

PROTECT & PRESERVE OUR LAND THROUGH CONSERVATION

Denny Gienger is 1990 outstanding cooperator

A lot of not till corn, terraces, contouring, incorporating his hay ground into strips and a respect for the ground learned from Richard Bruene earned Denny Gienger of Gladbrook the honor of Tama County Soil and Water Conservation District Cooperator of the Year for 1990.

Gienger started working for Bruene on his farm in 1966 when he was 16 years old. "He (Bruene) was into conservation, terraces and contouring, and once you're brought up in that environment you realize it's not so bad," said Gienger.

Gienger plants an

estimated 300 acres of beans and 100 acres of hay and oats. He has a 2,000 head farrow to finish hog operation and maintains a 100 head stock cow herd. He said his cattle operation works well with his conservation program, especially in his highly erodible land.

Gienger said he saw the pressure coming from the government 10 years ago and started with a 10 head herd. He said he thinks the Food Security Act was a good move by the government and it may push some farmers into conservation practices.

Gienger tries to keep his input down through buying used machinery and doing his own repairs.

Gienger started his terracing project in 1984 when he purchased his farm. He hopes to finish it this fall.

Gienger grew up on a farm 2 1/2 miles east of where he lives now. His father, Carl still lives there. Denny and his brother, Allen farm the land.

"My dad is 82 years old and he still loves farming," he said. "I wouldn't trade living here for anything. If you can't make it in Spring Creek, you can't make it anywhere. We always seem to get timely rains."

Gienger worked in a factory in Grundy Center for 7-8 years, before he had the opportunity to begin farming. He hopes someday he and his wife, Doris, will be able to provide that opportunity to his sons, Jason, 8 and Jared, 5. The Gienger's most recent addition to the family is a daughter, Jennifer, 2 months. "I like to see young guys get started. Farming is not dead. You just have to make your opportunity."



Photo by Ernie Sevede

Ernest Sevede of Toledo shot this view of the Ed Wacha farm near Vining 30 years ago. The photo has been widely published since it took second place in a contest. The disgruntled editors said that it graced the cover of Wallace's Farmer magazine in May of 1960, Better Farming Methods, voc-ag teacher's

publication in April of 1960 and the Conservation Source Book in 1962. It appeared in the Cedar Rapids Gazette in 1960 and the Marshalltown Times Republican farm edition this past July, as it was mistaken for a Marshall County view. The photo was also used in a mural in a Sioux City bank.

Nature Center to become reality

It is exciting to watch a project emerge from concept to reality. For the past two years plans, conceptual drawings and scale models. It appears that the estimated cost of the project at 5,500 sq. ft. facility is on its way to becoming a reality.

Hard work has resulted in enough funds available to begin the initial construction of the facility. This fall, with a little luck, Phase I will begin on the Tama County Nature Center. The facility is to be centrally located in the county at Otter Creek Park.

The primary goal of the Nature Center is to serve as a rallying point for environmental education in the county. Opportunities for residents to learn more about our natural resources, outdoor recreation, and the importance of a quality environment will be provided. Programs and efforts will target youth, adults and families.

The facility will be nestled on a hillside about half way up the east side of the lake. The site offers a beautiful view of the southern half of the Otter Creek Lake basin. The buildings will include electrical, plumbing, hanging insulation, sheet rock, painting, flooring, duct work, finish carpentry, etc. It is anticipated donated labor will be utilized during late winter or spring following completion of Phase I.

The Conservation Board is currently seeking persons or clubs who are willing to donate their skills and/or time to help finish the structure once Phase I is complete. Skills needed include electrical, plumbing, hanging insulation, sheet rock, painting, flooring, duct work, finish carpentry, etc. It is anticipated donated labor will be utilized during late winter or spring following completion of Phase I.

It is really exciting to see the Nature Center nearing start-up," adds Etzel. "Many people will strive to provide a fine facility and programs that all residents can be proud of and enjoy with their family and friends. We hope that folks will come to celebrate the groundbreaking on Sunday, October 13 at 2 p.m. and share in the commitment of their nature center."

The major objective of this group was to help their neighbors better understand the requirement of the Conservation Compliance program and learn ways to apply them to their farming operation.

This group took on a no-till emphasis and sponsored a no-till meeting in February. Three local farmers, Stanley Dostal, Jeff Dolezal, and David Podhajsky, and a farmer from Benton County, all shared their experiences with no-till farming. They discussed how they made the transition from conventional tillage to no-till and gave suggestions for producers making that change now.



Photo by Nancy Dostal

Audrey Wheeler, secretary at the Soil Conservation Service in Toledo proofreads a letter. Wheeler will have been with SCS 28 years next month.

Conservation compliance club Begins conservation cooperation

by Denise L. Schwab
Extension Agricultural

The Tama County Conservation Compliance Club is a group of farmers who met last winter as a part of a statewide program to help implement Conservation Compliance plans.

The major objective of this group was to help their neighbors better understand the requirement of the Conservation Compliance program and learn ways to apply them to their farming operation.

This group took on a no-till emphasis and sponsored a no-till meeting in February. Three local farmers, Stanley Dostal, Jeff Dolezal, and David Podhajsky, and a farmer from Benton County, all shared their experiences with no-till farming. They discussed how they made the transition from conventional tillage to no-till and gave suggestions for producers making that change now.

The second major project of this group was a no-till tour. Eighty-five people attended the tour hosted by Craig Earley and Stanley Dostal. Local businesses sponsored the meal and displayed no-till equipment.

The third major project is the development of a Conservation Directory. The objective is to develop a listing of producers who are experienced at various conservation practices such as no-till, ridge till and hay production, as well as those who may do custom work for those to see conservation practices on their own farm without the major equipment investment.

This project is still in the beginning stages. It currently includes ten experienced producers, but we would like to include many more with producers making that change now.

See Page 8

Food Security Act plans

Much to do - not much time

Craig Stange

District Conservationist Remember back in 1988 or '89 when you were in the soil conservation office working up your conservation plans? 1995 seemed like a long time away. Many people thought the whole idea would fall by the wayside. It hasn't gone away!

Over the past two years many farmers have begun applying portions of their conservation plans. Signs of this progress are evident all around the county. Many miles of field borders have been seeded in place of eroded.

Last spring, before the rain started, many farmers were out shaping and seeding their waterways. The "monsoon" probably damaged those new

waterways, but a little light tillage and reseeding should fix them.

Spring of '92 is scheduled to be a heavy conservation application year. Nearly 2,000 Tama county farmers have scheduled themselves to apply at least one conservation practice next spring. Grassed field borders, grassed waterways, contouring and no till are the predominant practices.

For many farmers, this fall might be a good time to fall some of next year's practices. Smaller waterways and field borders could be shaped and seeded after harvest using a dormant seeding and a rye cover crop.

Conservation tillage could

begin this fall by not working crop residues. Eliminating fall tillage leaves more tillage options next spring.

Over half of the farm plans in Tama county call for conservation tillage to leave at least 40% of the soil surface to be covered with residue after planting. In most cases that means no more than two tillage trips on corn stalks.

Conservation plans developed 2-3 years ago will not cause a radical change in most people's farming operation. Find and read your plan this fall and gear up for the application this Fall and next Spring.

If you have questions please call the Soil Conservation Service

1991 SWCD Booster Club

fund raising drive each year. Members of the Tama SWCD 1991 Booster Club include: Frank Zmolek, Elmer and Marne Chalupsky, A. D. and Elizabeth Chantland, Arthur Staker, John and Nello Erickson, Ken Bruene, Spahn & Rose Lumber Co., Ivan & Mrs. Gerthmann, Ruppenkamp Family, Inc., Dean & Kathy Scheu, Kriva Farm, Velma Kousa, Alice Hooper, Merle McMillan, Stanley Delfs, Calderwood Farms, Inc., Richard &

Rose Bruene, Blanche V. Zmolek, Muel & Howard Bro, Charlotte Stokas, Bill & Doris Tessa, Leland Thomson, Margaret Young, Helen F. Verrey, Harrah's Tiling Service, Tom & Janice Upah, Gary West, Gaylord & Flora Gary, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Judge, Tom & Phyllis Hansen, Roger Kroeger, Thunderbird Farms, Tom & Lillian Hala, Mr. & Mrs. Loren Lueveth, John & Kathleen Sieverts, Tom &

Pamela Brandt, L.A. & Viola Rasmussen, Ruth & William Downs, Harold & Marian Pritchard, LaVerne & Susan Wegner, William Podhajsky, D & D Grouner Bros., Heller Farm, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Keener, Kuchynka 11 LTD, Grattan Backhoe Service, Bob & Janet Malin, Robert & Cecilia Podhajsky, Lyman & Frances Barker, Betty Benda, Melvin Dostal, Gerald & Marlene Eernisse, Harold & Patricia Wriggley, Eldo & Maxine Hagedorn, Morris Bruene, Philip & Maureen Lewis, Roy G. Twest.

Edward Hallboom, Rupert & Fern Brubaker, Paul Mitchell, Tama County Mutual Ins. Assoc., George Bruene, Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Stevenson, Russell & Helen Lyon, Carl & Carol Loubs, Packaging Corp. of America, Marley & Joan Bacon, Craig & Diane Mitchell, Phillip Mitchell, Roger & Patricia Sievers, Janet Van Horn, Allen Family Trust, Wellhouse Family Trust, Work & Rose Kodyera, Ken & Carolyn Adolphs, Gerald Raud, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, S.L. Burnside Company and E.M. Hasselmann.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS FISCAL YEAR 1991 October 1, 1990 - September 30, 1991			
District Cooperator	10 17 No.	1,598	2,491 Acres
Contour Farming		9,461	4,069 Acres
Farmstead Windbreaks		157	8 Acres
Grassed Waterways			160 Acres
Grade Stabilization Structures	3 2 No.		
Contour Strip Farming		867	249 Acres
Terraces		19,300	35,380 Acres
Water & Sediment Control Structure	9 13 No.		
Individuals & Groups Assisted	897		876 No.
Individuals & Groups Applying Practices	217		397 No.
Tracts with an Approved Conservation Plan	2,439 No.		231,156 Acres
Cropland Acres Treated			22,453 Acres
BUDGETS July 1, 1990 - June 30, 1991			
1M Commissioners Mileage, Meals, Hotel	1,375.34		\$1,152.93
Office Supplies and Expenses	597.12		1,327.13
Printing	51.75		76.10
2M Clerk and Engineering Aide Salary			\$1,470.00
3M			\$31,408.00
90-91			\$81,266.89
40 Agreements Approved			
9 Agreements Completed			
1991 REAP			
7 Agreements Approved			
2 Agreements Completed			

Over forty years ago, Tama County residents organized and noted the Tama County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) into existence. According to state laws, the district is responsible for carrying out a county-wide soil and water conservation program.

Planning for the long term reservation of these and other vital resources is not a simple task, but is necessary for the orderly management, development, and utilization of our natural resources.

But soil and water conservation districts have no taxing or bonding authority to raise funds for certain education and promotional activities such as outdoor classes, computer programs, and Arbor Day tree

planting activities for school children as well as postage, awards, and food security Act education programs.

The Tama SWCD also joins state and national soil conservation district associations which are your voices to lawmakers about conservation issues.

To help raise funds for these and other programs, the district commissioners organize a



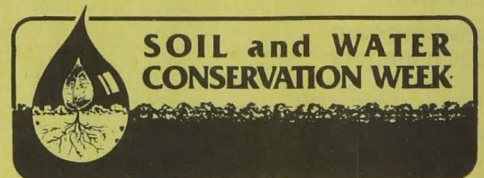
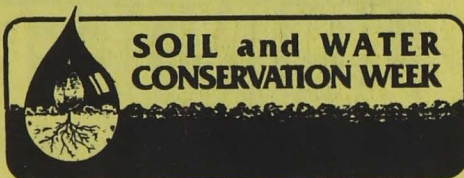
Congratulations

**To our Tama County farmers on
their conservation practices**

The American farmer is most aware of the need to preserve and protect the land for future generations and his doing something about it.
Iowa leads the nation in soil conservation - and Tama

County ranks in the top 10 counties in Iowa. Iowa was the first state to provide financial assistance for soil conservation and Tama County also provides funds.

**This Land is Our Land - Protect It Through
CONSERVATION**



*****WE SUPPORT SOIL CONSERVATION IN TAMA COUNTY*****

BOHEMIAN MUTUAL INS. ASSN.
Toledo, Iowa - 484-5233

TAMA COUNTY AD-VISOR-SHOPPER
Tama, Iowa - 484-3600

TAMA NEWS-HERALD/TOLEDO CHRONICLE
Tama - 484-2841 Toledo - 484-5013

ELLENBECKER OIL COMPANY
Tama, Iowa - 484-9983

FAREWAY STORES, INC.
Toledo, Iowa - 484-3006

KING TOWER CAFE
Tama, Iowa - 484-9962

SANDHILL SALVAGE
Tama, Iowa - 484-2057

MIKE HORAK, INC.
Toledo, Iowa - 484-3502

IOWA BUILDERS SUPPLY
Gladbrook - 515-473-3037

BUCKINGHAM CO-OPERATIVE CO.
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Dysart - 319-476-5780

CENTRAL IOWA CREDIT UNION
Traer - 319-478-8044

KAUFMAN TIRE SERVICE CENTER
Traer - 319-478-8022

TAMA STATE BANK
Tama - 484-4620

SOUTHARD IMPLEMENT
Tama, Iowa - 484-5225

TAMA COUNTY MUTUAL INS. ASSN.
L.L. Owens, Pres. Traer - 319-478-2710

VOKOUN MOTOR CO.
Don & Jim Vokoun-Traer - 319-478-2261

WRIGHT PHARMACY
Traer, Iowa - 319-478-8711

DICK DAHMS - STATE FARM INS.
Traer, Iowa - 319-478-2794

STANSBERRY and COMPANY, CPAs
Traer, Iowa - 319-478-8880

ERNIE'S PLUMBING & HEATING
Traer, Iowa - 319-478-2512

FARMERS MUTUAL INSURANCE ASSN.
Gary Dierks-Traer, Iowa - Ervin Tomlinson

TRAER CABINET & CONSTRUCTION
Traer, Iowa - 319-478-8635

NATIONAL BANK OF WATERLOO
Offices in Traer-Dysart-Clutier

Farmers say many small feedlots better than a few large ones

AMES, Iowa — Iowa farmers say livestock production would be better for the environment if there were a large number of small-scale producers rather than a few very large producers.

Seventy-two percent of the respondents to the 1991 Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll agreed that it would be much better for the environment to have a large number of small livestock producers than to have a few very large producers. Only 9 percent disagreed.

The question of size was one of about a dozen issues on livestock facilities covered by this year's poll, directed by Paul Lasley, ISU Extension sociologist. These questions were prompted by recent efforts across the state to strengthen the livestock industry. "These data indicate that farmers recognize the importance of strengthening the livestock industry in a way that is compatible with the environment," according to Lasley.

Nuisance factors associated with feedlots also were addressed by the survey. Two-thirds of the respondents (66 percent) said large-scale livestock operations should be located in regions of the state where they will not interfere with the public's enjoyment of the outdoors. Only 15 percent disagreed with that statement. And 76 percent said all livestock producers should develop waste management plans to protect themselves from nuisance suits.

Sixty-two percent of the farmers who answered the survey said the noise, odors and associated environmental problems from confinement livestock operations are minimal compared to industrial pollution from factories in Iowa towns and cities. Only 11 percent disagreed with that statement.

However, only 28 percent of the respondents said the environmental costs of large-scale livestock operations have been greatly exaggerated. Thirty-seven percent disagreed with that statement, and 35 percent were uncertain. Asked whether non-farm people should learn to live with the odors and noise associated with livestock production, 41 percent of the farmers agreed, but 43 percent disagreed. Only 16 percent were undecided.

"People who whine about livestock smell really irritate me. Let 'em move to New

York City," wrote a Taylor County respondent.

Nearly three of every four respondents (73 percent) agreed that the livestock industry is too important to Iowa's economy to allow a few concerned groups to over-regulate it, and only 13 percent disagreed with that statement. Sixty-one percent said much of the controversy surrounding livestock facilities is because environmentalists do not understand modern farming. Twenty-five percent were uncertain, and 14 percent disagreed with that statement.

Twenty-six percent said environmental regulations and pollution laws on confinement facilities are already too strict, with 29 percent disagreeing with that statement, and 45 percent uncertain.

In fact, 31 percent said they thought Iowa livestock management regulations have caused some production to move to other states where the rules are less strict. Nineteen percent said that had not happened, and 50 percent were uncertain, the largest "uncertain" response in the poll. "You can't ignore environmentalists, but this is a farming state, and people should get their priorities set," a Keokuk County farmer

wrote. The issue that drew the largest positive response from farmers was the statement that "there is too much attention focused on the negative aspects of livestock production, and not enough about its contribution to the entire state." Eighty percent agreed with that statement, including 27 percent who strongly agreed, and only 4 percent disagreed.

And 61 percent would like to see statewide zoning adopted to protect farms from urban encroachment and suits brought by non-farm residents.

The Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll is funded by the ISU College of Agriculture and University Extension. The poll has been in operation since 1982 and has provided data for tracking changes in farm conditions and farmers' opinions over the past 10 years.

The questions on livestock production facilities were among more than 200 items in the 1991 poll. The survey of 3,461 randomly selected farm operators conducted in March drew 2,095 completed responses, a return rate of 61 percent. Lasley said additional findings from the 1991 poll will be announced in the near future.

SCS is farmer's friend



Pat Kadmas

At a recent farm organization meeting, a speaker made a statement to the effect that SCS was looking more like it is no longer a "friend of the farmers." I disagree.

SCS is the agency whose job is to help farmers stay in compliance with the Food Security Act. Congress mandated that farmers must comply with the Food Security Act to get government benefits.

It's been my personal observation that if a farmer makes any effort to do anything to get his farm plan started, SCS bends over backwards to assist him — this despite a shortage of trained help (at times), and a work load five times what it was before the Food Security Act.

It is up to the farmer if he or she wants to be in compliance and receive government benefits. SCS is there to help if the farmer wants help.

With the increased work load for both farmer and SCS, it doesn't make good sense to just walk in the office. Call ahead and make an appointment so if you have to make a trip, trained personnel are available and your plans and forms are set out.

If weather or chemical use makes it impossible to comply with your plan, call the office and check. A trip might not be necessary — at least right at planting time — to negotiate the change.

Basically I think farmers want to save their soil and keep their water clean. SCS is there at 203 W. High, Toledo, Ia., to assist them to do that by staying in compliance with the Food Security Act.

Let's work together. We can make a difference in our environment.



The Soil Conservation Service in Toledo is kept running smoothly by the competent staff of front row, left to right: Roger Platt, Curt Donohue, Craig Stange, and Mark Kouba; back row: Linda Sells, Sheryl Pansgrau, Deb Wedemeyer and Melody Bro.

Commissioner's Comments



Dennis Emke

While traveling through the county for various reasons, one looks at the fields and sees many farmers are implementing conservation techniques on their farms.

Evidence of stripped crop layout, grassed endrows, contours and minimum tillage shows how much these farmers want to conserve and save their valuable soil. The reason for using these techniques is not only because the Food Security Act calls for them, but because they know they work.

Maybe this spring's wet weather helped much of the land be saved. Reason being, the wet weather detained many farmers from getting into their fields, thus they planted in no-till, saving much of our soil.

The fields had plenty of moisture at planting, and by not disturbing the whole field it conserved the moisture for when the dry weather hit. I

New partnership will restore wetlands

The farm is many things to young people — it is their home, their playground and often their workplace. It also has special hazards associated with it.

Farm Safety Day Camp for young people ages 8 to 12 years old will be held on September 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Central Iowa Fairgrounds in Marshalltown.

The Day Camp will provide hands-on experience in identifying and dealing with safety hazards on the farm. Day Camp topics will include safety: tractors, wagons, lawn mowers, and other equipment; power-take-off entanglement; grain entrapment; hazardous gas and chemicals; animal hazards; ATV's and electrical.

Attendance is open to young people ages 8 to 12 years old who live or spend time on a farm. For more information, call your ISU County Extension Office.

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Photo by Nancy Dostal



Franklin Bro

Bro's perspective

Last week my wife and I took a little trip out to Audubon County where I was raised. When we travel, I enjoy observing the conservation practices which have been taking place.

Guthrie and Audubon Counties are quite rolling and erosion has always been a problem.

Just driving through, it seems to me that they have really put into use a lot of good conservation practices.

Just about everything is terraced — beautiful big terraces — grassed headlands and everything is contoured. There seemed to be more land in grass since it is good cattle country.

All over the State I see much improvement in conservation practices. Tama County has done a lot, but there is more than can be done.

The point I'm trying to make is that Soil and Water Conservation Service (SWCS) is accomplishing much along these lines and we shouldn't get discouraged.

The farm economy is so terrible that it's really hard for a young land owner to spend any money on tile, waterways and terraces.

The Food Security Act has set up guidelines for us to work on. Most of them can be done without too much expense, but they will require some changes in how we farm, which can really be a challenge.

I hope we can keep improving our land and leave it in better condition than we found it.



CONGRATULATIONS

To our area farmers on their top notch soil conservation practices!



We Are Proud To Support Our Farmer Friends

Tama Livestock Auction

Sale Every Saturday at 10:00 a.m.
Fat Cattle Sale
Every Wed. at 10:00 a.m.

SWCD feeling budget crunch

by Melody Bro Engineering Aide

The Tama Soil and Water Conservation District is feeling state and federal budget cuts along with many other public agencies. No programs are foreseen as being cut, although many cost share funds will most likely run out before the end of the fiscal year.

As in years past, the district offers a 50% cost share rate on terrace construction and related tiling and seeding. The 1991-92 fiscal funds have been cut to \$56,206. The district has \$1,359 left over from the 1990-91 fiscal year.

Many practices are still eligible for 75% cost sharing in the Union Grove Lake watershed including terraces,

grassed waterways, contour strip-cropping, grade stabilization structures, and critical area seeding.

Only \$4,759 in state REAP funds are still available for the following practices: farmstead or field windbreak, timber stand improvement, tree planting, site preparation for natural regeneration, and rescue treatment for existing tree plantations. These practices have various cost share rates and many require a minimum number of acres.

District and SCS personnel are also responsible for the soil conservation cost share funds handled by the county's ASCS office. At the current time, their normal funds have been spent, and ASCS doesn't foresee receiving ACP funds until early in 1992.

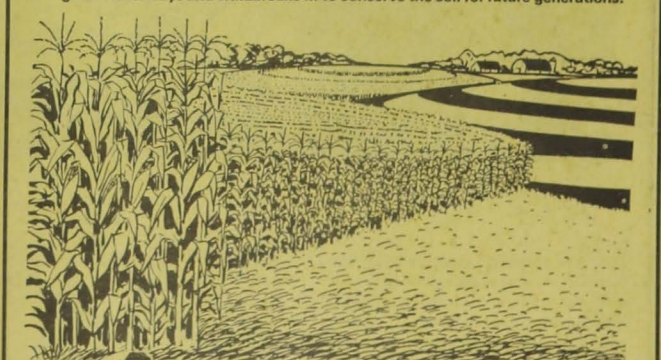
ASCS had, however, received emergency (ECP) soil conservation funds and is now taking cost share applications. Before construction can begin, both ASCS and SCS District personnel must visit the site to determine cost share eligibility.

Once approved for ECP cost share, the applicant is eligible to receive 64% cost sharing on earthwork, tiling, and seeding to repair soil conservation practices damaged by runoff from this spring's storms.

If you have any questions concerning these soil conservation cost-share programs, please contact our office at 515/484-2702 or by stopping in at 203 West High, Toledo.



Practice good soil conservation measures ... especially by constructing terraces, grass waterways and windbreaks ... to conserve the soil for future generations.



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Saturday — 9:30-12:00 Noon
MAIN BANK HOURS: Monday through Thursday — 8:30-2:30
Friday — 8:30-7:00

MEETING TODAY'S CHALLENGES



Berner's Beliefs

Yvette Berner

When I was invited to become Assistant Commissioner in charge of education last February, it seemed to me to be a logical step for me to take. I had been a woodland owner, with my husband, for over 20 years, a proponent of the conservation and protection of the environment, a parent of five children and a teacher for twelve years.

I was impressed with the assistance the Tama County Soil and Water Conservation District can offer our County schools. Already available were the excellent educational tool of a soil and water conservation model, suitable for all ages. The South Tama, North Tama and Dysart Schools have taken advantage of this model in the past year and I plan to urge other schools to borrow this for a one or two week period this coming year.

Other educational activities already in action were the Arbor Day trees for 6th graders to plant during April each year; the 5th Grade Outdoor Education Day at Otter Creek Park in May each year; the scholarships for teachers to the Conservation Education summer workshops, and the poster competition for students.

New this fall will be the video titled "Lines On The Land"

From Page 5

conservation experience. The directorates will be distributed through Extension meetings this fall and winter and through the SCS office. If you or someone you know would like to be included contact the Tama County Extension Office.

The goal of the CCC is neighbors helping neighbors to implement their conservation

prepared with the assistance of a REAP grant. This will be available for loan to the 6th, 7th and 8th grade levels in the County, to demonstrate soil conservation practices and advantages.

Other programs available are an essay competition and the Conservation Teacher of the Year award. More information on these are available from me or from the Toledo Office of the Tama Soil and Water Conservation District at 203 West High Street, Toledo 52342.

Concern and caring for our natural environment cannot start at too young an age, and it is my belief that early education is the best long range method to convince all our future citizens. Our generation has made some moves in the right direction, but we started too late and the best thing we can do now is pass along the little we have learned to the younger generation and inspire in them a love for the beautiful inter-relationship of the plants, animals, soil and water in our world. The real teachers are you parents and the teachers in the schools who have the daily contact with our children, but the Tama County Soil and Water District Commissioners are willing and ready to help with the educational tools we have available.

plan. We all need to make a profit while conserving our soil, so we must carryout our conservation plan.

You all have a great deal of valuable experience with conservation practices in Tama County and we'd like to share that knowledge base with other producers.

Farmers warned about scams on painting

DES MOINES (IWA) — Have paint, will travel.

Attorney General Bonnie Campbell says there has been an outbreak of fraudulent painting "deals" being offered to farmers in eastern Iowa.

"This is the time of year between planting and harvest that farmers do fix-up and repair work around the farm," Campbell noted.

"In the complaints we've seen, painters will come to the farmer's door and offer to do needed painting of bin and barns for a low price."

"The problem we've seen," Campbell continued, "is that the work is done poorly and the painter can't be found afterward."

According to Campbell, one farmer paid to have his grain bin roofs painted in July. The painter promised to apply an aluminum-asphalt paint, but the paint cracked within weeks and the painter could not be found at the address he had provided.

"Typically these schemes offer a low estimate and ask for a large payment in advance," Campbell said. "Once they have your money, they disappear leaving the work partially completed, poorly done or not done at all."

Campbell also said perpetrators of repair frauds often promise to "guarantee" their work, but they use aliases and phony addresses so that, when problems become apparent, the consumer cannot find the individual or company.

Campbell advised farmers to avoid being cheated by observing these rules:

2 from county to travel to Washington

Animal rights legislation being proposed in Congress will be a topic Iowa Farm Bureau women discuss when they go to the nation's capital, Sept. 23-25. Forty-five delegates from county Farm Bureaus are making the trip as part of their program to be effective in legislation. Attending from Tama County will be Susan Beichley, Gladbrook and Pat Oettchen, Beaman.

During their three-day stay in Washington, D.C., they'll meet with Congressman Charles Stenholm of Texas and talk about animal rights and proposed legislation on the topic. Stenholm is a leading proponent to stiffen penalties against people who destroy

1) Be cautious of anyone who comes to your door offering a great deal if you act immediately.

2) Shop around and get several written estimates for a job.

3) Check with previous customers to see if they were satisfied and call the Attorney General's Farm Division (515/281-6634) to see if complaints have been filed against the contractor.

4) Don't make a final payment until the work is done to your satisfaction.

Earlier this year Campbell's office issued a memo to all of the state's county sheriffs, chiefs of police and county attorneys. The six-page memorandum summarizes how local law officers can use Iowa law to crack down swiftly if schemes surface in their area.

According to the memorandum, the Iowa door-to-door sales act is especially useful in dealing quickly with perpetrators of home repair fraud.

Under that law, home repair contractors are generally required to offer customers written notice of their three-day right to cancel the transaction. Failure to provide such notice is a simple misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment up to 30 days in jail and a fine of up to \$100.

Persons who have complaints about farm-related fraudulent schemes should write to Attorney General Bonnie Campbell, Farm Division, Hoover State Office Building, Des Moines, Ia., 50319.



SCS staff check trash left on a cornfield for residue percentage. FSA plans require a percentage of residue calculated by slope.

Iowa Farm in Ukraine to be featured on IPTV

In 1988, an agricultural official from the Soviet Union came to Iowa on an agricultural exchange. He was impressed with what he saw, and when he returned home he created a corner of Iowa in the western Ukraine. Ivan Husar created the "Iowa Farm," named in thanks to the people of Iowa, those he met and those he didn't.

In a special program, *Where There Is No Word for Farmer*, Iowa Public Television will introduce Iowans to Ivan Husar, his family and the Soviet Union.

In May of 1991 an IPTV crew traveled to the "Iowa Farm" in Ukraine. With a little over 1,000 acres, the "Iowa Farm" has had the blessing and help of officialdom as a working experiment. But it has succeeded because Ivan Husar is an intelligent and creative person, who had a different vision in spite of growing up in a society designed to stifle individuality.

And Ivan had the courage of his convictions to put into practice the lessons he had learned in Iowa, lessons which contradicted years of Communist ideology and government control.

The Soviet Union is a country where there is quite literally no word for "farmer," the idea and the concept are foreign. It is a country where for decades collective agriculture has been the norm. And it is a country where in the 1930s millions of people died during the collectivization process because they wanted to do what Ivan Husar is now doing, farm for themselves and not the state.

Learn about Soviet capitalism - Iowa style Monday, Sept. 16 at 8:00 p.m. or catch repeats on Wednesday the 18 at 9:00 p.m. and Saturday the 28 at 8:30 p.m.

Meet Ivan, his wife Inna and their two daughters Natasha and Tanya on *Where There Is No Word for Farmer* which can be seen on all Iowa Public Television stations.

Enjoy roadside vegetation



Ferd Kvider

Assistant Commissioner

This fall our roadsides are a blaze of color due to the many, many clumps of goldenrod and sunflower. It hasn't always been that way because roadside vegetative management is constantly in a state of change.

Prior to the discovery of 2,4-D, our roadsides "grew wild," with wild grapes in the fence-lines and all kinds of "goodies" in the ditch. In season, I picked a gallon of black raspberries every other day in a quarter-mile. All of the bounty also attracted great numbers of insect eating birds.

With the advent of 2,4-D following World War II, a "clean scene" was desired by many, and so a broadcast spraying of roadsides was initiated which continued for many years, followed by spot spraying after it was realized that spraying miles and miles of bromegrass with broadleaf

herbicide was not very cost efficient. Presently, roadside spraying by the county is limited to musk and Canada thistle.

The years of blanket and spot spraying took their toll on native forbs, but some miraculously, they are making a comeback. However, it will be a long time before the roadsides become a blaze of color for many of the species. Hopefully future county administrations will have a favorable view of wild flowers and not consider every one but the brome as "a weed." We still get requests to "mow out here and spray those old roses in the ditch!"

This has been a good start for the growth of our ragweed (horserweed) and next years it thrives. However, most of the weed found in the roadsides is growing where silt has washed on of the fields, or where a hay boom in previous years has wiped out the brome in a semi-circular area across the fence-line. Some of our native forbs such as goldenrod and sunflower are very aggressive, as is plume grass, but are controlled in cropland with proper tillage or herbicides.

Canada thistle, which was a terrible problem, especially in old fields, has almost become extinct in well managed row crop land. So, there shouldn't be a lot of concern of roadside flowers moving across the fence and taking over the farmland. Nature has given us its color and beauty of wildflowers to enjoy. Let us not waste it.

Composting diseased plants

By Paula Flynn
Extension Plant Pathologist
Iowa State University Extension

Many homeowners take advantage of composting to improve the structure of their gardening soil. While the list of organic material suitable for composting is quite long, some materials are not appropriate; for instance, diseased plants.

Composting is the gradual decomposition of organic material such as leaves, grass clippings and garden wastes. In addition to providing an improved soil structure, composting helps manage yard waste in an environmentally sound way.

Preliminary research data show that certain types of compost, when incorporated into garden soil, may help suppress several soilborne disease agents.

A common question asked by gardeners is whether diseased plants can be safely composted. Unfortunately, the answer is not a straightforward yes. Certain common garden disease agents can survive in plant material. The high temperatures that can be produced by certain composting techniques will kill major disease organisms, but it is crucial to reach temperatures in the range of 90 degrees F. to 140 degrees F. (32-60 degrees C).

A temperature probe can be used to monitor compost pile temperatures.

Not all disease agents survive on dead plant material. Viruses, for instance, require a living plant host to survive. If you are unsure whether certain plant material is safe to compost, do not use plants that appear diseased, including diseased tops, vines or fruits. Such plant material should be discarded by properly bagging it for removal or burning if allowed in your area. It is not harmful to compost moldy plant material that is the result of natural decay.

Dealing with diseased plants during and at the end of the growing season will likely be less of a chore if potential disease problems are considered before the gardening season begins. Management practices can be integrated to ward off frustrating diseases. For instance, choose plants with resistance to common diseases if available and appropriate. Use sound cultural practices such as proper plant spacing and proper watering. Rotate crops if feasible. Scout for disease problems and the measures to control them when they first appear. Be aware of the most common disease problems on the plants in your garden and how they develop and spread.

Information and assistance on identifying plant problems can be obtained from your county extension office. Further details on how to compost can also be obtained by asking a PM683, Composting Yard Waste.

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