monsanto.

In order to win the herbicide the winners had to leave the required amount of crop residues on the soil surface after planting. For corn stalk residue 40 percent ground cover was required and for soybeans, 30 percent.

Following are general details on the winners in the drawing:

JOHN GILBERT - Corn planted in bean residue with 30 percent cover after planting. Corn was planted into soybean residue which was harrowed prior to planting. Gilbert's farm is at Iowa Falls.

MICHAEL SMITH, Owasa - Spring disk corn stalks before planting soybeans, with 40 percent left after planting.

ROB COOK, New Providence - No-till corn into cornstalks and no-till corn into bean stubble. Cornstalk residue, 60 percent and bean residue, 40 percent.

FRANK HEFLIN, Alden - Spring disked cornstalks prior to planting beans with 42 percent residue cover. Also tried 5-6 acres of no-till beans.

DAVID MANNETTER, Hubbard - Corn was till planted on ridges into last year's cornstalks.

RICHARD ROLL, Eldora - No-till corn into soybean residue and no-till beans in cornstalks.

MERLE LINDSEY, Eldora - Fall chisel, spring disk cornstalks before planting corn.

HAROLD KNOWLES, Alden - Spring disk cornstalks before planting beans with 43 percent cover.

DUANE BROUWER, Iowa Falls - Spring disk cornstalks before planting beans, with 42 percent left after planting.

Bill Lawless of Eldora was also a winner in the contest.

Hardin county farmers used some form of conservation tillage system on over 200,000 acres this year. That is about 70 percent of the corn and soybean acreage. A total of 4,423 acres were planted without any prior tillage.

Soil conservation officials stated they've noticed a significant increase in no-till and till plant systems the past few years. It increased from 1,200 acres in 1981 to 4,423 this year.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Herald Index
Eldora

Where published _____

Date of issue 01/06/84

SCS

Sent by _____

S. C. D. Hardin

Eldora

Stationed at _____

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No-Till Show Set January 12-13

The Mid-Iowa No-Till Show to be held January 12 and 13 at the 4-H building in Des Moines will feature information on no-till machinery and equipment modification, including the new ISU punch planter. Other topics include split application of herbicides, deep banding of fertilizers and more accurate monitoring of spray equipment.

Speaking program features area farmers with years of experience in no-till, plus specialists in agronomy, ag engineering and entomology.

The speaking program starts at 10 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. both days. Exhibits can be viewed from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Show sponsors state that this program will give local farmers new insights into no-till farming and aid them in either establishing a no-till system or improving their current systems.

For information, contact the Soil Conservation Service in Eldora.

**IOWA SOIL 2000
PROGRAM BEGINS IN
HARDIN COUNTY**

On February 2, 1984, the Hardin County Soil Conservation District issued its first Iowa Soil 2000 conservation folders reports Gary Walters, District Chairman. Recipients of these folders were from Tipton Creek Watershed. This watershed was chosen by the SCD commissioners because of the need for soil erosion control and its nearness to the 20,000 acre goal to be distributed this fiscal year.

The initial information and distribution meeting was well attended. Those receiving their conservation folders were: Gene Roberts, Steve Skartvedt, Al Turner, David Topp, Larry Hindman, Gene Dubberke, Donald Balvanz, Lisle Cook, Vera and LaVern Duit, David Mannetter and John Krause. Soil Conservation District staff members and commissioners assisted in the program. Jim Johnson, Hardin County Extension Director was present and assisted.

The following comments were made about the conservation folders:

Gene Roberts, Hubbard, "I was really surprised when I saw the soil loss figures. However, in looking at the alternatives in the folder I could see that no-till corn into bean stubble and fall chiseling and spring discing cornstalks leaving 40% residue cover would eliminate wind erosion and would also help to reduce water erosion."

**TIPTON CREEK AREA TO
RECEIVE FIRST
CONSERVATION FOLDERS**

Farmers in the Tipton Creek area have been chosen as the first to receive Iowa Soil 2000 folders in Hardin County.

Distribution of these folders will take place March 8, 1984 at the Legion Hall in Radcliffe and March 15, 1984 at the Zion Church in Hubbard. Both meetings will start at 1:15 p.m.

Iowa law requires the owner and operator of every land unit to receive a conservation folder. The folder contains information that will allow a landowner to estimate soil loss from their own land under current farming operations. The law not only requires that the folders be distributed but also that landowners make plans to control excessive soil loss. Invitations to landowners and operators will be sent out prior to

MARCH 1, 1984

LaVern and Vera Duit, Iowa Falls also attended the meeting and received a conservation folder. "I think the folder is a great idea. We finally have some figures on what soil we are losing. It amazed me, because you could see we were losing soil when the ground was plowed. But, we never realized how much it was. I am for conservation tillage and leaving most of the crop residue on top. The more trash the better. There is a lot that we as farmers can do to control soil erosion on our land and we better start doing something soon before the government tells us how."

Two larger information and distribution meetings are scheduled for March 8, 1984 at the Legion Hall in Radcliffe and March 15, 1984 at the Zion Church in Hubbard. Both meetings will start at 1:15 p.m. Landowners and operators will be invited to these meetings. Many of the initial folder recipients will be on hand to assist the staff and commissioners.

"As commissioners we are enthusiastically promoting the conservation folder program. These folders are the best educational tool that we have for the landowner or operator to learn of his soil losses. The results hopefully will put soil conservation practices on more of the land in Hardin County," says Gary Walters. "We would hope landowners and operators will come to the folder meetings to learn how to use the folder, because they will not get the benefit from the folders if they do not attend."

IOWA SOIL 2000 FACTS

There are some important points to remember about the law.

1. Every landowner will eventually receive an Iowa Soil 2000 folder.

2. The folder is an educational tool that contains information on the general soil loss on the farm.

3. All folders are certified by the commissioners before they are given out.

4. The landowner has to develop a farm unit conservation "PLAN" within 5 years of receiving a folder.

5. The farm unit conservation plan will identify conservation practices to be applied.

6. The Soil Conservation staff is available to help develop this farm unit conservation plan.

7. All farm unit conservation plans will be reviewed by the District Commissioners and will be approved if the plan is adequate.

8. Once the farm unit conservation plans will be reviewed by the District Commissioners and will be approved if the plan is adequate.

8. Once the farm unit conservation plan is approved the landowner has 1 year to sign a conservation agreement that indicates the years that the conservation practices will be applied.

9. The distribution of the folders, the development of farm unit conservation plans, and the signing of the conservation agreements will all be limited to the amount of technical and financial assistance available.

Soil Conservation District commissioners are responsible for enforcing this law.

For more information about the 2000 Contact the Soil Conservation Office under the name in Eldora, 858-5692.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Signal-ReviewWhere published HubbardDate of issue March 1, 1984Sent by ManternachS. C. D. HardinStationed at Eldora F.O.

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Loans Available For Conservation

In 1983, the Iowa Legislature established a non-interest revolving loan fund for soil conservation projects. The fund is to be used to provide non-interest loans to eligible landowners for the construction of permanent soil conservation practices.

Hardin county landowners may borrow up to \$8,097 at no interest for up to a 10-year period. To be eligible, a landowner must have a net worth of less than \$300,000, be able to secure the loan, and be capable of repaying the loan in equal installments.

Any bank, bank holding company, savings and loan association, or any other financial institution authorized to make

and secure loans must participate as an escrow agent in this loan program.

The loan will be made to cover the cost of installing permanent practices such as terraces. No cost-share funds will be used with the loan funds. If more than one person applies, the funds may be divided among those who apply.

Essay Winners

Don Maschka and Joann Hewitt, Iowa Falls High School students, placed first and second, respectively, in the Hardin County Soil Conservation essay contest.

Maschka won \$25 and Hewitt received \$20 for their essays on the topic "Help Enforce Land Preservation".

These articles were taken from the November 1983 newsletter.

Award To Butler, Schuneman Team

Hardin County Soil Conservation officials have announced that J & J Company, John Butler, president and Don Schuneman, operator, have won the landlord-tenant division of the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program in Hardin county.

District commissioners made their selection based on the amount of

conservation work installed on the farm in the past years, and the percentage of land with soil loss down to acceptable levels.

Soil saving practices used on the 90-acre farm include 13,150 feet of terraces, 20 acres of contouring, 90 acres of conservation tillage. These practices protect 94 percent of the land on the farm, officials state.

2—Hardin County Index, Friday, December 9, 1983

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3-81

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Where published Eldora

Date of issue 12/30/83

Sent by Hardin

S. C. D. Eldora

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

Conservationists Request Supervisor Support For Slough Bill

A request for the adoption of the Slough Bill will be presented to the Hardin County Board of Supervisors at a public meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, January 16 at the Hardin County Courthouse.

The Slough Bill - H.F. 2351 - if adopted, allows landowners to apply for property tax exemption on lands classified as wetlands, recreational lakes, forest cover, rivers and streams, rivers and stream banks, or open prairie. Each parcel

submitted must be at least two acres in size.

No economic gain can be received from the parcels during the assessment year and the land must be devoted to wildlife use and/or erosion control during the same period. However, availability of any or all of these tax exemptions is dependent upon the decision of the county board of supervisors to participate in the Slough Bill program.

Receiving tax exemptions on small

parcels does not present a large savings by itself for the average landowner. But, it provides an alternative to costly land preparation and marginal land use changes; and, it provides an incentive to address the needs of wildlife.

This land management alternative counters wildlife habitat losses that have occurred and continue to occur in the state. Nesting cover, hiding cover, winter cover, feeding areas, and loafing areas for wildlife can be protected on these idle

acres not committed to cropping, according to officials from the Hardin County Soil Conservation District. Areas for bird watching, mushrooming, hunting and other outdoor activities can be created.

Counties which have adopted the Slough Bill include Franklin, Wright, Hamilton and Story counties. The Hardin board of supervisors did not adopt the bill last year.

Name of paper Hardin County Times
 Where published Iowa Falls, Iowa
 Date of issue October 31, 1983
 Sent by Mr. Ruhde, English
teacher Hardin
 S. C. D. _____
 Stationed at Eldora

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

Hardin County Times, Monday, October 31, 1983—5

I.F. students place in essay contest

Iowa Falls High School students placed first and second in the Hardin County Soil Conservation District's annual Soil Conservation Essay Contest.

The theme this year was: Help—Help Enforce Land Preservation and Don Maschka and Joann Hewitt, both of Iowa Falls, finished first and second respectively in the senior division. Maschka won a \$25 prize and Hewitt received \$20. Maschka's essay, which is reprinted below, will be forwarded to the regional essay contest and possibly could advance to the state essay competition.

Maschka and Hewitt wrote their essays as part of an assignment for Don Ruhde's College Writing class at IFHS. The 500-word essays were judged on originality, aptness of thought and accuracy on information. Overall appearance and correctness of grammar and punctuation were also included in the judging.

By Don Maschka

You and I have a job to do. We both need to wipe out land misuse. Our land is of the utmost importance. Every concerned citizen must help in the struggle to stop runaway destruction of our soil.

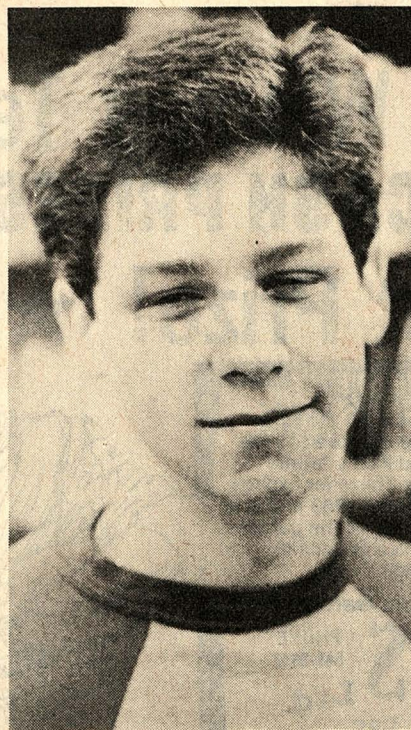
The rapid urban sprawl of many of our communities is gobbling up acres of our farmland. The once productive soil is being covered up by plains of concrete. In every small town or city, one can notice the creature concrete creeping out into our fields. Construction of vast four-lane highways roll-

ing over our land can only be stopped by an awareness of the public. The citizens of every city and farmtown must make concessions. We all need to use our land space more wisely.

One case of land misuse is slowly being erased. The plowing under of farmland during the fall is not as common as it once was. But this practice is still being practiced by many unconcerned farmers. This method leaves our precious topsoil exposed to the harsh elements of winter. Wind and blowing snow pick up loose dirt and carry it away. In the spring the runoff from melting snow washes off acres of our soil into the streams and rivers of the countryside. Farmers who ignore the problem of runoff must be aware of its dangers.

Another area of concern that needs more attention is the splitting of our land by gulley erosion. Gulley erosion is evident in many places across the country. Along highways gulleys are seen cutting along the road. Many fields are being stripped up by this runoff. After heavy rains, streams of water are formed across our meadows. These situations need to be attacked with better use of our foilage. Planting trees and sodding certain areas would help greatly. Proper application of tiling would decrease the problem also.

All of these problems can be arrested by a public that is willing to do something about it. All of us need to pressure lawmakers into passing bills that favor land preservation. A



Don Maschka



Joann Hewitt

bill giving tax breaks to farmers who plow in the spring is a good start. The ball is in our court. We need to push our legislators into action. Projects that use our land wisely must be backed. For instance, the government could give incentives to people who provide proper wind breaks or gulley deterrents. The wholesale

slaughter of our land by highways also needs to be slowed. We all need to take part. Attend DOT meetings and voice your opinion. You don't have to go alone. There are many excellent interest groups that will back you. Get up and join the fight for land preservation. Join a group, start your own — but do take part.

Mississippi Youth Joins Eldora SCS Field Office For Training

Anthony White, a college graduate from Alcorn State University of Lorman, Miss.,



ANTHONY WHITE

began working for the Soil Conservation Service from the Eldora field office as a soil conservationist on January 7. Before beginning full-time in Eldora, White worked in Adel and Wapello field offices as a student soil conservationist trainee.

White is originally from Belzoni, a small farming and industrial town in Mississippi. Belzoni is recognized as the catfish capital of the world, with catfish being the main industry in central Mississippi.

He joined the summer trainee program on January 2, 1983. This program is designed to train interested college students in a career with the Soil Conservation Service. The program centers its training on performance, leadership ability, deportment, attitude, awareness, interest, work ethic and dependability.

White will be living and working in Eldora for the next 11 months. During this time he will receive training in his soil conservation career.

Hardin County Index, Friday, January 25, 1985