

HARDIN COUNTY

This Is Soil And Water Conservation Week In Iowa, June 15-21

L. Beecher Had Early Conservation Start

Lloyd Beecher, Union (left), and Dean Miller, conservation aid, Eldora (right), check a waterway on the edge of a stripcropped area on the Beecher farm west of Union.



The week of June 15, set aside as Soil Conservation week, brings special attention to earlier conservation work done in Hardin county.

One of the first individual farm plans written was that for Lloyd Beecher, one mile west of Union. The plan was completed in the fall of 1945.

The farm, owned and operated by Beecher, was recognized at the district banquet this past winter for outstanding work in conservation.

Ninety-five acres of stripcropping were established in 1945 by Beecher on his 120 acre farm and are still doing an effective job of erosion control and maintaining good crop production. A total of 5,600 feet of grassed waterways

was also built and seeded to bromegrass.

In 1957, 2,300 feet of terraces were constructed on a farm east of Eldora owned by Mrs. Beecher. An additional 93 acres of the 200 acre farm are under contour operations.

NOTICE

The Hardin County Farm Bureau office will be closed on July 4 and 5.

Calendar

June 22-24: Women's Mid-Summer conference, Des Moines.

June 24: Pleasant Township Farm Bureau, Rough Woods hall, 8 p.m.

The observance of Soil and Water Conservation Week in Hardin county during the week of June 15 to 21 will coincide with the special recognition being given the 100 Soil Conservation Districts in Iowa.

In a proclamation Gov. Herschel C. Loveless stated the development of Iowa land and water resources through soil and water conservation, flood prevention, and wise use, is essential to maintain farm income and protect the agricultural economy of the State.

"It is of utmost importance," he continued, "that we continue our cooperative efforts in soil and water conservation work, particularly in small watershed, where opportunities are offered to advance this all important work."

Watersheds Make Friend Rather Than Enemy Of Water

"Watershed" is a new term to many people. The development of soil and water conservation and flood prevention in watersheds is bringing the word into more common use. Its definition is almost as simple as the well-being phrase "water runs downhill."

ON THE LAND, water that does not evaporate or soak into the soil usually drains into ditches, streams, marshes or lakes. The land area from which water drains to a given point is a watershed.

Small and medium-sized watersheds make up the larger ones. The Mississippi river, for example, drains a watershed of about 1,243,000 square miles. That watershed is made up of thousands of smaller ones.

One which many people of Hardin county are familiar with is the watershed of Pine Lake. An area of 9,851 acres drain into the two lakes.

WATER MAY be a friend or it may be an enemy. If it runs off the land too fast, it cuts gullies and carries off topsoil which should be kept on the farm to produce our food and clothing. The soil and debris which the water carries into the streams and lakes may spoil fishing. Such sediment carried downstream by runaway water may greatly increase the cost of cleaning and filtering the water for household use.

If too much water runs away too rapidly, it causes a flood which damages farms, crops, homes and highways. Sediment deposited in reservoirs after heavy rains reduces the amount of water that can be stored for use in water-short areas. When water does these things it is an enemy.

BUT WATER can be slowed down and used to better advantage when soil and water conservation methods and other flood-prevention measures are put into effect all over a watershed.

Terraces, stripcropping, more grass and legumes in crop rotation, improved pastures, and other practices make more water soak into the soil for use of crops and pastures. Some of it later will go into streams, lakes, or underground storage to be used in other ways. More water is available for the many uses people make of it. Then water is a friend.

PLEASANT TWP. MEETING SCHEDULE

Pleasant Township Farm Bureau will meet Tuesday night, June 24, at Rough Woods hall at 8 p.m.

Program: Cal Moore will show pictures on conservation. Entertainment: Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Struck. Refreshments: Ord Ridout, Ted Ridout, Clarence Lange and Glen Sheldon.

Clary Farm Controls Gully By Earthen Dams

Ed Clary, Eldora (left), and Dean Miller, conservation aid, Eldora (right), look over an earthen fill structure recently completed on the Clary farm east of Eldora.



Another troublesome and wasteful gully on the Ed Clary farm, east of Eldora, is now under control as a result of an earthen fill dam constructed recently.

THE GULLY that had been creeping several feet farther into his pasture land each year would have damaged cropland if left uncontrolled.

The structure is of earthen fill 14 feet high with a 24 inch corrugated steel tube. It is designed to carry the runoff water from the watershed to where it may be discharged safely below the dam.

The Clary farm located 3 miles northeast of Eldora on the east boundary of Pine Lake State park, was selected as one of two farms in Hardin county for accomplishments in conservation this last winter.

CLARY HAS been active in a conservation program since its beginning. Five masonry structures were constructed on the farm by Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) during the 1930's and are still doing an effective job of gully control.

The farm, operated by Maurice Schwarck, has 13,000 feet of terraces on 115 acres of land. In 1956 a farm pond was constructed as a gully control measure and recreational area.

During the 3 days before the convention Donna met with all county presidents to get instructions on the parts they lay at the convention. They learned how to lead discussion groups and how to assume various other responsibilities at the convention.

The other county delegate who is taking part in special activities during the convention is Cynthia Montandon, winner of the Hardin county senior better grooming contest. She is competing against 32 other county winners in the contest.

Maralyn Marske will serve as an usher for one of the general sessions during the convention. Miss Petersen has been appointed to the dining room committee and is also serving as a discussion advisor.

Terraces Safe-Guard Hardin Co. Farm Land

The need of safeguarding the many acres of farm land subject to erosion is causing many farmers of Hardin county to turn to terraces for protection.

The practice of terracing in the county got its start during the days of Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) assistance. Nearly 40 farms in Hardin county now have terraces.

THE TERRACES provide a safe way to control runoff from sloping fields carrying it to a well grassed waterway. Soil losses are reduced to a minimum with terraces and more moisture is held where it is needed. Terraces are now constructed to allow cultivation and harvesting operations to be done with four row equipment.

Terrace requests have been received for nine farms this year. They are: Bob Finger, Steamboat Rock; Lee Lundy, Harold Mersman, Joe Beach, Gordon Eklund, Eldora FFA, Mrs. Florence McEvoy, Glen Taylor, Kenneth Reisinger and Cecil Rooks, all of Eldora.

WHEAT GROWERS REMINDED OF JUNE 20 REFERENDUM

The referendum for Hardin county wheat producers will be Friday, June 20. Voting hours will be from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Eligible wheat producers of

Continued on page 11



For individual enrollment or service in

BLUE CROSS

or

BLUE SHIELD

Phone or Write

KENNETH C. THOMPSON

Box 163

Hampton, Iowa

Phone 690LR

HARDIN COUNTY

Continued from page 10

Hardin county will cast their ballots at the county ASC office, Iowa Falls.

Cooperation Is Key To Progress

IN SOIL CONSERVATION IN IOWA

A record amount of soil conservation is now being carried out in Iowa, with prospects of even greater accomplishments in the years ahead, it was reported here today by heads of agencies responsible for farm conservation work in the state.

THEY DECLARED that Iowa's nationally recognized leadership in the soil and water conservation field has resulted to a great extent from the close working relationship which has long been fostered and maintained on the community, county and state levels by these official agencies: The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation agency (ASC), the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), the State Soil Conservation committee, and the county soil conservation districts.

A conservation week statement pointed out that "because of the combined efforts and continuous cooperation of these agencies a big majority of Iowa farms are now practicing or establishing proved conservation methods which are not only stopping loss of soil through erosion, but also building up the fertility of farmland for the lasting benefit and protection of the nation as a whole as well as the individual farm owners and operators."

The statement emphasized that the assistance of the agencies is available to all farmers—the individual whose land needs a primary or extensive conservation treatment, the individual who needs expert assistance in establishing a long-term plan for the best use and conservation of his farm's soil and water resources. Small groups who desire to operate through pooling agreements to meet conservation problems affecting all of their farms, and larger groups organized to meet the conservation needs of entire watersheds.

Watershed development projects must be initiated locally, and several have already been organized in Iowa and others are in various stages of development. Conservation on a watershed basis represents a culmination of extensive planning, application of needed land treatment measures, and cooperation of many agencies and groups. Consequently, the present activity in this program is further evidence of the great strides already made in soil conservation on Iowa farms.

Each of the federal and state agencies in charge of agricultural conservation in Iowa has specific duties as well as the responsibility to cooperate fully with the others so that the greatest possible amount of needed work will be done.

SUCH COOPERATION has been especially valuable to the individual farmer since it has provided him the maximum in the way of assistance, competent advice, expert engineering, and the assurance that his conservation work will fit in with the over-all conservation program in his community.

The ASC administers the government's cost-sharing agricultural conservation program known as ACP. The SCS provides engineering services and technical advice for ACP work and also is responsible for assisting farmers in making long-range plans for the best use and conservation of soil and water resources on their farms.

The State Soil Conservation committee is concerned with all soil and water conservation problems in Iowa and works with each of Iowa's 100 soil conservation

districts. The committee also has a leading role in watershed development. The Extension Service assists in the state-wide activity by conducting a continuous program of conservation education.

THE WEEK OF June 15-22 is Soil and Water Conservation week in Iowa. This provides an excellent opportunity for the public to view conservation practices that have been applied to the land.