

The Annual Report of the Cedar County Soil Conservation Service

A Supplement To The Tipton Conservative and Advertiser • January 22, 1992

Niermeyer Wins District No-Till Contest

by Pat Kroemer

After no-till farming for 12 years, Robert Niermeyer, Clarence, won first place in the 1991 district no-till corn competition. He previously won several 2nd and 3rd place certificates.

"I was surprised the corn yielded 183.2 bushel an acre," he said. "I didn't expect it to turn out this good."

Niermeyer no-tills corn on bean ground. He feels this is an important practice to cut down on the erosion of the bean ground. This year he planted Pioneer 3417 on the test plot.

"It was a surprise it yielded anything," he explained. "I miscalculated the planter settings and planted 36,000 population instead of 26,000, which is generally planted." He added that a test plot 1/2 mile away, planted 12 days earlier, yielded 30 to 40 bushel less.

"Generally with the lack of rain we experienced last summer it would put stress on the plants when planted that close," he said. "Nearly every stalk had an ear."

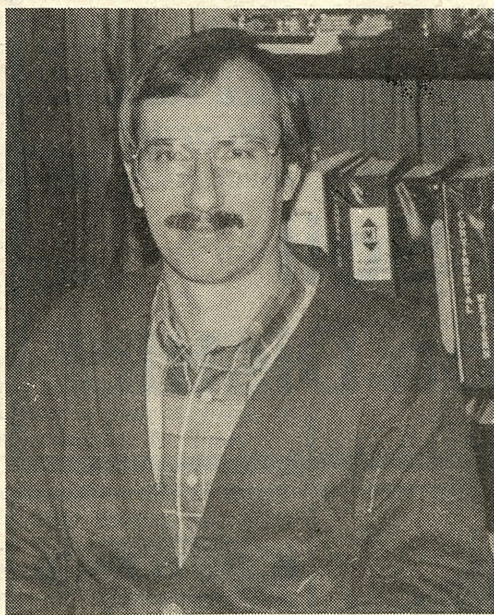
Niermeyer added that he was also lucky when he side dressed the test plot with 50 pounds of liquid nitrogen 2 days before the last good rain in June. He also credited the yield to a few small showers that the field received that others didn't.

"I thought with the high population the stalks might be spindly and fall over, but they kept standing," he said. Niermeyer harvested his no-till test plot in mid-October.

"I haven't always entered the contest," he said. "There's no entry fee and it is open to anyone in the county." He suggested if anyone wanted to enter they should set aside 7 to 10 acres for the contest. Contest acres are weighed and measured the same as the Masters Contest.

Last year Niermeyer planted 170 acres of corn and 80 acres was no-till. He has been a Cedar County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Commissioner for 11 years. When first elected he tried to make people aware of

soil conservation measures. He now tries to explain to people that they have to



comply with these measures because they are state and federal conservation laws.

"Cedar county has been named one of 4 top counties in Iowa to be recognized for conservation measures," he said. "Cedar county has also been named runner-up twice."

"Many people worry about soil lost in erosion," he said. "But no one has figured out how much soil is lost in the air when a tractor makes a pass in the field."

Niermeyer went on to say this is the first year the SWCD Commissioners had to set limits and guidelines for tree planting requests funded through the REAP monies. He said they had to cut down on the acres people could plant and the number of trees they could request.

"The government sets up regulations and then doesn't give you funding for them," he said.

Niermeyer and his wife, Jan, farm south of Clarence. They have 3 daughters and one son.

Look At Options When Changing Tillage Methods

by Edwin C. Andrews
Tillage Specialist for Cedar,
Scott and Clinton Counties

If you could pick any tillage system you wanted, what would you choose? Most people would choose the one they are now using. This, however, may not be possible with the conservation plans that are now in effect.

Changing tillage systems may not be as difficult as some producers seem to think. There are several options that can be looked at when reduced tillage is called for in a conservation plan.

One alternative is to modify existing equipment to allow it to leave more residue. A chisel for example, can be modified by changing from twisted shanks to two inch straight points and having wider spacing between the shanks. Another option is to put sweeps on the chisel, which will normally leave more residue than even the straight points.

A second alternative is to change types of equipment. The use of deep tillage tools that shatter the soil below the surface and leave the surface relatively untouched can increase residue amounts greatly over conventional tillage tools.

The use of a field cultivator rather than a disc will also increase the amount of residue left on the surface.

Some implements will also leave more residue by reducing ground speed or by running them at the shallower depth.

The time to start thinking about residue management is at harvest time. A combine that drops all of the trash in a windrow will cause problems regardless of what type of tillage system is being used. A good straw spreader or chopper on the combine will distribute the residue more evenly. This will increase the residue percent when counting residue and will also make it much easier to get through with a no-till planter or minimum till implement.

There are several programs planned in the coming year to assist farmers in residue management.

A meeting will be held March 17 to discuss the economics of reduced tillage and adapting machinery for high residue. Two well qualified speakers will be present to speak on these topics and answer any questions that producers may have. This meeting will be at the extension service office in Tipton at 7:30 p.m.

In April a planter field demonstration is being planned to show what several brands of row attachments will do in no-till or high residue systems.

Demonstration tillage plots have been set up at Ken Beuthien's farm in Springfield township and Robert Regennitter's in Iowa township. Producers will have

an opportunity to see side by side comparisons of different tillage methods at field days planned for spring and fall.

Anyone having questions about residue management should plan on attending one of these sessions or contact the Soil Conservation Service for any help needed.

Zenisheks Receive 1991 IW Windbreak Award

It took 10 years, but Richard and Millie Zenishek have been rewarded for their labor with the 1991 Izaak Walton Windbreak Award.

The Zenisheks, who are very active conservationists from Mechanicsville, planted 230 trees and more than 100 honeysuckle on the north side of their farm in 1982. Today these trees are more than head high and provide some protection.

The couple had a small wood lot of old basswood trees in 1980 and Richard tried to trim them, but with little success. He dozed them down in the spring of 1981 and built a terrace below his feedlots. He then reseeded the ground and planted 70 Black Hills spruce, 70 Norway spruce and 90 arborvitae in 9 rows.

"The first 5 years they didn't grow a whole lot," Richard said, "but then they really took off."

The couple had thought about the project for a long time, but Richard said he was originally told that he shouldn't build a windbreak near the feedlots or close to a terrace.

Clarence Byers, former conservationist at the Tipton office, helped plan the terrace and Lyle Vernon of Olin built it.

At 40 rods and 9 rows, Richard said a lot of work went into the windbreak. Some watering was needed during the first summer, in July 1982, but 1983 was dry.

Millie says the couple especially enjoys the birds and wildlife that are attracted to the windbreak, including chipping sparrows, robins, rabbits, pheasants and some deer.

The Zenisheks farm 440 acres of land,

Cont. on page 5

Conservation Service Will Help With Plans

by Kurt Hoeft
District Conservationist

If I had to pick one message to send to Cedar county farmers this year, it would be: We (Soil Conservation Service) are here to help.

The Soil Conservation Service is a service organization. We are here to assist anyone who wants help with meeting the farm bill soil conservation requirements on Highly Erodible Land.

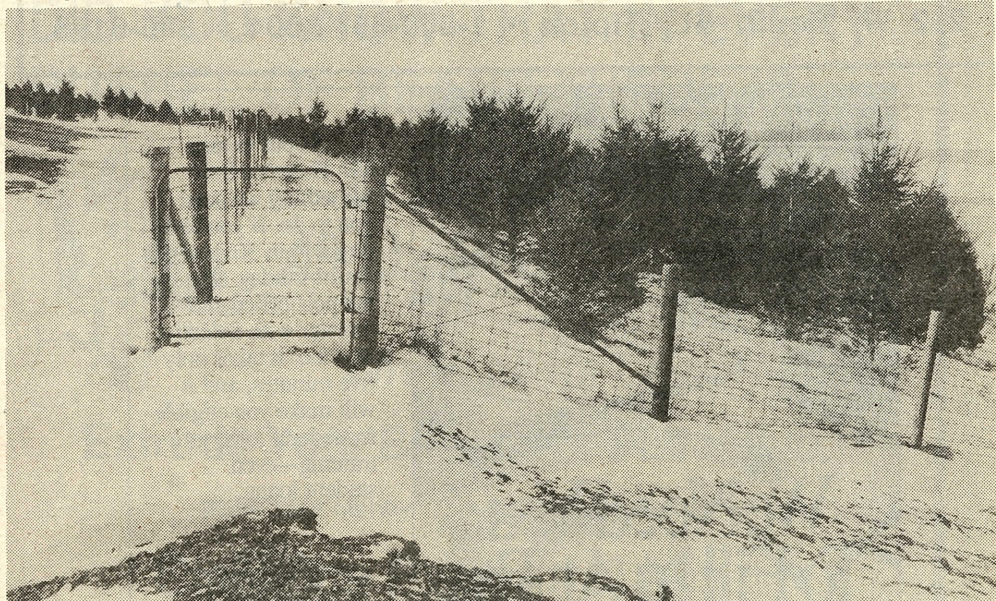
In most cases, the conservation plans are requiring farmers to change their present farming methods. What's planned to be applied by 1995? Cedar county farmers will be applying conservation tillage or no-till farming methods on more than 100,000 acres of cropland.

Almost 50,000 acres are scheduled to be contour farmed and 5,000 acres of grassed waterways will be seeded down.

If you have a question about adopting a conservation practice, I encourage you to ask us, ISU Extension Service, your farm supplier or another farmer who is using the practice.

The Soil Conservation District even has a list of farmers who are willing to discuss their conservation farming techniques with other farmers.

The goal of the Soil Conservation Service is to help get conservation on the land and to help farmers participate in USDA programs. If you have a question about a practice ask. We don't want to see any farmer miss out on USDA benefits because they did not get help.



Over 200 trees were planted in the Zenisheks' windbreak in 1982. Today, they are providing some protection from northwest winds and snow. The Mechanicsville couple won the 1991 Izaak Walton Windbreak Award.

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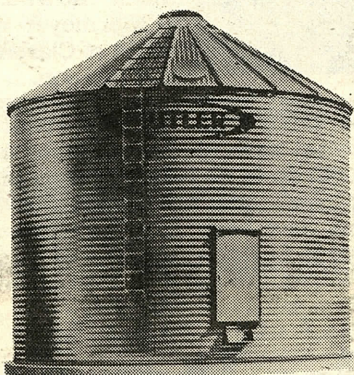
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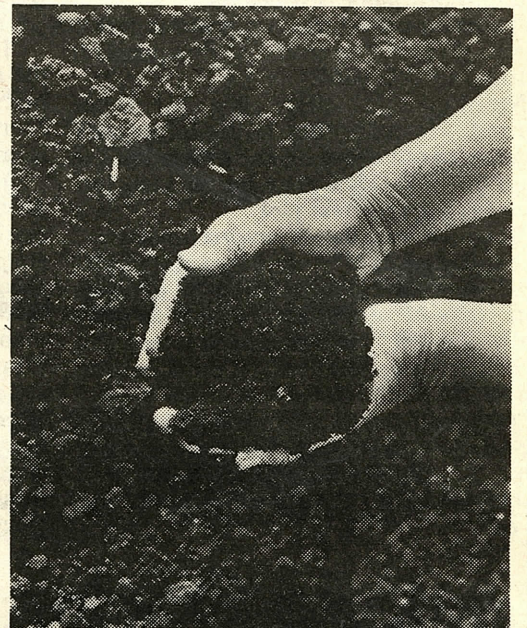
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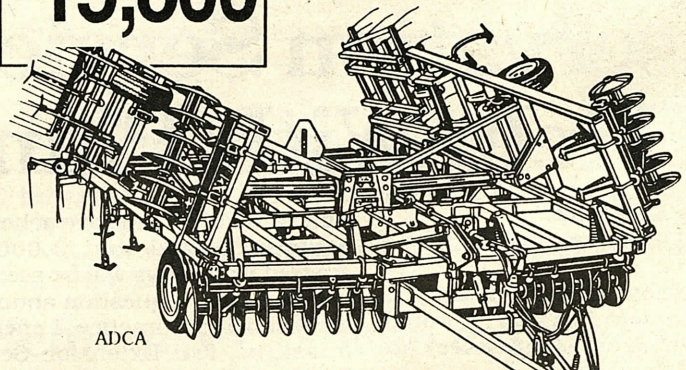
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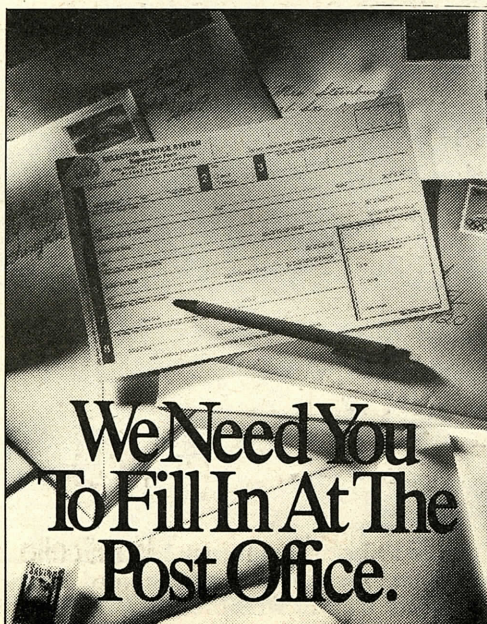


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1991 District Activities

JANUARY

Cedar SWCD Commissioners met for their organizational meeting Jan. 2, 1991. Officers elected include: Richard Kreinbring, chairman; Millcent Zenishek, vice-chairman; Kenneth Muller, secretary and Melanie Schott, treasurer. Assistant Commissioners appointed: Richard Zenishek, Steve Leazer and Joel Brown. Other commissioners on the board include: Mike Walter, Randall Shaul and Robert Niermeyer. Commissioners reviewed the annual plan of work.

SCS District Conservationist Kurt Hoeft attended RC&D meeting on Jan. 9.

Commissioner Mike Walter and Assistant Commissioner Steve Leazer distributed Cedar SWCD scholarship materials to local schools.

Cedar SWCD tree sales campaign began. District contacted local FFA groups to assist in measuring residue for area farmers.

Mortensen's used the farm displays Jan. 7-11 at their Signs & Designs store.

DC Hoeft and Conservation Aid Tom Spear attended Wetlands Training in Muscatine Jan. 10.

Cedar SWCD 1990 Annual Report was published in cooperation with Tipton Conservative Jan. 23.

Extension held a Crop Clinic in West Branch Jan. 25.

Commissioners Richard Kreinbring and Millie Zenishek, and Assistant Commissioners Steve Leazer and Richard Zenishek assisted at the registration booth Jan. 30 at the Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show in Cedar Rapids.

Cedar SWCD Newsletter was sent in late January.

FEBRUARY

DC Hoeft gave a presentation to Farm Bureau Feb. 4.

Cedar SWCD Environmental Education Committee met Feb. 6, and reviewed Cedar SWCD Scholarship applications. Four applicants were chosen for interviews for the two \$200 scholarship awards.

District held a development meeting to complete their 5 Year Resource Plan.

Commissioners met for their regular meeting Feb. 12. The 1990 Goodyear Conservation Awards District Program Evaluation Guide was completed and signed. Assistant Commissioner Steve Leazer reported on a special land stewardship project one-act play "Planting in the Dust" supported by Practical Farmers of Iowa. Cedar SWCD donated funds for the event. Results of the 5 Year Resource Planning Meeting were discussed.

Office staff attended an area meeting in Washington, Feb. 13.

Soil Conservationist Ed Andrews assisted at the Clarence Co-op Ciba Geigy meeting Feb. 15.

Cedar SWCD held their Annual Banquet in conjunction with the Cedar County Corn and Soybean Growers meeting Feb. 16. Outstanding Cooperator awards were presented. Outstanding Commissioner award was presented to Robert Niermeyer.

Cedar SWCD helped sponsor a tri-county contractors meeting Feb. 27 at the White Way in Durant.

MARCH

DC Hoeft attended a meeting in Des Moines March 5 and 6.

Commissioners met for their regular meeting March 20. Board decided to participate in a JTPA summer program. A RC&D Video was viewed. Commissioners approved payment of IASWDC and NACD dues.

Office sent potential wetland letters to producers. Merlin Geadelmann, Clarence, used farm displays in local bank and Mortensen's Tipton, used displays at

their store in March.

Prairie burn school was held in West Branch at Hoover Park March 20.

SC Andrews gave presentation to West Branch FFA March 21.

DC Hoeft attended a meeting in Des Moines March 27 and 28.

Additional prairie burn training was held March 29.

Cedar SWCD Scholarship Committee (Randall Shaul, Mike Walter and Melanie Schott) interviewed final candidates. Committee selected Chris Baker of Mechanicsville and Heather VanTomme of West Branch for the scholarship awards.

Conservation Reserve Program sign up was held March 4-15.

APRIL

Assistant Commissioner Richard Zenishek hosted a No-Till meeting April 3.

Cedar SWCD Commissioners met for their regular meeting April 9.

Environmental Education Committee met April 11 to judge posters. All participants received pencils from Cedar SWCD. Winning posters from each grade received \$5 cash awards. Two overall winners received \$50 Savings Bonds.

District sponsored a targeted Women Landowner and Operator Meeting April 11, organized by SC Andrews.

Cedar SWCD sorted and distributed tree seedlings April 15 and 16.

Soil Scientist Mark LaVan gave presentation at a Lincoln Field Day at Camp Wyoming April 15.

Cont. on page 7

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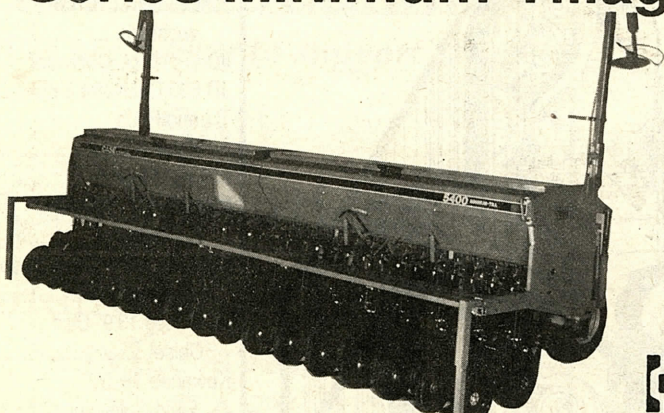
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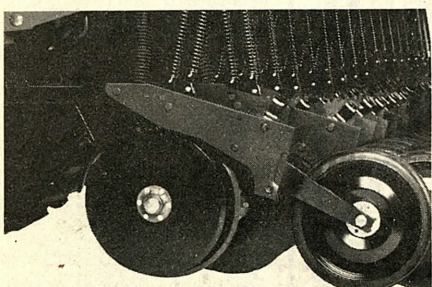
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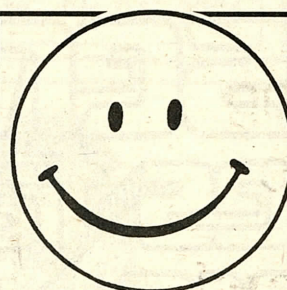
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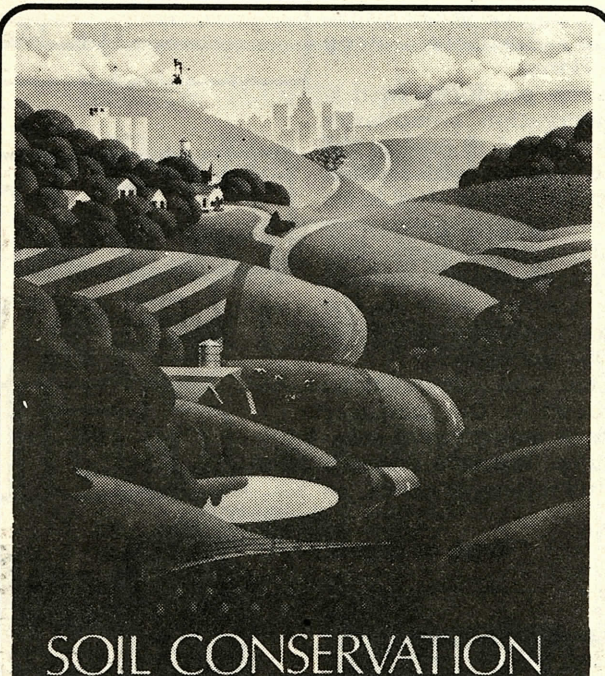
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Schroeders Profit With No-Till Bean Drill

by Pat Kroemer

Doug and Devin Schroeder, Clarence, heard so many stories about no-till bean drills they had to try one. In the spring of 1990 the 2 brothers rented a farm with standing corn stalks. They found it easier to drill no-till beans than to plow everything. They rented a no-till bean drill from George Driscoll and were pleased with their beans that year.

They told their cousin, Craig Schroeder of Stanwood, about the drill and the 3 spent many hours looking at several models, reading about the equipment and results farmers were having with this new machine.

In the spring of 1991 the 3 went together and purchased a Tye drill from Bennett Ford Tractor, Inc. The drill had been a demo at the Farm Progress Show at the Amanas. The no-till drill is set up with wavy coulters which make a one inch break in the soil, cutting through corn trash and preparing the seed bed. Double disc openers open the seed bed for the seed, followed by a 12"x1" press

wheel. Finally, a harrow is pulled behind to smooth everything out.

"By the time you drill no-till beans, it's mid-May and the ground has warmed up," Devin said.

"My beans emerged well," Craig said. "I had a very good stand of beans, weed control was excellent and yields improved."

Craig explained that a farmer can

drill 50% more beans per acre than a conventional planter because the seeds are planted in 8 inch rows. Planting this close gives a dense canopy of beans to shade out any weeds.

Craig drilled 115 acres of no-till beans last year. He also no-tilled 7 acres of oats, 100 acres of corn and minimum tilled 80 acres of corn.

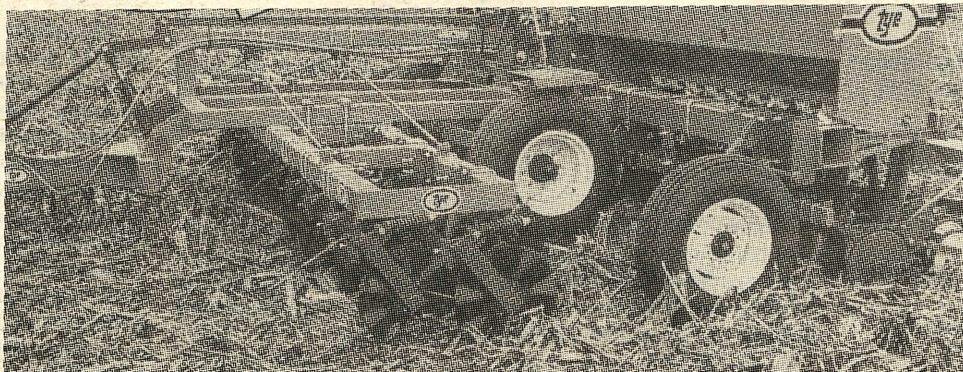
Devin drilled 90 acres of no-till beans

and 5 acres of oats and waterways. Doug Schroeder drilled 40 acres of no-till beans.

"I always try to plant beans on corn ground," Craig said. "I went to no-till farming to comply with the ASCS farm programs."

He added that he felt all 3 of the men could save money by not making so many trips over the fields and save time, too.

"You never need to cultivate and you



Farmers Making Conservation Progress

Iowa's farmers are making progress in soil conservation work asked of them in the 1985 and 1990 farm bills, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service (SCS) officials.

"Our figures show nearly 25% of the conservation plans producers developed have been fully applied," says Jeffrey Vonk, state conservationist for the SCS in Iowa.

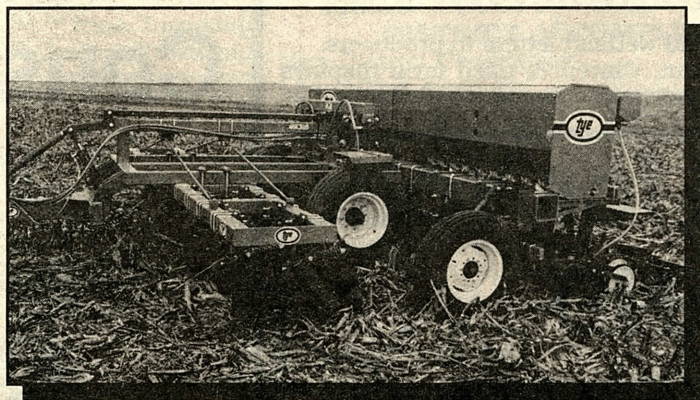
Nearly half the cropland in the state is classified as highly erodible, leaving the heaviest soil conservation workload in the nation to Iowa farmers. Soil conservation measures being applied include conservation tillage, grassed waterways, contour farming, contour stripcropping, terraces, contour grass buffer strips, field borders crop rotations.

Each producer with a conservation compliance plan agreed to protect the land against soil erosion in order to stay eligible for most USDA programs.

"Time passes quickly. That's why each producer has a schedule to do the work between now and 1995," Vonk says.

That schedule must be followed or the producer may be called out of compliance. The SCS makes a status review, or check, on

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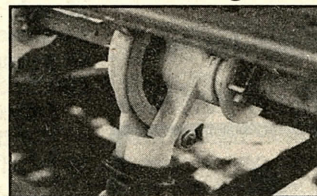
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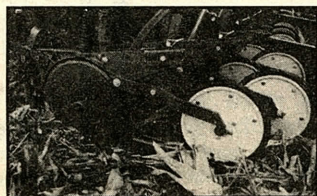
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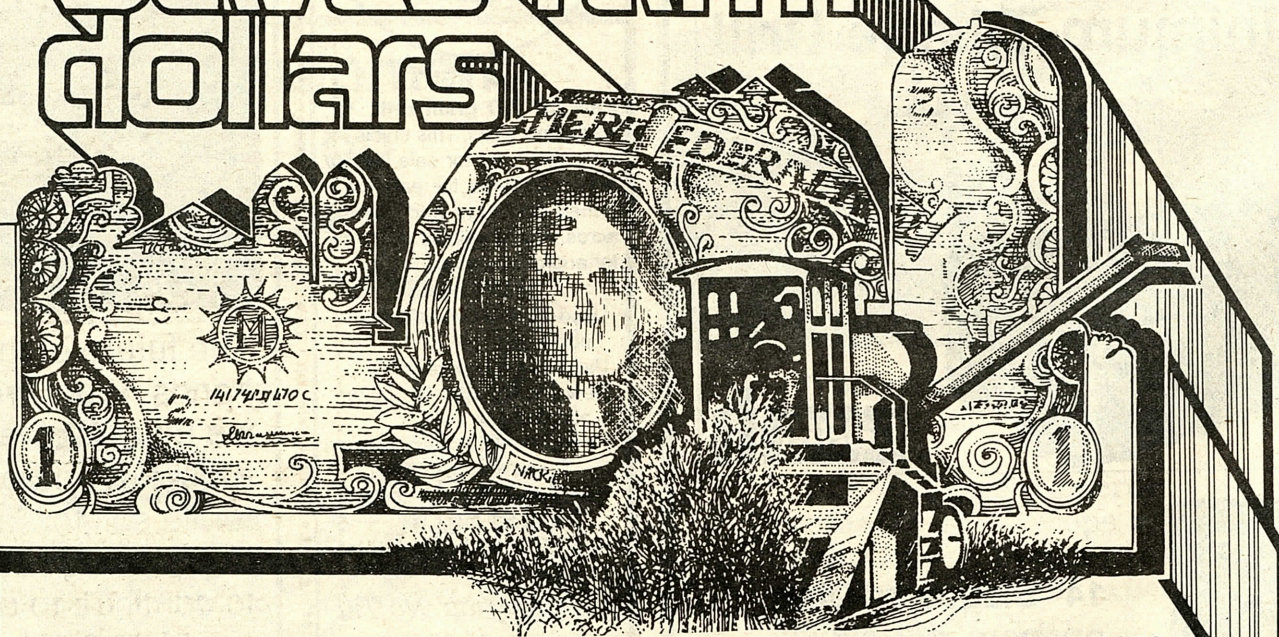
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don't need a plow, disc or field cultivator when you no-till," Craig added.

"Labor savings is the best reason to drill no-till beans," Devin said. "You drill them, then you combine them. And once you've combined drilled beans you'll never want to see another row again. They also feed through the combine better."

Craig said they can drill about 100 acres a day. Both men agreed you need to run the drill fast through the field for the best results. They said last year they drilled beans at 10 mph and planted them 2 inches deep. You can plant as deep as 4 inches in a dry year. A conventional planter plants at 5 mph and plants the beans 1 inch deep.

"We went to classes to learn about the no-till drill and were told how to set it up," Devin said. "That's when they told us we needed to drill at about 10 mph."

"You need information and technology to survive as a farmer in the 1990's," Craig added.

"A lot of people have asked us about the no-till beans," Devin said. "But what works for one farmer doesn't always work for another."

"Seed variety is also very important," Craig said. "You need upright plants, not bushy, good emergence and good standability rating."

Both felt the seed companies are trying to develop seed beans for the no-till farmer.

They also said one person could not afford to purchase a no-till bean drill for the amount of beans usually planted. The 3 men custom drilled 400 acres last year and have already planned to do 1,200 acres this year.

"The no-till drill has done everything I expected it to do," Devin concluded.

1991 Windbreak Award

Cont. from page 1 - Zenisheks

all no-till, with corn, beans and hay crops. They also have 30 stock cows and 60 ewes and their lambs.

Millie Zenishek is a Cedar county soil commissioner and Richard is an assistant.

They are pleased with the increased use of conservation practices they have seen in the past several years in Cedar county.

racers and grassed waterways. With these more diverse plans, it makes sense to schedule the work out over a period of time," Vonk says.

The conservation practices being applied are making a noticeable difference. "As you drive the state, you can see more grass field borders, buffer strips and contour strip-cropping appearing on the landscape. These scenes are proof of progress in conservation," Vonk says.

Richard says he has noticed a strong interest in the use of a no-till drill for soybeans.

The Zenisheks have also been helping educate Lincoln 6th grade students during the past decade, hosting classes at the farm each year. Students get a firsthand look at equipment and get a chance to ask questions about conservation and no-till practices.

"I think it's good to get children to think more about conservation," Millie says. "We all have to look at it."

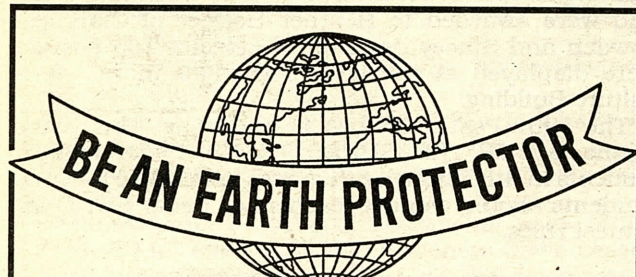
Vonk also notes that a number of farmers have revised their plans. "We want the conservation Vonk says. "We want to continue to work directly into that farmer's operation, so we're open to substituting any practice that will give as much soil protection as what was originally in the plan," with producers to solve their erosion problems."

Conservation Progress

Cont. from page 4

5% of the farms in each county annually.

In the midwest, about 35% of the plans are complete. Nationally, the figure is 40%. "A majority of the plans in Iowa include multiple practices and many include structural practices like ter-



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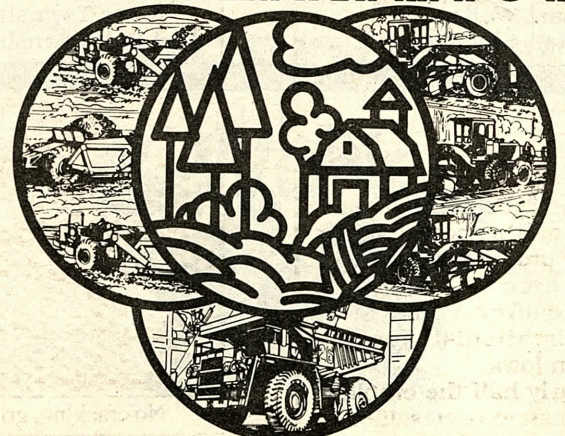
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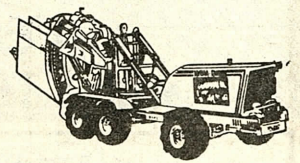
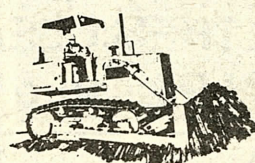
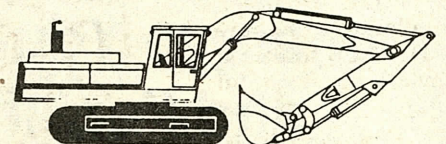
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Clarence, Iowa

1991 Annual Conservation Report

1M BUDGET FY 1991

1991 Allocation	\$3,000.00	
Office Supplies & Expenses	\$1,102.48	
Commissioner Expenses	1,124.09	
Printing Costs	579.00	
Released to DSC (7/1/91)	194.43	

3M BUDGET FY 1991

1991 Allocation	\$56,534.00	
Amount Spent	\$35,901.28	
Amount Obligated	14,954.76	
Release to DSC (12/31/91)	5,677.96	

NEW DISTRICT COOPERATORS

Linn Farms, Inc., Rick Christensen, Thomas Burmeister, Jerry Kruckenberg, Kevin Gleaves, Robert Bachus, Bernard Andrew, Robert Licht, C. W. Norton, Darrel Bunge, Steve Maurer, James K. Petersen, James Leazer, Robert K. Regennitter, Evelyn B. Larkin, Colin Hermiston, Tom Fitzgerald, Don Holladay, Viola Kohlhoff, Edith Fulwider, Blanche Sisler, Goose Farms Ltd., Borkenhagen Farm, Gary L. Johnson, Nathan W. Frederick, Roland McNee, Arlo Petersen, Nolan Ford, Earl Vikel, Joe Pennington, Don Maxson, Kathleen Reichert, George Peden, Gary Appleby, Frank Floerchinger, Kenneth Beuthien, South Prairie Farms, Kevin Johnson, Edwin Hartwig, William Urmie, Durwood Dircks, Greg Tenley, C. Bruce Hiersmann, Norton-Seidlitz % Hertz, Davis and Frank % Hertz.

1991 DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Richard Kreinbring	Springfield Township
Millicent Zenishek	Fremont Township
Robert Niermeyer	Fairfield Township
Michael Walter	Cass Township
Randall Shaul	Red Oak Township

1991 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Richard Zenishek	Fremont Township
Steve Leazer	Farmington Township
Joel Brown	Pioneer Township

FIELD OFFICE STAFF

Kurtis F. Hoeft	District Conservationist
Judy A. Hagan	Soil Conservation Technician
Melanie B. Schott	District Secretary
Thomas O. Spear	Soil Conservation Aid (part-time)
Carmen A. Andrews	Soil Conservation Aid (part time)

COOPERATING AGENCIES

Kenneth Muller	ISU Extension Service
Steve Swinonos	District Forester
Bob Middendorf	Fishery Biologist
Tim Thompson	Wildlife Management Biologist
Al Schmidt	ASCS County Exec. Director
Michael Graham	FmHA County Supervisor
Rick Rouse	County Conservation Board

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Margaret Sadeghpour	Lincoln School
Cindy Buck	Clarence-Lowden School
Mike Schultz	Bennett School
Ken Muller	ISU Extension
Kurt Hoeft	Soil Conservation Service
Vicky Gosnell	County Conservation Board
Kelvin Keifer	County Conservation Board
Rick Rouse	County Conservation Board
Melanie Schott	Cedar SWCD
Mike Walter	Cedar SWCD

FISCAL YEAR 1991 SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New District Cooperators.....	46 no.
Land Users Assisted.....	714 no.
Land Users Applying a Conservation Practice.....	265 ac.
FSA Plans Completed.....	1,834 ac.
FSA Plans Revised.....	10,314 ac.
Cropland Erosion Reduced.....	14,397 ac.
Pasture Protected (CRP).....	350 ac.
Conservation Tillage.....	10,062 ac.

Forages Have Enhanced U.S. Soil Conservation

by Tom Speer
Conservation Aide

Forages are primary producers. Through the miracle of photosynthesis, plants capture the sun's energy and convert it to carbohydrates. In this process carbon dioxide is used and oxygen is produced. As primary producers, forages take the raw materials of life and put them into forms that can be used by animals.

Most of the world's primary production is in a form that man cannot digest. In the U.S. only 21% of the land area is cropland. Worldwide it is only 11%. Eighty percent

of U.S. beef poundage is produced on roughages that man cannot use and this is increasing with current trends toward leaner beef.

Forages have enhanced soil conservation by revegetating or stabilizing eroded land and allowing productive use of marginal lands.

Legume forages return soil tilth, organic matter and large amounts of nitrogen to the soil. These

Contour Farming.....	2,242 ac.
Grade Stabilization Structures.....	3 no.
Terraces.....	3,800 ft.
Windbreaks.....	4 ac.
Ponds.....	2 no.
Grassed Waterway.....	20 ac.
Water & Sediment Control Basins.....	292 ac.
Tons Soil Saved.....	83,738 ton

POSTER CONTEST

Cedar SWCD sponsors an Annual Poster Contest each year. The winners of the 1991 FRIGID FRONTIERS poster contest included: Jennifer Kreinbring and Anna Voss from Bennett; Luke Benning, Ben Lindaman and Luke Quinn of Clarence-Lowden; Daniel Schott, Kent McHenry and Eric Paul Glenn of Lincoln. Each winner received a \$5 cash award. Overall winners for the contest received a \$50 Savings Bond and were awarded to Heather Hoffner of Clarence-Lowden and Stacey Jackson of Lincoln. Top posters were displayed at the Iowa State Fair in the Agriculture Building.

The 1992 Poster Contest is underway. This year's theme is OUR TREASURED TREES. Cedar county students in 4th through 8th grades are eligible to enter. Students should contact teachers or Cedar SWCD for contest rules.

SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

Cedar Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners are sponsoring a scholarship competition. Two \$200 scholarships to a 4-year college or 2-year community college will be awarded. Any Cedar County senior high school student interested in pursuing a career in an agricultural or environmental field are encouraged to apply. For applications or more information contact the SWCD office at 1201 North Avenue in Tipton.

1991 scholarship winners selected were Chris Baker of Lincoln and Heather VanTomme of West Branch.

advantages offer lower purchased nutrient costs to producers who follow legumes with other crops.

Recently, Iowa's 6 producer founded Hay Associations have developed ongoing educational and marketing programs so that Iowa's hay producers will have markets for high quality hay. Iowa forages have become a highly saleable product which is in demand by a sophisticated clientele in Iowa, the

nation and the world. Forages do all this with very little, if any, negative environmental impact. In fact, even with elementary management practices, forages exert positive environmental outcomes. Whether Iowa can reach its "T by 2000" conservation goal remains to be seen, but certainly forages and the benefits they offer for all Iowans, will continue to play an important part in our agricultural history.

What do you think would happen if each and every one of us:

Planted a tree? • Turned off an unnecessary light? • Reused products instead of buying new? • Refused to use plastic shopping bags? • Recycled! • Or 1001 other things that would help improve the environment?

The answer is simple. Our planet would thrive, our environment would be healthier and the world would be a better place for us and our children.



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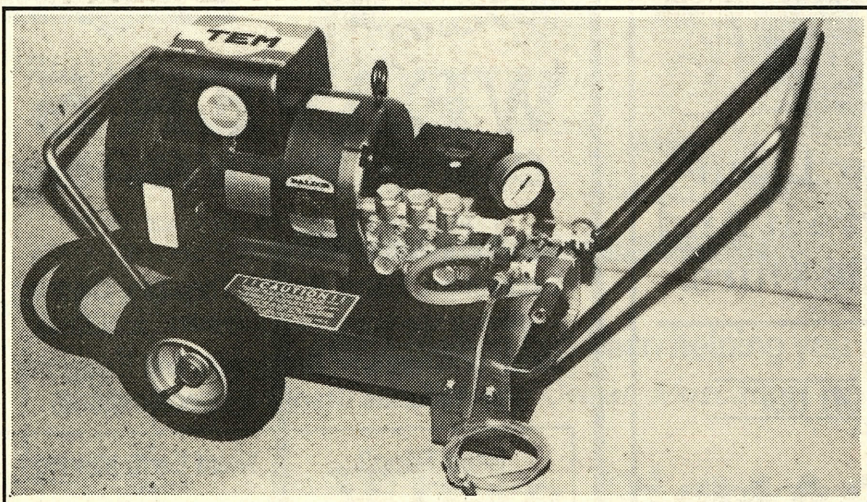
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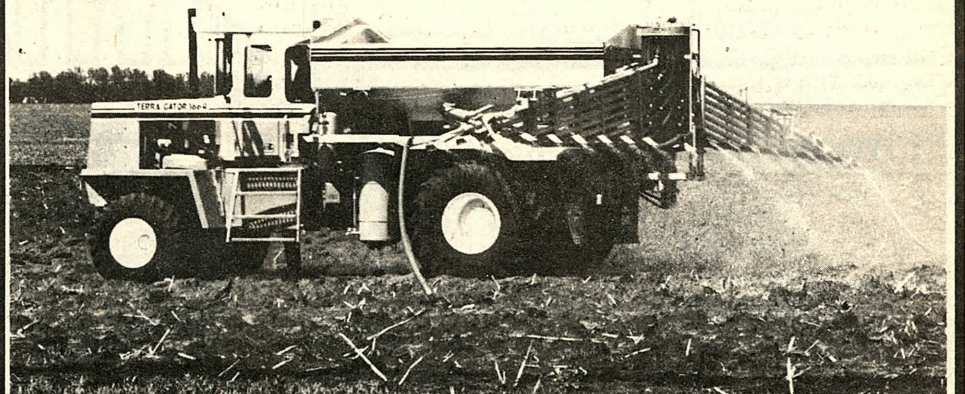
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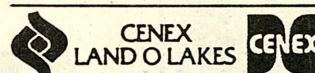
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Cont. from page 3 - District Activities

Cedar SWCD purchased and delivered silver maple tree seedlings to all third grade students in the county.

District distributed soil stewardship materials to local churches in observance of Soil Stewardship Week April 28 through May 5.

"Planting in the Dust," one-act play, was held in Durant April 21.

MAY

Donna Schroeder, Lowden, gave children's moment at Clarence United Church of Christ May 5 in conjunction with Soil Stewardship observance. Commissioner Niermeyer presented Cindy Buck with Cedar SWCD Outstanding Educator plaque at the service.

District newsletter was sent out.

Commissioners Millie and Richard Zenishek hosted Lincoln 6th graders at their farm to discuss conservation practices.

Cedar SWCD met for their regular meeting May 14. Commissioners approved CRP plans. Board also reviewed and approved draft of Soil and Water Resource Conservation Plan. The plan was developed from current resource inventories of Cedar county. District worked with JTPA to place an employee in the office during summer.

Commissioner Mike Walter, Cedar County Supervisor Bill Campton and DC Hoeft attended RC&D meeting in Maquoketa May 16.

Scholarship certificates were signed and distributed to award winners at graduation.

JUNE

Office staff attended JTPA training June 7.

Cedar SWCD met for their regular meeting June 11. Commissioners reviewed Annual Plan of Work. Commissioners viewed conservation award nomination sites by airplane June 12, with the assistance of pilot Mike Moes.

The District, extension and Kelly Tree Farm sponsored a forestry field day, with more than 100 people attending.

DC Hoeft went to Des Moines for CRP training June 24-26.

Ed Andrews' last day at Tipton Field Office as Soil Conservationist was June 27. He began duty as a Tillage Resource Specialist in Scott, Clinton and Cedar counties.

RC&D Coordinator Jim Frederick, Postville, talked with Cedar County Supervisors June 10.

Annual ISU Extension Days at Southeast Iowa Research Farm near Crawfordsville June 18.

Trisha Chapman, Durant, was assigned to Cedar SWCD as JTPA summer employee.

JULY

Conservation Reserve Program sign up held July 8-19.

Cedar SWCD met for their regular meeting July 8. Board developed and approved 1m budget and spending plan for 1992. A letter drafted to the State Conservationist expressing Cedar SWCD interest to be included in RC&D area was approved. District developed a priority system to deal with increased interest and minimal funds of the REAP cost-share program.

Eastern Iowa Hay Producers Association sponsored a tour at Assistant Commissioner Steve Leazer's farm July 9.

DC Hoeft and Soil Conservation Technician Judy Hagan attended Cultural Resource Training.

AUGUST

JTPA employee Trisha Chapman completed her 8 week work assignment Aug. 9.

Cedar SWCD met for their regular meeting Aug. 13. SWCD drafted and signed a letter to Governor Branstad regarding concern for protecting the resources of Iowa.

Resource Conservationist Dean Pettit visited the Tipton Field Office to complete an FSA Review Aug. 13.

A tri-county tillage meeting was organized by Tillage Resource Specialist Ed Andrews.

Commissioner Walter attended a tour at the Fairfield RC&D Aug. 19.

Cedar SWCD participated in Cedar County Corn and Soybean Growers field day Aug. 28.

District published the Cedar SWCD Newsletter in late August.

SEPTEMBER

Assistant Commissioner Steve Leazer hosted a

Practical Farmers of Iowa tour Sept. 3.

A conservation tour was held Sept. 4 viewing no-till on Mearl Crist farm operated by Craig Schroeder; then to Steve Maurer farm to view erosion control structures; and ending at Jim Bixler's pond site.

Commissioners Robert Niermeyer and Richard Kreinbring attended the Fall Regional meeting Sept. 10 at Amana.

Cedar SWCD regular meeting held Sept. 11. Memorandum of Understanding between ASCS and SWCD was reviewed. Board met with earthwork contractor to review estimating projects and cost-share rules of Iowa Financial Incentive Program funds.

Eastern Iowa Hay Producers Association held a tour at Assistant Commissioner Steve Leazer's farm Sept. 11.

Soil and Water Conservation Week observed Sept. 9-15.

Commissioner Niermeyer and DC Hoeft attended RC&D meeting in Maquoketa Sept. 30.

Retired SCT Clarence Beyer assisted the district in nominating Richard and Millie Zenishek as the Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award recipients.

OCTOBER

Commissioners met for their regular meeting Oct. 8. Cedar county engineer field plans for county farm to market road project were reviewed. Board approved funds for special tillage project under supervision of TRS Andrews. Slide set of current construction of rock gabion structure projects were viewed. Annual plan of work was reviewed.

Environmental Education Committee met Oct. 23.

RC Pettit from Fairfield area office visited Tipton field office to provide training.

Videotape Tips

A new videotape called "Better Land . . . Better Water" brings 6 conservation practices to life. It is available from local Iowa State University Extension Service and Soil Conservation Service offices, the Cedar County Soil and Water Conservation District and other locations.

"The tape puts you on the scene. You see a soil test for nitrates conducted, abandoned wells filled and trees planted," said Richard Kreinbring, SWCD Chairman for Cedar county.

The one-hour videotape explains how to plug an abandoned well, test for soil nitrates, plant a tree, plant a farmstead wind-break, grow grasses and use filter strips. It features extension service and SCS staff—including agricultural engineers, foresters and soil scientists.

"But more than state officials appear on the tape," said Kreinbring. "People who deal with conservation practices on a day to day basis speak about the practical considerations." For instance, farmer Tom Frantzen demonstrates how he constructed a device to dry soil samples for testing.

"The videotape stresses where people can obtain additional information," added Kreinbring. "It doesn't leave you in the dark once the recording is

over." The tape is a follow-up to "Conservation On Your Own," a similar tape released a year ago that is also available for loan.

The new tape was a cooperative effort involving ISU Extension, SCS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Iowa Association of Soil and Water

Area Engineer Doug Morningstar assisted Tipton field office Oct. 24.

NOVEMBER

Field office sent contour maps to all landowners with contouring scheduled in FSA plans.

Cedar SWCD met for their regular meeting Nov. 12. Commissioners viewed cost-share project sites prior to the meeting. Board offered assistance to the City of West Branch and Hoover National Park Service for flooding problems in the area. Annual conference resolutions reviewed.

RC Pettit gave training to WAE Tom Spear Nov. 14.

District newsletter was published and sent Nov. 25. Commissioner Leadership Training was taped.

DECEMBER

Practice notification was sent out to landowners reminding of conservation practices scheduled in FSA plans.

Commissioner Millie Zenishek attended the annual conference in Des Moines Dec. 2 and 3. Zenishek received the Honor District Award for Cedar SWCD from Goodyear.

SCT Hagan attended training at Springbrook.

DC Hoeft and RTS Andrews attended chemical meeting Dec. 18.

Plan clarity letter was sent to producers on confusing plans.

Cedar SWCD met for their regular meeting Dec. 10. No-Till Corn and Soybean yields contest results were reviewed.

Commissioners Walter and Zenishek, and Assistant Commissioner Leazer distributed 1992 Scholarship Competition forms to local schools in Cedar county.

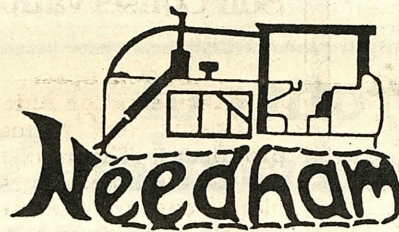
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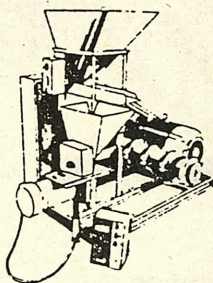
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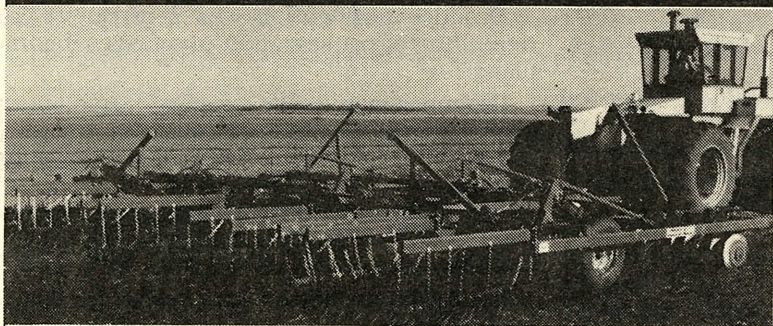
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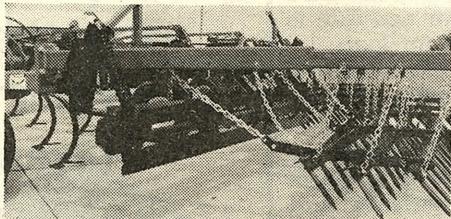


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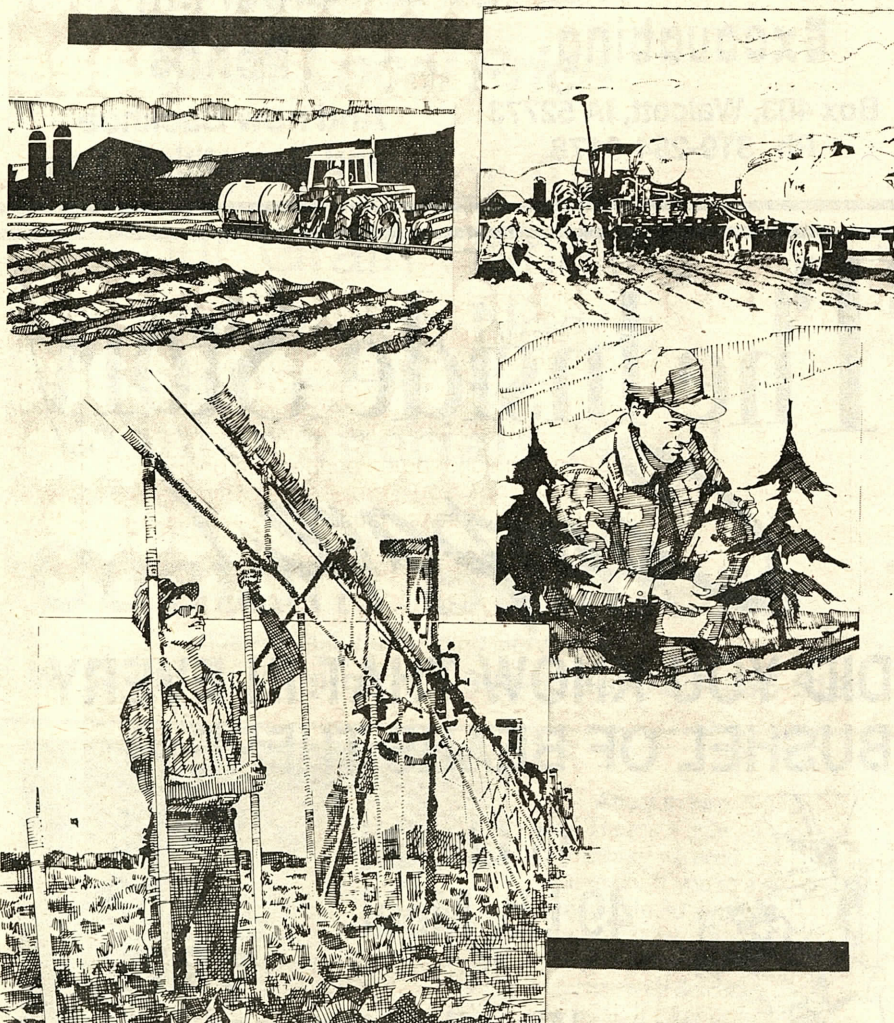


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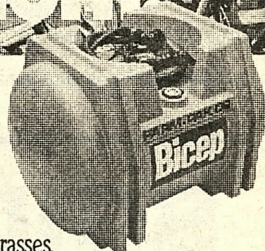
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