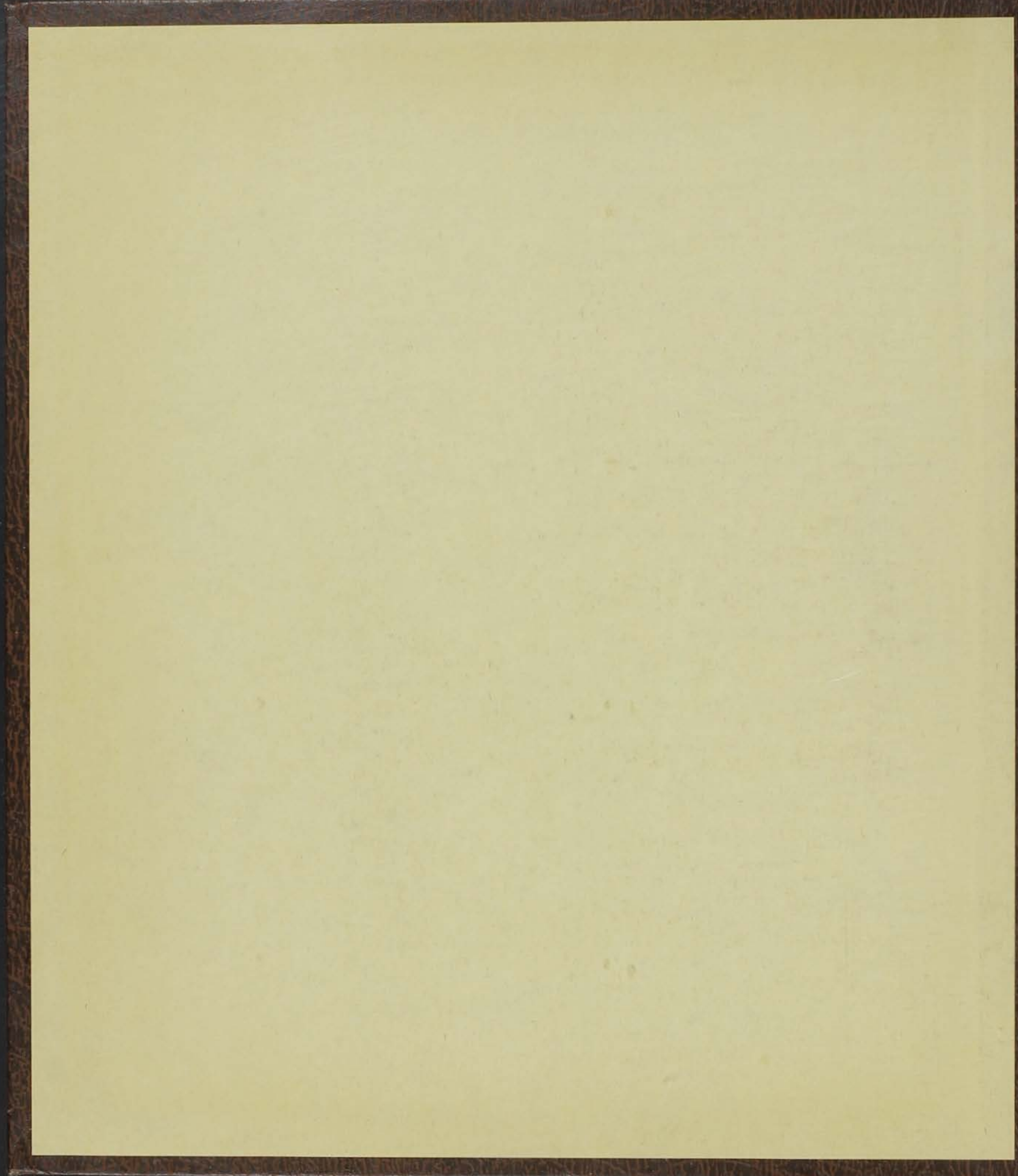




Scrap Book



1978

REGION 7—**DON** (left) and **VIRGIL** (right) **KOZIK**, Elberon. The Kozik's 402-acre Benton County farm is completely protected against soil erosion. Sloping cropland is protected by strip-cropping and terraces—106 acres are protected by terraces and 127 acres are stripcropped. The farm also has 8 acres of grassed waterways, a farm pond, and 2 erosion control structures. There have been 30 acres of pasture planted and another 30 acres have been renovated.



REGION 8—**LOEWE FARMS, INC.**, Sidney. (Pictured left to right: Ronald Loewe, Jerry Moores, Raymond Loewe, and Russell Loewe). Rowcrops, cattle and hogs are all produced on the 714-acre Loewe Farm in Fremont County. The farm is operated by Raymond Loewe, his 2 sons and son-in-law. They have terraced 170 acres and contoured 60 acres. There have been 2 erosion control structures built and 200 acres of pasture have been renovated. They have the entire farm protected against erosion and are community leaders.

REGION 9—**A. J. CAVIN**, Sigourney. Mr. Cavin built his own terraces as part of his plan to control erosion on his 400-acre farm in Keokuk County. He contours 290 acres of cropland and has 53 acres protected by terraces. He has a farm pond with an excellent wildlife area around it, as well as 2 erosion control structures. Conservation tillage is used on part of the farm; 77 acres have been planted to pasture.



WMT Stations Awards

1975

Iowa State University Extension Association, as well as involvement in PTA and various youth activities.

He and his wife, Shirley, are the parents of two sons and two daughters.



JOHN "DICK" SCHILD, Benton County Soil Conservation District Commissioner, Belle Plaine. He was born north-east of Belle Plaine, attended Iowa Center No. 5 rural school and is a graduate of the Belle Plaine school system.

He is serving in his second term as a commissioner in the Benton District and is Chairman of the district governing body. In addition to his active participation in district operations, he is the Benton District delegate to the Iowa-Cedar River Conservancy District Advisory Committee and a member of the IASDC Rural-Urban and District Outlook Committees.

He has always had a keen interest in conservation. In 1965 he received the Conservation Sweepstakes Award presented in the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program. As a pioneer in soil conservation, he says: "I'm proud to have built my first terraces with a team of horses and a walking plow in 1935 as an FFA project in school and then to see this same farm a sweepstakes winner 30 years later." He also received an Outstanding Soil Conservation District Commissioner Award in 1968.

He and his wife own 400 acres and rent an additional 130 acres. He has a stock cow herd and also rents out pasture for 125 stock cows on a per month basis. In addition to his farming enterprise, the Schilds own and manage a mobile home court in Belle Plaine.

He is very active in community affairs. Some of the organizations he has been associated with include the local school district, rural fire department, Ruritan Club, Jaycees, Benton County Fair Board, Benton County Extension Council, Beef Producers, Mid-Iowa Hereford Association, Farm Bureau, 4-H and FFA, and Civil Defense. He is a member of the Congregational Church and has served three years on its Board of Trustees.

He and his wife, Mildred, are the parents of a son and a daughter.

Outstanding Soil Conservation District Commissioners

The Outstanding Soil Conservation District Commissioners Contest is conducted annually by the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners (IASCDC) and Wallace Farmer, Des Moines. A total of nine outstanding commissioners are selected—one from each of the IASDCD regions. The State's Outstanding Commissioner is then selected from the nine regional winners. The recipients are selected for their service to the soil conservation district program on a district, regional, state and national level. The recipients' community activities are also given consideration in the judging process. Wallace Farmer provides plaques to each of the nine regional winners plus the state winner.

To explain soil surveys at meeting in Blairstown

TIMESNEWS — The Soil Conservation District is holding a meeting to explain the new soil surveys to farmers in Iowa and Leroy townships on Thursday, Jan. 25, in the Legion Hall in Blairstown at 1 p.m.

New soil maps will be presented and explained in detail. These maps show soil type, amount of slope, and degree of erosion. By using these maps soil conservationists can help farmers to develop a plan which will allow them to get maximum income and yet keep soil loss below five tons per acre per year.

Information on pasture improvement

will also be presented. It is relatively easy to double pasture production with some fertilizer and more productive grasses and legumes, according to Floyd Peters, District Conservationist in Benton County. Government financial assistance for doing conservation work in 1979 will be discussed at the meeting.

Anyone wishing to get their modern soil map should call or write to the soil conservation district office before January 25th. The office phone number is 472-2161. The address is P.O. Box 526, Vinton, IA 52349.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

693 Federal Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50309

January 2, 1979

Mr. Floyd L. Peters
District Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service
P.O. Box 526
South Second Avenue, Ag. Center
Vinton, IA 52349

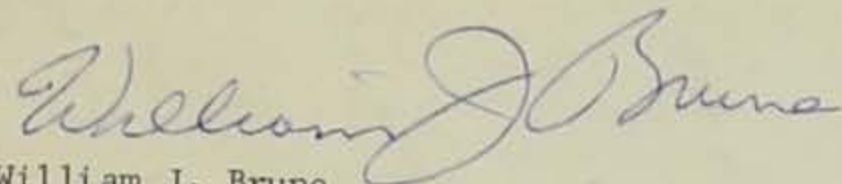
Dear Floyd:

Just a note of thanks for your extra effort in making the farmer awards program in Fort Dodge this year a success. The slides and script developed by you and your staff were very good. I was proud to be able to show slides which were correctly exposed and had good content. The story you supplied was well done, too.

All the slides used to honor this year's regional teachers were good. That makes for an impressive program which I'm sure the award winners appreciated. Thanks again.

Your slides are being returned separately.

Sincerely,



William J. Brune
State Conservationist



News and Views

2/5/79

...from your



Soil Conservation District

In October of 1977 Keith Beatty became concerned about the sheet erosion on his farm in Ederf township. He made an application to the Soil Conservation District for soil maps and a resource conservation plan.

Floyd Peters, District Conservationist, walked over the farm in December of 1977. Floyd later met with Keith and his wife to help them develop a plan which would keep the farm productive and yet allow them to grow 282 acres of row crop on the 320 acre farm.

In 1978 Keith established 100-foot wide meadow strips on the contour across the steepest slopes. He contours all the sloping land and uses a chisel plow. This will keep his soil loss below 5 tons per acre per year according to the charts which have been developed by the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

This soil loss is allowable under the Iowa Conservancy Law.

The Keith Beatty farm was chosen as a district winner in the Soil Conservation District's New Cooperator Division of the Iowa Soil Conservation Award program.

Row crop rotations have made much greater demands on our soils in the past 15 years, according to Floyd Peters. Twenty years ago the standard rotation on the best soil in the county was corn-corn-oats-meadow. A corn-bean rotation will make soil loss 4 times greater than it was with a corn-corn-oats meadow rotation. Contouring will decrease soil loss by 50 per cent.

Soil loss off a 6 per cent slope with a corn-bean rotation with up and down hill farming will be about 67 tons per acre per year. Contouring would reduce this to 33 tons per acre per year and

adding conservation tillage would reduce this to about 8 tons per acre per year. Agronomists feel that this loss needs to be below 5 tons per acre per year. Terracing would reduce this loss to 4 tons per acre per year.

A corn-beans-corn-oats-meadow rotation on this portion of the farm would reduce the loss to about 5.5 tons per acre per year, stated Peters.

Henry Lyphout, Chairman of the Soil Conservation District, says that the district will be glad to work with anyone who is interested in a soil map and resource conservation plan for their farm. 1370 farmers in Benton County were cooperators with the Soil Conservation District at the start of 1979. We estimate that there are approximately 1700 commercial farmers in Benton County.





Conserving soil, energy

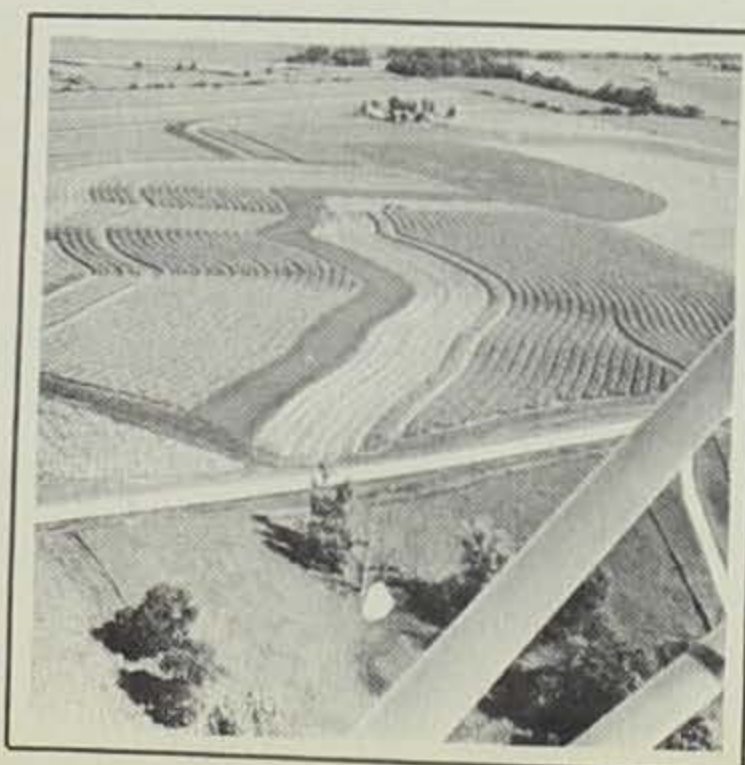
Soil Conservationist Floyd Peters, right, explains some methods of soil conservation to Paul Hersch, an aerial applicator from the Amanas, Larry Salger, Terra Eastern manager, and Alphonse Erger, Atkins. Soil and energy conservation was the theme of Terra Eastern's 10th annual chemical dinner meeting Thursday night at the Vinton

Country Club. Salger said 11 chemical suppliers set up booths along with a number of displays by Iowa State University for the meeting, which drew more than 200 Benton County farmers.

Timesphoto by Bill Haglund
2-15-79

TENTH ANNUAL TERRA CHEMICAL DINNER MEETING

1979



*Cover Photo
by F. Peters*



Conserving soil, energy

Soil Conservationist Floyd Peters, right, explains some methods of soil conservation to Paul Hersch, an aerial applicator from the Amanas, Larry Salger, Terra Eastern manager, and Alphonse Erger, Atkins. Soil and energy conservation was the theme of Terra Eastern's 10th annual chemical dinner meeting Thursday night at the Vinton

Country Club. Salger said 11 chemical suppliers set up booths along with a number of displays by Iowa State University for the meeting, which drew more than 200 Benton County farmers.

Timesphoto by Bill Haglund
2-15-79

FEBRUARY 15, 1979

TERRA EASTERN CORPORATION would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our 10th annual Chemical Dinner gathering and wish you an informative and enjoyable evening.

Assisting in this effort are the following suppliers, their local representative and the products which are of interest to you — Our Fine Customers.

Am Chem — RICK BOOS
Amiben 10G - Amiben Lq.
Butyrac

B.A.S.F. — GEORGE RAE
Basagran - Basaline

DuPont — FRANK GASPERINI
Lorox - Lexon - Hyvar

Geigy — DEL HOLTEMAN
AATrex - Tolban - Dual
Cycle

Elanco — JOHN CLARK
Treflan - Surflan

Monsanto — LEE ROBBINS
Lasso - Ramrod / AATrex
Ramrod 20G - Roundup

Uniroyal — GARY CLAYPOOL
Dynap

FMC — DUANE DICKERSON
Furadan

Shell — TOM OMBROSON
Bladex - Atrazine

Stauffer — DEBRA LOOUE
Sutan - Vernam - Dyfonate
Eradicane

Mobay — KENZO NICHOLSON
Sencor - Disyston

D&V Sidewinder — RAY & FRANK
VANSTEENHUYSE
The Minimum Tillage Tool

SCS — FLOYD PETERS

Extension — BILL MEIGS — JERRY GOGAN
DR. DAVID HAMMOND

Terra — TOM ROGERS
STEVE BARNHARDT
DR. LOWELL NELSON

TERRA

TERRA EASTERN CORPORATION

HIGHWAY 218 NORTH, VINTON, IOWA 52349
PHONE 319 - 472-2343

February 19, 1979

Floyd Peters
Soil Conservation Office
S. 2nd Avenue
Vinton, Iowa 52349

Dear Floyd,

Thank you for your cooperation in preparation for the Annual Terra Dinner last week. I think the theme "Conservation" worked out very well and hope you are enjoying some of the "glow" from the PR.

We are enclosing a newspaper clipping for your office.

Sincerely,

L H Salger

L. H. Salger
Area Manager

Enc.
LHS/imm

February 22, 1979

Mr. Larry Salger
Terra Eastern Co.
Hwy. 218 N.
Vinton IA 52349

Dear Larry,

I want to thank you for asking us to participate in your annual dinner last week. I thought it was well organized and a very good meeting.

Your conservation theme was appreciated very much by me, our staff, and our district commissioners. We hope that it will promote conservation on the land in Benton County. If that happens, everyone gains.

I'm sure your salesmen don't miss a chance to put in a plug for conservation tillage, contouring, and terracing. This will be very good for public relations and for future generations.

Sincerely,

Floyd Peters
District Conservationist

FP/cl

2-26-79

News and Views



...from your

Soil Conservation District

With beef prices the best they have been in several years, cattle producers need to pay close attention to pasture improvement, a local conservation district leader says.

"Grasses and legumes are the cheapest source of good nutrition for beef and other grazing animals, but we need to keep a close watch on pasture stands and our fertilization programs," says Henry Lyphout, chairman of the Benton County Soil Conservation District.

"Low cattle prices and high fertilizer costs in recent years have diverted our attention from good pasture management," Lyphout says. "Quite simply, it was too expensive to maintain pastures while losing money on cattle."

"This cost-price squeeze also caused many producers to plow up sloping pastureland to plant to sorghum, corn, soybeans, or other row crops," Lyphout says. "It is time to reverse this trend and put our marginal cropland acres back into soil conserving forage crops."

"We think the time is ripe to fertilize, renovate, reseed, and above all, to manage our pastures for a good source of economical feed for cattle, and for conservation," Lyphout says. "We are particularly keen on this right now because a well-managed pasture — of all conservation practices — is one of the most effective

means of conserving soil and water, and keeping our streams and ponds clean."

"I estimate that there are 29,000 acres of pasture in Benton County that are showing problems from insufficient management," Lyphout said. "As cattle prices are once again favorable, these pastures should get attention this spring and next fall."

A pasture which is well drained and fertile could be torn up with a chisel or disk, fertilized according to a soil test, and seeded to 6 lbs. alfalfa and 8 lbs. brome grass per acre with one bushel of oats added as a nurse crop. This mixture will produce twice as much forage as a bluegrass pasture, according to Floyd Peters, District Conservationist. Another mixture which will produce more feed in mid-summer and will not require renovation as often, would be 6 lbs. birdsfoot trefoil and 2 lbs. of orchard grass along with 1 bushel of oats per acre. Wet areas could be seeded to 10-12 lbs. per acre of reed canary grass along with 1 bushel of oats, stated Peters.

SCS HELP AVAILABLE

Technical assistance is available from the Soil Conservation Service to help livestock producers solve their pasture improvement problems.

For more information contact the Soil Conservation Service, Vinton, telephone number 472-2161.

News and Views

3/5/79



...from your

Soil Conservation District

A 150 acre watershed in section 7 of Cedar township has been completely terraced. Willard Jesse, La Porte City, has installed 1300' of parallel terraces on approximately 20 acres of his farm which drains into the watershed.

Glen Foss, La Porte City, has installed 1050' of parallel terraces on 20 acres of the Miriam Lamb farm which also drains into this watershed.

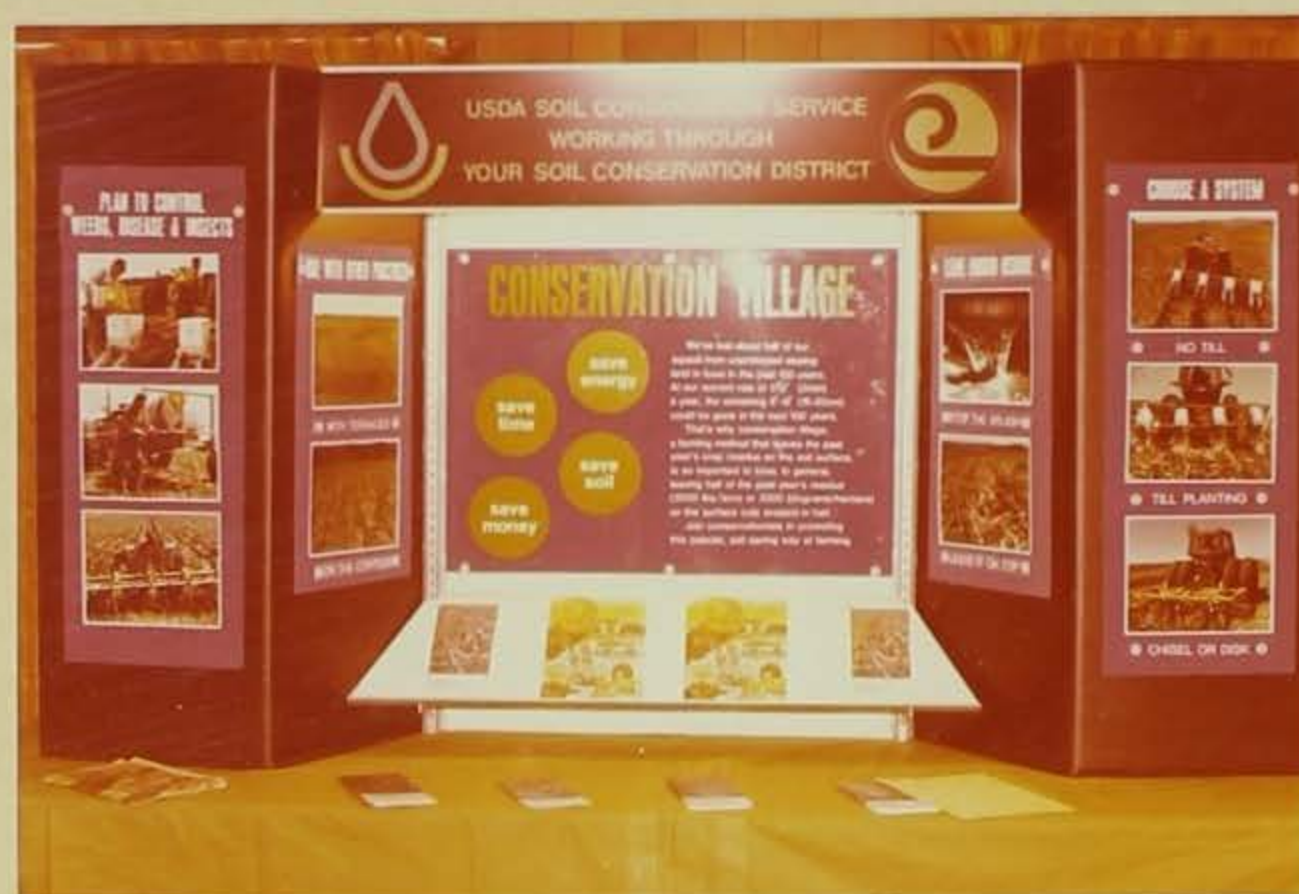
7870' of parallel terraces have been constructed on the Florence Rupprich farm which is operated by Willard Jesse. Soil loss off each acre of this 150 acre watershed will be less than 5 tons per acre per year. Water flow will also be greatly reduced.

Waterways which have been constructed on the Rupprich farm should retain their shape for many years because water flow will be reduced in

them and very little soil will be available to fill them. The need for large culverts and bridges below this watershed will also be reduced.

When we have more watersheds controlled like this one, flooding will be greatly reduced, stated Floyd Peters, District Conservationist.

More terraces are planned for the Rupprich farm in 1979. Noma Jebe, daughter of Mrs. Rupprich, has been instrumental in getting the conservation work established on the Rupprich farm. She and her husband, Emil, live in Ann Arbor, Michigan, but have been frequent Iowa visitors for the past several years. This farm was the winner in the tenant operated division of the Iowa Conservation Awards program in Benton County in 1976.



Pictured above is our conservation tillage display which belongs to the S.C.S. It is used at various field days, demonstrations, fairs, etc. A very effective display!

News and Views



...from your

Soil Conservation District

If the high soil moisture predictions hold true this spring, wet fields could put many area farmers behind schedule at planting time. "This spring may be like 1974 and 1975, when it wasn't easy to get in and out of the field," says Floyd Peters, district conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service. "Those wet springs prompted a number of farmers to skip moldboard plowing of their fields — they just disced, or chisel plowed, and then planted. And I think they found they really didn't need to do all the work which they had been doing in the past."

Peters says reduced tillage will be important again this year.

"With conservation tillage, you can be in the field planting when your neighbor is plowing, disking, or harrowing," he says. The condition your soil is in, the amount of crop residue you have to work with, and the type of planter you have are important points to consider.

The main point in deciding when to plant is to start as soon as the soil is fit

to plant in. "As soon as the soil is warm enough and dry enough, you're ready to go with no-till, slot planting or till planting," says SCS agronomist Ernie Hintz. "Some farmers shred cornstalks or disc lightly ahead of planting with these systems," he says, "but the idea is to plant in the row of last year's crop. Disking can destroy the warm, dry soil in that crop row, and delay planting."

Over-working the ground before planting not only causes later planting — it also covers crop residues. Those residues are valuable in preventing soil erosion by wind and water. In soybean land in particular, residues are easily buried. "This land is ideal for a no-till or till plant system," the agronomist says.

The soil conservationists say that if fertilizer and herbicide incorporation are needed, they recommend shallow chiseling or disking. This leaves residue on the soil surface and in the top two to three inches of soil for erosion protection.

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

BENTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1979

District meetings are regularly held on the second Thursday of each month at the district office in Vinton, Iowa.

DISTRICT OFFICIALS

Chairman: Henry Lyphout, Route 1, Vinton IA 52349
Vice-Chairman: Don Weichman, Route 1, Atkins IA 52206
Secretary-Treas: Connie Lange, P.O. Box 526, Vinton IA 52349
Member: Roman Gardner, Route 1, Garrison IA 52229
Member: Paul Anderson, Route 2, Vinton IA 52349
Member: John R. Schild, Route 2, Belle Plaine IA 52208

Asst. Members: Lee Goodell, Route 1, Vinton IA 52349
John Niebuhr, Route 1, Blairstown IA 52209
Larry Rolfstad, Vinton IA 52349
Randy Mickelson, Vinton IA 52349
Pauline Grovert, Route 1, Shellsburg IA 52332
Harlan Bell, Vinton IA 52349
James Jacobi, Route 1, Atkins IA 52206
Don Kozik, Route 1, Belle Plaine IA 52208

DISTRICT STAFF

Floyd Peters, District Conservationist
W. Robb Morrow, Conservation Technician
Connie Lange, District Clerk

PLAN OF WORK

JANUARY	Issue Oath of Office to newly elected commissioners Elect officers Appoint assistant commissioners Plan resource planning meeting for landowners in Leroy & Iowa townships Review dates for NACD annual convention Review dates for Commissioners Short Course
FEBRUARY	Appoint committees Hold Contractors' Meeting Set up 1979 Plan of Work Yearly audit of books by finance committee - date unspecified Review date of Spring Regional meeting Publish Annual Report
MARCH	Plan for Pasture Improvement Field Day in late April - will include Wildlife Habitat information at meeting Plan Poster Contest - Education Committee Plan outdoor classroom tour for spring - Education Committee Contact county ministerial association about Soil Stewardship Week Plan a booth for Vinton Ag Day - March 21 A representative will be present at County 4-H Leaders Meeting on March 6. 4-H Clubs are stressing conservation tillage this year.
APRIL	Finalize plans for Pasture Improvement Field Day Review Long Range Plan Soil Stewardship Week plans Set up Photography Contest and plan to use winning entries in booth at County Fair
MAY	Judge Iowa Conservation Achievement Award farms Meet with County Supervisors about proclaiming May 20-27 as Soil Stewardship Week in Benton County Judge conservation poster contest Soil Stewardship Week
JUNE	Award prizes in conservation poster contest Plan booth for County Fair Judge photography contest entries Prepare budgets
JULY	Booth at County Fair - July 12-15

AUGUST Make plans for Soil Conservation Week and special edition of newspaper
Plan a conservation tour for County Supervisors, legislators, and bankers
Set date for annual conservation speech contest

SEPTEMBER Hold tour for supervisors, legislators, and bankers
Assign ads for recruiting by commissioners for annual report
Send out information about speech contest

OCTOBER Make initial plans for annual meeting
Hold speech contest

NOVEMBER Finalize plans for annual meeting
Make plans to meet with County Supervisors to request funds for conservation practices in Benton County
Set date to develop work plan for 1980
Offer program assistance to area fertilizer and farm implement dealers for their winter meetings.

DECEMBER Hold annual meeting & award presentations
Annual Conference - December 12-13-14
Plan Tree Planting Meeting for January
Prepare Annual Report for publication

Erosion rates above five tons per acre per year

3/30/79

By FLOYD PETERS
District Conservationist

TIMESNEWS—Benton county has 377,000 acres of cropland. Of that total, 224,640 have erosion rates above five tons per acre per year.

Erosion could be reduced to less than five tons per acre per year on the 2-4 percent slopes (149,000 acres) by contouring and conservation tillage. The remaining 75,000 acres will need terracing and conservation tillage to reduce the loss to less than five tons per acre per year. The slopes over eight percent (28,000 acres) will need to have oats and hay in the rotation, along with terracing and conservation tillage to reduce erosion to acceptable levels.

Forty-one thousand acres of our Class III land is losing 15 tons of soil per acre per year. This means a loss of at least two inches of valuable topsoil in 20 years. We know that we cannot continue our present practices for another 20 years without significantly affecting the capability of these 41,000 acres of land.

We have identified 72 sections of land where erosion rates are 20 tons per acre per year and higher. We will need to apply contouring at the rate of 8,000 acres per

year to get the job done in 20 years. Conservation tillage will need to be applied at the rate of 33,000 acres a year to get the job done in 10 years. At present, we are applying about 4,000 acres per year.

We will need to apply terraces at the rate of 750,000 feet per year for 40 years to complete the terracing program. Our present rate is about 70,000 lineal feet per year. The terracing would require an annual investment of \$1,750,000 for earth work and tilling. At present we are getting about \$110,000 per year from federal and state sources to cover 50 percent of the cost of all conservation practices. If the government paid 50 percent of the cost of the needed terraces, we would need \$875,000 for the terrace program alone.

The Soil Conservation District commissioners and the District office staff is dedicated to the task of helping Benton County farmers keep the only resource which we have - our soil.

A 19-year experiment at the University of Missouri indicates that a slightly eroded soil will out-yield a severely eroded soil by 44 bushels per acre or, at present prices, \$91 per acre.

Times, Vinton, Iowa, March 30, 1979 7

Farming today as seen in Year 2050

By W. ROBB MORROW
Conservation Technician

Son, put another plastic log in the fireplace and I'll tell you a story that my great-grandfather told me.

When my great-grandfather was a young man this land was mostly prairie. The soil was covered with a thick sod. The good, rich topsoil was from 18-24 inches thick. It was plowed up to make rich farmland.

When my grandfather started farming, about half of this topsoil had been eroded away by wind and water. Some people realized that we needed to conserve the soil to keep it productive, but too many people didn't care. The people who cared tried to teach people about conservation practices such as contouring, strip cropping, conservation tillage, and terraces, but prices were high and people were concerned about making lots of money. In order to do this, they raised the crops that brought the highest prices - corn

and soybeans. The problem was that these crops left the soil bare, without protection from wind and water, for a good part of the year. The soil washed away.

These same people cleared away the timbers that dotted the landscape to make room for more crops. Soon there was little area left that could produce wood or provide a home for the wildlife that used to live on earth. If they had been more careful and replanted what they destroyed, we could burn wood logs in our fireplace.

I know it will be hard for you to be a farmer when you grow up. The topsoil is gone now. You must use all sorts of chemicals to make the subsoil produce any crops at all. If only people had cared enough while there was time to do something about conserving the topsoil. They didn't worry enough about your generation and those to come.

I hope there will be a great-grandson that you can tell a story to someday.

Soil Conservation to hold two contests

3/30/79

TIMESNEWS — The Benton county Soil Conservation District commissioners will be holding two contests this year -- a conservation poster contest and a conservation photography contest. Hopefully, winning entries can be exhibited in the conservation district booth at the county fair later this summer.

The conservation poster contest will be held in April with all entries due at the district office by April 27. The posters will be grouped according to age and judged in early May. Prizes will be awarded to the winners in each of the following age divisions: grades 3-4; grades 5-6; grades 7-9; grades 10-12; and adults.

Posters can be any size up to 22 inches by 28 inches and can be done in any type of art media. Each poster must have included on the back the entrant's name, grade in school or adult, and address and city. All entries must be residents of Benton County. The theme of the poster must be soil conservation.

The photography contest will be held later this year. The rules have not been finalized at this time. Be watching for more details and keep your eyes open for interesting subjects for a soil conservation photo.

For more details about either contest, contact the Soil Conservation District office at P.O. Box 526, Vinton, Iowa 52349 or phone 472-2161.

Study shows farmers "hard pressed" to finance soil conservation

TIMESNEWS — Farmers should not be expected to pay all the costs of protecting soil against erosion, a recent economic study of soils in southern Iowa indicates. The "soil depletion study" shows increased farmer costs of fertilizer and energy to produce crops on eroded land. But it concludes that farmers would be hard-pressed to finance conservation work on their own.

The three-year study was done by the Economics, Statistics and Cooperatives Service (ESCS) and the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Using 1974 data, it compared net income if soil were allowed to erode at present rates to net income using six different soil conservation systems.

"We looked at 2.1 million acres of unprotected cropland in the 22 counties of the Southern Iowa River Basin," said Dr. Paul Rosenberry of the ESCS in Ames. "We computed costs of letting soil erode on all those acres up to the year 2020 against the cost of various conservation systems that would bring soil losses to within tolerable levels.

"We didn't make a complete economic assessment at this time -- many other on-

farm factors could be added, as well as off-farm costs like water quality, sedimentation, and loss of tax revenue. But we think it's a very good start on quantifying depletion and conservation costs."

The study looked at three costs of erosion -- increased energy costs, higher fertilizer requirements, and lower yields. Those three costs associated with letting erosion continue at its present rate averaged \$4.75 an acre each year. Lower yield averages from depleted soils makes up the highest cost of the three at \$3.40 an acre. The study assumed that a high level of management and increased fertilizer rates on depleted soils would still result in lower yields.

Six different combinations of erosion control methods were compared to costs of erosion. A crop rotation with at least one year of meadow was included in each case.

"To bring erosion down to acceptable limits on steep land, we had to include a crop rotation," Rosenberry said. That meant a loss of income to the farmer when he didn't produce corn or soybeans.

The six systems, and the cost of each are:

- 1) Crop rotation and terraces, \$41.35 per acre per year.
- 2) Crop rotation only, \$40.50.
- 3) Crop rotation with crop residue use, \$27.50.
- 4) Crop rotation and contouring, \$24.75.
- 5) Crop rotation, terracing, and residue use, \$20.60.
- 6) Crop rotation, contouring, and residue use, \$14.35.

"The study tells us several things," said SCS state conservationist William Brune. "First, it says there is enough topsoil that in the next 40 years, a farmer could do as well financially by not protecting the soil. The cost of erosion was only a third that of the cheapest control system.

"It also shows that conservation tillage and contouring significantly reduce erosion control costs, which indicates they should be considered in any conservation system," he said.

Dr. Rosenberry also cautioned that the costs are averages over 2.1 million acres of land studied.

"It doesn't mean it would cost a farmer \$14 an acre to control erosion on gently sloping land," Rosenberry said. "His costs, which were very slight, were

averaged in with the men who had steep land that had to be taken out of rowcrop production."

If erosion were allowed to continue at present rates, the land will undergo drastic changes by the year 2020. In 1974, 683,000 acres were slightly eroded, 1,217,000 acres moderately eroded, and 195,000 acres were severely eroded. By the year 2020 at present rates, slightly eroded soil acreage drops to 501,000 acres; moderately eroded land drops to 768,000 acres, and severely eroded land jumps to 826,000 acres. In other words, where severely eroded land now makes up nine percent of the 2.1 million acres of cropland needing treatment, in 2020 it will make up 40 percent of the area.

"The question to ask is whether we want 40 percent of the land depleted by 2020," Brune said. He added that public conservation programs in Iowa reflect recognition of society's responsibilities to care for the land. Story County recently approved county funds for soil conservation work. Polk County also has a program, as do state and federal governments.

Benton Soil

4/2/79

Commission to meet

The regular meeting of the Benton County Soil Conservation District commissioners will be at 9:30 a.m. on April 5 at the district office in Vinton.

Some items on the agenda will be: cost share business, pasture improvement meeting plans, plans for Soil Stewardship Week in May, photography contest, and money raising ideas.

The public is invited to attend the meeting.

Hold pasture improvement field day by Shellsburg

A pasture improvement field day will be held on the Steve Anderson farm, 2½ miles north of Shellsburg, on April 24th at 9:30 a.m.

Steve will be using a pasture interseeding implement to seed five pounds of alfalfa and eight pounds of brome grass per acre on the drier sites, and six pounds of birdsfoot trefoil and two pounds of orchardgrass per acre in areas which are not drouthy. Fertilizer has already been applied according to a soil test. Fertilizer could also be applied with the interseeder.

Steve Barnhart, Iowa State University Extension Agronomist, will be at the field day to discuss pasture improvement and its advantages.

Alfalfa brome will provide 125 animal unit days of grazing compared to 70 animal unit days for bluegrass each season. Warm season grasses such as switchgrass, Indian grass, and big bluestem will produce nearly as much feed as alfalfa and brome, but the production will be in July and August.

Steve plans to use about one bushel of oats per acre as a nurse crop for his pasture seeding.

Anyone interested in pasture improvement is welcome to attend this demonstration. The field day is sponsored by the Benton County Soil Conservation District commissioners. They will have rolls and coffee on the grounds.

Pasture improvement day rescheduled for April 27

The pasture improvement field day scheduled for today (Tuesday) has been rescheduled for Friday, April 27, at 9:30 a.m.

It will be held on the Steve Anderson Farm 2½ miles north of Shellsburg.

Anderson will be using a pasture interseeding implement to seed five pounds of alfalfa and eight pounds of brome grass per acre on the drier sites, and six pounds of birdsfoot trefoil and two pounds of orchardgrass per acre in areas which are not drouthy. Fertilizer has already been applied according to a soil test. Fertilizer could also be applied with the interseeder.

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Commissioners

to meet May 10

The Benton County Soil Conservation District commissioners will hold their regular meeting on May 10 at 8 p.m. in the district office of Vinton.

Items on the agenda include: judging soil conservation posters, setting up a budget request for fiscal year 1980, setting a date to judge winners in the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards program, discussing cost sharing business, new conservation agreements, Soil Stewardship Week and the pasture improvement follow-up meeting.

The public is invited to attend.

Contour layout requests fall off

By Al Swegle
Gazette farm editor

Requests to lay out contour lines have fallen off dramatically in several counties in The Gazette circulation area, but soil conservationists don't seem to be alarmed — at least, as yet.

Farmers still seem to be farming around the hill without the benefit of an expert's appraisal of where those contour lines should be.

Only two farmers in Linn County — Lloyd Mallie and Milo Wolrab, both of Mount Vernon — asked soil conservationists to lay out contour lines this spring.

The same tale is almost as bad in other counties. Only five or six contour lines were laid out in Buchanan and Cedar Counties. But in

more rolling counties, more requests are filed with Soil Conservation Service offices to lay out contours.

Lyle Jackson of West Union, soil conservationist in Fayette county, reports 25 to 50 farmers request contour assistance each year, while 36 farmers requested help in laying out contours in Benton County.

Floyd Peters of Vinton, Benton County soil conservationist, isn't satisfied with that figure.

"We have only 58,000 acres out of

a total of 280,000 acres of row crops under strict contour," Peters said this week. "That's about 20 percent of what needs to be done."

"I tell my farmers that soil on the land is about as important as money in the bank if they're interested in making an investment in the future of their children."

"It took 12,000 to 14,000 years to create the six or eight inches of topsoil on the land, and we've destroyed about half of it in the 100 years that we've been farming in this area."

The contour story is not all bad, however.

David Breitbach of Waukon, Allamakee County soil conservationist, says he's busy for a two month period in the spring from the middle of

March to the middle of May laying out soil contour lines.

"We get requests all the time, because this is a hilly county," Breitbach said.

Fred Hainline of Independence, Buchanan County soil conservationist, attributes part of the move away from contouring to a pickup in interest in conservation tillage.

"Farmers are switching to minimum tillage on four to eight percent slopes," Hainline said. "That way they can have the erosion control without the problems associated with contour farming."

Critics say contour farming leaves too many short, point rows which are cumbersome to maneuver using six to twelve row equipment.

George Carlson of Manchester, Delaware County soil conservationist, says contouring interest is down significantly from 15 to 20 years ago, but more farmers are farming around the hill.

"Farmers find it difficult to maneuver a strictly contoured field, so they approximate the effect by switching to a modified version, what we call cross slope farming," Carlson said.

"We'd rather have them farming across the slopes than not contouring at all."

Clarence Beyer of Tipton, Cedar County soil technician, called the modified version of contouring as "detoured" farming instead of "contoured" farming.

"Our statistics may not sound as good today, because we encourage farmers to use the same contour lines that they have in years past," Beyer said. "We don't go back and lay out contour lines every year."

Contour farming does help save the soil, the soil conservationists agreed. Contour farming cuts erosion roughly in half.

Agriculture



Fewer farmers are asking for contour line help PHOTO BY FLOYD PETERS



Draw winning posters...

Division one winners in the Benton County Soil Conservation Poster contest were (from left) Lorri Geater, Vinton; Debbi Harder, Keystone; and Mark Moss, Shellsburg.

Timesphoto by Ev Donkersloot



Also winners

Division 2 and 3 winners in the Benton County Soil Conservation Poster Contest were (back, from left) Lester Cox, Shellsburg; Tammy Adams, Shellsburg; (front from left) Ronnie Newton, Blairstown; Sue Andresen, Keystone; and Tracy Jurgens, Keystone.

Timesphoto by Ev Donkersloot

Soil Conservation Poster Contest winners named

Award winners in the 1979 Soil Conservation Poster Contest for Benton County were: Division I (third and fourth grade)

— 1. Lorri Geater, Vinton. 2. Debbie Harder, Keystone. 3. Matt Miner, Luzerne.

Honorable mention — Ralph Bright, Atkins.

Division II (5th and 6th grade) winners were: 1. Ronnie Newton, Blairstown. 2. Tracy Jurgens, Keystone. 3. Sue Andresen,

Keystone. Honorable mention — Mark Moss, Shellsburg.

Division III (7th and 8th grade) winners were: 1. Lester Cox, Shellsburg. 2. Kim Kreutner, Shellsburg. 3. Tammy Adams, Shellsburg.

Garrison man named overall winner in soil conservation contest

The Benton County Soil Conservation District Commissioners announced the winners in the local competition of the 1979 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.

Eldo Meyer was chosen as the winner in the Owner-Operated Division. Meyer owns a 270 acre farm near Garrison.

Allan Bell and his tenant, Craig Shropshire, won in the Owner-Tenant Division. Bell lives in La Porte City and Shropshire operates the 240 acre farm south of La Porte City.

The winner in the New Cooperator Division was Dennis Frush. Frush became a district cooperator in February. His 160 acre farm is located southwest of La Porte City.

A special honorable mention award was given to Emma Kapucian who owns a 120-acre farm located northwest of Keystone. Her son, Louis, operates this farm.

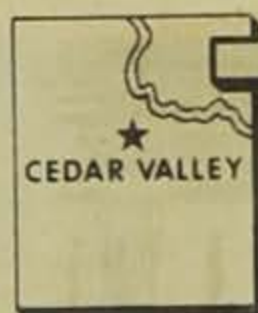
The judging committee chose Eldo Meyer as the overall winner in Benton County. He will go on to compete in the regional competition which will include entries from 15 counties in East Central Iowa. Meyer's farm was judged for land adequately treated against soil erosion, conservation practices accomplished on the farm, community services, and general farm husbandry.

The awards program is sponsored to encourage better land use programs and environmental control on the farms in Iowa through recognition of (1) family-operated farm or owner-operated farms; (2) landlords and tenants; and (3) farmers

who have become new soil conservation district cooperators since Jan. 1, 1977.

The above winners will be honored at the district's annual award luncheon in December. The state winner will be chosen in December at the annual conference of Iowa Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

Times, Vinton, Iowa, July 27, 1979 3



TIMES

Area News

News and Views



...from your

Soil Conservation District

During the fall of 1977 and the spring of 1978, the Iowa State University Extension Service presented a series of meetings about land, water, and energy. At that time, the world's supply of oil was expected to be exhausted in the year 2005. Oil usage has apparently increased but supplies are not readily available.

You can be sure there is an oil shortage when service stations are only able to be open in the morning and many stations have been forced to close.

Supplies of petroleum are not unlimited and the same is true for the world's supply of fertile soils. Yet we are still losing topsoil in Benton County at the rate of 9-12 tons per acre per year with some areas losing 70-80 tons in a single storm.

Farmers tell me that production on

eroded soils is not good and yet two-thirds of the sloping land in Benton County is not contoured or terraced. Contouring will reduce soil losses on an eight percent slope from 90 to 45 tons. Conservation tillage will reduce the loss to 11 tons. If we add terraces, the soil loss will be reduced to four tons per acre per year. This assumes a corn and soybean rotation. Agronomists feel we can tolerate a loss of four tons per acre per year.

We need to apply terraces at the rate of 750,000 feet per year for 40 years in order to complete the needed terracing in Benton County. If you feel that soil erosion is a problem on your farm, please contact the Soil Conservation District office at P.O. Box 526, Vinton, IA 52349 or phone 472-2161.

The office staff can usually give you several alternate solutions to the problem.

Soil loss is serious; county works to reduce

Conservation Notes By Floyd Peters
District Conservationist

Clyde Merchant, who works part-time as a conservation technician, was asked by a neighbor if erosion was really a serious problem. His reply was, "All you need to do is to watch the road ditches as you drive along. The road ditch on the uphill side will usually be nearly full of silt. The road ditch on the lower side of the road will usually be the same depth as it was when the road was built."

Topsoil contains many more pounds of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potash which

are readily available to the plant than are present in subsoil. We will probably have another bumper crop in 1979, but if you watch your crops closely you will see big differences in yield between areas which are well drained and have adequate topsoil and areas which are eroded on the farm.

Agronomists feel that soil losses need to be held below 5 tons per acre per year. Robb Morrow, Conservation Technician, says he has seen many fields lately where soil loss is exceeding 20 tons per acre per year. There are combinations of conservation practices which can be used to reduce soil loss to at least 5 tons per acre per year. The Soil Conservation District staff will be glad to help you decide on the best combination of practices.

Plan conservation meeting for Sept. 5

TIMESNEWS — Benton County and the Benton County Soil Conservation Service will hold a meeting on animal waste management Wednesday, Sept. 5.

It will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the John and Henry Grunewald farm 1½ miles north of Blairstown and ¼ west.

Stewart Melvin, extension agriculture engineer from I.S.U. and Eldon Hans, extension livestock specialist from the Cedar Rapids Area Extension, will review waste management programs. These two specialists will put special emphasis on these points of interest:

1. Coordinating waste management to the particular farmstead.
2. What are the objectives of different systems?
3. Systems depend on the final objective. Is it liquid? Slurry? Solids?
4. What is the nutritive value of animal waste material?

After a short visit at the Grunewald farm near Blairstown, the group will move to Gordon Sevigs' farm which is located one mile north and ¼ mile west of Walford. Those attending will have the opportunity to observe a confinement swine set up as well as a cattle feed lot. The Sevig and Grunewald farms will both demonstrate a Benton County solution to waste disposal.

Editorials Mandatory conservation may be needed

We have observed many times that no county in Iowa has made more progress with effective soil conservation than we have here in Benton County. It's a big tribute to the kind of leadership we have had from the Conservation Commissioners and the staff people in the Conservation office here in Vinton. Of course it is an even bigger tribute to the farmers themselves who have recognized the need to conserve the soil and who have made efforts to do something about it.

Unfortunately across our great agricultural state of Iowa there remain many areas where little has been done in the way of keeping our invaluable top soil from eroding. Terracing is just not moving ahead fast enough. Rep. Wendell C. Pellitt of Atlantic who heads the sub-committee studying soil conservation recently told his committee members. Whether we like it or not, the time may come when mandatory laws will be put on the books requiring soil conservation practices."

Whether you agree with that statement or not depends largely on how you feel about protecting landowners' individual rights. Certainly it would be far better if inducements could be made attractive enough (financial assistance) so farmers would willingly cooperate in terracing and other conservation practices. We agree with Pellitt who told his committee: "Next to water, soil is our most precious resource. The economy of Iowa is based on what we produce from the soil and nobody has the right to destroy it."

We would much prefer, however, not to have the law browbeat farmers into compliance. Like a person who is ill, we think medicine as provided by a "doctor" should be welcomed. It should not be necessary to force it down a patient's throat!

Best suggestion we can think of is to have delegations of farmers come here to Benton County and have a look around! We think what they see will quickly sell them on adopting conservation practices.

Soil commissioners to meet

The regular meeting of the Benton County Soil Conservation District Commissioners will be held at the district office in Vinton on Sept. 12 at 1:30 p.m.

Items on the agenda include discussion of tort liability of conservation districts, dates set for hearings of Soil Conservation Interim Study Committee, applications for conservation agreements, applications for state cost sharing on conservation practices, conservation workbooks, and conservation speech contest.

The public is invited to attend.

Deadline is Thursday for entering county conservation photo contest

TIMESNEWS — Nov. 1 is the deadline for receiving entries in the conservation photo contest.

The Benton County Soil Conservation District Commissioners are sponsoring this new contest for the first time this year. The rules for the contest are as follows.

Subject matter — Eligible subject matter in the Conservation Photo Contest is the conservation and development of soil, water, forest, fish and wildlife. Entries should illustrate at least one of the following: (a) The need for conserving these resources, (b) methods used to overcome problems in their use, (c) outstanding examples of proper resource use, or (d) benefits accruing to society as a result of man's efforts to conserve and develop these natural resources.

Entry requirements — Only residents of Benton County may enter the contest.

All entries must be received by Nov. 1, 1979.

Entries must be made in the name of the person who took the photo or photos. There is no limit on the number of entries an individual can submit.

Prints may be any size, provided they are not larger than about 8 by 10 inches in size.

Categories in the contest — Each of the entries in the following three categories should be designated Division I or Division II. Division I is for students up to 12th grade and Division II is for adults.

Black and white print — Single photo. Story series (not less than two and not more than five prints.) **Color print** — Single photo. Story series (not less than two and not more than five prints.) **35 mm color slides** — Single slide. Story series (not less than two and not more than 25 slides.)

Identification of entries — Each single entry (prints and slides) must be accompanied by a 3 by 5 inch card containing the (a) name and address of the

photographer, (b) division number, and (c) title of the photograph.

If more than one entry is submitted, the photographer must clearly identify the respective titles and photographs.

Each story series must be accompanied by a 3 by 5 inch card containing (a) above, and (b) above, and (c) title of the story series. A short legend should be attached to the bottom of each print to identify the picture sequence and to clearly and concisely tell the conservation story.

Slide story series, in addition to the 3 by 5 inch card listed above, must also be accompanied by a narrative in which each slide is properly keyed into the text. Slides must be numbered in their proper sequence.

Return of entries — The Soil Conservation District reserves the right to use all entries for one year. Entries must be picked up at the Soil Conservation District office if desired by the contestant.

Judging of entries — A panel of judges will select the winning entries. Winning entries will be announced and exhibited. Prizes will be awarded.



La Porte City student wins speech contest

TIMESNEWS — Alan Parmater, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Parmater of LaPorte City, won the East Central Regional Soil Conservation Speech Contest at the Carousel Restaurant in Iowa City, Wednesday, Nov. 7.

Eleven contestants from East Central Iowa competed in the event.

Parmater, 15, is a sophomore at LaPorte City High School and is active in local and district Methodist Youth Fellowship and Future Farmers of America.



Win awards with soil conservation

The Benton County Soil Conservation group gave their annual awards Thursday at the Vinton Country Club. Award winners pictured here from left: Elmer Miller, Dorothy Miller, Shirley Meyer and Eldo Meyer.

Timesphotos by Scott Campbell



Soil conservation winners

These members were also named winners at Thursday's awards luncheon. From left: Harold Maas, Emma Kapucian, Louis Kapucian and Betty Kapucian.

Honor Benton County winners of soil conservation contest

Soil Conservation Award winners in Benton County were honored at a recent dinner meeting at the Vinton Country Club.

Harold Maas of Van Horne had the outstanding windbreak in Benton County in 1979. Maas is the tenant on the farm owned by Edgar and Walter Heitshusen who live near South Amana.

Each year winners are chosen for the different divisions of the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards program. This year the winners in the New Cooperator division were Dennis Frush and family who farm near La Porte City. Honorable mention was given to Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kapucian who farm the Emma Kapucian farm near Keystone.

Allan Bell and his tenant, Craig

Shropshire, were chosen as the winners in the Tenant-Operated division. Bell lives in La Porte City and Craig farms the land south of town.

Eldo Meyer of Garrison was chosen as winner in the Owner-Operated division. He and his family were also selected as the over-all winners in Benton County for 1979.

The winners in the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program each received a special certificate recognizing their efforts. The windbreak award is a plaque which is presented by the Izaak Walton League of America. The awards program is sponsored by the Benton County Soil Conservation District to encourage erosion control and better land use.

Public pulse

Thanks for devastating our woodland

Hi Folks,

A cheerful greeting from Wally Woodcutter, your President of the Iowa Defoliation and Wildlife Habitat Extinction Association. I'd like to report to all of our club members, that the devastation of Iowa's woodlands is going great this season. I'm proud of you for cutting down nearly every living and dead tree you can get your chainsaws biting into. As club members you're doing your best to see who can stack your woodpiles high enough to reach halfway to the moon. Now let's not listen to those crackpot conservationists, meddlesome environmentalists, and silly sportsmen who complain about soil erosion, noise pollution, disappearing wildlife cover, loss of scenic beauty and other minor problems associated with the removal of trees. You know as well as I do, that all a tree does during the year, is to prevent us from getting a tan and providing a haven for those noisy birds in the summertime and then in the fall it's leaves fade into those horrid colors and drop off making a mess all over the ground. It's simply disgusting isn't it?

The sawmills are doing their share also. After all, we have to keep our economy going exporting our hardwoods overseas. Heck, it isn't our fault the foreigners destroyed their forests through mismanagement.

Now let's not let our members in agriculture go unnoticed either. Their efforts to bulldoze and clearcut tree groves, to gain that additional land for those few extra bushels of corn and beans deserve a round of applause from us all.

Oh by the way, I almost forgot. Our association finally received the first shipment of artificial trees from Taiwan. Those ingenious Asians have reproduced genuine, imitation oaks, walnuts, hickories, and maples. These trees feature durable aluminum trunks with stained epoxy bark and plastic "no drop" leaves. These trees are adjustable and fit perfectly over those unsightly stumps left from your previous cutting. They will aid you immensely in overcoming your guilt feelings from the loss of the woodlands.

Remember people, the only way we can win this battle against foliage is to buy a bigger chainsaw and mow our way through.

The moral of the story is that if you're going to utilize our so-called "renewable resources", you'd better put forth some efforts to plant new trees and sensibly manage the few tree groves we have left. If you don't, you'll end up selling your chainsaw and woodstove to the scrapyard, in order to help pay your fuel oil and electricity bills because all the woods will be gone.

Enough said.
I love trees,
David W. Speidel
Box 106
Vinton, Iowa 52349

Times, Vinton, Iowa, January 7, 1980 7

Announce big tillage show for area farmers

Fifty farm machinery exhibits and 16 speakers will be featured at the Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show set for Jan. 22 and 23 at the Five Seasons Center at Cedar Rapids.

The show is set up to acquaint farmers with conservation tillage and no-till farming.

Machinery exhibits will come from as far away as North Dakota. Tillage equipment, planters and sprayers will be on display. Several chemical companies will have exhibits featuring pesticides and fertilizers.

Nine farmers will be featured on the program. They will tell about the successful methods they use to reduce their tillage operations and save time,

labor, fuel and soil. People attending the show will have an opportunity to visit with the farmers after their individual presentations.

The theme for the tillage show is "Operation Save Our Soil." Sponsors are the soil conservation districts, Soil Conservation Service, extension service and ASCS in an eight-county area surrounding Cedar Rapids.

"With today's intensive cropping systems, soil erosion is becoming more serious each year," said Floyd Peters SCS district conservationist at Vinton.

According to a recent study, Iowa leads the nation in soil lost to erosion. Conservation tillage or the practice of leaving large amounts of crop residue on

the soil surface is considered by conservationists to be the best way to control soil erosion.

Peters said the purpose of the tillage show is to provide farmers with the information they need to make the switch to conservation tillage.

The conservation tillage show will begin Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 6 p.m. It will end Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 9:30 p.m.

Tickets for the show can be obtained at any USDA office within the eight-county area. Also many equipment dealers, farm elevators, banks and agricultural chemical dealers have tickets available.

Stickler to address tillage show

One of the keynote speakers at the Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show will be Fred C. Stickler, chairman of the Farm Equipment Institute and Tillage Equipment Council.

Stickler will speak at the Wednesday evening, Jan. 23rd, session on "Farm Equipment and Conservation Tillage."

Stickler is an agronomist and former college teacher with a particular interest in mechanized farm equipment. He is currently the director of the Deere and Company Technical Center at Moline, Ill.

At the center, Stickler has directed research on crop management systems and their effect on mechanization. He later assumed responsibility for planning tillage and planting machines as a member of Deere's Product Planning Dept.

Another speaker at the Wednesday evening session will be Ward Voorhees, a research soil scientist with USDA at Morris, Minn.

Voorhees has conducted seven years of research on soil compaction as it relates to wheel traffic. He will present his results to show the effects that size of tractor and types of tillage have on soil compaction.

A total of nine farmers are scheduled to speak about their individual tillage systems.

"Anyone who is thinking about minimizing their tillage operation next spring should attend the show," said Gene Wolter, district conservationist with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

About 50 to 60 machinery exhibits will be shown, including planters, tillage equipment, sprayers and agricultural chemical exhibits.

Free tickets for the event can be picked up at machinery dealers, agricultural chemical dealers and county offices of USDA in eight counties including Linn, Buchanan, Delaware, Benton, Jones, Iowa, Johnson and Cedar.

Editorials

Too skimpy with Conservation funds

It was a shock to read where the budget President Jimmy Carter submitted to Congress contains so little for soil conservation incentives for farmers. Inflation has affected these dollars just like they have everything else and you would think that the administration would have proposed a substantial increase in funding. Not so!

Our own Benton County is not a typical Iowa county when it comes to soil conservation practices by farmers. Many more have been brought into these wonderful programs here because of the dedicated work of our Conservation Commissioners and the top-notch professional staff in the Vinton office. Nowhere in Iowa will you see so many contoured fields, terraces, and other conservation practices. Visitors from elsewhere who drive our country roads here in Benton County are always enormously impressed. That isn't to say that much more can't be done!

As we said at the start of the previous paragraph, however, our county isn't typical. Too many other areas of soil-rich Iowa are being farmed with scant regard for what happens to the top-soil they will be turning over to the next generation (providing wind and rain erosion haven't taken it all away). Many experts say that in another 20 years there will be many farms with land no longer capable of producing good crops because of erosion damage.

No one put it better than Pope John Paul II on his visit to the Living History Farms at Des Moines last October. He said the good Lord has provided Iowa farmers with some of the finest land in the world but this also carries with it a responsibility to take care of it. That means practicing soil conservation.

It takes a big investment in some cases to install needed conservation practices. That is why government assistance is so vital. Even if you aren't a farmer, as an Iowan concerned about the future of our farms you should write our senators and our own congressman to protest the inadequate conservation funding.

Meeting to explain soil surveys

The Soil Conservation District is holding a meeting to explain the new soil surveys to farmers in Big Grove township on March 12 in the Garrison Legion Hall at 1:15 p.m.

New soil maps will be presented and explained in detail. These maps show soil type, amount of slope and degree of erosion. By using these maps, soil conservationists can help farmers to develop a plan which will allow them to get maximum income and yet keep soil loss below five tons per acre per year.

A new slide program will be presented. The program is about no-till farming in corn and soybean stubble. Federal and state cost share programs will also be explained.

Anyone wishing to get a modern soil map should call or write to the soil conservation district office before March 12. The office phone number is 472-2161. The address is P.O. Box 526, Vinton, Ia. 52349.

Soil Conservation district commissioners will meet Feb. 14

TIMESNEWS — The Benton County Soil Conservation District Commissioners will meet at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 14 in the district office at Vinton. The public is invited.

Items on the agenda are: renew business mail permit, NACD dues, new

conservation agreements, cost share business, Soil Stewardship Week materials order, report on Conservation Tillage Show, RCA summaries, contractor's meeting and completing the annual plan of work.

Meeting over conservation Wednesday

On July 26, 1978, the first meeting was held in Benton County to discuss the Resource Conservation Act of 1977.

Answers and resource inventory for the nation have now been summarized and published. They will be presented to area residents on March 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the

State Bank Community Room.

Seven alternative strategies have been proposed to solve the conservation problem. The Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District wants opinions on which strategy would be best to use in the future.

4 Times, Vinton, Iowa, March 26, 1980

Sponsor poster contest

The Benton County Soil Conservation District is once again holding its annual conservation poster contest. The theme for 1980 is "Soil Conservation." All entries are due at the district office no later than May 1 and will be judged in early May.

Prizes will be awarded in each of the following age divisions: grades 3 and 4; 5 and 6; junior high; high school and adult.

Posters can be any size up to 22" x 28" and can be done in any type of art media.

Each entry must have name, address, phone number, and age division included on the back of the poster. All entries must be from residents of Benton County.

For more details, contact the Soil Conservation District office at P.O. Box 526, Vinton, Ia. 52349 or phone 472-2161.

Two soil commissioner posts up for election

TIMESNEWS — The posts of two Benton County Soil Conservation District Commissioners are up for election Nov. 4.

The terms of John R. Schild, Belle Plaine, Iowa township, and Paul E. Anderson, Vinton, Benton township, will expire at noon on Jan. 2, 1981.

Any qualified elector living in the soil conservation district is eligible for the office of commissioner, but no more than one commissioner may be a resident of any one township. All of Benton County, including cities and towns, makes up the soil conservation district.

Incumbent commissioners are Roman Gardner, Garrison, Jackson township; Henry Lyphout, Vinton, Big Grove township; and Don Weichman, Atkins, Fremont township. Anyone living in these townships will not be eligible this year for the openings.

Prospective candidates seeking the office of soil conservation district commissioner must file nomination petitions in the same manner as for other elective positions in the general election, except that no political party is designated. Nomination petitions are available in the County Auditor's office.

These petition, signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the County Auditor at the Benton County Courthouse no later than 5 p.m. on Sept. 10.

Those elected in November will serve a six-year term beginning Jan. 2, 1981. Soil conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county.

For more information, contact the Benton County Soil Conservation District Office, P.O. Box 526, Vinton, phone 472-2161.

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095740, Vinton, Iowa, Volume 66, Number 13, 12 Pages

NEES
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2 Times, Vinton, Iowa, Se

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Robert C. He
Sunday school and adult

Worship service
Pleasant Hill Pre

Divine worship
Sunday school
Fellowship coffee hour
worship hour

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Adult choir, Thursdays

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Father A. L. Z
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Parson
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BY REV. ROBERT F. LO

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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probably would not reopen on a temporary basis, but workers would probably load the paperwork into a van and seal it up until a permanent headquarters is reopened.

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Henry Lyphout ends 13 years as Benton County soil commissioner



HENRY LYPHOUT

By J. DAMON CAIN
Times Editor

TIMESNEWS— Come the first of the year, Henry Lyphout ends 13 years of service as a Benton County Soil Conservation District Commissioner. "Or something like that," he says.

And it's easy to forgive Hank for not knowing off the top of his head the exact number of years he has been pushing and preaching in an official capacity the virtues of good conservation practices. It's easy because he's got more important matters on which to focus his attention.

Above all, Hank is a farmer — he and son Lon attend to 360 acres of corn, oats, and soybeans of his own and son Jerry farms his own land, so, all

totalled, the three of them take care of approximately 900 acres of Benton County farmland — and with the price of commodities, the grain storage shortage and various other immediate problems farmers face this fall, well, who's keeping track of the years.

And it's not as though Hank started conservation practices when he began his first term as a commissioner.

"I was just approached to run for it," Hank said this morning from his home in Vinton. "I had been practicing soil conservation for years. I did a lot of strip cropping and contouring. We were doing it quite a while before then. We just kept it up."

One might suspect a commissioner to be gung ho for the construction of terraces, an item that runs into the tens of thousands of dollars, but Hank is less enthusiastic. Not that terraces don't do a good job, it's just that Hank knows

other, less expensive measures are available.

"You can practice good soil conservation without spending a lot of money," Hank said. "There's strip cropping, contouring, and keeping your waterways seeded and shaped. I guess I'm a bit disgusted with the idea that because something has a big dollar sign in front of it, people automatically think it's got to be good, that it's the best way to go. That's just not true."

"Terraces are good, I don't want you to think that they're not, but there are other ways of handling erosion," Hank said. "Besides, terracing disturbs the original lay of the land. You have to move large amounts of dirt to terrace right, and then, sometimes, the terrace doesn't protect all that much land."

Hank says he has a better method, one that is both considerably less ex-

pensive and in the long run just as effective.

"We need to provide more green strips around hills and other areas that have more than a three percent slope," Hank said.

Hank realizes that "providing more green strips" entails planting oats and smaller seed grains, crops that do not return as great a profit as cash corn and soybeans.

"A lot of farmers are after that quick cash," Hank said, and in turn, do not bother with planting oats.

Hank gave certain details of a plan he would like the government to pursue, a plan that would save it money — money, Hank adds, that could be put towards providing more grain storage facilities — while promoting good conservation practices.

"The government needs to provide an incentive for farmers to plant oats. Right now, the price of oats is about \$1.30 a bushel, so if you get 60 bushels an acre your return is \$78 an acre. That's just not enough," Hank said. "If the government would do away with the set aside program and add another 50 cents a bushel for their oats, that would give farmers the incentive to plant them. And it would save a lot of money for the government."

Another problem Hank sees intrinsic with conservation is the element of time.

"We have too many farmers who want it done quick," Hanks said. "They don't want to take the time to experiment, they want to get in and out of the fields and not have to worry about contouring or other things that take just a little extra time."

"In the long run, if they spend that extra time, they'll only help themselves," Hank said. "They won't think about using conservation measures until they get a real bad rain, then a couple days later they'll forget all about it again. That's just the way it is."

Another reason that contouring and strip cropping have not caught on in a

big way, according to Hank, is that, "Your seed companies haven't pushed it like they should."

Hank and his wife, Nadine, live in town now at 1516 E Ave., but the move from their farm in Big Grove township doesn't mean they are moving away from farming.

"I suppose I'll farm the rest of my life," said Hank, a guy who got his start with his father and has been farming ever since.

"Overall, Benton County does about as good a job with conservation as any county around," Hank said, "but it still isn't enough. There's a lot to be done in Benton County."

So why is Hank stepping down from his commissioner's post?

"It isn't because I don't like the work," Hank said, who added that he's been in his fair share of arguments with farmers reluctant to incorporate conservation practices into their farming. "It's just time we got some new blood on the board. It's time for someone else. Someone will stay in there too long and then you don't get enough interest in conservation because of it. You have to get more people involved and this is just one way of doing it."

Denny Duello is the only person seeking election this November to the board.

"That's what I mean. I wish there were more people who were interested enough to run for the position. Not that Denny won't do a good job. I think he will. But people don't understand conservation until they get directly involved."

So, on an official basis, Hank will get up from his commissioner's chair and head back to the fields. But you get the idea that this is one farmer the Benton County board will have as an emissary of its ideas and projects, a former board member of 13 years, or something like that.

Conservation service continues statewide essay tradition

TIMESNEWS — In a tradition begun last year by the Soil Conservation Service, an essay contest is being held in the county.

The essays deal, naturally, with soil conservation. The essays that are selected as winners will then move on to state competition.

Although the following essays are not necessarily winners, they are examples of some of the works submitted for judging by the Soil Conservation Service.

The Lives We Determine

By Susan Scheer, Benton Community
People used to flock to the coast and large bodies of water to maintain their health and sanity, but now even this is not possible.

The waters are stagnant and the land is scorched. Now everyone stays secluded inside their scrap-made shacks, coming out only to sustain what livelihood they can find. Even the children don't come out because physical activity makes them short of breath. Grandparents do recall their fathers mentioning something about the vegetation giving off oxygen. Who would have thought, when the vegetation dies, so do we?

This could be an accurate description of the transition of the fertile granary of the Roman Empire into what is now the North African Desert. It could also be the United States in 150 years if some notice isn't taken to the conservation of such essentials as soil and water.

There is so much that can be done today by doing so little. To help save the soil such measures as no-till farming can be started. As I understand it, no-till farming incorporates fewer chemicals and doesn't expose the ground so that the top soil can be taken away by erosion. Top soil is the most precious part of our land, and it can take anywhere from 200 to 1,000 years to form. That's a long time to put farm land out of commission.

While no-till and many of the older methods of farming can stop erosion, they can also maintain and stabilize the contents of the soil. Progress is a great thing, but I think it got carried away and pushed the land too hard without replenishing it properly. There are many chemicals dispersed on fields, but that can't be the best way. There are many natural and more economical ways of fertilizing and replenishing, such as natural plant decay and manure spreading.

Many chemicals are used to control unwanted grasses and weeds in the fields. If some older farming methods, such as rotating crops and wire planting, were used the chemicals wouldn't be needed. Yields would be smaller but of better quality. According to certain statistics, America has an overabundance of food and these farming techniques would help limit production and regulate prices.

Soil conservation is directly related to water conservation. Unfortunately, many of the chemicals placed in the soil also are carried through the water system. These chemicals are said to be good for the land (although even that is questionable), but we all know they are not good for humans or animals. Chemical substances, along with top soil that erodes away, can easily wash into a water source and contaminate it.

Farmland chemicals are not the only substance that pollute and poison water. Many industries are dumping wastes into rivers and streams. There is even general carelessness by the public itself, who are the ones fighting the issue. The Environmental Protection Agency passed a Clean Water Act that put rules and regulations on dumping wastes and the treatment of water. So far, the act hasn't improved anything because it isn't being properly enforced. If someone doesn't control it now, our waters will get out of hand.

With so many options and so many people working on it there are ways to save the soil and water, not to mention the future. If we don't start caring and controlling today, tomorrow may be a mirage in a new desert.

Mudpies: A Key to the Future
By Lori McKechnie, Benton Community

Mud pies? Children can make several in very little time and use inexpensive ingredients, although mud pies aren't the biggest sellers, as many teary-eyed kids have found out. Nevertheless, they could become a rarity if we continue to ignore the silent problem that slowly but surely has been getting away from us.



FILE INLET — Larry Flesher examines one of the file openings in his bean field to make sure water has easy access to it. Water will run down the inlet and into the tile

underground, where it can't wash away his valuable topsoil. Flesher's entire acreage is tiled in such a manner.

While mudpies don't appeal to the human taste, they are two of our greatest natural resources — not the mud pies but their ingredients, soil and water.

To the child making mud pies, soil seems to be in endless supply. However, man realizes what a valuable and irreplaceable asset he has. Problems arise when he isn't able to conserve the soil for generations.

To realize nearly three billion people are fed from one acre of cultivated land, man must view it seriously. If the rate of loss continues we'll lose two inches of soil in 20 years. This would

significantly affect the capability of production of many acres of land. Eventually we will be unable to feed the ever increasing population. As Theodore Roosevelt said, "When the

soil is gone, man must go. And the process doesn't take long." This makes it clear that now is the time to conserve for the future.

Water has innumerable uses. It is so easy for most people to get, they don't realize how necessary it is. Mud pies are held together by water. Just like a child needs water when making mud pies, man also needs it in his everyday life. Water covers three-fourths of the earth's surface and, because of its large area, it may mislead people into thinking that it is an inexhaustible resource.

Contamination has greatly cut into this large resource. Impurities are caused partly by natural circumstances, but man is also responsible. This problem needs to be taken seriously because normal, healthy

people can live only seven to ten days without water.

Soil and water are the bridges connecting the non-living and living. Their conservation greatly increase the chances of preserving natural life in the future.

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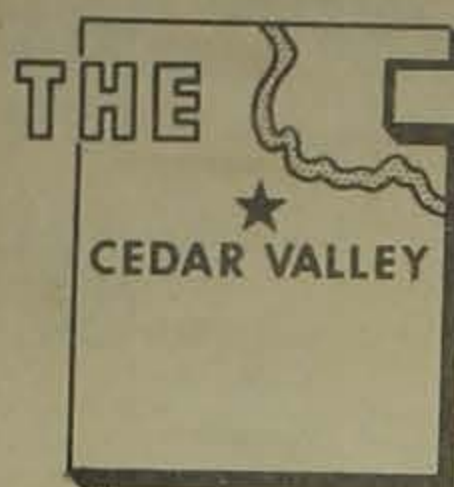
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THE TIMES

BENTON COUNTY'S COLORFUL DAILY NEWSPAPER

Friday, September 19, 1980, No. 095740, Vinton, Iowa, Volume 66, Number 13, 12 Pages



1980-1981

East end of building nearly totally destroyed

Fire ravages half of ASCS office building

TIMESNEWS — Offices at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Extension Building across from the Benton County Fairgrounds are temporarily out of order following a Friday morning fire here.

The east end of the building was mostly destroyed, said Willie Hansen of the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation office. Office equipment including desks, calculators and typewriters in the east end of the building were destroyed, although the paperwork was not, Hansen said.

Firefighters made a second trip to the scene when the fire started up again after the firefighters had gone, thinking the fire was out.

The Soil Conservation Commission office, which in the west end escaped the brunt of the fire's destruction, will be relocating temporarily across the street at the fairgrounds, according to the SCS's Robb Morrow. SCS personnel began

moving office supplies early this afternoon.

The SCS office sustained only smoke and water damage, but no figures on total damage to the building and its contents were available at press time.

The fire apparently started in the wiring above the suspended ceiling of the Ag Stabilization office. Hansen said office workers first knew something was wrong when a bank of lights went out.

Shortly after that, fire appeared around a light fixture. Employees reached for a fire extinguisher and for the phone to call the Vinton Fire Department.

Hansen said no one knew how long the fire had smoldered in the attic before it was noticed.

The Ag Stabilization office, Hansen said, probably would not reopen on a temporary basis, but workers would probably load the paperwork into a van and seal it up until a permanent headquarters is reopened.



Firemen attack fire Friday morning

Fire ravaged the ASCS building, across from the Benton County Fairgrounds, at mid-morning today. Firefighters here work to quench the flames, which apparently started in

the wiring in the attic. The east end of the building (nearest) received the heaviest damage.

Tinesphoto by Mert Alpers



Ceiling meets the floor

A light fixture hangs down from the ceiling in the gutted east end of the ASCS building, nearly touching the remains of a desk at the bottom of the photo. Office equipment, including desks, calculators, typewriters and other electronic equipment were destroyed. Most of the ceiling on the east end of the building fell to the floor, but the west end of the building appeared to receive only smoke and water damage. Another photo, page three.

Tinesphoto by Steve Exley

Council wants citizen input on sign slogan

TIMESNEWS — The Vinton Community Betterment Council needs help, and they aren't even asking for any money.

All it wants is some ideas, and good ones, to help promote the city of Vinton.

The council wants to erect a sign at the entrance of Vinton, and what they need is a slogan for the sign. Years ago a sign stood at the south edge of Vinton and it read, "Vinton, City of Progress." But the sign deteriorated and was never replaced.

But now the council feels the city needs a new one and they want a new slogan to go with it.

The council wants to limit the slogan to six or eight words and asks that all slogans be dropped off at the city office or mailed to: City of Vinton, P.O. Box 529, by next Friday, September 26.

After a slogan is picked for the sign, Bill Reames, an industrial art teacher at the high school will construct the sign with the help of his students.

The council has already started taking photographs of signs in other towns to get an idea for the design. But a new slogan for Vinton is still needed by next Friday.

5-16-83

Cons. picture

No-till planting demo illustrates recent advancements

VINTON— America's farmers and agricultural specialists are dispelling long-held notions about moldboard plowing, a fact in ready evidence across the agricultural landscape here in Benton County.

Moldboard plowing, of course, was an act to rid the surface of crop residue in preparation for spring planting, and it was a practice— and still is in a more limited sense —that has been handed down from one generation to another. Plowing has also proven an act against the better interests of soil-saving efforts here in the county.

Obviously, other methods of getting the crop into the field have been developed, and come this Thursday morning, area farmers and interested citizens will be afforded the opportunity to witness a side-by-side comparison of five planters on a farm east of Vinton.

Denny Duello, the most recent addition to Benton County's soil conservation board of directors, is hosting the planting demonstration on his farm, located two miles east of the county home on county road E-24. The Benton County Soil Conservation District and the Benton County Extension Service are co-sponsoring the event.

Allis Chalmers, International Harvester, John Deere and White will each demonstrate the capabilities of its latest planters in a side-by-side demonstration in standing and untouched corn stalks.

Duello also said a sidewinder, a planter that tills a 10-inch strip

down the row where the seed is planted but leaves the remainder of the surface undisturbed, will be demonstrated.

On hand will be Greg Brenneman, area crop production specialist from the Cedar Rapids Extension office, to conduct a discussion of no-till planting alternatives.

One of the primary functions of tillage is to bring the soil to a condition in which a planter can accurately place the seed at a desired depth with firm, moist soil around it.

Because of some very favorable advancements in planter design sensitive to the no-till movement, many new planters are able to plant in a variety of soil conditions.

"We used to plow to rid the surface of previous crop residue," Duello said. "We now see that residue is a soil saver and that planters and cultivators can function in it."

"We used to believe that the roots of our crop plant needed loose soil or growth would be hampered. We now see that our modern, well-bred plants aren't nearly as helpless as we thought," according to Duello. "We're moving toward the avoidance of compaction and the tillage that is necessary to relieve it."

Duello also stressed that modern-day farmers till the soil to kill vegetation, but added, "We're seeing that less tillage means that fewer weeds grow. New and better chemicals and cultivators are offering new possibilities every year."

The planters involved in the demonstration that gets its start at

10 a.m., Thursday, will plant through an area compacted by harvest traffic and through areas poorly drained as well as in mellow untouched standing stalks.

"These planters have a specifically desired ability to penetrate covered soil," Duello said.

"We invite all farmers to come and see these planters work side-by-side, see what conditions they need to get the seed into the ground, and then to think about what tillage is necessary and why," Duello said.

Modern planters are expensive, running on the average in the \$12,000 to \$14,000 neighborhood for a six-row planter, and many farmers find it prohibitive to make the switch from conventional forms of planting to no-till planting.

But, Duello is quick to add, "You can hire your crops planted and it is very likely to be less expensive than what you pay to plant with the more conventional methods and equipment."

Duello pointed out that the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service (ASCS) have a list of names of people who custom no-till. In fact, no-till planting is encouraged and subsidized by the ASCS and the county soil conservation district at \$10 an acre.

"You may have to get used to looking at trash on your fields," Duello said, "but you won't have to look at nearly as many washed out gullies either."

15 farm families receive soil conservation awards

Fifteen farm families received awards for outstanding work in controlling the soil losses on their farms at the Benton County Farm Bureau annual meeting on Sept. 3.

This award is a white 20x24 foot plastic sign suitable for mounting on their farm.

To receive this sign their soil loss has to be below 5 tons per acre per year on a 4 percent and greater slope. If their slopes are 6 percent or greater, they need to be contouring the row crops, not plowing cornstalks, and using a system of no tillage on soybean stubble, to control their soil loss

to 5 tons or below.

A system of no tillage on both corn and bean ground would reduce soil loss to less than 5 tons per acre per year. Terraces, along with contouring and conservation tillage, would also reduce soil losses to acceptable levels.

Anyone wishing to qualify for one of these attractive signs should contact the Farm Bureau office in Vinton or the soil conservation district office in Vinton.

The Benton County Soil Conservation District and the Benton County Farm Bureau are cooperating in this joint effort which they hope will encourage farmers to do what is necessary on their farms to conserve the soil.

The following farm families received Save Our Soil signs: Kozik Brothers, the Don and Virgil Koziks, the Clyde Merchants, the Charles Rupprich estate, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Jebe, the Arshel and Gentil Lyphouts, the Henry Lyphouts, the Harry Horaks, the Keith Elwicks, the Ron Albrigts, the John Schilts, the Larry Beyers (Howard Beyer Farm), the Don Weichmans, the Kerkman Farm, the Bill Kermans and the Vernon Kermans, the Paul Andersons, the Dave Lubbocks, and the John Buhrs.



Fifteen farm families received Save Our Soil signs on Sept. 3 at the county annual meeting. Pictured above is Clyde Merchant (left) receiving this sign and Paul Anderson (right), chairman, Benton County Soil Conservation District, presenting the sign.



Conservation banquet serves up awards

CONSERVATION AWARDS — A conservation awards banquet held yesterday noon at the Vinton Country Club honored several people from Benton County for their efforts toward soil conservation. Above, the chief award winners were, row one, left to right: Henry and Darlene Mantz, recipients of the Izaak Walton Windbreak Award; Keith and Susan Werning, winners of a conservation award in the Landlord-Tenant division. Row two: Richard and Kathi Noe, winners in the New Cooperator division; and Ruth, Elmer and Lyle Scheetz, winners in the Owner-Operator division. Also honored at the banquet were 13-year veteran of the Soil Conservation Service Commission Henry Lyphout and his wife Nadine.



Board

11/14/83 Times

B.C. students sweeps awards in conservation essay contest

VAN HORNE— Benton Community students took the top three places in the Benton County Soil Conservation Essay Contest, for the third consecutive year.

Leo Frazier was first, Mike Hertle second and Kristi Schulze third. Monetary prizes were presented to the top three place-winners by Jim Brown, Benton County district conservationist.

Harry Van Eschen, secretary of the Eden Mutual Insurance Co., was the sponsor and promoter, and Eden Mutual Insurance was the financial sponsor.

"The contest, which used to be a speech contest until three years ago,

was designed to create an awareness of the need for soil conservation," Brown said.

Essays were judged by the district conservation commission on the basis of originality, content, facts, awareness and rhetoric.

"By living on a farm, I was aware that there was a need for soil conservation," Frazier said, "but by researching the subject, I realized how important it really is."

Frazier will read his essay at an awards dinner in Vinton Dec. 14. His essay will also advance to district competition, according to Brown.

Times, Vinton, Iowa, December 2, 1983 3



ESSAY WINNERS— Benton Community High School students swept the top three places in the senior division of the recent Benton County Soil Conservation Essay Contest. Pictured from left to right are: third-place winner Kristi Schulze of Van Horne, second-place winner Mike Hertle of Atkins and first-place winner Leo Frazier of Van Horne; Jim Brown, Benton

County Soil Conservation Director; and Henry Van Eschen, representing contest co-sponsor Eden Mutual Insurance. Benton students have won all three top places in each of the three years the contest has been sponsored. Frazier will read his winning essay at the annual District Soil Conservation Dinner in Vinton Dec. 14.

Cedar Valley Times
12/30/83

Life in the soil:

Editor's Note: The following is the first-place essay in the recent Benton County Soil Conservation Essay Contest. It was written by Leo Frazier of rural Van Horne, a senior at Benton Community High School.

By LEO FRAZIER

Today is the start of my future life as a productive corn plant. I come from a dark, seed corn sack, and now I am being planted into the dark, fertile soil of Bill Edward's field, north of Van Horne, Iowa.

Bill is respected in the community for his land preservation practices. He has the richest soil in the community, and maintains it by enforcing preservation ideas.

A few years ago Bill went to a

meeting at the local extension center. The speaker dealt with a program called "Help Enforce Land Preservation" (HELP). Bill was the only farmer there who did not let the information go in one ear and out the other.

The speaker had said that farmers must start to preserve land or the rich topsoil, their most important natural resource, would erode. He said that as much as 60 truckloads of soil may be washed away by rain falling on one acre of barren, sloping land, while it takes nature several hundred years to build one inch of topsoil. This is scary especially since I could be a part of those 60 truck loads of soil washed away each year.

This is not the only way that my life

as a healthy, productive corn plant can be terminated. I could be blown away, as many of my ancestors were in the 1930s by wind. That period of time was known as "The Dust Bowl," and was caused by years of drought and by farmers who were only thinking of themselves when they cut down trees to farm more land.

Poor farming practices and overgrazing of pastures resulted in topsoil being blown away because there was no grass to hold it in place.

The speaker said that there are many ways of preserving land and that the first step is to realize that we do have a problem with soil erosion. Many farmers refuse to recognize the fact that the soil must be preserved for future generations. Since all life on earth

depends on soil as a direct or indirect source of food, we must preserve the soil if we want food for future generations.

The second step towards preserving land is to figure out which method of land preservation is best for each particular operation.

Methods of conserving soil include contour plowing, rotating crops, planting trees or bushes between fields to prevent wind erosion, strip cropping, and limiting the amount of time that herds graze in a certain area.

Contour plowing is achieved by plowing furrows across a slope rather than up and down, and then catching rain water to keep it from running off the hill.

Another way of preserving the land is by strip cropping, or planting different crops in alternate rows.

The last step towards preserving land is to put these methods of land preservation to work on each farming operation. Lucky for myself, Bill enforces all of these land preservation ideas.

If more farmers don't start putting some form of land preservation to work, all seeds, like myself, will never be given the chance to grow into productive plants. The farmers will wish they would have helped to enforce land preservation when they had the chance.

Cedar Valley Times 1/18/84

Knaack to be featured at Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show

CEDAR RAPIDS—A Van Horne area farmer, Don Knaack, will be a speaker at the Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show at the Five Seasons Center in Cedar Rapids Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.

Knaack will be one of several farmers who will speak on no-till farming during the two-day session. He will talk

during the afternoon of Jan. 31 on why he went to no-till farming.

The show will also feature speeches by specialists in weed control, fertilizer placement, insect control and other topics that pertain to no-till or conservation tillage farming.

Hours of the show are from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Jan. 31 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 1.

Supervisors hold revenue sharing for new jail

By DAVID STRABALA
Times Staff Writer

VINTON— Benton County Supervisors' Chairman Harry Horak announced the board's intention to reserve all of next year's expected revenue sharing funds, about \$285,000, in the event that a new county jail is proposed in the next year.

At this morning's regular board meeting, two hearings were held, for requests of newly available revenue sharing funds — \$152,301 for the rest of this fiscal year, and an estimated \$285,000 for the 1984-85 fiscal year.

A limited, preliminary analysis before press time shows total requests this morning at \$340,959. Of that total, \$184,675 are attributed to the county departments, according to County Auditor Florence Rippel. The remaining \$156,284 in requests come from various groups around the county — \$81,712 for this fiscal year, and \$74,572 for 1984-85, she said.

Horak said the board's decision on setting up a contingency fund for a new jail resulted from discussion at prior meetings.

"If the (jail study) committee pursues construction of a new jail, and a bond issue is passed, we are reserving the entire amount, \$285,000, (toward the jail expense)," Horak said. "However, if this does not occur, we'll revert back to today's requests."

Supervisor Russell Wyckoff said the amount could rise to \$300,000 with accumulated interest, which would probably "not be much more than one fourth" of the cost of major jail reconstruction or rebuilding.

Horak said he did not know the chances of which way the money would be used, but said, when asked, that a tentative schedule could be set up of how next year's funds would be appropriated if not for the jail.

Among the following comments and questions, Belle Plaine Mayor Robert Burrows said he wondered if supervisors had talked with other county supervisors about the possibility of a regional facility.

Horak said the option had been considered, and did not appear feasible because of high transportation costs of prisoners.

Regarding about \$60,000 in funding requests from the sheriff's department, First Deputy Randall Forsyth explained that \$45,000 of the amount was made to revenue sharing funds which normally would come out of county tax dollars. The request was made this way, primarily for new squad cars, at the suggestion of supervisors, he said.

Mary Voss, who directs the county's data processing, said the same regarding her \$47,000 request — that it would save county tax dollars.

The following list is a summary of funding requests made at both county hearings this morning, including a preference, if given, for when the money is needed. Many of those persons making requests said the time period for receiving funds was "optional," or, in some cases, representatives were not in attendance to specify.

1983-84, or optional requests

\$1,000— Garrison Fire Dept., for equipment.

\$1,000— Garrison First Responders, for equipment.

\$3,500— North Benton Ambulance, for equipment and training.

\$15,000— Benton County Sheriff's Dept., for two defibrillators.

\$1,350— Van Horne First Responders, for equipment.

\$3,000— (RSVP) Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

\$7,000— Benton County Transportation System, including SEATS and Benton County Opportunities.

\$8,000— Benton County SEATS.

\$3,969— Norway Fire Dept., for equipment and training.

\$15,000— HACAP, for administrative costs of Vinton neighborhood center.

\$5,000— Benton County, for installation of fire alarm system in the courthouse.

\$8,500— Benton County, for courthouse repairs and operational expenses on county car.

\$5,700— Vinton Airport Commission, toward expenses of building a new hangar.

\$10,000— Van Horne Fire Dept., toward costs of a new fire truck.

\$1,100— Benton County Health Service, to repair wheelchairs.

\$3,000— Vinton Public Library, for a copy machine.

COUNTY

County

Continued from page 1

\$7,800— Belle Plaine, to replace a section of roof at city hall.

\$8,000— Belle Plaine, for volunteer fire dept., police dept., and ambulance service.

\$500— Belle Plaine Community Center.

\$4,239— Benton County Extension Council, toward a new microcomputer.

\$4,770— Urbana Polk Township Ambulance Service.

\$4,660— Urbana Fire Dept.

\$5,665— Shellsburg Fire Dept.

\$1,318— Dysart Rural Fire Co., for equipment and interest on a loan.

\$1,040— Newhall First Responders, for equipment.

\$3,755— Newhall Fire Dept., for equipment.

\$8,000— Vinton Parks and Recreation Dept., toward swimming pool repairs.

\$5,000— Benton County Sheriff's office, toward two new squad cars.

1984-85 requests

\$16,000— Van Horne, toward new library construction expenses.

\$12,675— Vinton Dog Pound.

\$636— Vinton Rural Cooperative Fire

Co., for new hose.

\$10,000— Area Substance Abuse Council.

\$47,000— Benton County, for data processing office.

\$40,000— Benton County sheriff's office, for three new squad cars and communication equipment.

\$1,250— Garrison Fire Dept., for equipment.

\$14,500— Norway Fire Dept., for a new rescue vehicle.

\$12,000— Benton County Conservation, for a heated building addition for vehicle storage.

\$10,940— Soil and Water Conservation, for educational and promotional equipment.

\$13,400— Benton County Auditor's office, for mapping, parcel numbering, computer software, and administrative costs relating to revenue sharing.

\$7,600— North Benton Ambulance Service, for equipment.

\$6,885— Newhall Fire Dept., for equipment.

\$1,197— Newhall First Responders, for equipment.

Cedar Valley Times 1/23/84

Gulliford to speak at Farmer meeting

VINTON— Jim Gulliford, director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation will speak Tuesday, Jan. 24 at the Vinton Young Farmer meeting in the Washington High School vocational room.

Gulliford will speak on the topic, "Soil Conservation — the Future of Agriculture." He will address issues such as mandatory soil conservation measures.

Everyone is welcome.

*Farmer: no-till cuts costs

CEDAR RAPIDS — Donald Knaack switched to no-till when he purchased land that had a 12 percent slope.

During the three years he's used no-till the Benton County farmer estimates his soil losses plummeted from 60 to four tons per acre.

"No-till is just an easier, more economical way of farming. Plus until you try it you don't realize how much soil you save," Knaack told a group at the Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show in Cedar Rapids last week.

For example Knaack from Keystone told the group about a 4-inch rain that overran fields which had been conventionally tilled. This rill erosion clogged waterways. But Knaack's no-till fields were intact despite the downpour.

Many farmers don't try no-till because they are leary of the practice. Yet 10 years ago farmers were plowing fields before they planted beans.

"Now it's rare when you see bean fields plowed. That's how much times have changed. Maybe in 10 years they'll look back at us and laugh for not using no-till," Knaack said.

In his operation Knaack fall chisels stalks with 2" straight shanks. He chops some stalks and chisels some sod. His no-till bean ground is planted to corn. In the spring stalks are disked once. The only time he uses a plow is on some sod.

For herbicides Knaack uses one quart Lasso with liquid fertilizer followed with Banvel. Some Bronco and Bladex is used early for burndown.

His planter is a John Deere 4-row with herbicide and insecticide attachments and one-inch spring loaded ripple coulters.

Some years he gets by without insecticide, otherwise he uses Dyfonate.

During his first year with no-till there was good emergence.

"Everything came up even better than where I'd worked the ground," Knaack said.

His average yields are 130 bushels of corn and 46 bushels of soybeans.

Knaack said he saves a week's field preparation by using no-till. With reduced tillage, disking, plowing and field cultivating are eliminated.

One thing farmers using no-till need to get to is the extra time in the spring. "You feel like you're not doing your job when everybody else is out in the field and you're not," Knaack commented.

Other advantages to using no-till include savings in fuel, equipment and moisture.

Some of Knaack's land is 11-12 miles away from his other fields. "The driving time is the same to the other farm but I only make the trip once instead of three times with the plow, disk, field cultivator and cultimulchers," Knaack said.

Using no-till also eliminates the need for the plow, disk, harrow, larger tractors and field conditioners. "Until you try no-till you won't realize how much you won't need some of the implements you have," Knaack said.

After winter's snowfall there's usually enough moisture in the soil for spring planting, he added.

As for recommendations to farmers considering no-till, Knaack advised them to try planting 20 to 30 rows the first year. These rows should be easily accessible for checking too. Knaack advised placing them at one end of the field.

Learning not to worry about the trash on top of the fields is important too, he advised. "Everybody thinks there will be a buildup of trash over the years. But the weather will deteriorate it to nothing," Knaack said.

"All I can say is go no-till and try it," Knaack told the group as he concluded his presentation.



No-till farmer

Donald Knaack talked about his experiences with no-till at the tillage show. Knaack farms near Keystone in Benton County. (Agri-News photo by Nancy Carver)

INSIDE

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Supervis

By DAVID STRABALA
Times Staff Writer

VINTON— County revenue share money allocations of about \$437,000 the remainder of this fiscal year 1984-85 were approved by Benton County supervisors late Tuesday, about 55 percent reserved for possible county jail renovation or reconstruction.

Precisely \$238,956 will be placed in jail contingency fund, slightly less than the board promised last month at request hearings. This amounts to 55 percent of the total estimated fund of \$437,301.

Supervisors held a double hearing session on Jan. 20 to consider requests for the money—which becomes available again for the last two quarters of this fiscal year, and all of next year after the federal government releases the funding.

Board Chairman Harry Horak said last month all of next year's

INSIDE

The girls' basketball sectional tournament being played at Washington High is down to the Lady Bobcats and the Vinton Vlettes. Sports on page 4 and 5.

THE TIMES

Thursday, February 16, 1984, Vinton, Iowa
No. 095740, Number 69, Volume 115, 8 Pages

Supervisors allocate revenue sharing dollars

By DAVID STRABALA
Times Staff Writer

VINTON— County revenue sharing money allocations of about \$437,000 for the remainder of this fiscal year and 1984-85 were approved by Benton County supervisors late Tuesday, with about 55 percent reserved for possible county jail renovation or reconstruction.

Precisely \$238,956 will be placed in a jail contingency fund, slightly less than the board promised last month at the request hearings. This amounts to 54.7 percent of the total estimated funds—\$437,301.

Supervisors held a doubleheader hearing session on Jan. 30 to hear requests for the money—which became available again for the last two quarters of this fiscal year, and all of next after the federal government renewed the funding.

Board Chairman Harry Horak has said last month all of next year's

available funds, about \$285,000, would be held for jail construction.

But that didn't mean other requests for next year would be shunned. Actually, an allocation summary sheet simply lumps the total available money, and splits the remaining 45 percent (\$198,345) not going for a jail in favor of 1984-85 requests.

Requests for this year's new money were not as high as for next year, since some needs had been met during last year's hearing, with the limited funds available.

Out of \$56,963 in additional requests this year, \$36,898 (70 percent) were met. This takes into account categorization shifts, whereby the county courthouse repair amount was moved to next year, and the Benton County Extension Council's \$4,239 request was granted through county assistance funds instead of revenue sharing, as originally asked.

Official county department requests

accounted for over two-thirds of \$161,447 approved for 1984-85.

The final allocations arrived after over three weeks of consideration by the board.

Horak, however, stated last Friday that each supervisor had prepared his own allocation plan. "There are areas of differential, but not much," Horak said about the three members' initial plans.

Overall, the final figures approved, including funding from county assistance funds, amount to 61.9 percent of request granted. Money allocated to the following groups was 100 percent of the total requested, unless otherwise specified:

1983-84 requests granted

- \$5,000 (62.5 percent of request) to the Belle Plaine Fire Dept. for radio communication equipment.
- \$3,969 to the Norway Fire Dept. for equipment and training.

—\$3,755 to the Newhall Fire Dept. for equipment.

—\$636 to the Vinton Fire Dept. for fire hose.

—\$5,000 (88.3 percent of request) to the Shellsburg Fire Dept. for equipment.

—\$1,318 for the Dysart Rural Fire Co., for equipment and interest on a loan.

—\$1,000, Garrison First Responders, for equipment.

—\$1,350, Van Horne First Responders, for equipment.

—\$4,770, Urbana Ambulance Service, for equipment and education.

—\$4,000, (50 percent) to SEATS, for operation of three buses.

—\$5,000, sheriff's dept. for a squad car.

—\$1,100, Benton County Health Dept., for wheelchairs.

1984-85 requests granted

—\$15,000, to HACAP, for operational costs.

—\$10,000 (78.9 percent of request), city of Vinton, for the dog pound.

—\$3,000, R.S.V.P., for administrative costs for Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

—\$500, Belle Plaine Community Center, for administrative costs.

—\$10,000, Area Substance Abuse Council, for substance abuse treatment.

—\$40,000 (72.7 percent of request), Benton County sheriff's dept., for three squad cars, radio equipment, and maintenance.

—\$47,000, county data processing center, for maintenance, supplies and equipment.

—\$13,400, county auditor's office, for maintenance on parcel numbering and mapping, computer software, and revenue sharing administration costs.

—\$1,250, Garrison Fire Dept., for equipment.

—\$4,000 (40 percent of request), Van Horne Fire Dept., for fire truck payment.

—\$7,600, North Benton Ambulance, Inc., for a defibrillator.

—\$1,197, Newhall First Responders, for equipment.

—\$8,500, Benton County Supervisors, for courthouse repairs, and county car expenses.

Requests granted through county assistance funds, instead of revenue sharing:

—\$4,249, Benton County Extension Council, for an Apple III Computer (1983-84).

—\$6,500 (59.4 percent), Benton County Soil Conservation District, for newsletter, media kits, etc.

—\$2,000 (66.7 percent), for Vinton Public Library, for a copy machine.

Neppel: Soil a resource that needs protection

By BILL MARTIN
Times Staff Writer

VINTON—After a month and a half as a soil conservationist in the Benton District, Jerry Neppel can tell you there's no such thing as "a typical day" at either the office or in the field.

Neppel, 22, graduated from Iowa State University last December with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy, the study of crop production, land management and climatology. A Soil Conservation Service

employee, he is assisting the Benton Soil Conservation District headquartered in Vinton, assuming that post in late January.

He lived on a grain and livestock farm until his junior year at Carroll Kuemper High School, when his family moved into town.

Neppel's classes at college included the required courses in studying crops, soils and agricultural meteorology and update seminars, as well as "support classes,"

which included animal science, chemistry, biology, botany, English and speech.

"With my farming background, I always was with agriculture and I loved agriculture," Neppel said. "I was interested in soils and was on soil judging teams in high school and college and liked to work with the soil."

"Soil is a resource that needs protection and I thought I could do the best job with the Soil Conservation Service."

With the degree he earned at Iowa state,

Neppel's career options could also include consulting for an agronomy firm or being an agronomist for a farmer's co-op.

The job he does as a soil conservationist, developing conservation plans for farmers who request assistance while training to become a district conservationist, varies from season to season and with the weather.

Part of the year, whenever he can get

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

out in the field, is spent "staking out and surveying for conservation practices," Neppel said. "In the winter there are training meetings and I make contact with farmers for conservation projects."

He got a good idea of what he'd be doing as a soil conservationist during a summer internship in Decatur County and was recommended to be kept on for employment with the SCS.

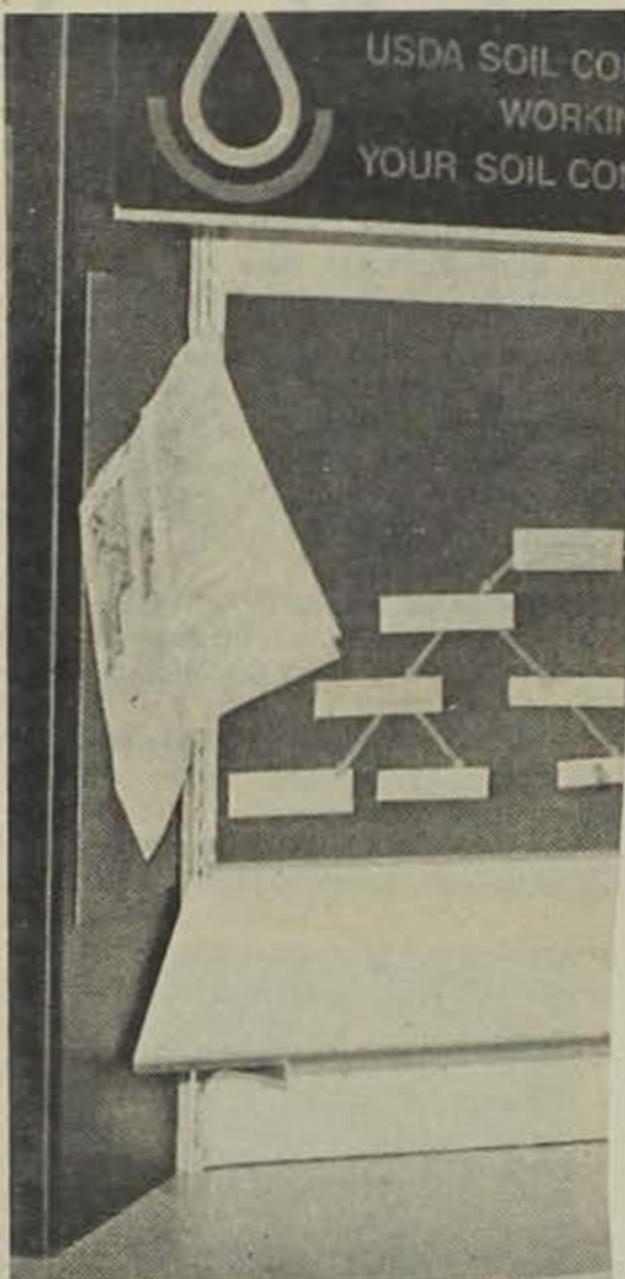
"That had been with me for a long time after I decided I couldn't really farm myself," Neppel said. "With my earlier experience in soil science, I became more interested in it as I learned more about the soil. I had a long drive to be with the Soil Conservation Service."

The difference between the steps of being a summer intern and a soil conservationist are big ones.

"As a student trainee, you aren't expected to know as much and what you said wasn't necessarily considered to be right," said Neppel. "With the soil conservation job, the farmers accept what you say as true because you are an employee of the Soil Conservation Service. 'I feel an added pressure to be right with everything I say, and there are a lot of regulations and rules we have to follow.'"

Those regulations and rules are the same every soil conservationist in each of the 100 districts in Iowa—two in Pottawattamie County and one in each of the state's 98 other counties—must abide by. Neppel has had no trouble following the guidelines and enjoys living in Vinton and working with area farmers.

"I looked Vinton over and liked it, so I came here," he said. "The experience that



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JERRY NEPPEL

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Farmers need to initiate soil-saving measures

By DAVID STRABALA

Times Staff Writer

VINTON—Benton County farmers who want help with soil erosion problems may

need to dig up a more comprehensive conservation plan, in this first year of the Iowa Soil 2000 Program.

Dennis Duello, Benton County Soil

Conservation District Commissioner, says the new cost sharing program will require farmers to implement more soil saving measures apart from those for which state funds are granted.

"It's not going to be quite as easy to get cost sharing funds. There are things farmers can do on their own to help themselves that they don't need cost sharing for. Most of it has to do with tillage and contouring," Duello said.

The Iowa Soil 2000 Program was established in 1980 to provide educational, financial and technical assistance to landowners for reducing excessive soil erosion from all Iowa land by the turn of the century, according to James Gulliford, director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

Duello said farmers applying for cost sharing first must accept an informational folder, outlining pertinent soil conservation information through graphs and tables, as well as available assistance and the obligations under Iowa law. Then they are given five years in which to spell out an effective comprehensive plan for soil conservation on all their land.

In past years, Duello said it was rare for SCS officials to go visit the farmer about conservation and 50 percent cost sharing allowances. Now, however, applicants "must at least listen to us before applying for funds," he said.

Jim Brown, district conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) here, says the distribution of educational information has begun in Benton County during the last few weeks.

The Benton County SCS is concentrating its 1984 efforts in the Buckeye Creek

Watershed area, northeast and east of Belle Plaine, Brown said.

About half the farmers in this 7,000 to 8,000 acre area have been contacted so far, and Brown said he thinks rounds will be finished before spring planting begins.

He said initial feedback has been mixed, although most farmers are accepting of the program.

"The majority feeling has not been real favorable, and not real negative. They know something has to be done—most of them agree with that," Brown added that 30 to 40 percent of farmers contacted in the watershed area have expressed interest in a conservation program for their land.

Both Brown and Duello say many farmers need to know that erosion affects their land more than is obvious.

Brown said results of a national survey indicate most farmers think erosion is a problem—"but not on their farm."

Duello said, "We need the farmer to understand that there's more soil loss out there than he's aware of."

"I think they really believe there's something to be gained from conservation measures, but they don't know how much."

Two of the biggest ways a farmer can gain are through contouring and reduced tillage, Duello emphasizes.

"On minor slopes, contouring is looked at as not doing very much good,"—but Duello said many farmers would be surprised to see the associated soil savings presented on a graph.

Reduced tillage is particularly effective; it costs the least and has the best results, Duello said.

Crop residue shields topsoil from falling raindrops which would otherwise break up the top layer of soil, causing "sheet erosion."

The erosive effects of not leaving crop residue in fields is difficult to see. Even if you stand in a field during a rainstorm, you may not see any topsoil being carried away, Duello said.

The goal of the Iowa Soil 2000 program is to limit soil losses under "T," he said. The letter stands for the rate of soil loss, in tons per acre, which will not exceed the rate at which the soil replenishes itself.

During 1983, Gulliford previously reported that the program was started in two pilot areas of eastern and western Iowa.

"Overall, pilot project feedback has been positive," Gulliford said. "Most landowners realize that the soil conservation practices outlined in the folders would be beneficial."

Cedar Valley Times
4/16/84

Youth Leadership Program sponsored statewide

VINTON—The Benton County Soil Conservation District announced that a Youth Leadership Program will be co-sponsored this summer by the County Conservation Boards, Soil Conservation Districts and Cooperative Extension Services.

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

The Benton County Soil Conservation District will sponsor one student's participation in the program, and will pay the student's fees.

Any high school students interested in attending the Youth Leadership Conservation Program should contact the Benton County Soil Conservation District office at 1701 2nd Ave., Vinton, or phone 472-2161.

Two sessions will be offered: June 25 to 28 at the State 4-H Center near Madrid; and August 6 to 9 at the Conservation Education Center near Guthrie Center.

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 the 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 four-day and three-night program is \$55.

Cedar Valley Times
5/11/84

No-till demo set at Hansen farm

BRANDON — Bob Duello will demonstrate no-till planting on Thursday, May 3 at 9 a.m. He will plant corn into bean ground using a John Deere 7000.

This demonstration will be held on the Oscar Hansen farm, 3½ miles north of Highway 101 on the Brandon blacktop. All interested persons are more than welcome.

Co-sponsoring the event is the Benton County Soil Conservation District.

Neppel: Soil a resource tha

By BILL MARTIN
Times Staff Writer

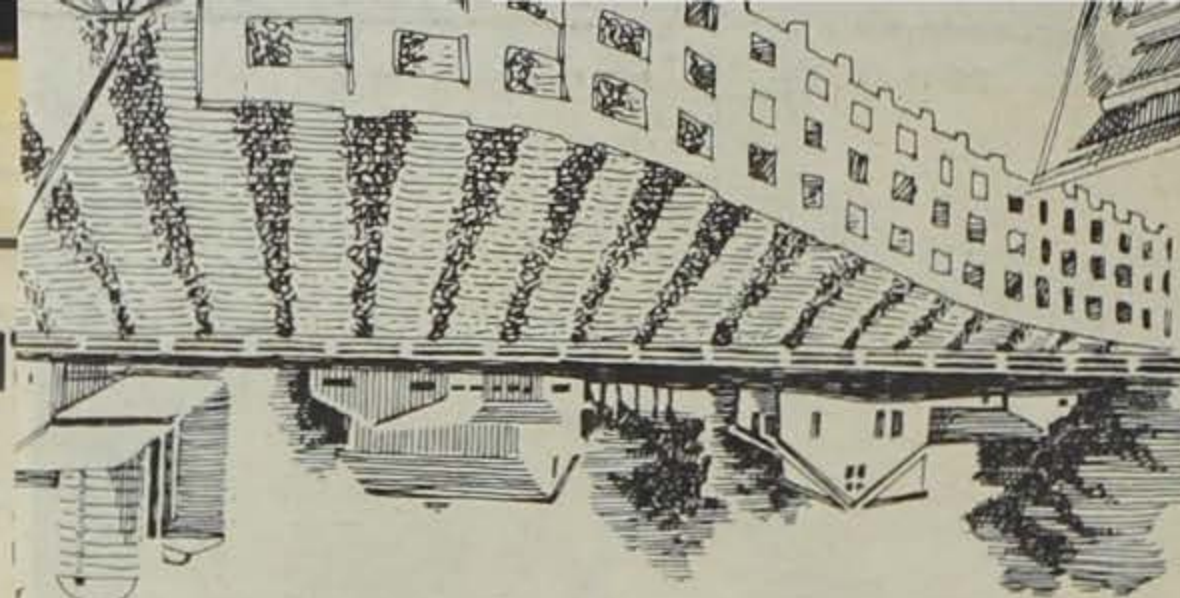
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Times, Vinton, Iowa, March 19, 1984 3

Continued from previous page

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I have had with farmers has shown me that they are progressive, good farmers, and pretty up to date with what's hap-

pening in agriculture.

"One thing this job has taught me is that every farmer is different and every far-

ming situation is different," added Neppel. "You have to work with the individual farmer."

Cedar Valley Times May 7, 1984

No-till demo rescheduled for May 9

BRANDON— The no-till planting demonstration to be given by Bob Duello on the Oscar Hansen farm has been rescheduled due to wet weather.

The demonstration will be held Wednesday, May 9 at 10 a.m. on the Hansen farm, 3½ miles north of High-

way 101 on the Brandon Blacktop. Duello will plant corn into bean stubble using a John Deere 7000. Any interested persons are welcome.

The Benton County Soil Conservation District will co-sponsor the event.

Cedar Valley Times 5/18/84



AWARD— Terry Ulch of Belle Plaine receives his award and certificate of achievement in soil conservation from Stan Geiken, chairman of the Benton County Soil Conservation District. Ulch was one of three winners of the Five Ton Soil Loss Award.

6 Times, Vinton, Iowa, May 18, 1984



Astro-Graph

Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday
May 19, 1984

Partnership situations will work out more fortunately for you this coming year if you assume the leading role, rather than the supporting one. Be a leader, not a follower.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20) Persons in step with your way of thinking will be treated with warmth and consideration today, but those who disagree with you won't.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20) You could be quite lucky again today in an area where you were recently fortunate. However, gambling on the untested will prove foolish.

PEANUTS by Schulz

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO
BE A HARBINGER OF
SPRING AND YOU MISSED
IT BY TWO MONTHS!

THAT'S RIGHT..HANG
YOUR HEAD IN SHAME...

KLUNK!

CANCER (June 21 - July 22) Involvements with friends will work pleasantly today if you have a cooperative spirit. Being self-se will dull everyone's fun.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22) Try to be each person with whom you deal respectfully. If you're nice only to those who can help you, your actions betray you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) If you are participating in a social sport with friends today, keep wagers out of the picture. Betting could alter the complexion of the event.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23) Financial indicators continue to favor you today, especially in joint ventures, but if you behave selfishly, you'll cut your margin of profit.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You may have to deal with someone today you never completely forgiven something that happened in the past.

Cedar Valley Times 5/23/84

No-till demonstration set on Kent Miller farm June 1

VINTON— A no-till planting demonstration will be held June 1 on the Kent Miller farm, one-half mile south of Brandon. The demonstration will start at 10 a.m. and there will be signs posted for direction to the field.

Kent will be demonstrating the no till

planting method by planting corn into last year's hay ground.

The event is being co-sponsored by the Benton County Soil Conservation District. There will be coffee and donuts served.

No-till field day slated

VINTON, Iowa — A no-till demonstration will be conducted June 1 at the Kent Miller farm located one-half mile south of Brandon.

The demonstration will begin at 10 a.m. There will be signs posted for directions to the field.

Miller will be demonstrating no-till by planting corn into last year's hay ground.

The event is being co-sponsored by the Benton County Soil Conservation District, and coffee and donuts will be served.

Iowa Corn

Iowa
Agri-News
5/29/84

Dime's diameter denotes disaster for county's soil

By JEFF BUTTS
Times Intern

VINTON— Imagine an acre of prime Benton County farmland. Stand a dime on its edge on the soil and push it in until it is covered with dirt. Now visualize the soil a dime's diameter deep has been ripped off that acre.

Visualize two, maybe three, dimes' diameter of topsoil off the field.

It doesn't seem like much, but just one dime's diameter off the entire face of an acre of farmland is the equivalent of 10 tons of topsoil lost and productivity reduced.

That's how much damage the rains of the past few weeks did to Benton County's bountiful soil, says District Conservationist Jim Brown of Vinton.

Some 25,000 acres of Benton County land— 7 percent of the total farm acreage in the county— suffered erosion of 20 tons or more per acre of topsoil during a two-week period alone, Brown said.

Add to that total about 280,000 acres that experienced between 5 tons and 20 tons of soil loss per acre during the same period and a lot of soil was eroded.

And if that wasn't enough, damage caused in April downpours was even



Fields in several parts of Benton County have soil loss, and after early June rains, up to 25,000 acres in the county

lost 20 or more tons of soil per acre.

worse, Brown said. Many acres received up to 30-plus tons of soil loss in that rainy period, he said.

"The thing about the April rains was that they were more widespread, while the June rains have been more concentrated," Brown said.

The rain damage occurred mostly in the northern part of the county, especially in the Mt. Auburn area, where during the period starting June 1 more than 10 inches have fallen.

"I wouldn't call it a disaster but I wouldn't call it normal erosion. It's not that severe throughout the county to call it a disaster," he said.

"Some farmers may disagree with me, if they have a lot of damage," Brown said.

Not a whole lot of damage was reported to the Soil Conservation Office in Vinton as a result of the storms, Brown said, but one farmer reported that water flowed over his terraces, the result of a one-week, 9-inch rainfall period.

Damage that did happen was the result of farmers planting across waterways. And that loss came in the way of soil, as well as seeds, herbicide and fertilizer.

Taking into account that the average soil loss in the county is considered to be 13 tons a year, the loss of 20 tons in a two period is a great deal of soil, to say the least, Brown said.

"If they lost that much in just one time,

Continued on next page

Times, Vinton, Iowa, June 29, 1984 5

Continued from previous page

if you add that to the April period, that indeed a lot of soil lost," he said.

Soil loss of more than 5 tons may result in applying more fertilizer because of the removal of prime growing material.

In a one-year period, 5 tons of topsoil are reduced in the physical and chemical information of soil lying beneath the

surface, Brown said.

It will take nature up to four years to even begin repair of the areas of 20-ton soil loss, he said. That is, if no other erosion takes place on the same acre at the time the repair is taking place.

Of course, farmers who have soil conservation practices on their land probably didn't receive as much soil loss as others who didn't, Brown said.

"Farmers who used no-till last fall found that they got very little damage after the rains in April," he said.

And while the washed-away soil is usually still somewhere on the farm— in a ditch, stream or pond— the cost of dredging up the loss is more than practicing some form of soil conservation, Brown said.

Contouring, which can involve alternating crops with meadowland, grasses and other grains, has little cost involved, he said, while it cuts soil loss by up to 50 percent.

No-till conservation may not save as much time and money, but the practice involves leaving crop residue from the year before, cutting erosion significantly, he said.

Cedar Valley Times May 7, 1984

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Cedar Valley Times 5/18/84



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LEO— Wayne Leo of Dysart shows his award on his rural Dysart farm for having an average soil loss on his entire farm of less than five tons per year. The amount is the limit set by the district as the maximum annual loss that can be sustained by most soils without losing productivity.



HONORED— In the four-year history of the Five Ton Soil Loss Awards, only 21 Benton County farmers have been recognized. Dean Harrison became a member of that exclusive group recently and shows the award given to him by the Soil Conservation District.

Cedar Valley Times 5/23/84

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Iowa Corn

Iowa
Agri-News
5/29/84

4 Times, Vinton, Iowa, June 29, 1984

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Continued from previous page

If you add that to the April period, that's a lot of soil lost," he said. A loss of more than 5 tons may result in applying more fertilizer because of the loss of prime growing material. In one-year period, 5 tons of topsoil are lost in the physical and chemical formation of soil lying beneath the

surface. Brown It will take even begin repair loss, he said. The takes place on the the repair is tak Of course, farm servation practice didn't receive as who didn't, Brown

Cedar Valley Times May 7, 1984

No-till demo rescheduled for May 9

BRANDON— The no-till planting demonstration to be given by Bob Duello on the Oscar Hansen farm has been rescheduled due to wet weather.

The demonstration will be held Wednesday, May 9 at 10 a.m. on the Hansen farm, 3½ miles north of High-

way 101 on the Brandon Blacktop.

Duello will plant corn into bean stubble using a John Deere 7000. Any interested persons are welcome.

The Benton County Soil Conservation District will co-sponsor the event.

Cedar Valley Times 5/23/84

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Let bygones be bygones.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)
Lady Luck tends to favor you today materially, but she might not be as gracious in your romantic involvements.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
Relax and enjoy yourself at social gatherings today. Subdue temptations to talk shop to persons who may be able to help further your ambitions.

If you're
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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 19)
Although end results might not be perfect, vexing situations have a way of eventually working out to your advantage today. Be hopeful.

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PISCES (Feb. 20 - March 20) You're a very compassionate and generous person. These are beautiful qualities, but be careful today that you're not used by one with ulterior motives.

You may
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ARIES (March 21 - April 19) Your judgment in financial matter today is apt to be more on target than that of those who are advising you. Trust your own evaluations.

(Newspaper Enterprise Assn.)



IF YOU'RE GOING TO
BE ASHAMED, DON'T BE
ASHAMED TOO CLOSE
TO THE EDGE.



De

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DEAR ABBY: "Chuck have been going together months. We're both 36 and Chuck told me he'd been service for 12 years but was because he developed colitis colitis could be controlled medication now, and he hopes back in again.

About a month ago I called and said, "I just came to doctor's, and I'm pregnant said, "Don't 'B.S.' me—if pregnant, it's not mine," hung up before I could say Fool!"

I called him back and said only an April Fool's joke. got really mad, called me and hung up on me.

The next day I called to apologize and he said, "Your joke terrible shock to my system I'm bleeding real bad and I'm talking to you." Then

Soil award winners announced

VINTON, Iowa — Three Benton County farmers are winners of the county Soil Conservation District's annual Five Ton Soil Loss Award.

The winners of the award are: Dean Harrison of Garrison; Wayne Leo of Dysart; and Terry Ulch of Belle Plaine.

To be eligible for the award, the average soil loss on the entire farm must be five tons per acre per year, or less.

Iowa
Agri-News
5/29/84

No-till field day slated

VINTON, Iowa — A no-till demonstration will be conducted June 1 at the Kent Miller farm located one-half mile south of Brandon.

The demonstration will begin at 10 a.m. There will be signs posted for directions to the field.

Miller will be demonstrating no-till by planting corn into last year's hay ground.

The event is being co-sponsored by the Benton County Soil Conservation District, and coffee and donuts will be served.

Iowa Corn

Iowa
Agri-News
5/29/84

Cedar Valley Times 5/23/84

No-till demonstration set on Kent Miller farm June 1

VINTON— A no-till planting demonstration will be held June 1 on the Kent Miller farm, one-half mile south of Brandon. The demonstration will start at 10 a.m. and there will be signs posted for direction to the field.

Kent will be demonstrating the no till

planting method by planting corn into last year's hay ground.

The event is being co-sponsored by the Benton County Soil Conservation District. There will be coffee and donuts served.

Soil Distrist seats open

VINTON— The terms of two Benton County Soil Conservation District Commissioners, Roman Gardner of Garrison and Don Weichman of Atkins, will expire at noon, January 1, 1985, with successors to be elected at the general election Nov. 6 of this year.

Any qualified elector residing in the soil conservation district, which is all of Benton County including its cities and towns, is eligible for the office of any one township. Gardner is from Jackson Township while Weichman resides in Fremont Township.

Prospective candidates seeking the office of soil conservation district commissioner must file nomination petitions in the same manner as for other elective positions listed on the general election ballot. No political party affiliation, however, is listed.

Nomination petitions can be obtained from the county auditor's office. The petitions, signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the county auditor at the Benton County Courthouse no later than 4:30 p.m. September 11.

Individuals elected this fall will serve a term of six years commencing January 1. Soil conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county. For further information pertaining to the responsibilities of a commissioner, contact the conservation's district office here in Vinton at 472-2161.

Conservation awards told

VINTON— Three winners, with an overall champion, in local competition of the 1984 Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program have been announced by the Benton County Soil Conservation District.

In the Owner-Operator Division, Terry Ulch was tabbed tops. Ulch farms 500 acres in Benton County's Kane Township. He also farms land in Tama County.

The Willis Mathern Estate, with tenant James Hanna, was named winner in the Owner-Tenant Division of the competition. Eugene Mathern, trustee of the estate, lives in Muscatine, Iowa, while Hanna operates the 160-acre farm in Bruce Township.

AWARDS

Continued on page 7

Awards

Continued from page 1

Ross Wiley picked up top honors in the New Cooperator Division. His 140 acre farm is located in Polk Township.

The judging committee chose the Willis Mathern Estate with Hanna as tenant as overall winner in Benton County. The team went on to represent the district in regional competition which included entries from 15 counties in east-central Iowa.

The awards program is sponsored to encourage better land use programs and environmental control on farms in Iowa. Each farm was judged for land adequately treated against soil erosion, conservation practices accomplished on the farm, community service, and general farm husbandry.

The above winners will be honored at the district's annual awards luncheon December. The state winner will be chosen in December at the annual conference of the Iowa Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

Iowa Agri News 8/24/84

Soil commissioner positions announced

VINTON, Iowa — Terms of two Benton County Soil Conservation District commissioners will expire Jan. 1. New commissioners will be elected during the general election Nov. 6.

Any qualified person residing in a soil conservation district is eligible to be a commissioner, except for people in Eden, Benton and Taylor townships.

Prospective candidates seeking the

office of soil conservation district commissioner must file nomination petitions in the same manner as for other elective positions at the general election, except that no political party is designated. Nomination petitions can be obtained from the county auditor.

These petitions, signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the county auditor at the Benton County Courthouse no later than 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 11.

Individuals elected in the November 1984 general election will serve a term of six years commencing Jan. 1, 1985. Soil conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county.

For further information pertaining to the responsibilities of a commissioner, contact the Benton County Soil Conservation District office, 1701 Second Ave., Vinton, Iowa 52349, phone 472-2161.

Conservation award winners selected

VINTON, Iowa — James Hanna of Bruce Township in Benton County was the overall winner in the county's 1984 Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program.

This awards program is designed to encourage better land use programs and environmental control on Iowa farms. Each farm was judged for land adequately treated against soil erosion, conservation practices, community service and general farm husbandry.

Hanna, a tenant on the Willis Mathern Estate, also won the owner-tenant division for the 160-acre farm he operates.

Terry Ulch of Kane Township was chosen as the winner in the owner-operator division. Ulch farms 500 acres in Benton and Tama counties.

Winner in the new cooperators division is Ross Wiley, who farms 140 acres in Polk Township.

These winners will be honored at the district's annual award luncheon in December. The state winner will be selected in December at the annual conference of Iowa Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

BENTON COUNTY FARMER

Wednesday, Sept. 19, 1984

Iowa 2000 outlines soil conservation goals

To have it said that tons of soil are being moved in Iowa each year, one might envision bulldozers and dump trucks pushing dirt from place to place. The truth is however, through the natural process of soil erosion Iowa's topsoil is moving by the tons in a virtually inconspicuous process, leaving behind it a depletion of the land's resources.

In 1980, the Iowa General Assembly enacted legislation, chapter 467.62, which established long-term objectives for the reduction of topsoil loss. That legislation, as referred to by soil conservationists as the Iowa 2000 program, provides educational, financial and technical assistance in accomplishing erosion control goals by means feasible and acceptable to farmers.

Efforts to educate area farmers by the local soil conservation districts, the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation and the USDA Soil Conservation Service have lead to a greater awareness of the soil erosion problem in Iowa. They still have a long road to travel however.

Jim Brown, Benton county district conservationist explains, "It's our purpose to serve as an educational tool in accomplishing Iowa 2000 objectives. Our first step is to make people aware of soil erosion—then concentrate on a conservation plan for the land they own."

About soil erosion

Even though a farmer can't actually see five to twenty-five tons of soil move from his acreage to the next or into the rivers and lakes, the stunning reality shows that an Iowa farmer can in fact loose that much of his topsoil through wind and rain conditions in just a year's time.

Soil erosion, as described by the Cooperative Extension Service in Ames, is the "detachment and movement of mineral particles and organic material of the soil through the action of water or wind". This means simply that rainy or windy weather conditions are responsible for moving the topsoil from it's original location to another.

During the rain, soil particles are detached by the raindrop splash and dislodged to follow run-offs moving downslope. These run-offs often channel into rills caused by natural depressions of the land or by farm implements and can eventually deepen enough to cut through the topsoil into the subsoil.

As a result of this rilling effect, topsoil particles will follow the natural water courses to rivers and lakes or be deposited in depressional sites, the base of slopes or vegetated areas.

Wind blowing over unprotected, uncovered ground is enough to detach soil particles and move them against each other. The wind will continue to move, bump and dislodge the soil particles until stopped by an impediment of some kind or until the wind stops blowing. Erosion by wind can move soil sometimes great distances from the original source.

"In this area, soil erosion by water is much more of a problem than by wind," commented soil conservationist Jerry Neppel, "most generally however, if we control a water eroding problem, a wind problem will also be controlled."

Aftermath of erosion

A net decrease in long-term productivity is one of the primary consequences of soil erosion. Plant nutrients and other organic matter are removed from the horizon of the soil surface; water holding properties of silt and clay particles are displaced as well, leaving less water infiltration and more chance of run-off.

To add to the side effects of erosion, oftentimes traces of chemical pollutants can be transported along with soil particles. Plant nutrients, pesticides and toxic metals introduced into water passageways through water soil erosion is good potential for water pollution.

Accumulation of soil moved into deposit areas can create adverse effects to everyone as well. The clogging of ditches and culverts, reduction of water storage areas, destruction of aquatic life, muddy water in recreational areas and additional processing in water treatment all add up to extra expense and time to all.

About the legislation

In order for conservation districts to achieve their erosion control goals by the year 2000, three documents have been developed in compliance with

Chapter 467.62 for distribution to farm owners and operators.

The Conservation folder is a document used at the beginning of a Conservation Iowa 2000 program; describing the process and educating the land owner on what is expected. It includes information of land topography, soil composition and other necessary facts concerning a particular farm unit.

Within five years and when funding is available, the conservation folder will be replaced with an updated farm plan for the farmer to utilize. It will then be certified by the conservation district as meeting with legislative requirement and specify expectations of soil loss control within applicable limits.

During the course of a year after the completion of the farm plan, the owner/operator must enter a soil conservation agreement in order to receive eligibility for financial and technical assistance.

"The program is actually mandatory," stated conservationist Jim Brown, "however it has been designed to be flexible enough to meet with individual needs. There is usually no problem amending the conservation plans if it is really needed."

Where to start

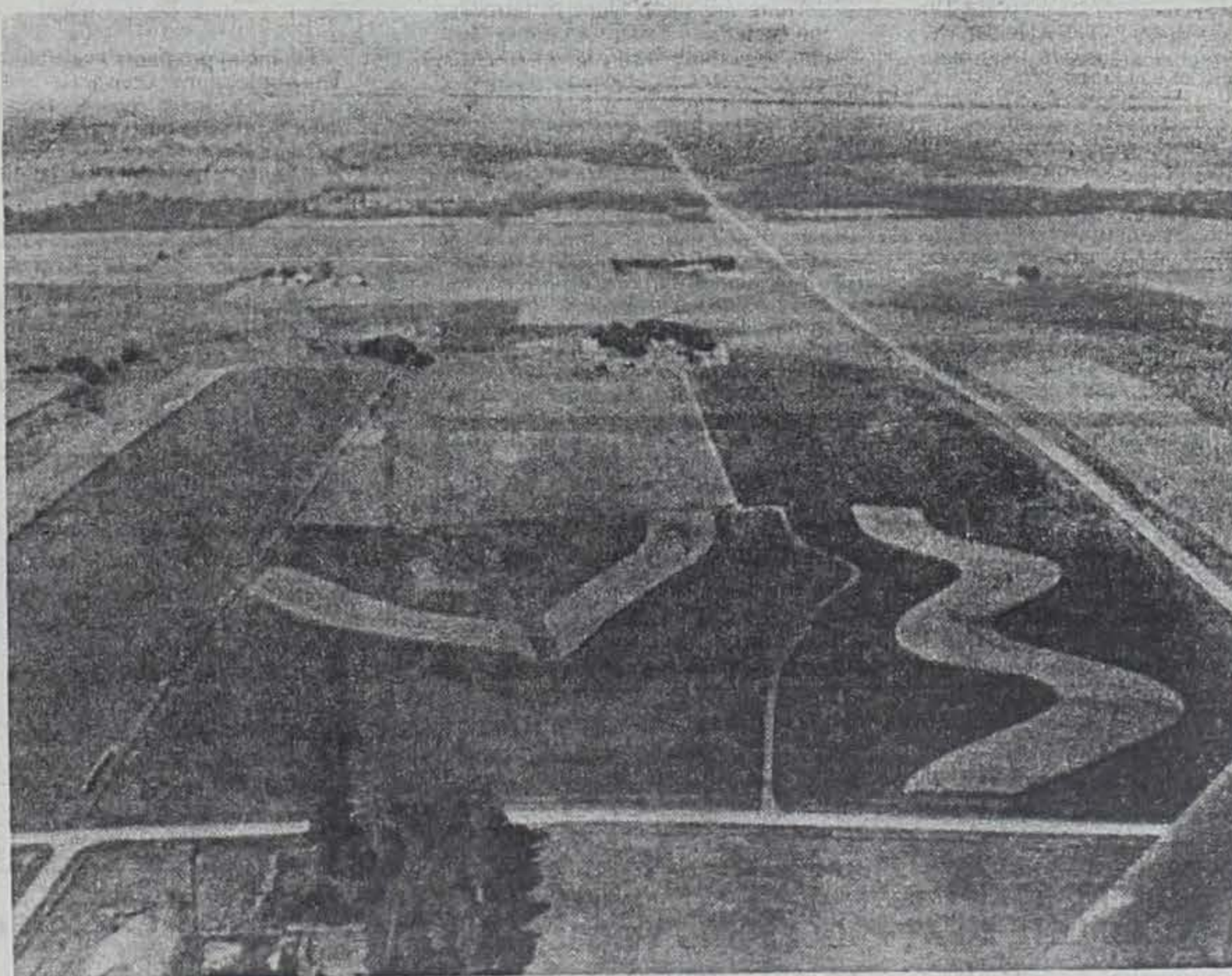
Much confusion has been noted by land owners in finding the right conservation agency to contact for consultation and advice on soil erosion. There are many and all can help. As suggested by Jim Brown and Jerry Neppel conservationists, the best route to follow is by contacting the local district conservation office in your area. They are able to initiate conservation planning and help the farmer locate technical and financial services.

Made up of local elected commissioners, the Soil Conservation Districts (one per county), are there to serve land owners on a one-to-one planning basis. They work directly with the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

The IDSC assists the district commissioners with conservation programs, financial funding and assigns state technical and clerical employees to the districts. This agency is not to be confused with the Iowa Conservation Commission which provides services for state park and recreation facilities.

A technical agency of the USDA, the Soil Conservation Service helps land

(Continued on page 2)



CONTOURING — The Don Kozik farm outside of Belle Plaine shown from aerial view with crops planted along the contour.

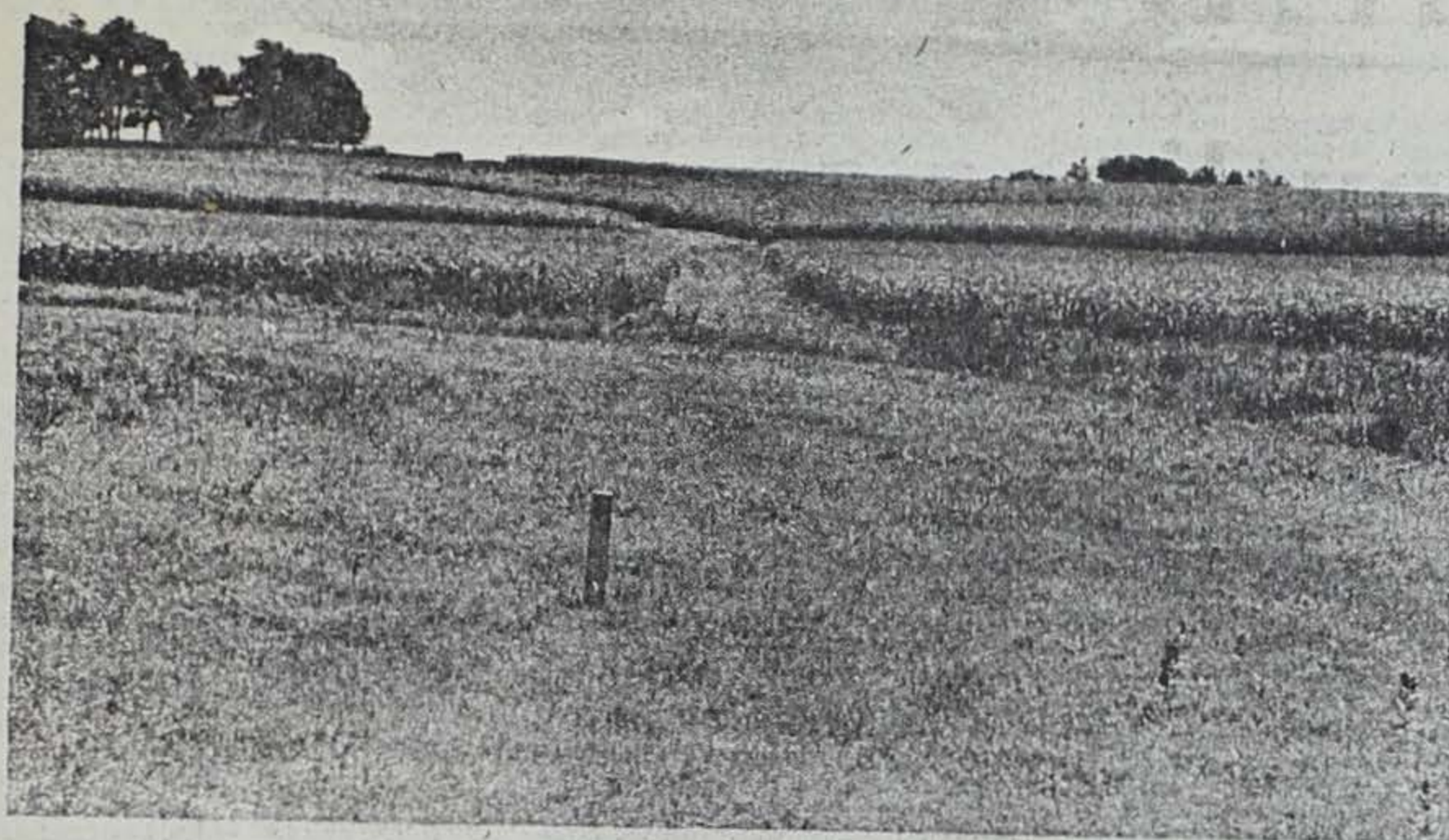
Wednesday, Sept. 19, 1984

Genetic Engineering Will Be Explored

The potential of the so-called "Genetic Revolution" will be explored on the Friday, Sept. 21, edition of Iowa Public Television's Market to Market program at 8 p.m. Friday and at 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23.

Reports on the broadcast, hosted by Chet Randolph, will focus on how genetic manipulation can be used to increase food supplies. The first of the two-part series will examine the experiments that promise to improve the nutritional qualities of food, make crops more resistant to disease, insects and weather — and make agriculture less dependent upon chemicals for productivity.

Those stories and current news about the food business can be seen on Market to Market on all Iowa Public Television stations including channel 11, Des Moines; channel 12, Iowa City; and 32, Waterloo.



CUTTING SOIL EROSION — A farm north of Belle Plaine utilizes grass waterways to protect the soil from excessive erosion during wet weather.

Iowa 2,000...

owners and operators apply soil conservation practices to the land. This agency works with both the IDSC and local districts in developing soil surveys, the monitoring of soil and water services and organizes conservation programs.

Soil conservation practices

Each individual farmer is faced with his own personal level of soil erosion. The conservation service as outlined in the Conservation Iowa 2000 folder, will provide a technical survey to determine the amount of soil loss and the type of soil conservation practices recommended to reduce it.

Things they look at are the type of soil, type of tillage, crop rotation, type of conservation practices already being used, rainfall factors and general topography such as length and steepness of slope. The Soil Conservation Service has done research and suggested one or a combination of answers to the problems facing the area.

—Conservation tillage can generally reduce soil erosion by more than half. No-till methods or slot tilling ground are

effective because they leave more residue and disturb only a thin section of the ground. Strip till or till planting opens only about 8-10 inches of ground for planting and buries more residue than in no-till methods.

—Terracing is a conservation practice that breaks the depth of a large slope into several smaller ones. This effect slows the speed of run-off and destroys some of its power to break away soil particles.

There are three types of terracing: the broadbase, where an entire slope can be farmed; the grassed backslope, with the steep backslope planted in grass; and the narrow base, with both sides of the terrace farmed.

—Contour stripcropping is particularly favorable to farmers who can utilize small grains and meadow on their farm. It is accomplished by planting row crop, small grain and meadow on the land's contour between other crops.

Any kind of farming on the contour can cut erosion in sheets or rills almost in half. Planting grasslands along the edges of a cultivated field also protects the soil from run-off losses.

—Other means of controlling exces-

sive soil erosion like grass waterways, crop rotations and diversion used alone or in conjunction with other conservation practices, can greatly reduce the topsoil loss in a farm unit.

—Crop rotation is also effective in retaining surface soil. "There is less erosion with a corn/bean rotation and even less with a corn/bean/oat type rotation," explains Jim Brown. "Small grains have a tighter root system—and hold the soil better. However in some cases it's not very economical to the farmer."

Financial programs available

The Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) is a federal program financing a 50% cost share for construction of permanent type practices and incentive payments for no-till or first time contouring. Iowa has a similar

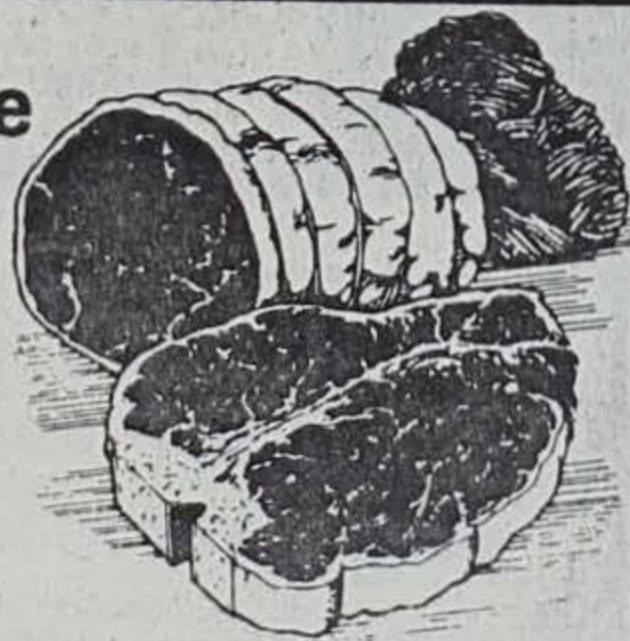
state program called the Financial Incentive Program.

Loans for soil conservation practices are available through FMHA, low interest through private lenders in conjunction with the Iowa Family Farm Development Authority and no interest loans through a state program. Information on these types of financial assistance can be obtained through consultation with the Soil Conservation Services.

Overall, an estimated 9.9 tons per acre average are lost per year on the 26 million acres of Iowa farmland. Legislation has been enacted to curb this valuable loss of topsoil and has provided through the Iowa 2000 program means of technical and financial assistance in accomplishing goal objectives.

Through the combined efforts of farm owner/operators and the district and state conservation departments, the Iowa 2000 program can be accomplished. Perhaps in time, the soil erosion of some of the finest farmland in the nation can be curbed and stabilized for maximum productivity.

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Hannen Lake undergoes erosion control project

One of the biggest advances taken toward reducing the erosion problem in Iowa was the set-aside funding by the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation for use in reducing the amount of soil moved into public lakes and rivers.

The Iowa Conservation Commission then introduced the Publicly Owned Lakes Program and set the guidelines for potential recipient areas.

In 1982, the Hannen Lake watershed area was one out of fourteen watersheds approved to receive funding for soil conservation practices. In the second year of the Hannen Lake project, the program has undergone some positive soil conservation alternatives and farmers have been responsive.

"The project enabled landowners to install conservation practices at a lower rate," commented district conservationist Jim Brown. "We still have an anticipated two to three years' work left in the Hannen Lake area before we are done."

A watershed is primarily the topographical area surrounding a basin in which water and soil movement is directed because of altitude into a water body such as a lake. This would include all property which has run-off into the lake basins.

The Hannen Lake watershed is compiled of approximately 600 acres of ground; 22% of it planted in cropland, 37% in pasture, 30% of it is park area and the remaining 11% are roads, timber and farmstead. "The cropland ranges from 7% to 20% soil loss per year," said Brown. "This can be any

where from 25 to 50 tons of soil."

Presently there are around seven landowners participating in the Hannen Lake watershed program. Wayne Rabe, Henry Grunewald, Myron Schulze, John Harder, Ed Fry and Kerns are a few of the landowners making an attempt to control the soil loss within the watershed.

Wayne Rabe and Henry Grunewald have installed terraces and built farm ponds on their property to cut down on the amount of erosion. Myron Schulze, Ed Fry and John Harder farms have installed terraces which cut the slope of their ground and reduce water and soil run-offs.

Area soil conservationists are concentrating on educating watershed landowners on other types of conservation practices also.

"The strip-till has gained more popularity over the years," explained Jerry Neppel, soil conservationist, "however some farmers are reluctant to try."

"It's all a matter of education," he continued, "many think no-till methods will not work for them—it just takes the know-how and a positive attitude. It really can work."

Other efforts have been centered around the crop rotation method of controlling soil erosion in the watershed area. Rotating beans with corn and later a season of oats greatly reduces the amount of soil loss.

As far as cost to the farmer goes, actually there is a minimum of change in expense to them using for example, contouring or no-till methods. Terracing is somewhat more expensive

initially and does require maintenance and upkeep.

There are positive results, however, from the installation of terraces. In some areas, particularly those with many or steep slopes, terracing is the only means of reducing the amount of lost soil. Funding is available through the watershed program to landowners who comply with soil conservation practices.

On no-till methods conservationist Jim Brown made the statement, "It just requires a different type of farm management—an inexperienced farmer using no-till methods probably can't do all of his acreage in the first year."

"By doing a small section at a time to start, he can gain the knowledge and experience it takes to make no-till a common practice."

Building and maintenance of ponds to catch run-off are also somewhat of an expense. However funding is allocated for use in these practices as well.

There are advantages to utilizing soil conservation practices, aside from the obvious protection of valuable topsoil. "With no-till methods, the farmer can cut down on the amount of time in the field," commented district conservationist Jim Brown.

In the Hannen Lake area cooperation by the farm owners/operators and the technical and financial assistance offered by the conservation agencies, have together taken a big step towards reducing the soil erosion problem in one of Iowa's watersheds.

Blood Pressure

A total of 102 persons had blood pressure readings taken prior to the annual Farm Bureau supper meeting, Sept. 10, at the Seven Villages restaurant.

Three persons were referred to the public health office for follow-up blood pressure rechecks because their diastolic readings were 90 to 95. Eight persons were referred to their personal physicians with diastolic readings of 95-110, although a single blood pressure reading does not indicate hypertension. There were more men than women with elevated pressures. The number of referrals was 11 percent.

A blood pressure reading consists of two numbers. The diastolic number is the bottom reading and the systolic number is the top reading, ie, 140/90 or systolic/diastolic. The systolic reading is the contraction of the heart, whereas the diastolic reading is the relaxation phase of the heart.

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Homer Showman, left, and farmhand Dale Beatty show one of Showman's no-till bean fields. Insects have eaten most of the trash.

Showman takes out insurance against soil erosion to assure continuation of family farm

By LYN HANSON
Times Staff Writer

SHELLSBURG— Homer Showman's farm has been in his family for about 130 years. And, when the time comes to pass it on to his children, he'd like to make sure some of the rich black topsoil is still left.

That's one reason he didn't plow his fields before planting his corn and beans this season.

Showman has long practiced conservation tillage, but this is the first time he has planted all his crops — except for those in 20 low-lying acres — using the no-till method.

He had several reasons. First, he got a new planter, one that can be used for either conventional or conservation farming. Second, he wanted to plant his 300 PIK acres to corn, using trash from the alfalfa and clover planted in 1983 to anchor

the soil.

Third, and most important, Showman believes in the importance of saving the soil.

"I'm more concerned with soil loss than anything," he said. "I want to be able to pass on the good soil to my kids. People will have to eat 100 years down the road."

Showman got his first exposure to conservation practices soon after he received his degree in farm operations from Iowa State University, Ames, in 1975. He worked for a farmer near Estherville, who had used no-till for 12 years.

Showman farmed on his own for awhile near Manchester before moving to the family farm southwest of Shellsburg — a farm that was homesteaded in about 1834, as attested by documents signed by Pres. Franklin Pierce.

During his first crop year at the Shellsburg farm, in 1980, he saved soil by contouring and using a Sidewinder. He took the plunge into total no-till farming this season, planting 300 acres of beans on unplowed bean acres and 300 acres of corn on PIK acres.

The results have been every bit as good as those Showman would have expected from conventional plowing — in some cases, better.

For instance, Showman's no-till experience this season showed that not all no-till farmers have weedy fields.

"To be honest, the crops this year are the cleanest I've ever had," he said.

He used no more herbicide than he would have used for conventional tillage; in fact, by changing brands, he spent less on his bean herbicide program than last year.

Showman applied herbicide twice — once in April, about three weeks before planting, and again just after planting.

Before planting the alfalfa and clover fields to corn, he sprayed each acre with two quarts of Bladex, mixed with water. In the bean fields, his pre-plant herbicide consisted of spraying two pints Dual, one-third pound Lexone, two-thirds pound Lorox and one quart crop oil.

The spring rains activated these herbicides, and they eradicated most of the weeds. But those which remained were taken care of with his pre-emergence applications:

—Corn— one quart Bladex, 1 quart Atrazine and one pint 2,4,D ester, mixed with 28 percent nitrogen carrier, per acre.

—Beans— One pint Rival, one-third pound Lexone and two-thirds pound Lorox, per acre.

Showman opted not to use no-till on one field because it was infested with orchard grass, which would not easily respond to herbicide; he had to disc it under.

At no time, Showman said, did he have to use Paraquat as an herbicide.

Showman concedes, however, that insects are more of a problem in no-till fields than in plowed fields, because the trash in the fields provides an environment conducive to insect breeding.

But crop rotation takes care of much of the insect problem, he pointed out.

"You may have to spray in the summer if you have corn on corn acres, as I did, but people who plow with a moldboard have the same situation," he said.

And, if his yields are a little less than he

SHOWMAN

Continued on page 6

Conservation efforts extend into Showman's grove of trees

By LYN HANSON
Times Staff Writer

SHELLSBURG— For Homer Showman, soil conservation doesn't stop with his corn

and bean fields.

His conservation efforts extend to a grove of trees he's planted around his fields, to serve as a windbreak and,

eventually, as a habitat for wildlife.

The grove couldn't break much of a wind now. Planted just two years ago, the tallest trees aren't more than five feet high, and

most are shorter.

But by the time Showman's three pre-TREES

Continued on page 6



Homer Showman stands by a pine tree he planted in his grove; it's one of approximately 1,000 trees that work against the wind with some 2,000 bushes.

Trees

Continued from page 4

school-age sons are old enough to farm the land, some of the pine trees will tower up to 80 feet high, given a little luck and a lot of care from Showman.

He planted more than 1,000 trees and 2,000 bushes in the windbreak, in seven rows each a half-mile long, with about 200 trees per row.

Trees and shrubs included in the windbreak are honeysuckle, red cedar, white pine, red pine, Norway spruce, pin oak and red osier dogwood.

The two outside rows consist of berry-producing shrubs and dogwood. Inside rows are planted with trees that will, eventually, be very tall.

Some of the trees were obtained from the state of Iowa, and others were purchased from private nurseries. All were planted by hand.

Though Showman is a farmer by trade, he has a longstanding love for wildlife, and, as his plants grow, he hopes they will be used as a habitat by pheasants, quail and other indigenous species.

But the grove will also have the function of cutting off the wind from his fields, and serving as a natural snow fence in the winter.

The windbreak is sort of S-shaped, winding around his field.

Much of the area where the trees now stand was once pasture, while another portion was once part of the Showman hog

operation and a third portion was once part of the crop field.

Caring for the windbreak is a difficult task, Showman said. Grasses must be controlled with hand-weeding and herbicides, lest they choke the small trees and shrubs.

And, cultivating the windbreak has not been without its frustrations. Recently, he planted hybrid poplars - which are supposed to grow about eight feet a year - and his hogs got loose and ate them.

But Showman says the windbreak is a labor of love for him - an investment in the future of the approximately 130-year-old farm.

Showman can point to trees in the farm's grove and tell when they were planted - when his grandmother was a girl, or when

his father was a boy.

The farm, called "Homer Narber" farm, has been in the family since approximately 1854, when it was homesteaded. The farmhouse was built in 1893.

Showman was born on this farm, but he did not assume ownership of it until 1980 - and before then, spent very little time there.

The son of a missionary whose name was also Homer, Showman lived in various mission fields around the world, including the Philippines and Labrador, in northeastern Canada.

"I never lived in one place more than five years all my life," Showman reflected. "If I stay here another year, I'll break that record."

Showman

Continued from page 2

might have gotten if he'd turned the soil over before planting. Showman isn't complaining.

"If there is a yield reduction, I'd get it back in reduced amount of machinery use, reduced labor, reduced time in the field, reduced fuel," he said.

Any yield losses which Showman may

experience this harvest may be due not to his planting method, but to the lack of rain in late summer.

The crops look good now, he said. In about a week, he'll be ready to combine beans.

Even Showman's neighbors comment that his fields look good. At least one plans to try no-till, on a limited basis, next year.

Some farmers are slow to change to no-till, Showman said, because soil loss is not a problem people can easily see.

He said he does not favor laws forcing farmers to practice conservation, though he said that may happen if the soil loss situation gets worse.

"I'm fundamentally against government regulations," he said. "I get con-

cerned when the government starts mandating how we can and can't farm."

But regulation may not be needed if farmers turn to soil conservation of their own accord - which is what Showman believes is happening.

"It may seem like a slow process, but I think there's been a fundamental change in the way people farm," he said.

Harrison's corn is clean, thanks to no-till practice

"The cleanest corn we've had" is how Dean Harrison of Garrison describes his 50 acres of no tillage corn.

For Harrison, who farms with his son Pat, this is the first year that he has gone 100 percent no-till. He said that he has experimented with no-till in the past but last year, when he no-tilled 50 percent of his land, convinced him that no tillage was the way to go.

He said that, even though there was a drought, his no-till corn yielded 50 bushels more per acre than that which had been conventionally tilled.

Besides increased yields, Harrison also said soil erosion is noticeably less. "I'll bet we didn't even lose a five-gallon bucket off this ground," he said pointing at some no-till corn.

He also said that the soil is looser than before and that his costs are less. "We used more diesel to chop 30 acres of hay than to plant 500 acres of corn," he added.

Harrison said that after he hauls manure from his cattle operation on to the fields in the spring and applies herbicide he only



Dean Harrison, left, and his son Pat stand in their field of no-till corn. Harrison no-tilled all his acres this year, and said his crops

are 'the cleanest I've had yet.'

has to make two more passes across his continuous corn fields. The first pass is with his four row John Deere 7000 planter fitted with trash wipes, which also applies starter fertilizer. The last pass is to sidedress nitrogen.

He said that he is going to sell all his big machinery because he doesn't need it anymore. "I don't think I'll ever buy another big tractor. The only thing we need

a big tractor for now is blowing silage."

Harrison said that he hasn't spent any more money on herbicide with no-till than he has in the past. "It's the first time since chemicals came out that I think I'm getting the weed control that I paid for," he added.

Harrison applies a mixture of 2,4-D and atrazine before planting at a cost of about \$15 an acre. He also had to apply a post-emergence mixture of Banvel and atrazine to an alfalfa field that had been planted to corn.

The county soil conservation office has recognized Harrison's conservation efforts, which include terracing and tiling, by giving him an award for having a soil loss of less than five tons per acre.

Harrison said that he plans to continue with no-till but he said he needs to find a way to apply more phosphorous and potassium without adding more trips across the field. He also said he would like to find some other way besides sidedressing to apply nitrogen, which he said is contributing to some soil erosion.

Contest open for soil conservation

VINTON— The Benton County Soil Conservation District is announcing its annual poster contest for elementary students in grades 3 through 6. The students must live in Benton County to be eligible.

The theme for the 1984 contest is "Soil Conservation."

There will be two divisions in the contest, the first for students in the third and fourth grades, the second division for students in the fifth and sixth grades. Cash prizes of \$10, \$7.50, and \$5 will be awarded in each division. Posters may be done in any medium, and can be up to 22 inches by 28 inches in size.

The student's name, address, phone number and division must be on the back of the poster. Entry deadline is Nov. 7 of this year with judging to be held Nov. 14.

Entries should be sent or taken to the Benton County Soil Conservation District office located at 1701 2nd Ave., Vinton. For additional information, contestants are urged to call the district office at 472-2161.

2 Times, Vinton, Iowa, November 1, 1984



MR. & MRS. SCOTT MICHAEL

Yarbrough and Michael unite

URBANA—Sharon Yarbrough and Scott Michael were married Oct. 27, 1984 at St. Mary Catholic Church in Urbana. The 2 p.m. double-ring ceremony was officiated by Fr. William Clark.

Parents of the couple are Ernest and Addamae Yarbrough, Toddville, and Anthony and Deloris Michael, Walker.

The church was decorated with sprays of pink and burgundy carnations, daisies, and chrysanthemums.

The bride wore a white A-line dress offset with lace and pearl sequins. Her flowers were carnations and stephanotis.

Jean Rambo, Urbana, was the maid

of honor. Ellen Stuelke and Deb Pollock of Center Point were bridal attendants. They wore pink Southern belle dresses and carried burgundy carnations with stephanotis.

Best man was Jeff Bervid, Urbana. Richard Rambo and Jeff Long of Urbana were groomsmen. Ushers were John Stuelke, Center Point, and Jerry Clair, Cedar Rapids.

Andrea Rambo was flower girl, and Scott Michael was ringbearer.

Both mothers of the couple wore blue dresses with pink chrysanthemum corsages.

Music was provided by vocalist Daryl Lyndt, and organist Rita Kelty.

HOLIDAY CRAFT BAZAAR

Blairstown Legion Hall

SAT., NOV. 3rd

9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Also on the ballot are two proposed amendments to the Iowa Constitution, a proposition asking Van Horne citizens if they wish for City Council terms to be four years instead of two, a question of retention on each of 12 judges, a vote for one of two candidates for regional library trustee, and two votes for three candidates seeking to become soil conservation commissioners.

The commissioner's race may not end Nov. 6 as a ballot error does not

Couple wed in Nashua

NASHUA—Kelly Rae Hunt and James Voss exchanged vows Oct. 14, 1984 at the Little Brown Church, in Nashua, Iowa. Rev. John W. Christy officiated the 3 p.m. double-ring ceremony.

Parents of the couple are Rex and Karen Hunt, Cedar Rapids, and Don and Elaine Voss, rural Palo.

Ferns with dusty rose and navy ribbon decorated the church.

The bride's dress featured a Queen Anne's neckline and a pearled and lace bodice. The sleeves and bottom of the dress were sheer.

The bride carried rose-colored carnations, white, sweetheart roses, and one gardenia.

Maid of honor was Kristin Hunt, sister of the bride. She wore a floor-

length, rose-colored gown. Tami Evert was personal attendant. Sonya Burlengam attended the book. Best man was Daniel Voss, Jr., brother of the groom, of Hiawatha, Iowa.

Mrs. John Christy sang "A Man and a Woman," and "The Wedding Song." The bride's mother wore a mauve-colored dress. The groom's mother wore a lavender-wine-colored dress. Both wore rose-colored carnation corsages.

A dinner and reception were held at the Garden Villa Restaurant, Cedar Rapids for approximately 70 guests.

The couple planned a wedding trip to the Holiday Inn. They reside at Kirkwood Estates, Cedar Rapids.



MR. & MRS. JAMES VOSS

SERVICE NOTES

Navy Fireman William S. Amsden, son of Owen D. and Geraldine M. Amsden of Vinton, has completed

cycle, studied general military subjects designed to prepare him for further academic and on-the-job

Dysart News

Church has a

By ALICE BERRY

Times Correspondent

The celebration of the 38th anniversary of the Dysart Cornelian Club was held at the Dysart United Methodist Church last Monday evening. Sixty-two members, former members and guests attended the anniversary. The Club was started in 1946 by Mary Wunder of Dysart and Mary Borwick, now of Des Moines. Thirteen of the original 30 members were present. Norma Anders, local Federated Women's Club pres., was an invited guest, as Art Borwick, former coach of Dysart, also Agnese Docekal presided over the punch bowl, and members renewed friendship. A welcome was given by Naomi Hix. A memorial service was conducted by Frances Larsen for deceased members, Rose Hennessey, Magalene Wiebecke, Hazel Reed and Cecile Plank. Imogen Matthiesen recognized guests for comments. Letters were received from former members unable to attend. Lynn Leo Hopkins presented a slide program from Indonesia. The evening closed with refreshments served by committee of Ruth Overton, Velda Seebach, Thelma Reed and Margaret Lutz. Former members attending were: Frances Degner, Audrey Lenaburg of Traer, Lucile Wilson, Lila Winters, Mildred Belhuis, Francelest Helm, Marjorie Bauer of La Porte City, Elsie Kiedel, Pauline Thoren, Cindy Pippert, Fay Cranston, Helen Van Tassel, Dorris Hook, Lavon Raub, Maxine Wilson, Mary Borwick of Des Moines, Harriett Holtz and Neva Leo. Guests were Ruby Stein, Lyn Hopkins and Art Borwick. Letters received were from: La Rue Lange of Oskaloosa, Marjorie Hannifan, Knoxville, Wilma Broz of Marion, Frances Griffin, Brenton, Mo., Gladys Monroe of Springfield, Mo., Anita Frankhauser of Cedar Falls, Vera Lamprecht Straus of Guttenberg and Marie Bader. Also a phone call from Emma Goldenstein of La Chapel of Chicago.

Area briefs

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Felts and Mrs. Warren Scott of Bakersfield, Calif. returned home after spending a week visiting relatives in Lake Ozarks and Springfield, Mo. and also at Salem, Ark. Monday the Felts took Mrs.

Dysart News

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lock and Mrs. Nadine Gray attended the open house for Rev. Holm in Victor.

Paul's, Traer; Friday, Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m., St. Patrick's, Tama.

ing held in Belle Plaine

an Geiken; Jim Brown, district soil nsevationist; Jerry Neppel, from the il Conservation Commission and Lee rader, a new soil conservationist in area. The program began with a slide presentation on the progressing concern for erosion throughout Iowa and basi- / explained how the landowner-

/farmer is able to identify soil erosion on his or her land.

Kyle Hummel then spoke to the group about the program and legisla- tion that has led up to the need for soil conservation practices within Benton county. A brief discussion on the Iowa 2000 program then closed the meeting.



met with Iowa 2000 tive Kyle

Hummel in Belle Plaine last Tuesday to discuss soil con- servation practices.

A church will be sent community Dec. 3 Ar Frances W mans went in Marshall the gift wa The ann packed Dec school.

Sharon I served lun door prize.

A surpri Dec. 3 hon- observed Attending family, Ern brother Jel Mrs. LeRoy ing was sp was served Jack Wi through Fr attended : Mr. and daughter; Mrs. Milto day visitor Dolash.

Mr. and her father the Beth Mrs. Al that her s the state surgery. l ple in thi Mr. ai accompa kinson to day, Dec. observed

*Belle Plaine
union
12/12/84*

Contest open for soil conservation

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The theme for the 1984 contest is "Soil Conservation."

There will be two divisions in the contest, the first for students in the third and fourth grades, the second division for students in the fifth and sixth grades. Cash prizes of \$10, \$7.50, and \$5 will be awarded in each division. Posters may be done in any medium, and can be up to 22 inches by 28 inches in size.

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VINTON— Jean Sturtz, the 32-year-old Republican candidate for Benton County Clerk of Court, provides voters with a long resume, one that is not absent of public duty. Sturtz is presently serving as a school board member in Urbana where she and her husband Roger, and one

Sturtz eyes
clerk's job,
points to
background



nd as few races are sure bets

Election

Continued from page 1

their district covers the southern tier of the county, all eligible voters in the county can cast a ballot for one of the two.

Challenging for the District II supervisor seat are two candidates from Vinton. Dell Hanson, owner and manager of a local implement dealership, is the Republicans' choice having defeated Duane Johnson in the June primary. Jane LaGrange, a City Council representative here, is the Democrats' choice having bested fellow council representative Richard Schoonover in June.

Two key issues of the supervisor's elections are the proposed construction of a new county jail and the formulation of a land use policy. In comments delivered at Candidates' Night here in Vinton last week, all four believe a new county jail is in the makings, first as a mandate by state officials, secondly as a way to avoid expense charges for the transportation of prisoners.

On the national level, Democrat Joe Johnston of Tiffin is making a run at Congressman Cooper Evans, the Republican incumbent from Grundy Center, for the U.S. House of Representatives. Polls have Johnston trailing by double digits.

In what many believe to be the messiest race of the year, Sen. Roger Jepsen (incumbent Republican) and Congressman Tom Harkin from Iowa's 5th Dist. are exchanging barbs, comparing records, and calling one another names in hopes of gaining a 6-year U.S. Senate seat.

Also on the ballot are two proposed amendments to the Iowa Constitution, a proposition asking Van Horne citizens if they wish for City Council terms to be four years instead of two, a question of retention on each of 12 judges, a vote for one of two candidates for regional library trustee, and two votes for three candidates seeking to become soil conservation commissioners.

The commissioner's race may not end Nov. 6 as a ballot error does not

indicate that Leland Schrader, Jr., is running unopposed, while William Kerkman and Maynard Krug are vying for the other open seat. Should Kerkman and Krug receive the most votes of the three men, a special election may have to be held.

It is a busy ballot, indeed, and while most of the attention in the presidential sweepstakes has been focused on the tickets of the two major political parties, there are six other presidential candidacies, ranging from the traditional team of Gus Hall and Angela Davis representing the Communist Party to the Big Deal Party candidates, Gerald Baker of Iowa and Ferris Alger of Pennsylvania.

Other presidential dreamers are Lyndon La Rouché (nominated by petition), Dennis L. Serrette (nominated by petition), Mel Hanson of the Socialist Workers Party, and David Bergland of the Libertarian Party.

8 Times, Vinton, Iowa, December 12, 1984



LANDLORD / TENANT — The Winners in this category were Jim and Sue Hanna and Joyce and Eugene Mathern.

Harold and Ruby Smith were winners of the Izaak Walton Windbreak Award but were not available for the picture.

County Soil Conservation Award Winners



NEW COOPERATOR DIVISION—Ross and Shirely Wiley were presented the New Cooperator Division award at Monday's Soil Conservation award banquet at the Vinton County Club.



OWNER-OPERATOR DIVISION—Terry and Gloria Ulch were awarded the owner-operator award at the Soil Conservation award banquet on Monday. Ulch received the award for the work he has done on the farm he owns and operates.



RETIRING COMMISSIONERS—Roman Gardner and Don Weichman were awarded special plaques at Monday's award banquet. Gardner had been a commissioner for 13 years and Weichman for 15 years. One of the commissioners' duties is to encourage conservation through education.



SOIL STEWARDSHIP—Henry Lyphout receives his Soil Stewardship Award from Stan Geiken, chairman of the Benton County Soil Conservation District. Lyphout received the award for his outstanding work in the soil conservation field.

Duello's black magic is seed of fertile mind

Planter rolling off
assembly line

By J. DAMON CAIN
Times Editor

VINTON—Denny Duello took a seed of an idea, planted it in the tireless study hours of three days and two nights—most of which was without sleep, and came away with a product the Vinton farmer likes to call, "black magic."

Magic it isn't. Geometrics, yes, and a certain improvement in planting efficiency. And what Duello invented is now rolling off a farm machinery assembly line in Shelbyville, Illinois.

Officially, the product of Duello's fertile imagination and determination is a bi-fold planter frame called the "Black Machine." Duello's design allows a farmer to switch from the skip row planting of soybeans in 15-inch rows to the 30-inch row planting of corn, all within a minute, all by hydraulics, all in the field.

Duello, admitting he was tired of the same old planting methods of the

past, checked out what various implement dealers had on hand, and recognized the tandem or two-bar planter as a direction he was most interested in pursuing.

Still, he said, the tandem bar set-up had a huge disadvantage. "Half of your planter investment was in the shed and I thought what a waste that was. That's when I began to work with the geometry of it. Three days, two nights and very little sleep later, I had it."

Duello tested his first prototype last year, planting 600 acres and not encountering any problems.

"I convinced myself on paper that it would work," said Duello, a confident, headstrong and engaging young man, 41 years old. "Then, after the scale model was built, I knew for sure. When you see it work on a scale like that, there's no refuting the results, and it worked just like it was supposed to."

Duello's next step was to convince farmers and manufacturers that the

planter would work, that it would unfold from the stacked, 13-row planter for soybeans to the longer, 12-row planter for corn.

Duello and Kenny Williams, a former farmer and former employee at Hawk Bilt here in Vinton, began work on the second prototype. The first was without hydraulics and required manual effort to fold and unfold its wings. Because part of the concept's attraction was with its efficiency of time, hydraulics to perform the folding was a natural.

That second prototype was hauled to the Farm Progress Show in Fisher, Illinois this past year, an ag-land showcase for farm machinery. Duello said the trip was made for two reasons: first, he wanted to "test the appeal of the product," to see if its unique operation carried a value; and second, to check farmers' responses, to see "how much of a market there was."

"The response at the Farm Progress Show was overwhelming," said Duello.

"I was convinced that the planter should be produced even in the stagnant economy that we have right now."

And you can take Duello's word for it, he's glad the hydraulics were installed.

"Once we got it set up we never shut it down," he said. "If we didn't run it, if we just let it sit there, it looked like some strange piece of machinery and people would walk right by. But once we had it operating, then people took an interest, they saw how it actually worked. We figure we put 43 years of lifetime operation on it at the show and we didn't have one bit of problem with it."

Since Black Machine's exposure at the Farm Progress Show, it has been receiving a good deal of attention from various farm and agri-business publications. One man traveled all the

MAGIC

Continued on page 7



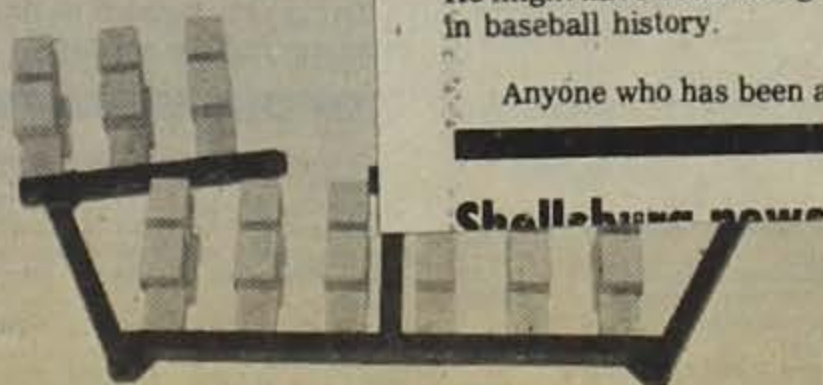
HYDRAULICS—Adding hydraulics to the Black Machine planter makes the switch from planting skip row beans to 30-inch row corn a snap. Kenny Williams, who helped Denny Duello build the first two prototypes, shows how the hydraulics work. Easy.



INVENTOR AND FRIEND—Denny Duello, standing behind his piece of magic, got a good deal of help from Kenny Williams in putting together this prototype

that will be on public display next Saturday. Duello invites all curiosity seekers out to his farm just east of Vinton for a look at how the planter works.

Cedar Valley Times
Jan. 18, 1985
One of our
Commissioners



Cleveland Indians, said: "Moving Babe Ruth to the outfield is a serious mistake. He might have become a great pitcher." All Ruth did was become the top slugger in baseball history.

— Line Fence Lingo —

Anyone who has been around radio and television stations knows that all the

Shelbyville news

fertilizer application bars, wagons and hoists.

Duello chose P&H from a list of a dozen bidders, saying the Illinois company offered the greatest factory capacity for getting the job done, had a

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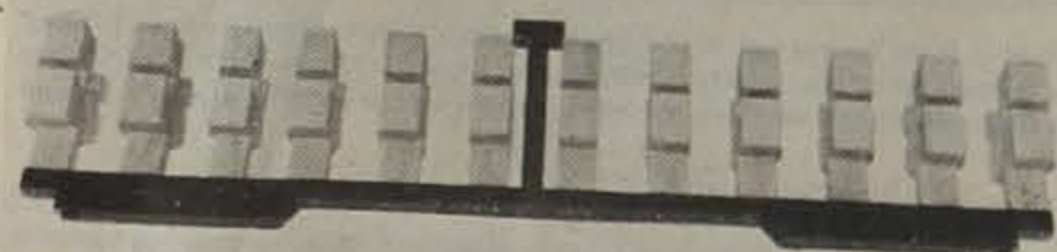
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A little bit o' magic

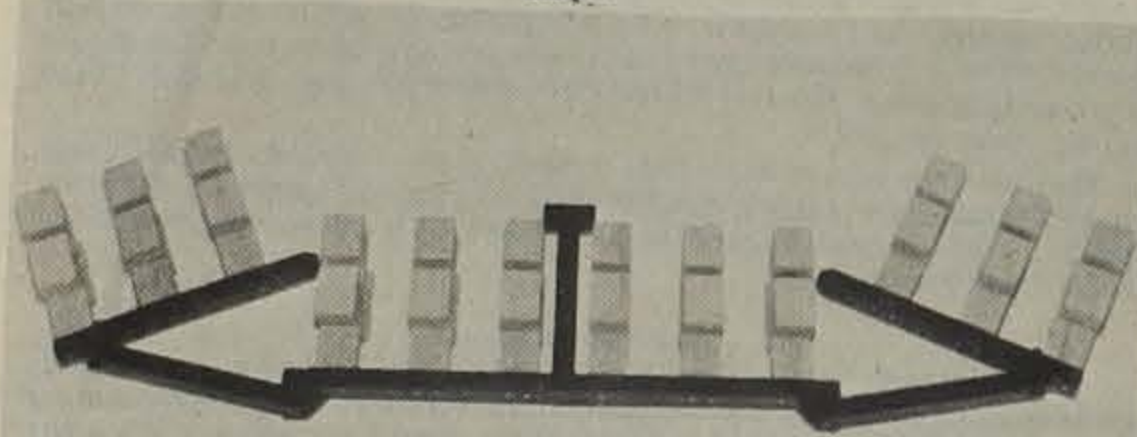
Kenny Williams, at Denny Duello's request, pieced together a simple scale model of the Black Machine planter, and it is shown, in its different stages of folding, below.

From top to bottom, the machine through the use of hydraulics, folds from a 12, 30-inch row corn planter into a compact, stacked 13, 15-inch row soybean planter. All in a minute's time.

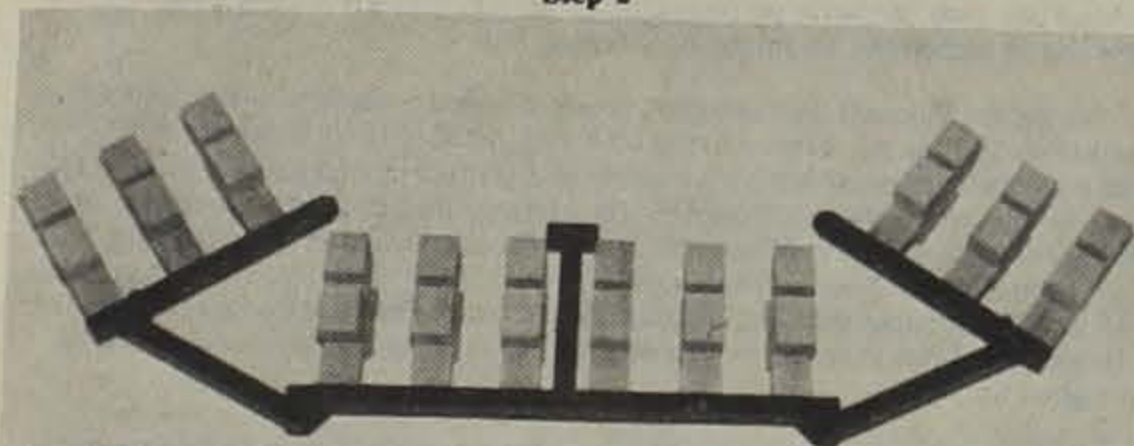
The planter is rolling off the assembly line in Shelbyville, Illinois.



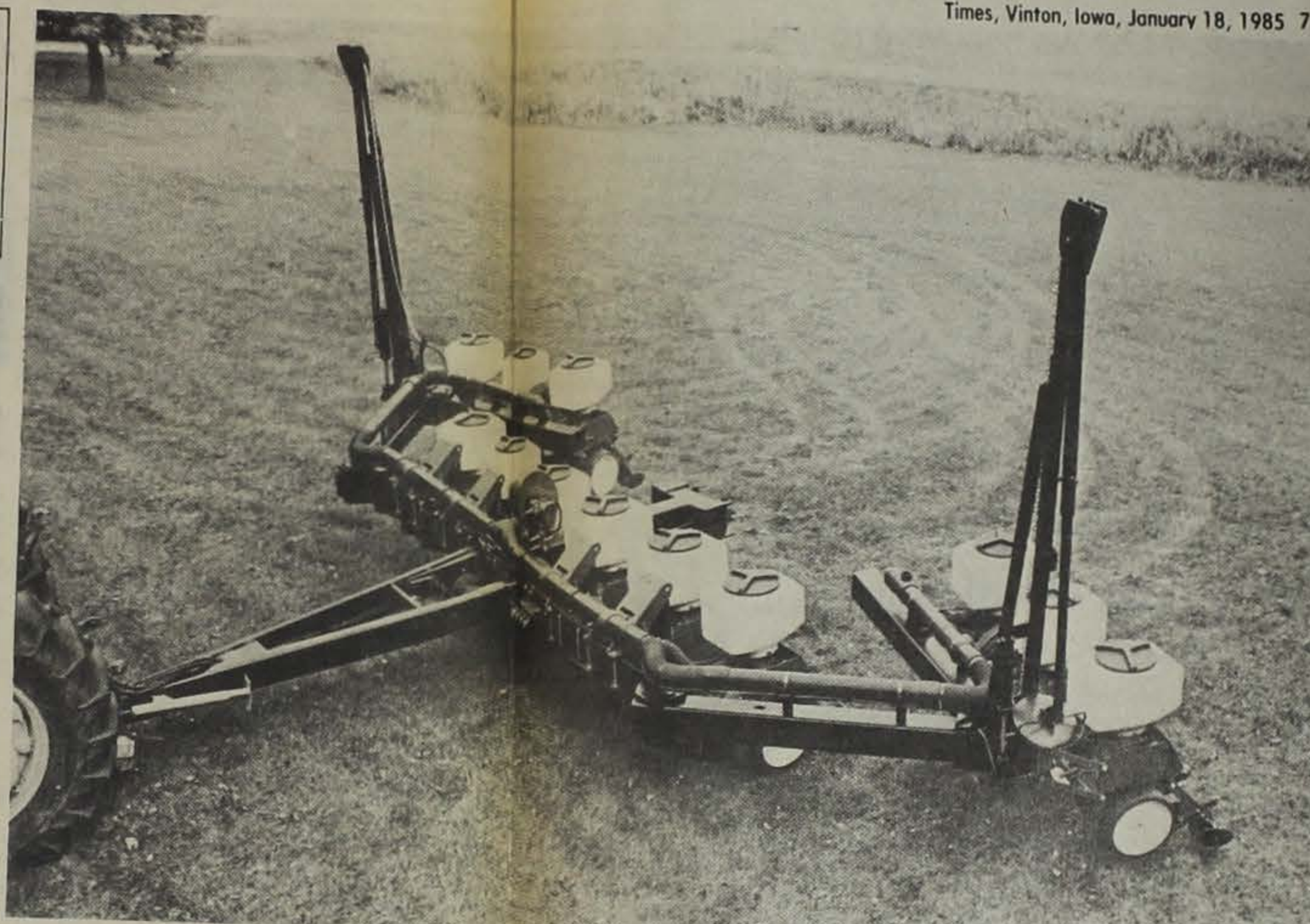
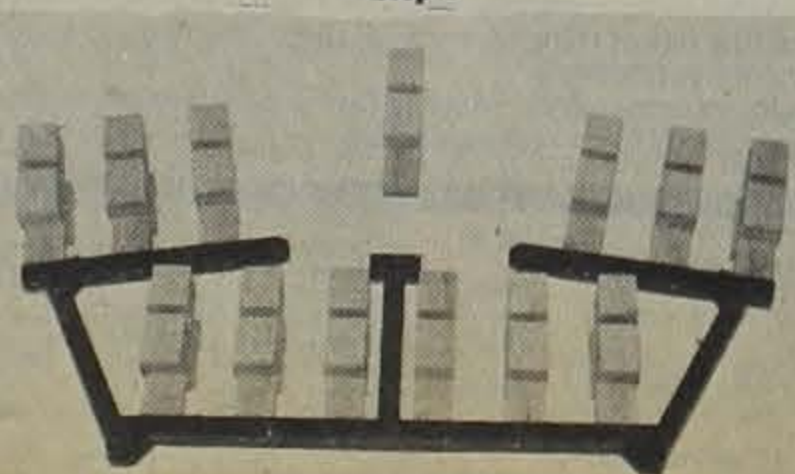
Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Partially unfolded (or is it partially folded?), the Black Machine was sturdy enough to withstand 43 years of use all in three days at a Farm Progress Show.

Magic

Continued from page 1

way from Indiana to take a look at Duello's invention and now the Vinton farmer-inventor is in contact with some 700 parties which have expressed an interest in owning a Black Machine.

In fact, Duello said, "People know more about it in other parts of the farm belt than they do here."

As packaged, the planter comes equipped with the frame, hitch, hydraulics, markers, lift wheels, gauge wheels and cylinders, everything but the separate planter units.

Black Machine is being manufactured by P&H Manufacturing Company of Shelbyville, Illinois, which also manufactures bulk fertilizer spreaders, fertilizer application bars, wagons and hoists.

Duello chose P&H from a list of a dozen bidders, saying the Illinois company offered the greatest factory capacity for getting the job done, had a

central corn belt location, and was the easiest to work with. Oh yes, Duello added, P&H also offered to do the contract work at the lowest bid.

"That made it easy," said Duello, indicating he would not have necessarily gone with the lowest bid had other factors tipped the scale against P&H.

Duello added that the reasons he decided to have the manufacturing done on a contractual basis were several, not the least of which were: to keep all options open; contract manufacturing was the most economical route to take at the present time; he didn't want to be stuck with a big investment, "not that I don't have a sizable investment in this already"; and finally, with all of the idle plant capacity present in the midwest today, "I can have a lot better job done on this custom-built."

So what plans does Duello have in the

bin? Well, for beginners, he, a brother (Roger), and Williams are taking and placing phone calls to those prospective buyers at his farm home a few miles east of Vinton.

No sweat off Williams' back, as he has worked tirelessly alongside Duello in his venture, and you can tell he's just as interested in Black Machine's success as is Duello.

"Kenny Williams deserves a lot of credit," said Duello. "Had it not been for his help in getting the prototypes ready, I wouldn't have been prepared for the Farm Progress Show and this project would have been delayed by a year."

Later this year Duello will get back in touch with Black Machine buyers and ask for suggested improvements. He plans extensive market research and surveys, and plans additional advertising. He has other additions to the planter he may include in model No. 2.

More immediately, however, Duello is planning an open house next Saturday, January 26, all day long at his farm for all interested persons to, in his own words, "see a little black magic."

Magic? Well, perhaps. Geometry, really. And a seed planted in a fertile mind.

Cedar Valley Times
Jan. 18, 1985
One of our
Commissioners

DINNER—The 16th Annual Terra Chemical Customers Appreciation Dinner was held Thursday night at the Vinton Country Club.

Approximately 225 people attended the dinner and later walked around and visited 19 display booths featuring chemical and seed supplies as well as a booth from the Soil Conservation Service and Terra.

Pictured by the SCS Display are (l to r) Jerry Neppel, Vinton; Wayne Siela, Vinton; Jim Brown, Vinton; Art McLaughlin, Terra manager.

Times photo by Mert Alpers



*from the Benton County Agri-News
edition of the Lurewire 3/15/85*

Tillage Show Draws Benton Farmers

Evidence of Benton County Farmers' interest in soil conservation was their number at the Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show at the Five Seasons Center in Cedar Rapids in late January.

John Bergstrand, Route 2, Vinton, said, "It's an excellent show. I come every year."

Bergstrand till-plants (the same as ridge planting) 100 acres of row crops. He's been till-planting for five years and thinks he's got it perfected.



John Bergstrand, Vinton, (right) watches Roger Duello (center) use a model to show how the Black Machine works at the Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show.



Representing the Benton County Soil Conservation Service at the Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show at the Cedar Rapids Five Seasons Center were (from left): Jerry Neppel, Duane Dostal, Jim Brown and Rob Morrow.

BENTON

The Benton County Soil Conservation District is offering two sponsorships for workshops this summer.

The first is a sponsorship of \$150 toward the Outlook Program for Environmental Education Enrichment. This is a program of one-week workshops for teachers at the Conservation Education Center in Guthrie Center.

The second is a \$55 total sponsorship for a high school student to attend the Youth Leadership Conservation Program, also in Guthrie Center.

Contact the Benton SCD office at 472-2161 for further information.

Sub Farmer Today 3/23/85

invented by Commissioner Dennis Duello

BENTON

A no-till tour of the Dysart and Garrison area in Benton County will be conducted July 1 at 6:30 p.m. The tour will begin at the Lee Schrader farm. Participants will view various forms of no-till corn and beans.

Cedar Valley Time Sept. 17, 1985 Poster contest announced by Soil Conservation Dist.

VINTON—The Benton County Soil Conservation District is announcing its annual poster contests for elementary students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6. The students must reside in Benton County.

There will be two divisions: Division I grades 3 and 4, Division II—grades 5 and 6. Cash prizes of \$10, \$7.50 and \$5 will be awarded in each division to first, second and third places respectively. Posters may be done in any media, and

can be up to 22"x28" in size. The student's name, address, phone number and Division number must be on the back of the poster. Entry deadline is November 8, 1985 with judging to be held November 13, 1985.

Entries should be sent or taken to the Benton County Soil Conservation District office, 1701 Second Avenue, Vinton, 52349. Please contact the District Office at 472-2161 for further information.

Belle Plaine Union Special Edition

Week of Sept. 8, 1985

Iowa/Benton Farmer

Page 11



Dave Upah

ASCS Payment Prompts Upah To Try No-Till

If the \$10/acre payment offered by the ASCS for no-till planting is supposed to bribe farmers into using the tillage method—then in the case of a Belle Plaine area farmer, it worked. Dave Upah, who farms 500 acres east of Belle Plaine, said that initially the \$10/acre incentive was really the main reason he tried no-till this spring.

Now that he has collected the maximum \$500 on 50 acres, will he try no-till again? "We'll definitely try it again, at least on corn following beans," he said. Upah said a savings in fuel and other machinery expenses convinced him to try no-till again.

Conserving soil is also an added benefit. "We've always practiced conservation," Upah said. He has noticed no difference in weed control, insect problems or erosion between the 50 acre no-till experiment and the other 350 acres of crops that were put in with more conventional methods.

Upah used his John Deere 7000 planted, equipped with two-inch fluted

coulters, to plant the 50 acres of no-till corn. Anhydrous ammonia was applied pre-plant into the bean stubble with a special applicator at a rate of 120 pounds. Upah used a harrow before planting to erase the applicator marks, so as not to cause confusion when planting.

The only other difference at planting time was the use of P and K banded in the row instead of broadcast. Upah used five pounds of Bladex as his only herbicide. "I was real satisfied with the weed control," he said. Upah said he used Bladex to avoid carry over and parts of the 50 acres never needed cultivation.

Dave farms in partnership with his father Bernard (he is retired), his wife Chris and the help of one hired hand. Upah has 100 acres in pasture and hay, where his 50 head cow herd earn their keep. Dave and Chris have two daughters, Chris, 7, Jenni, 4, and a son, Daniel, 1.

Reference to ASCS really means us



Mark Jackson and Verne Schroeder

Benton County Pair Find Way To Save Soil

When you talk to farmers about soil conservation most will tell you that the expense of putting in terraces, dry ponds and the like, just costs more money than what is returned in better yields. One tenant-landlord pair in Benton county has figured out a way to avoid the high cost soil saving measures and still practice effective conservation measures on their 160 acre farm north of Luzerne.

Mark Jackson is the tenant, Verne Schroeder is the landlord and strip cropping is the method they use to protect the soil. Schroeder's farm has been well taken care of over the years, so they weren't concerned about rehabilitating the farm, just maintaining it.

Schroeder's farm is moderately hilly and is made up of a clay loam soil, with areas of sand. The fields had been laid out in 25 acre plots, which made it hard for Jackson to farm on the contour. The last several years Jackson and Schroeder removed about three miles of fence and had the ASCS lay the entire operation into contoured strips.

End rows were done away with in favor of head lands that are permanently seeded down.

The only out-of-pocket cost was for hiring a road grader to knock out the old fence rows and grade the waterways. Schroeder paid for that and the rest of the work was done by the two partners.

Jackson follows an oats, hay, corn, soybean crop rotation. "I keep beans off of the hilliest places, though," Jackson said. Jackson raises hogs, but no cattle, so the hay crop is sold to a neighbor. Jackson said he noticed a savings in fuel right away when the fields were contoured. "I'm never going up hill anymore," he said.

Even though the ASCS had the fields laid out on contour, they left the task of starting the rows up to Jackson. How did he know how to plant the fields to avoid point rows? "I just watched how the neighbors did it and it seemed to work fine," he said. Jackson was told by the ASCS men that Schroeder's farm was already within ASCS guidelines for

soil loss, so the new measures should ensure good soil for the generations to come.

Besides their common interest in soil conservation, both Schroeder and Jackson are veterans of military service. Schroeder started farming after

world war one and Jackson when he was discharged from the army in 1977. Although 160 acres is a small farm by today's standards, it means enough to Schroeder and Jackson to keep those 160 acres in place for many years to come.

→ that's us!

Belle Plaine Union Special Edition

Need funds for conservation effort? Try SCS and Brown

VINTON—Need financial assistance for those big or small soil conservation projects you've been putting off?

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) may be able to help.

According to District Conservationist Jim Brown at the SCS, two cost/share programs are available to assist farmers with their soil conservation needs. "All the farmer has to do is come into our office and inquire about it," he said.

The ASCS offers federal funds that will pay for half of the project, up to \$3500 each year. State funds which come through the district commissioner, on the other hand, will pay 50 percent, regardless of the total cost, Brown explained. But in either case, it's imperative to sign up and get approval before proceeding with the project, he said.

"We'll design (the project) and come up with a cost estimate," he continued. But a farmer has to qualify for the funds as well. "It's a matter of qualifying on soil loss...not on income or anything like that," Brown said.

There's also a priority list. The district commissioner will fund no-till first, he said. Next on the list are terraces, followed by waterways, and then structures and ponds. The ASCS,

however, has a different priority list.

Federal funds have been available to farmers for soil conservation projects since about the mid-1940s, Brown said. State funding has been available since 1971. On the average, about 180-200 projects are funded each year through the cost/share program, with 120-130 of those farmers included in the no-till pay incentives, he said. The pay incentives give farmers \$10 an acre—up to 50 acres, or \$500—for no-till farming practices, he explained.

Last July, the district received \$69 thousand dollars and according to Brown, "it's the most we've ever had. However, about half of that has been obligated already. "We usually use up our allocation each year," he said.

With a possible four percent across-the-board cut in future state funding, Brown said it's a good idea to get project approval early. The best time to sign up for state funding is around the first of July, and the best time to apply for federal funds is at the first of the year, he explained.

This year, there are about 200-250 farmers in Benton County taking advantage of cost/share funds. However, "it varies from year to year," Brown said. Overall, participation in the program has been good. "We use the funds (anyway)," he said.

Cedar Valley Times 9/30/85

Showman named overall district winner

VINTON—Homer Showman of Canton Township was named Benton County's overall winner in the conservation awards program.

Showman was named one of three divisional winners as were Lee Schrader and Cecil Fry and his tenant Dale Hagen.

cooperator division. He farms in Florence Township in the county's southeast corner. He controls soil losses using contouring and no till.

and Hagen also use contouring and no till systems to control soil losses on Fry's farm in Taylor Township near Vinton.

As the district's overall winner, Showman is automatically entered in regional competition.

The 1985 Iowa Soil Conservation Award Program is sponsored to recognize better land use and environmental control on farms in Iowa. The winners at the District (local) level were selected from a list of nominees in three divisions.

Showman, who was named winner of the owner-operator division, farms in Canton Township near Shellsburg, controlling soil losses using contouring, strip-cropping, and no till systems. Last year, soil losses on his entire farm were at five tons or less per acre per year.

Schrader was chosen winner of the new

Results of no-till are for future generations, says Hiemstra

By FAITH BROWN

Times Staff Writer
GARDEN—Trying something new, experimenting on results.

That is what Glenn Hiemstra did last year and again this year with no-tilling his

soybeans.

"I tried planting my beans in 15 inch rows and then drilling my beans and found that the results were very close," said Hiemstra. "Then I found a drill that I could use and go with the no-till."

Hiemstra said that last year he averaged about 44 bushels per acre with his beans. "Everyone I talked to was averaging about 40 bushels so I was quite happy with the results I was getting."

Hiemstra first found about no-tilling from the materials that the university has put out about this type of farming.

"The results people were getting were about the same as what I was getting so I decided to try this and save the soil for the future generations," he said.

He added that he may not feel the profit of no-tilling in his pocket but that the

Continued on next page

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Glenn Hiemstra drills his beans and goes no-till.

Essay winners told in conservation contest

VINTON—Winners in the 1985 Soil Conservation Essay Contest were announced recently by the Benton County Soil Conservation District office here in Vinton.

In the Junior division, Ryan Lee Karpisek, a sixth grader from Dysart, received a \$20 first-place award. Ryan is the son of Larry and Jean Karpisek.

In the Senior division, Greg T. Young won the \$20 first-place cash award. Young, a senior from Benton Community High School in Van Horne, is the son of Richard and Audrey Young of rural Atkins.

Eric Smith and Jim Miller, products also of the Benton Community school system, placed second (\$15) and third (\$10) respectively.

The essay contest, co-sponsored by the Benton Soil Conservation District and Eden Mutual Insurance Company, asked contestants to write on the topic of "Clean Water—What is the answer?"

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Cedar Valley Times 9/30/85

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Hiemstra

Continued from previous page

future generations that farm the land will be able to see the results of his uses of no-till.

Before starting no-till, Hiemstra attended the tillage show at Five Seasons in Cedar Rapids where he first saw the drill he would need to plant his crop.

"After seeing the drill I would need I tried to get the company, (United Farm Tools in Osceola) to bring the drill down and have a field day at my field to show the other area farmers what the drill could do," said Hiemstra.

After that effort failed Hiemstra got in contact with an employee of the company who owned two of the drills and rented one from him to use in his field.

"He is still trying to talk me into buying a drill, but I don't really know if I need one," said Hiemstra.

Last year Hiemstra no-tilled about 45 acres of beans. This year he has about 75 acres of no-till beans. "I would have more but I wasn't able to get them all planted before the drill had to go back north."

Hiemstra said that besides experimenting with the no-till beans he is also experimenting with the types of chemicals to use.

"This year I cut back on the amount of chemicals I put on the field before I started to plant to save some money," he said.

To cut back on expenses Hiemstra used 2-4D on one field and put no chemicals on another field. "The only problem was that the field I didn't put chemicals on should have been the one I did put chemicals on."

Hiemstra said that although 2-4D is not labeled for use on beans it worked quite well. "I was a little worried about carryover to the beans but there was no sign that the chemical hurt the beans," he added.

Hiemstra said one way he hopes to save money by no-tilling is to cut his chemical expense down to about 30 dollars. "I think if the chemical companies would mark some more of the chemicals for bean use the farmers could save a little money."

Another way Hiemstra hopes to be able to save money and time is to cut down the trips he has to make across the field.

By no-till drilling his beans Hiemstra says he saves about three trips across his field. "Other farmers make about four trips across a field before they even are able to plant. But I can make one trip out and be finished. So while everyone else is getting their fields ready for planting in the middle of April I am already done."

Hiemstra received no arguments from his banker or landlord about trying the no-till beans. "They both told me to go ahead and try the method and see what my results were."

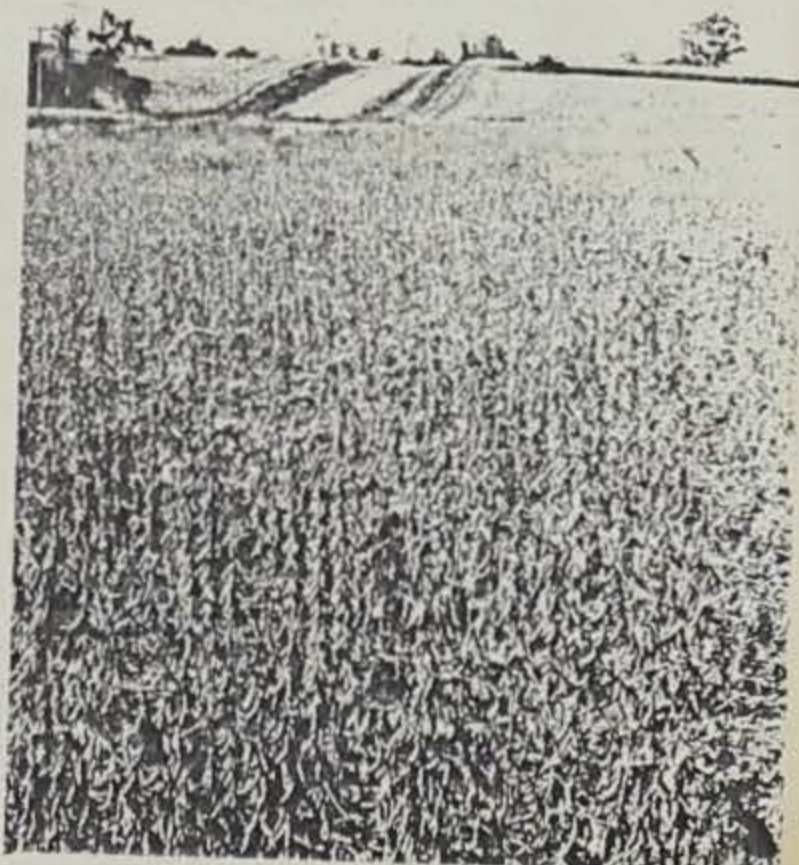
He added that he hopes to be able to continue using the no-till method and plant as many acres as possible.

"I think as more farmers find out about the results they can get from no-tilling beans as well as corn that they will be trying it," said Hiemstra.

According to Jim Brown, Benton County soil conservationist, he estimates that Hiemstra has cut his soil loss from 16 tons per acre to six tons per acre by using the no-till method on his beans.

"I am very pleased with my results and will continue to plant my beans this way," said Hiemstra.

He added that although he does not have the land to try other soil conservation methods, "I would definitely like to try other conservation methods to save soil but right now I don't have the land to try any of the other methods."



A long look at Glenn Hiemstra's soybeans.

Let's get



is an earful of results using soil conservation on his farm near Dysart.

Duo

Dostal

Continued from previous page

August—about 1,750 feet of them. The grassback slope terraces are steep on one side, while the farm-over kind have gradual slopes, Dostal explained. The grassbacks are about half the cost of farm-over terraces because less dirt has to be moved, he said.

For Dostal, terraces have proven to be the best method of soil conservation. The rotation of crops is a first step, and "the easiest is contouring," he said.

As for no-till, "I haven't tried (it) yet," Dostal said. With that, you just go out in the field and plant. "No-till on bean ground would be excellent, but we don't get the fertility in the right places yet," he explained.

With soil conservation, Dostal has reduced his soil loss from 16 tons per acre per year, to six tons per acre per year. The state wants it down to four or five tons an acre, so "I'm almost at the limit they'd like to see," he said.

For other farmers interested in soil conservation, Dostal said they should check with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), or the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service ASC. "There are funds available," he said. State and federal funds in the form of grants help farmers, showing top priority, cover their project's actual cost.

Although money's hard to get these days for a lot of farmers, soil conservation has definitely caught on in Dostal's neighborhood. "They're doing a pretty decent job around here," he said. In fact, "I think Benton County is rated pretty high."

"Our farm is a lot better now than when we moved on it," Dostal continued. Without soil conservation, "I'd have gulleys." With it, he gets the water where he wants it—in the ground.

"It took a few years to do it, but we've got excellent yields now," Dostal said.

In the long run, soil conservation seems to be something farmers can bank on.

Soil conservation nothing new to Dostal; terracing was first

By SHARON ALMQUIST
Times Staff Writer

DYSART—If you're wondering whether or not soil conservation pays off, ask Duane Dostal of rural Dysart. He'll tell you it does.

Dostal, the assistant commissioner for the Benton County Soil Conservation District, who farms some 640 acres with his wife, Marian, has been using one soil conservation method or another for nearly 30 years.

After farming for seven years northwest of Clutier, "I was used to flat land," Dostal

said. When he moved to his new place in 1956, he started putting in terraces right away. That was the first major project, he said.

"Then each year after that for 12 years, I did something," Dostal continued. To date, he has about 10 thousand feet of terraces, several grassed waterways, two concrete structures, and the majority of his crop acres are contoured.

His most recent project was the installation of grassback slope terraces in

Continued on next page



Terracing is the first thing Duane Dostal took care of 30 years ago.



No more wash
What once was a no-go

...s an earful of results using soil conservation on his farm near Ly

Duo

Times, Vinton, Iowa, September 30, 1985 3

Dostal

Continued from previous page

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Terracing is the first thing Duane Dostal took care of 30 years ago.

Soil Conservation poster winners named; local students named

VINTON—Judging was difficult again this year in the Annual Poster Contest sponsored by the Benton County Soil Conservation District for 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th graders throughout the county.

Poster themes centered on soil conservation, and on Wednesday, Nov. 13, the district commissioners came up with the following results: In division I, (3rd and 4th graders), first place went to Adam Schrader, a student in the Dysart-Geneseo Schools. Mike Saunders took second place, and third place

went to Jeremy Kreutner; both students in the Vinton community schools.

Shellsburg students captured all honors in Division II (5th and 6th graders). First place went to Wendy Estling, second place to Zachary Vinton, and third place went to Janet Drahos.

In addition to cash prizes for the winners, 11 honorable mention certificates will be awarded by District Conservationist Jim Brown, and one of the district commissioners in the next few weeks.

Cedar Valley Times
11/20/85

BENTON

During the recent wet weather, farmers have found that no-tilled fields have been easier to harvest. Farmers have reported that they could not get into the fields that were planted with conventional tillage.

This points out one of several reasons why no-till row cropping has been increasing over the last few years.

If you are planning to no-till next spring, compaction and deep ruts left from fall harvest may present a problem. The Benton County Soil Conservation District offers the following suggestions.

First, if the wet spots and ruts are minimal, or only on flat areas, consider spot chiseling or disking instead of working the entire field.

Second, if complete cultivation is necessary, leave as much residue on the surface as possible. To do this you may want to use a paraplow or similar equipment, or switch from twisted shanks to two-inch straight shank chisels. This will help eliminate compaction and leave residue on the surface for erosion control. These tillage operations should also be done on the contour.

Judging was difficult again this year in the annual poster contest sponsored by the Benton County Soil Conservation District for third, fourth, fifth and sixth graders throughout the county. Poster themes centered on soil conservation.

In Division I (third and fourth graders), first place went to Adam Schrader, a student in the Dysart-Geneseo Schools. In second place was Mike Saunders, and third place went to Jeremy Kreuter; both students in Vinton Community Schools.

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Iowa Farmer Today
11/30/85

A gully by any other name is still an eroded ditch; program reverses fate of land

By BRAD HICKS
Times Staff Writer

VINTON—Lillian Lewis called it a ditch. Benton County Soil Conservationist Jim Brown called it gully. Now, you can call it gone.

And others can call there gullies gone, too. All they have to do is get a hold of Brown and he can find out if the other gullies qualify for the kind of help Lewis received.

Lewis, who lives southwest of Vinton, owned a stretch of property that was being dominated by a gully, or a ditch if you rather. But Lewis contacted Brown and now the situation has been resolved.

Brown coordinated a construction project with Erickson Trenching and Mahr Construction of Vinton, to build a grade stabilization structure, which included the installation of a 72-inch riser pipe along with a 54-inch conduit to allow water to

move through the area without eroding the land.

"The area had a gully wash," Brown said. "It was losing 68 tons of soil per year where we built the structure. It was starting to eat into the cropland."

The project began last April and ended in August. It has been deemed a success. The soil loss rate was cut all the way to two tons per year.

"Time will tell, but I figure it's going to work," Lewis said. "If what they have done works, then the project will have been satisfactory."

Brown says the best way to go about getting construction of this nature done is to contact the Soil Conservation Service in Vinton.

"First of all, contact us. The place to go for this work is to come to us."

Continued on next page



Before, the land was dominated by this ditch and the land was being washed.



In moves the equipment and the project begins.



A good deal of dirt was re-located.

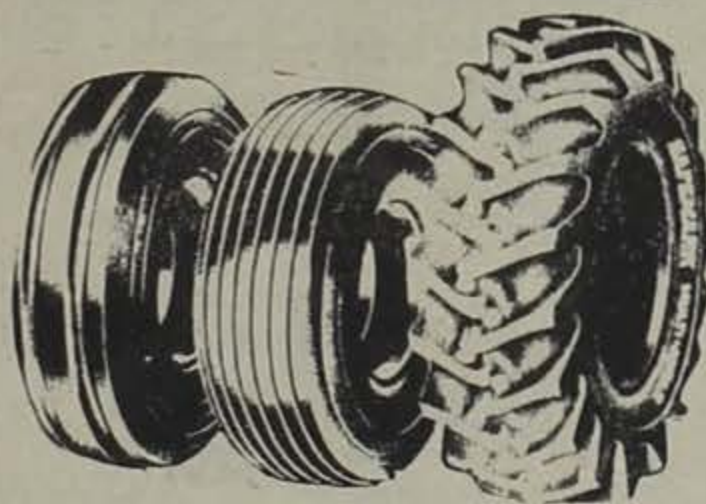


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Continued from previous page

"From there, we may have to do some surveying to see what type of structure would best fit the area.

"After that, we'll see if the project would qualify for cost-sharing funds.

"Then we can find the contractors and build it."

The time to contact Brown may be now. No work can be done in the winter months because of the frozen ground. It took five months to complete the project on the Lewis property, but that could be cut if the surveying could be done this fall.

The type of project used on the Lewis property cost \$10,000, with around 50 percent of that coming through cost-sharing funds.

Brown says there are several criteria to qualify for the matching funds, but the kicker is that the project should decrease soil loss to five tons per acre per year.

Other types of structures which would help the property owner decrease soil erosion would be a pond or a concrete structure according to Brown.

"It depends on what the site looks like," Brown said. "We have to find out what will work best.

The type of structure used on the Lewis property is on a 165-acre watershed. Brown says it will directly affect just three or four acres, but could also help the drainage areas directly below the project by regulating the amount of water which is flowing by the structure.

"But all 165 acres wouldn't be protected. We figure two or three acres above the structure would be affected and the potential is for four or five acres to be protected directly.

Of course, there are areas which are unsuitable for this type of work.

"I wouldn't say every gully should have one of these. It is all based on what the site can use."

Lewis says if the project does what it is

supposed to do, it will be successful.

"We used to just live with these gullies. They didn't used to do things like this way back when. Of course, I didn't know anybody else who had a ditch that needed fixed up like that one."

But in these days of soil loss and decreasing land values, it is imperative that soil losses are diminished. Farmers today cannot afford to have crops washed down a gully. Or a ditch.

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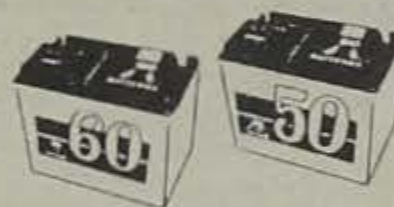


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Times, Vinton, Iowa, February 21, 1986 5



AWARD RECIPIENTS—During the annual Benton County Soil Conservation Awards Banquet held January 22nd at the Tara Hills Country Club near Van Horne, several area couples were named winners in the Conservation Achievement Awards Program. Pictured here (above left) are Mr. and Mrs.



Homer Showman of rural Shellsburg who were winners in the Owner-Operated division. They were also the recipients of the district "5 Ton" award. At the right are Mr. and Mrs. Lee Schrader of rural Dysart who were declared winners in the New Cooperator division.



MORE WINNERS—Also during the banquet, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Hagen of rural Vinton (above left) were selected as the award recipients in the Landlord-Tenant division (Cecil Fry, owner). They also received the district "5



Ton" award. At right, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Beatty of rural Shellsburg were given the Windbreak Award, sponsored by the Izaak Walton League.

1985 Conservation Achievement
Award Winners

Call for conservation essays

VINTON—The Benton County Soil Conservation District is announcing its annual Soil Conservation Essay Contest for students who live in Benton County. The topic for the 1985 contest is "Soil and Water -- Our Lifeline".

Eden Mutual Insurance Company of Vinton is co-sponsoring this contest with the soil conservation district, and they are offering cash prizes. Local contest entries will be judged by the District Commissioners, and the winning entry in each division will advance for regional competition.

Contest rules are as follows:

- 1) This contest is open to all students who are residents of Iowa. Junior division - grades 6, 7, and 8; senior division - grades 9, 10, 11 and 12. Entrants must compete in contest conducted by the soil conservation district in which they reside.
- 2) The essays will have a maximum of 500 words (minor conjunctions and prepositions will not be counted).
- 3) All manuscripts will be handwritten by the competing student.
- 4) The essays will be judged on originality, aptness of thought, and accuracy of information. Overall appearance and correctness of grammar and punctuation will be included in the judging.
- 5) A title page will be provided by the soil conservation district for use by competing students. A list of reference materials used for the essay must be attached to the manuscript.
- 6) The state winners will be asked to read their essays at the Annual Conference for Soil Conservation District Commissioners in Des Moines.

Entries in the Benton County Soil Conservation Essay Contest should be mailed or brought in to the soil conservation district office across from the fairgrounds, at 1701 Second Avenue, Vinton. Entries must be in the office by May 30, 1986.

Karpisek, Wichman win essay contest

TIMESNEWS—Several young county writers were represented in the 1986 Soil Conservation Essay Contest. This contest was sponsored at the local level by the Benton County Soil Conservation District and Eden Mutual Insurance.

In the Junior Division, for 6th to 8th graders, first place honors went to Ryan Karpisek, a student at Dysart-Geneseo School. Karpisek was also the 1985 winner in this division. Second place went to Kris Prichard from Lincoln Jr. High in Belle Plaine, while

Jill Ulch, also from the Belle Plaine junior high, took third.

Laurie Ann Wichman, a spring graduate of Benton Community High School, took top honors in the Senior Division for 9th to 12th graders. The second place winner was Mark Johnson, also of Benton Community High School. Kevin Posekany, a senior at Belle Plaine High School took third.

Prizes of \$20, \$15 and \$10 for each respective placing will be awarded in

each division. First place winners will advance to Regional Competition.

The Benton SCD Commissioners were very impressed with the quality of this year's entries and also pleased that more students entered. They send their congratulations to the winners and thank all participants.

Schirm, Koster, Swailes and Upah win Awards

VINTON—The Benton County Soil Conservation District would like to announce the winners of the 1986 Iowa Conservation Achievement Awards at the District level.

In the Owner-Operator Division, Dave Schirm was selected. He also is the overall winner to represent the district in regional competition. Schirm has installed a terrace system and contours all his cropland. This controls his soil losses at five-eight tons / acre / year.

Victor Koster is the 1986 winner in the New Cooperator Division. Soil losses on

his farm in Leory township averaged only five-seven tons / acres / year and are controlled by contouring, grassed waterways and no till planting.

The team of Jean Swailes and Dave Upah are winners in the Owner-Tenant Division of this contest. Tenant Dave Upah has assisted with changing the farming practices to include contouring, contour strips and no till planting. This team has soil losses on most fields down to five tons / acre / year or less.

Cedar Valley Times
10/31/86

Hanna, Schirm, Siela approved for soil posts

By BRAD HICKS
Times Editor

TIMESNEWS— Voters in Benton County approved three members for the Soil Conservation Commission in Tuesday's general election.

James R. Hanna Jr. of rural LaPorte City and David L. Schirm of Garrison were elected to full terms. Hanna collected 1,260 votes and Schirm received 1,458 votes.

Wayne G. Siela of Vinton won a seat for an unexpired term with 1,240 votes.

The final vote tallies are subject to ratification by a canvass of the votes.

All three men ran unopposed.

District donates money to program

Cedar Valley Times 8/28/90 Vinton, IA

TIMESNEWS— The well abandonment program in Benton County received a shot in the arm last week, courtesy of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

A donation of \$1,000 was accepted last Thursday by Benton County Sanitarian Marc Greenlee. The money has been donated by the Soil Conservation district at the suggestion of vice-chairman Wayne Siela to further promote the well abandonment program, headed by Greenlee.

The partial funding of well closures in the county began a week-and-a-half ago, according to Greenlee. The well abandonment program is funded by a \$4,900 grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Greenlee originally applied to the DNR for funds to test and close wells in the county in October of 1989, and the state funded over \$10,000 of the \$16,000 request. In mid-June, he received confirmation of the grant, totalling \$4,900 for well closures, and \$5,200 for the testing of wells.

One initial payment of \$1,500 has been received from the state, and the remainder of the grant money will be paid by reimbursement, Greenlee said. One well has already been closed in the county, but he added the majority of the work will take place later this year as the construction season slows. Much of the preliminary work for the closures has already been done, he explained.

"I'm not seeing a problem with spending the money," Greenlee said. The \$1,000 donation has been placed in a special account by Greenlee, so it cannot be absorbed by the county's general fund.

The donation from the Soil Conservation Service was praised by Greenlee, who said it was a positive sign that an



Check

Times photo by Jeff Holmes

Marc Greenlee, Benton County Sanitarian, left, receives a check from Wayne Siela, president of the Benton County Conservation District, to supplement the well abandonment program within the county.

organization with the same goals had recognized the need for the well abandonment program and had contributed.

The donation was approved unanimously by the SCS Board of Commissioners at an August 14 meeting. The money was taken from funds raised by the sale of SCS calendars, and according to Rhonda Saunders of the SCS office, another \$1,000 has been set aside by the commissioners for the program if it's needed.

According to a recent survey, as many

as 35,000 abandoned wells exist in the state of Iowa. The closing of wells prevents the groundwater supply from being contaminated by bacteria and silt.

Most abandoned wells are closed by placing a sealant at the water level, and then filling the well with sand or crushed stone.

In Benton County, residents with a qualifying abandoned well can have 50% or up to \$200 of the cost of closing a well paid for by the well abandonment program.

*Moved to new office
Aug. 5, 1991*

OPEN HOUSE AT USDA OFFICES **September 5th**

The Agricultural Stabilization And Conservation Service, Soil Conservation Service, And Farmers Home Administration Announces Plans To Hold An Open House At Their New Offices Located At 1705 West D Street, Vinton.

The Offices Will Be Open For Visitors From 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM . Tours Of The New Offices Will Be Given Throughout The Day.

Open house

VINTON— The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Soil Conservation Service, and Farmers Home Administration want to remind you to attend their open house Thursday, Sept. 5.

Tours of the new office will be given throughout the day. The offices are located at 1705 West D Street, Vinton.

CEDAR VALLEY TIMES MYSTERY FARM CONTEST WINNER



Dave Schmelzer, R.R., Brandon accepts his \$100 from Mert Alpers for his 1st Place Entry.

1st PLACE - \$75

ria Brown, Vinton

3RD PLACE - \$50

Mike Saunders, R.R., Vinton

THANKS TO ALL WHO ENTERED OUR MYSTERY FARM CONTEST

THE **TIMES**
CEDAR VALLEY



Photo by Dan Adix

Scholarship

Larry Driscoll (left) of Watkins is shown being presented with a check for \$250 from the Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District Commission. Presenting the check is Wayne Siela, Vice-Chairman of the District Commission Board. To be eligible for the first year award, the student must be a resident of Benton County and must use the money for studies in Resource Conservation. Driscoll is presently involved with the Water / Waste Water Management Program at Kirkwood College in Cedar Rapids. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Beckett.

Cedar Valley Times 8/15/90 Vinton, IA 52349

conspiracy

The Prairie Grass Is Seeded, Will Take Years To Mature

The Dysart-Geneseo Community School Prairie Nature Center was planted on Friday, June 20, with the cooperation of the Tama County Conservation Board. Ralph LeFevre brought the Tama County Soil Conservation Service's Truax planter, which is designed specifically to plant the large, light, chaffy prairie grass, to Dysart from Toledo.

The prairie seed was purchased from Nature's Way, a small business in southern Iowa. Grasses seeded included big bluestem, little bluestem and switchgrass. Prairie flowers planted include cornflower, black-eyed susan, partridge pea, blazing star and rattlesnake naster.

The seed is fairly expensive because it is collected by hand from native Iowa prairie plants. A number of community organizations contributed funds toward the purchase of the seed. These groups include the Twentieth Century Women's Club, Eastern Star, Masonic Lodge, and the Dysart Federated Garden Club. Benton County

Soil Conservation Service donated the switchgrass seed.

The Garden Club also helped in the obtaining of a small grant from the State of Iowa Operation Wildflower Project.

The prairie seed bed was prepared by the Dysart-Geneseo FFA Chapter under the direction of vo-ag advisor Irv Meier. Kavalier Implement provided the use of a new 8010 Allis Chalmers tractor. Harold Burhenn donated the use of his cultimulcher and the Richard Krafka family donated the use of a lawn sprayer. Larry Winkelpack donated the use of his disc while Brian Pippert donated the use of his plow to turn the ground over. Keith Rieks field cultivated the prairie.

It will be two to three years before this stand of prairie grass and flowers is mature. In the meantime, the prairie area will be maintained when necessary by mowing.

At the end of the summer, a new sign will be installed at the prairie site southwest of the elementary building.



PREPARING THE SEED BED — Vo-Ag Advisor Irv Meier is cultimulching the Prairie at the Dysart-Geneseo Elementary School. Meier is driving the AC tractor donated by Kavalier Implement and is using the cultimulcher donated by Harold Burhenn.



CHECKING OUT THE SEED — Warren Wagner, left, Cathy Wieck, Mary Ann Gregory and Ralph LeFevre of Traer are checking the prairie seed before it is planted at the Elementary School in Dysart.



SEEDING PRAIRIE — Ralph LeFevre of Traer is shown seeding the prairie at the Dysart-Geneseo Elementary School. The tractor and planter were furnished by the Tama County Soil Conservation Service.



ATTEND DEDICATION — Paul Berry, Rodney Kavalier, Jill Uhlenberg, Shirley Wandschneider, Agnes Luze and Lee Schrader all were community representatives at the Dysart-Geneseo Prairie Dedication held Wednesday, Sept. 10.

Dysart-Geneseo Dedicates The Prairie Nature Center

On Wednesday, Sept. 10, the Dysart-Geneseo Community School dedicated the Prairie Nature Center.

A welcome was given by Master of Ceremonies, FFA President Kevin Meier. High school speech student Lisa Fowler presented a poem, "Prairie," written by state ecologist Dean Roosa. Superintendent Robert Crouse spoke about the early Iowa prairie and the gift of fertile soil.

Emily Eikamp and Tracie Weekly recognized those community groups who contributed to the prairie project. Community representatives recognized included: Agnes Luze and Lucille McConnell from the Dysart Garden Club, Shirley Wandschneider from Twentieth Century Women's

Club, Jill Uhlenberg from the D-G Board of Education, Lee Schrader from the Benton County Soil Conservation Board, Rodney Kavalier representing Kavalier Implement and Ascalon Lodge, Paul Berry representing Dysart Order of Eastern Star, and all the members of the D-G FFA chapter. Bob Etzel from the Tama County Conservation office was also recognized for his efforts on the project.

The hand-carved, hand-painted sign for the prairie was designed by Charlotte Broughton and made by her father, Darold Martin, of West Union.

The title for the sign, "Prairie Nature Center," was chosen in an all-school contest which was won by Cherub Vogeler. Funds for the sign were donated anonymously by an interested community member.

Charlie Trunck presented the following dedication:

"Over one hundred fifty years ago, Iowa was in the heartland of tall-grass prairie — over thirty million acres in our state. Today few acres of prairie remain. Today, we at Dysart-Geneseo dedicate our small piece of reconstructed prairie, graced by our beautiful sign.

"To the first Americans, the Indians who were our first

conservationists, to the settlers who discovered the gift of rich soils beneath the prairie grasses, to the students and other citizens of this community, past, present, and future, we dedicate our Prairie Nature Center. May this prairie be a living museum where we may see, smell, touch and cherish the past."

In closing, the band accompanied all present as "America the Beautiful" was sung.

The dedication was attended by the entire D-G student body, staff, and interested members of the community.

Everyone is cordially invited to visit the developing prairie. Flowers now in bloom are black-eyed susans and partridge peas.

LETTERS TO THE GAZETTE

Drive responsibly

There are many of us in Iowa for whom Christmas is not only a season of great joy but also a time of great sorrow because a member of our family is no longer with us.

Our 21-year-old son was killed June 16, 1984, in an alcohol-related crash. We are all victims. His family, whose hopes and dreams have been shattered, his friends, for the lost camaraderie, the community, whose hope for the future rests in our young, and last, the driver and his family, for their lives have also been altered as he waits with uncertainty for what the future will bring.

We teach our children that as adults they must accept responsibility for their actions. But accepting responsibility after the act, no matter how commendable, does not alter the events. "I'm sorry" never fixed a broken object when we were children. It also cannot bring back a human life once it is taken from us.

Responsibility must be something we accept before the damage is done. Be responsible enough before you take that first drink and know what your limits really are. In memory of Rob, we, his parents, his wife and sisters, would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday.

Bob and Linda Hoskins
2734 Hindman Rd., Marion

Grief shared

At this holiday season, it is difficult to express our thanks to the 1,000-plus friends who lent us support when we lost our son, Andy, in a car accident three weeks ago. God has been good to us. He let us keep Andy for 16 wonderful years that we enjoyed very much, and he blessed us with an abundance of good friends and relatives. We're still receiving cards and calls telling us we're in their thoughts and prayers.

We wish to give credit and thanks to the Ely Fire Department and the Lifeguard Air Ambulance crews for their rescue attempts and unheralded support. And we also want to thank the many co-workers at Quaker Oats and Rockwell-Collins who not only contributed generously to Andy's memorial fund at Prairie High School but also offered their love and concern. Equally important were all of the cards, letters and notes we received from Andy's teachers, friends, schoolmates and teen-agers who had known him only briefly.

How do you find the words that adequately express gratitude for everything that has been done? Friends asked what they could do, brought groceries, prepared food, took care of our home, sent flowers, plants and over 400 cards. They also offered many prayers and took time out of busy schedules to let us know they cared.

We were aware that over a thousand people visited the funeral home to view Andy and express their condolences. In spite of our grief, we were proud and awestruck to see St. Ludmila's Church completely filled; even the aisles, steps and basement. Over 90 vehicles accompanied us to the cemetery; more than 400 people shared a lunch with us that was served by more church friends.

Although our hearts have been shattered by the untimely death of our beloved son, we are very much aware that many others share our loss. Perhaps our appreciation for everyone's support can best be expressed by quoting Massieu: "Gratitude is a memory of the heart." Our hearts shall be eternally grateful to one and all.

Katie and Jim Miller
Rural Route, Ely

Ready to teach

Few educators will argue that certification guarantees qualification, a view consistent with that expressed in the Dec. 7 letter, "Teacher certification." Most educators do feel, however, that certification is essential for teachers in Iowa public and private schools. Certification ensures that teachers have attained a basic level of preparation not only in content areas but also in that body of unique professional knowledge which enables us to make decisions regarding diagnosis and prescription of appropriate teaching and learning strategies.

The latter is critical. It is the difference between a mathematics teacher and a mathematician, a history teacher and a historian. It is the difference between a teacher and someone who has been taught.

The writer's point about low salary raises a related issue. She is absolutely correct that "it isn't worth spending a semester (or more) and several hundred dollars (or more) to qualify for a \$14,000 job." Until compensation is raised to make teaching an attractive career option, the issue of certification will remain secondary.

If Iowa wants its students taught in excellent schools staffed by certified teachers in every classroom, all districts in the state must raise salaries to attract and retain quality people into the teaching profession.

Peg Dunlap, president
Cedar Wood Uniserv Unit
1625 Fifth Ave. SE

Cold wait

Concerning the Drivers License Bureau in Marion, several years ago my son and I went there for his driver's license testing. It was a very cold day, and the heater on our car had quit on the way to town. When we asked about the driver's test, the lady who was to give him the test snapped for him to bring the car "up front," as she was not going to walk out to the lot to start the test.

So my son went back out to bring the car "up front." She went to the back of the room and poured herself a cup of coffee and sat eating a roll and chatting with the other women there. It took 12 minutes, with my son waiting out in front, for her to get around to giving him the test.

When I commented about the coffee-drinking delay while he waited in the car, the only thing she said was, "Tough. If you don't like the way we do things here, file a complaint." I thought any complaint would not have gotten past the first trash can, so I didn't file one.

I, for one, find it difficult to teach my kids respect for the law when we have these kinds of people in charge and wearing uniforms, which should be respected.

Daniel D. Mahoney
Toddville

Keep conserving soil

I was shocked when I read the Gazette article Dec. 11 stating the opinion of State Rep. Avenson on the soil conservation cost-share program. If Avenson believes that the program isn't used much anymore, he should maybe take a closer look — out in the country. Where did he get his information?

I live in Benton County. Each year the Benton County Soil Conservation District receives an average of approximately \$65,000 in cost-share funds. Each year the district also has requested additional funds to supplement the regular allocation. Since 1981, less than 8 percent of the money received has been turned back to the Department of Soil Conservation, unused.

As to the allegation that only rich doctors and lawyers use the program, only three individuals receiving cost-share funds in Benton county were either doctors or attorneys in the last five years.

It is true that farmers are facing tough times. The majority of landowners are hesitant to spend large amounts of money on permanent soil and water conservation practices when they know that they will get no monetary return. The benefits of such practices are earned in the future. They accrue not to the individual making the initial investment but to future generations as a whole, in less pollution of water sources and continued productivity.

Protecting the soil on farms will ensure productivity, and thus economic gain for future farmers. This in turn will ensure food for the rest of us poor sods. Remember, Ethiopia was once a fertile, prosperous country. Severe erosion is in direct proportion to a state's or a nation's prosperity.

When so many are willing to spend their own money on something which will ultimately benefit us all, I say we must continue to meet them halfway.

Becky Clark
Brandon



African aid

On Thanksgiving Day, 1985, 175 syndicated cartoonists across the country demonstrated their support for the starving by devoting their comic strips to the worldwide tragedy of hunger. Unfortunately, the majority of the nation's newspapers, including The Gazette, fell far short of helping to spread the relief message. According to Time magazine, Dec. 9, 1985, nearly 2,000 newspapers carried the cartoonists' renditions of hunger on Thanksgiving, yet only 300 — less than one in six — published the advertisement by the cartoonists asking readers to send donations to U.S.A. for Africa.

The mass media have been a tremendous vehicle in drawing attention to our world's hungry. Britain's Band Aid and U.S. Live Aid could not possibly have raised \$84-plus million without televised concerts and radio air play of the music. Now it's time the press did its part. Publishing those cartoons without an address to send donations was like broadcasting a telethon without flashing phone numbers, or conducting a walk-a-thon without sponsor sheets.

I am by no means pointing a finger solely at The Gazette. I am disappointed in every one of the 1,700 papers that didn't encourage donation — especially those papers in your own state. Among the Des Moines Register, the Cedar Rapids Gazette, the Iowa City Press-Citizen and the Waterloo Courier, only one — the Waterloo Courier — printed the donation address along with the cartoons. For any readers moved by Snoopy's empty dinner dish or Beetle Bailey's sergeant's airmailed turkey, The U.S.A. for Africa address is 6420 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1900, Los Angeles, Calif. 90048.

Heather Luse
U.S.A. for Africa
Los Angeles

Untouchable gravy

The term "military-industrial complex," often heard lately, suggests that we should be reminded that it does not refer just to generals and corporations but includes every person who profits, directly or indirectly, from the military budget. This includes in this city not only every Collins employee but every merchant and employee and, as Harry Boyd wrote in an editorial years ago, The Gazette.

Many communities look at this military money coming into them as a right — something like a community Social Security — without regard to whether or not the military or the taxpayers get any benefit from the expenditure.

The President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control (the Grace Commission) reported that there are 4,000 military installations in the United States, but only about 300 are really needed. The Pentagon agrees. Every year since 1976 it has submitted a budget calling for closing some. Every year Congress puts funds for these unneeded installations back into the budget, despite all their clamor about military spending. The cost each year for these excess bases is about \$2 billion.

Knowing this, it is discouraging to discover that the Gramm-Rudman act, enacted Dec. 12, which is supposed to lead to a balanced budget in the future, contains a specific provision that the Pentagon is to reduce spending but is forbidden to close any bases.

David W. Prudden
2138 Grande Ave. SE

Imprison for life

The Gazette article Dec. 15 attempting to generate concern for prison "lifers" probably won't strike many responsive chords among Iowa's citizens. It's too bad these men's lives are being wasted, but they have only themselves to blame.

At a time when the public is demanding fewer commutations and paroles, the article appears to sympathize with the convicts' hope that appeals by defense attorneys will free these killers on some technicality. You quote one as saying, "I've got it set in my mind that I'll get some play on this appeal. They're going to cut me some slack. I think I've got a chance to get rid of this first degree." He's referring to first degree murder. How else can you categorize blowing a woman's face off with a shotgun during a robbery?

Another convict says he and his fellow "lifers" are in prison because, "Most of them got caught because the crimes they committed, they committed in the heat of the moment." This whining excuse comes from an animal who kidnapped a girl at gunpoint in a K-mart parking lot, drove her to his rural home, tied her hands and legs, raped her, loaded her back into his car, drove to a remote area, struck her in the head with the butt of his gun, stabbed her twice with a hunting knife and left her for dead in a ditch.

This sequence of events had to cover a fairly long time span, and the guy seems to have previously armed himself with a gun and a hunting knife. Does it sound like "heat of the moment" to you?

When I reflect on the terror and pain that his victim experienced, I can't feel much sympathy for him. He may not have the freedom to do everything he wants, but he's warm, dry and well-fed and has TV in his cell. He's taking college courses and the taxpayers are supporting him. He's getting better treatment than he deserves.

He hopes Iowa will get in line with less conservative states and begin releasing its lifers much sooner than it now does. I think you'll find a lot of grass-roots support for Iowa to lead a new trend in the opposite direction. A life sentence should be for life.

Dean S. Varner
4417 Pine View Dr. NE

Wrong values

In the aftermath of the tragic killings in eastern Iowa, we are being bombarded with explanations as to the cause. Citizens and media alike have come up with enough garbage the past few days to fill a dictionary on the topic.

Reagan caused it, the bankers caused it, economics caused it, the moon was tipped the wrong way. And now these new farm psychologists (they can't get jobs anywhere else) have descended on us like a bunch of paratroopers with pseudo-explanations ranging from stress to depression to hippocampal discharge.

May I offer an alternate explanation? May I suggest that the real problem here is sin? The Bible says, "Do not love the world or anything in the world." If we love our farms, our cars, our homes or anything more than we love God, it is not surprising that we would kill for them. But a person with the love of God in his heart would still experience abundant joy in the face of trials. Paul and Silas were joyous while chained up in a prison cell. And Job lost everything, but still he praised the Lord.

I will be accused of being overly simplistic at best and a Bible-thumping fanatic at worst. I won't receive any calls from Ted Koppel or Melissa Wells. But that's OK. I, too, could talk like the intellectuals, using enough buzzwords to make it sound as if I really knew something. You see, my socioeconomic background was such that it led to erratic contingencies of reinforcement, resulting in sub-Oedipal complexes which . . . Forget it.

Jim McNeish
Iowa City

Retain local review

As members of the Clarence Nursing Home's Care Review Committee, we wish to protest the survey of Dr. Karen Conner, associate professor of sociology at Drake University. This survey is designed to assess Iowa's nursing home care review committee system and to possibly replace these committees with state ombudsmen.

We feel it would be a mistake to replace the local committees, which meet in their communities' homes and visit with all of the residents on a regular basis, with 16 state ombudsmen, who would attempt to provide these same services to every home in Iowa. Implementation of this program would undoubtedly result in a great disservice to those who reside in our homes.

The local committees presently consist of individuals who have an interest in the homes and the residents and who are willing to serve voluntarily in this capacity. We feel there would undoubtedly be many costs involved with the use of ombudsmen — not only hiring but also travel and administrative. Who will pay these costs? The taxpayers? And why, when we have a system that works and is close to those it serves?

We believe the best job can be done for the facility by local community representatives and not by state employees. Nursing homes in Iowa do not need any further state control.

Don E. Johnson
(and four other committee members)
Clarence

Good restoration

When I saw the new Paramount Theatre marquee, it brought back pleasant memories. My dear father, Mike Kellaney, worked at the theater some 22 years. He started shortly after the theater opened.

He would be very proud of the redecorating and the new Paramount marquee. My congratulations to the committee and all the workmen.

Merna Gaffey
407 26th St. SE



LONG SHOT! The panoramic photo above, sent in by Owen Neeves of Burlington, Wyoming, shows a threshing crew of Burlington farmers and ranchers who traded off work. "The photographer came from Basin, 25 miles away, just to take that picture," Owen recalls. "I'm 80 years old now and raise cattle. But when this photo was taken, I was 23—I'm the one in the shirt on the threshing machine!"

The Way It Was...

When Harvest Was a Handful!

IT'S THAT TIME of year again in farm fields all across rural America—another growing season is drawing to a close...and another bountiful harvest is under way.

Years ago, farmers couldn't harvest the vast quantities that mammoth machines make possible today. They had to rely on the help of many hands to get their crops in.

But harvest in the "old days" yielded up its own bounty, one of never-to-be-forgotten moments. Luckily for us, a few were recorded on film and tucked into family scrapbooks.

The long-ago photos from readers in this special two-page edition of "The Way It Was" stretch back as far as three-quarters of a century...but recollections of the way harvest *used to* be still shine as bright as a gleaming new combine in a sea of golden wheat!

HOW WAS IT? If you'd like to share an old farm photo, and the story behind it, send it to "The Way It Was", Country People, Box 643, Milwaukee WI 53201. We'll pay \$25 if we use your photo and story! (Be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the return of your photo.)

FAREWELL PHOTO. Custom harvesters still spread out across the country, but years ago giant combines weren't standard! "This is the way it was in 1916, in the days of the steam threshing machine, when the crew carried the cook shack from job to job," says Orville Giersch of Tescott, Kansas. "This crew had finished for the season and—suitcases packed—was ready to leave for home."



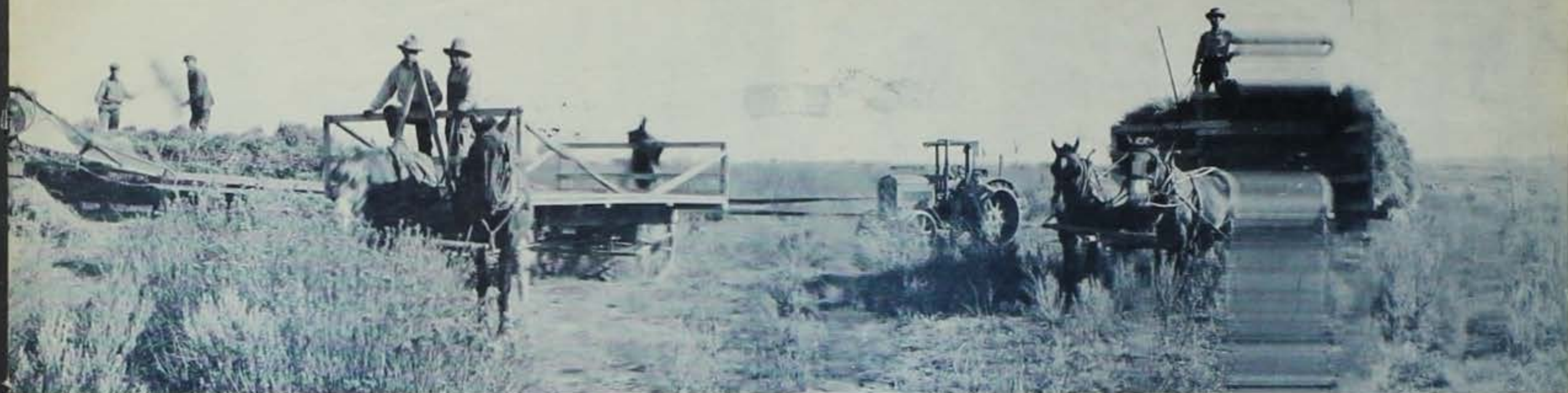
COACH OF PUMPKINS. "This crop was harvested on our farm in 1920," says Mrs. Richard Worman of Inavale, Nebraska. "My husband's uncle is driving the wagon." Looks like that pumpkin next to him was a bumper crop in itself!



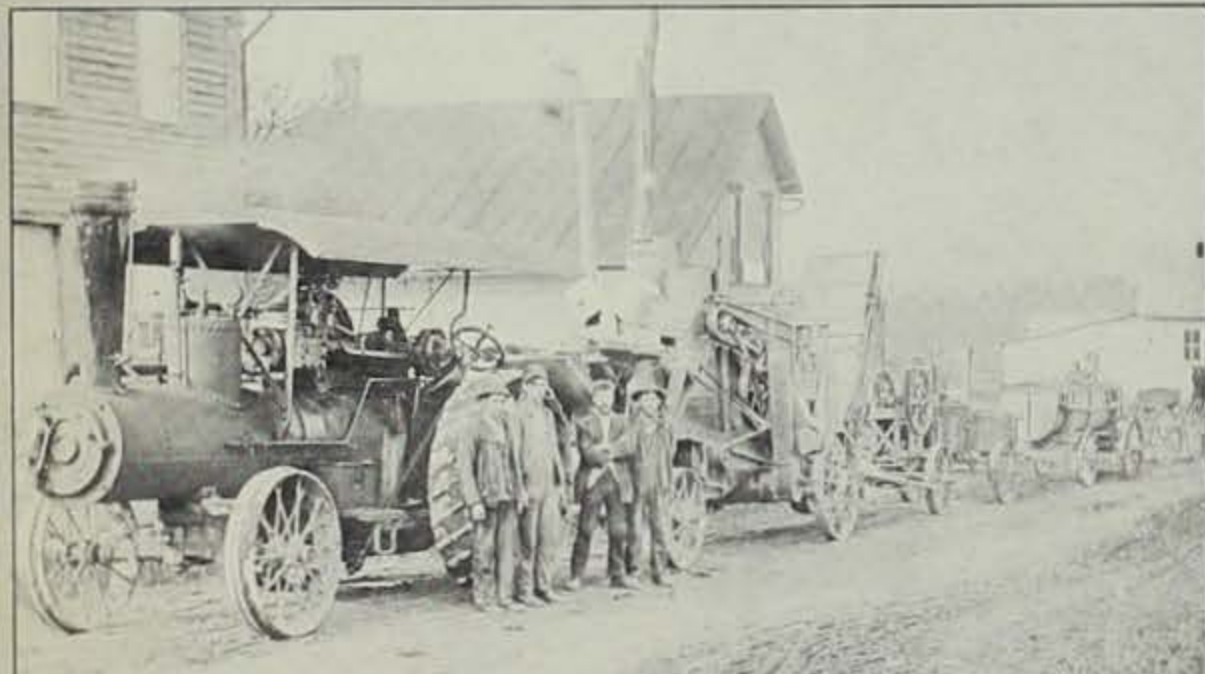
BALEFUL BREAK. "Back 40 years ago," recounts Mrs. Homer Shepherd of Allerton, Iowa, "hay was mowed with a mule-drawn mower, then raked and pushed up to the stationary baler and pitched by hand. Then it was time to have a picture taken!"



CORN OFF THE COB. "This photo shows my husband with our 1915 corn crop," writes Jessie McLinden of Marion, Kansas. "I'm 92, and I can remember horse-driven corn shellers. I can also recall my dad selling shelled corn for 5¢ a bushel!"



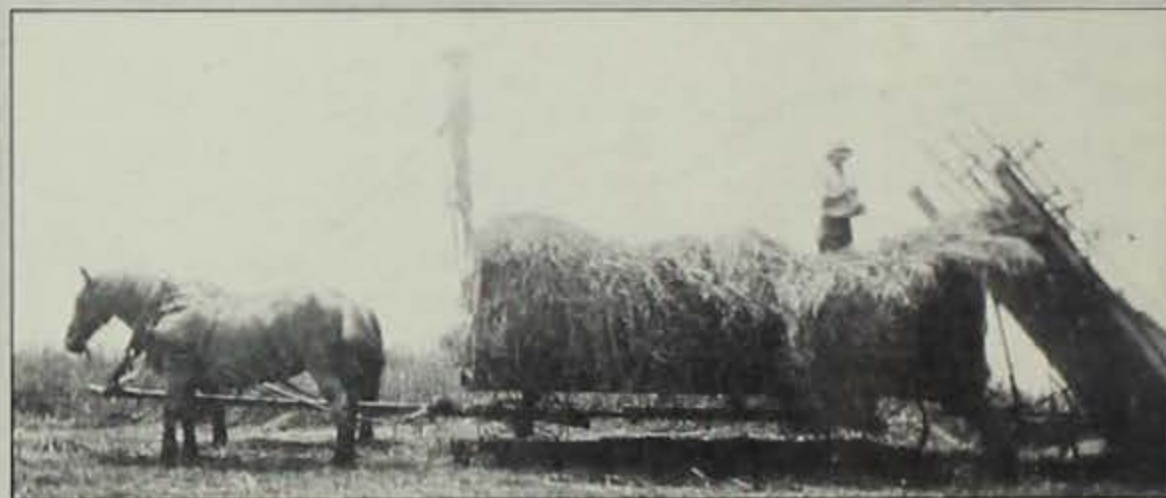
TALL ORDER. "Back when our family lived in the Salmon River area of Idaho, this is how we stacked hay for the winter," says Helen Flynn of Asotin, Washington. "This picture was taken around 1910... I'm afraid we've lost track of who the men were." By the look of that haystack, though, they obviously were hard workers!



STEAMED UP. "My uncle owned this Frick steam engine," relates Mrs. Cleon Reese of Watsonstown, Pennsylvania, "and he'd go from farm to farm to thresh. This picture was taken about 1908—notice the dirt street. I'm now 76, but I recall my uncle lifting me up at day's end and allowing me to blow the whistle until all the steam was used!"



CUSTOM CARAVAN. "This crew of harvesters was photographed in about 1919 near Howell, Nebraska," Mrs. Conrad Heer of Sedalia, Missouri remembers. "They were on their way to Colorado next." From the way they're bundled up—even down to a blanket over the engine of that old Model T—it appears winter was fast on their heels!



BALING OUT. "Before the big balers came along, this is how we put up hay on our farm in Lee County, Iowa," writes Geraldine Stice of Lewistown, Missouri. The loose hay was raked and lifted to the wagon, where one man would pitch it forward—anyone who's ever gathered hay that way isn't likely to ever forget it!



MULE POWER. Years ago, mules provided the "horsepower" on some farms—such as the one above, recalled by Gerrit Harms of Clara City, Minnesota. "That's Pete Frost, who farmed near Minneota, Minnesota and picked his corn with mules. This picture was taken in 1927—Pete was very proud of his mules... he farmed with them for over 50 years!"

