

A special soil consevation supplement

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Dickinson Co.
Soil Conservation Dist.

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Lake Park News

VOLUME 86 NUMBER 42
Thursday, June 26, 1977

LEGAL PAPER FOR LAKE PARK, DICKINSON COUNTY, IOWA 51347

**Maurice Dougel of
Westport Twp. till-
planted about 350
acres this spring.
“It saves money,
fuel, soil & time,”
he stated.**



Soil-Iowa's Underrated Resource



Nobody's saying the people of Iowa don't think their soil is important. In fact, just the opposite is true. When "Iowa:2000" asked thousands of citizens recently to name the state's most precious natural resource, they unanimously picked the land.

And with good reason. Iowa has more cropland than 18 other states combined, and it produces about 1/10 of the nation's food supply. More than 90% of the state's land is in agriculture. Iowa farmers are a big reason agriculture is the nation's leading export industry, with more than 20% of the nation's exports.

Perhaps it's because there is so much land that it is taken for granted - a "little dirt lost" isn't a serious thing for many people. It should be. Soil erosion, often unnoticed, is steadily eating away at millions of acres of productive Iowa land. Many sloping hillsides have only half the topsoil left - some have none. What is left continues to wash or blow away at an alarming rate.

I hope you will study this booklet carefully. It outlines how Iowa topsoil has been disappearing despite thousands of people's efforts to keep it in place. And I hope you will conclude we've got to step up our pace in fighting soil erosion. We depend on our soil, and it's depending on us.



William J. Brune
State Conservationist

*Baby
the Land*

*...It's
Precious*

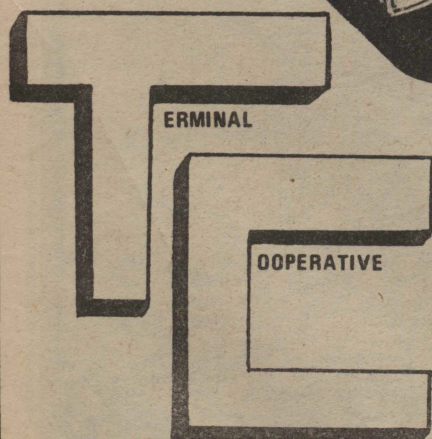


It's Up to Each of Us to Preserve the Good Earth!

We tend to look upon the land as an endless spring of resources. But it's not! Our most valued natural assets are becoming less abundant. It's time to realize that we get from the land only what we put into it!

We must treat it with care in order to properly utilize nature's resources, rather than drain them . . . preserve our countrysides and waters, rather than destroy them. And it's never too late to start doing something about it!

What we take away from the land, we can replace. How? By curbing the wasteful use of our energy sources. Recycling. Replanting. Reevaluating our needs. And most important, working together, to preserve a clean, healthy, and thriving environment. Let's start now.

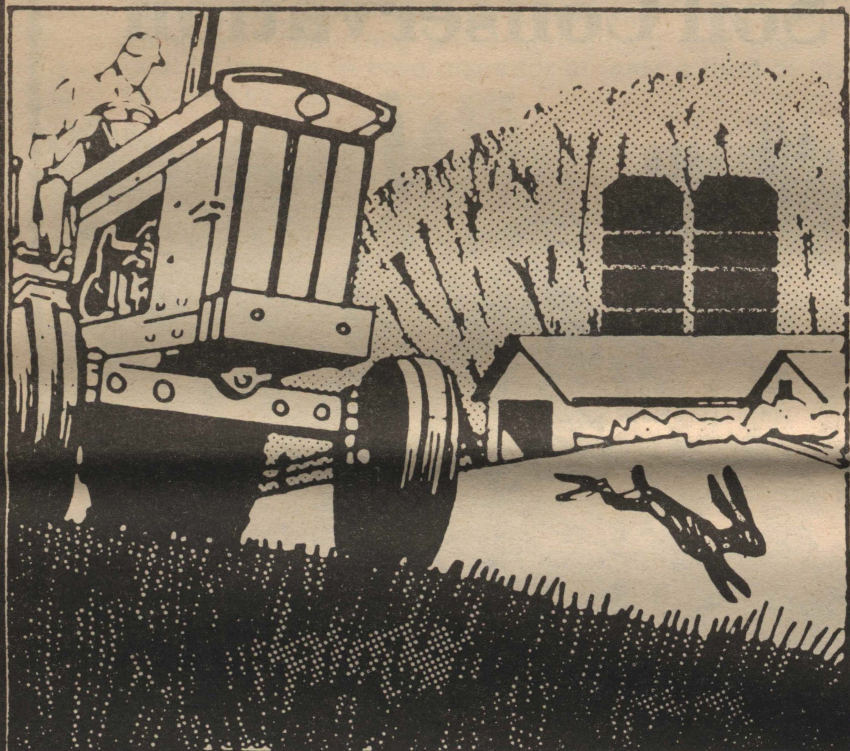


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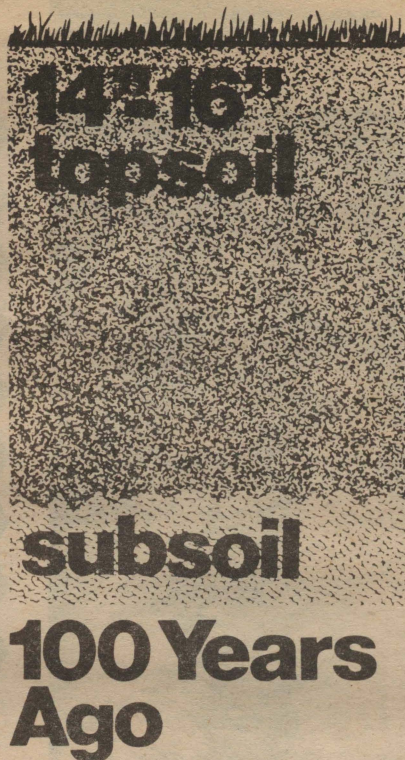
Pete Holt —

Vi Schneekloth — Craig Tvedte

Located in Fred Dowden Agency Building on
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PHONE 336-1946

SPIRIT LAKE, Iowa



Half the original topsoil, or 6" to 8", has been lost from Iowa's unprotected sloping soils in the 100 years they have been farmed. That leaves only 6" to 8" to work with. At an average loss of 13 tons per acre per year, or 1/12" of topsoil a year, the rest could be gone in the next 100 years.

It takes nature 250 to 1000 years to build an inch of topsoil.

A 13 ton per acre soil loss figures out to be 230 bushels of soil loss per acre. With average corn yields of 115 bushel per acre, then, there is a 2 bushel soil loss for every bushel of corn produced.

That amounts to mining the soil. Soil resources are exhaustible, just as coal, oil or any other natural resource. So far, crop yields have been kept high with commercial fertilizers. But nitrogen fertilizer use in Iowa has increased by 700% since 1960; extra fertilizer is being used to make up for loss of fertile topsoil.





Soil losses in Iowa were heavy in 1974, 1975, and 1976. This central Iowa field lost an estimated 200 tons an acre in 1974.

Progress, but

Terraces

A series of man-made earthen dikes around a hillside, terraces can cut erosion by 60 - 80%. Farmers have voluntarily built enough in Iowa to stretch across the state 200 times.

On The Other Hand

Despite steady progress, only 60,000 miles of a needed 360,000 miles have built. The job is only 1/6 complete.

Conservation Tillage

Often called minimum tillage, it generally cuts soil erosion in half. The system leaves corn stalks and other crop residues on the soil surface for erosion control. A third of Iowa's rowcrop land is prepared for planting with some form of conservation tillage.

On The Other Hand

There is potential for conservation tillage on all of Iowa's cropland; also, a better job of conservation tillage could be done on some land.

40% of the Land Protected

Combinations of terraces, conservation tillage, contouring, good pastures gully control structures and other conservation practices now protect 40% of Iowa's land against soil erosion.

On The Other Hand

That means that more than half the job remains to be done. Erosion control work is becoming more expensive, and pressures for intensive rowcropping continue to grow.

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Soil Conservation



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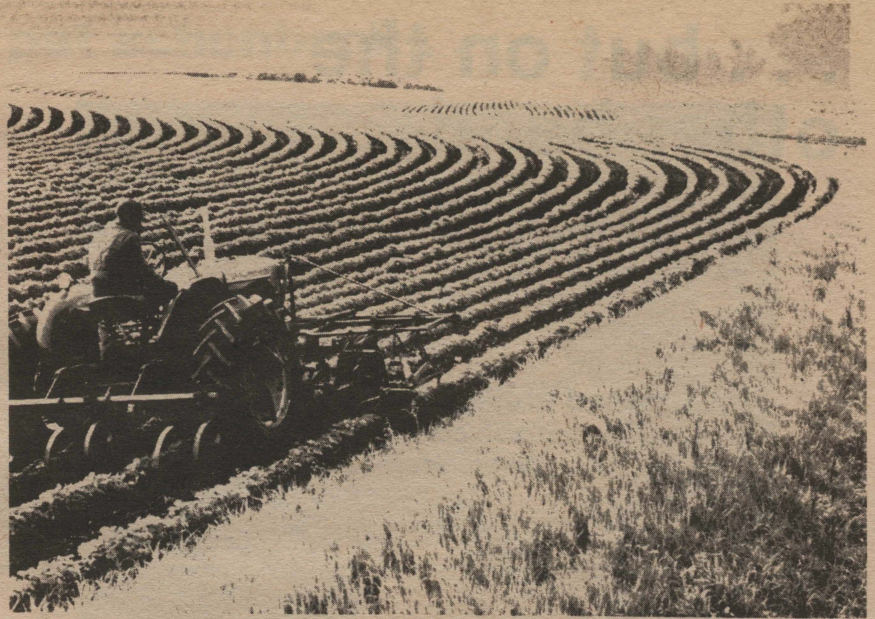
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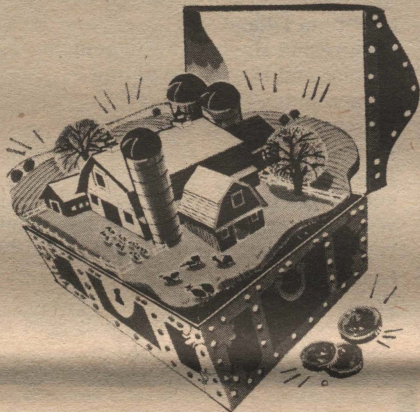
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Program successes...

Watershed Projects

These projects are designed primarily to control erosion and flooding on a particular area of land. Total drainage areas have been protected with these projects. A number of communities are realizing recreation, water supply, and wildlife benefits from the projects.

Soil Surveys

A highly successful program, soil surveys are acre by acre examinations and reports of soil characteristics. Local, state and federal funds make the Iowa program one of the strongest in the nation.

Cost—Sharing

The state of Iowa is unique in being the only state to offer to pay landowners half the cost of building permanent conservation practices. The state's \$4 million a year funding, along with federal funds of \$7 million a year, boosts conservation considerably.

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... but on the
other hand

Watershed projects are often complex, and can take 10 - 15 years to complete. About a fourth of the 96 projects applied for in Iowa have been completed.

The surveys are published for only about a third of Iowa's counties. Field work is complete on half the counties. Target date for starting the last county survey is 1985.

The total soil conservation job in Iowa is estimated to cost \$2 billion. At current funding levels, the job could take more than 100 years.

Soil Conservation in Dickinson County

Accomplishments for Fiscal Year

7 - 1 75 to 9 - 30 - 76

District Cooperators of Record	47
Recipients of Technical Assistance	252
Technical Services/Single Land Units	488
Recipients Applying Practices	160
Conservation Plans Prepared	32
Conservation Plans Revised	20
Inventories and Evaluations Prepared	9
Inventories and Evaluations/UOG/Agencies	4
Technical Services/Groups of Land Units	5
Groups Applying Practices	2
Referrals Serviced	109
Conservation Cropping System	1,471 ac.
Contour Farming	29 ac.
Crop Residue Management	2,523 ac.
Diversion	1,050 ft.
Ponds	4
Farmstead and Feedlot Windbreaks	11.3 ac.
Field Windbreak	.2 ac.
Grassed Waterway or Outlet	39.2 ac.
Minimum Tillage	2,212 ac.
Pasture and Hayland Management	1,169 ac.
Pasture and Hayland Planting	85 ac.
Stripcropping	26 ac.
Structure for Water Control	25
Terraces	17,950 ft.
Tree Planting	57 ac.
Subsurface Drain	181,228 ft.
Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management	6 ac.
Wildlife Upland Habitat Management	43 ac.
Land Adequately Treated	1,773 ac.
Cropland to Grassland	97 ac.

Soil Conservation Service in Iowa

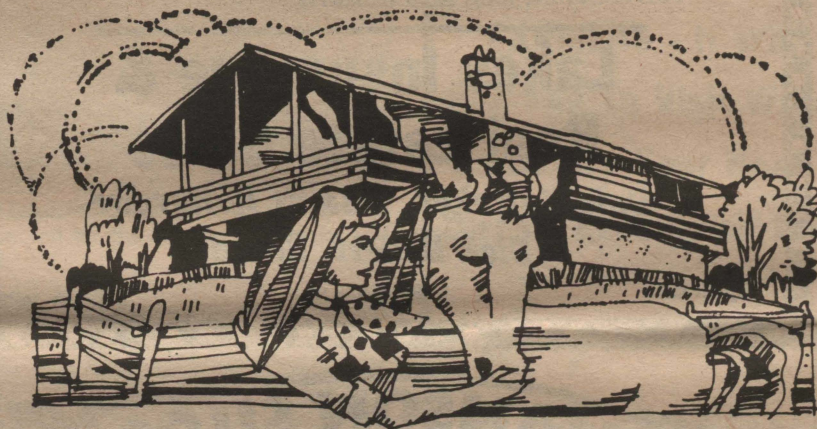
The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) has about 365 employees in Iowa. There's an office in every county, with two in Pottawattamie County.

As the agency name implies, the chief Soil Conservation Service responsibility is to save soil. The Soil Conservation Service is the United States Department of Agriculture's agency responsible for giving landowners technical help to solve their erosion problems, in cities as well as on farm lands.

Through a unique arrangement, Soil Conservation Service work is guided by local soil conservation districts (100 in Iowa). These districts are governed by 5 locally elected district commissioners, who serve with no pay.

The Soil Conservation Service and soil conservation districts work closely with the state Soil Conservation Committee and Iowa Department of Soil Conservation to make a cooperative local, state and federal soil conservation program in Iowa.

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Let's look ahead

clarence call . . .

There is a lot being said on the national level these days about the conservation of our natural resources. This is all well and good. We should be concerned. Most of the big guns are being trained on the conservation of



There has never been a successful Farmer yet that didn't keep on the look-out for trouble areas on his farm where erosion or poor soil need attention. He knows that he would take a loss on the overall production per acre if these problems were not corrected when they occur. Soil conservation is money.

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fossil fuels - the energy crunch. Human nature being what it is, we have a tendency to not get too excited until we feel the pain. The oil shortage is here - it affects, or will affect, each one of us and we are crying out.

It is entirely possible that we can find some relief from the shortage of crude oil and natural gas. We can go back to more plentiful forms of energy such as coal and wood. We aren't going to freeze to death and most of us could get by on far less gasoline than we now use.

Let's consider the conservation of a far more important and just as non-renewable resource as oil. Let's consider the soil. Can we find a substitute medium for growing the vast amounts of food demanded by an ever increasing population? Probably not. And we certainly are not as concerned about the problem as we should be.

We can maintain the fertility and productivity of our soil if we can keep the topsoil in place. The half of Iowa's topsoil that remains here is productive enough to satisfy all our needs now. That is the reason many people are not very excited about soil erosion at the present time. If we continue to lose topsoil in the next 100 years as rapidly as we have the past 100 years, then we will have serious problems.

The time to start being concerned about soil erosion is now. There is a need for long-range planning. We need to keep our voluntary soil and water conservation programs but get more people involved. Let's look ahead and use preventative measures. Let's not have to worry about a food crunch as we have the energy crunch.

If you have an erosion or water quality problem - come in and see us. We would like to help you.

Clarence Call,
District Conservationist



district conservationist

Conservation Week for 1977

Soil and Water Conservation Week for 1977 in Iowa will be Sept. 11-18. This week honors the special efforts being made to conserve soil and water.

Preventing soil erosion is an important task of farm operators, and Min Amemiya, extension agronomist at ISU encourages farmers to select land use practices that reduce soil and water movement.

On row crop land, he advocates con-

tour farming, strip cropping, grassed waterways, mulch tillage, terraces, and conservation tillage systems that leave soil surfaces rough and protected with plant residues.

On sloping land too steep for continuous row crops, the agronomist encourages crop rotations or converting the land to permanent grass or grass-legume cover.

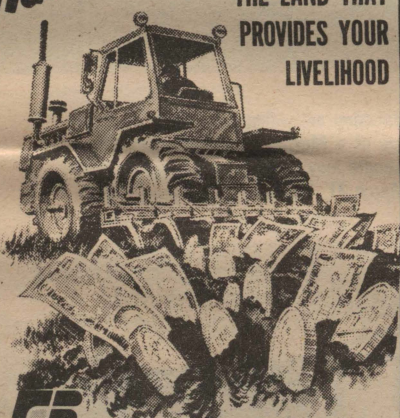
Wind erosion also can be a problem.

Amemiya suggests cropping and tillage systems that leave the surface rough and protected with a mulch of plant residue to reduce soil movement by wind.

Land disturbed for non-agricultural uses also is vulnerable to soil erosion by water and wind. The same principles of controlling erosion on farmland also apply for these areas.

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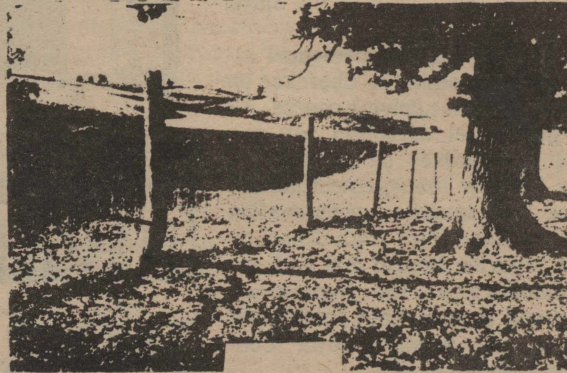
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District Activities

January — Claire Champine, District Commissioner for seven years, submitted his resignation. Mr. and Mrs. Champine moved to Missouri. Commissioners Charles Shorey, Ernest Skow and Robert Ingwersen, and District Conservationist Clarence Call, attended the Commissioners' Short Course in Ames Jan. 20-22. Don Schubert was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Claire Champine.

February — Clarence Call attended a training methods school in Des Moines Feb. 2-5. James Yungclas was re-appointed as an assistant commissioner.

March — Wayne Dankert, Party Leader, Larry Hanson and Ron Reckner, Soil Scientists, began work in the county on March 1 on the Dickinson County Soil Survey. Soil mapping in Westport, Okoboji and Milford Townships was completed during the year. Ernest Skow, Charles Shorey, Clarence Call and Betty Farmer, clerk, attended Regional Commissioners' meeting in Fort Dodge on March 9.

April — District Commissioners sponsored a booth at the annual Spirit Lake Home and Sport Show on April 3 and 4. A Soil Conservation Poster Contest had been sponsored among the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th graders in the county. 228 posters were entered in the contest. Winning posters were on display in the Soil Conservation District Commissioners' booth at the Spirit Lake Home and Sport Show. Conservation workbooks were given to all 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th graders in the county. A green ash tree was given to each 6th grader in the county by the commissioners. First Acre Ceremony was held on April 14. More trees and shrubs were sold this year than any previous year - over 15,000 trees and shrubs. Commissioners gave the members of the Westport 4-H Girls' Club trees and shrubs for a special project. They also gave 150 green ash trees to students at the Terril school who were carrying out a special tree project.

May — Clarence Call helped conduct an outdoor classroom in Clay County on May 5.

June — Clarence Call and Robert Ingwersen attended a 208 Planning Meeting in Primghar on June 21.

July — Wm. Greiner, Director Department of Soil Conservation, was in the county on July 10 to attend the annual meeting of the East Okoboji Lakes Improvement Association. At this meeting Don Schubert, Center Grove Township farmer and commissioner, was presented a certificate of commendation for his exemplary and outstanding service to conservation by constructing about two miles of terraces on his farm.

August — Initial Soil Survey Review was held Aug. 30 to Sept. 3. Commissioners and families held their annual picnic this month at the Spirit Lake Memorial Park.

September — All SCS personnel attended all day meeting in Cherokee on Sept. 9 for defensive driving course. All office personnel attended all day meeting in Cherokee on Sept. 13 on training for new management forms. Clarence Call taught a conservation class at the Lake Park High School on Sept. 23. Maurice Dougal met with the commissioners at the September meeting and gave a very interesting report on the Western Iowa Conservancy District.

October — Dickinson County Speech Contest was held on Oct. 28. Winners in the Speech Contest were: Susan Fitchett, Milford, first; Tammy Tuttle, Spirit Lake, second; and David Eckard, Spirit Lake, third.

November — Susan Fitchett placed fourth in the Regional Contest held at

Fort Dodge on Nov. 8. Clarence Call, Dennis Rustman, Ernest Skow, Robert Ingwersen and Chas. Shorey attended the Marc Cox Annual Awards Banquet in Sioux City on Nov. 4. Ernest Skow, Robert Ingwersen, Chas. Shorey and Clarence Call attended Regional Commissioners' meeting in Fort Dodge on Nov. 8. Clarence Call, Robert Ingwersen and Betty Farmer attended the annual Commissioners' Conference held in Des Moines on Nov. 29 and 30 and Dec. 1.

December — Clarence Call and Dennis Rustman attended all day area staff meeting in Cherokee on Dec. 7. Commissioners and wives held their annual Christmas dinner on Dec. 11 at Oak Hill. Clarence Call attended Feature Writing Class in Harlan on Dec. 15.



CLARENCE CALL, district commissioner for the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District, reviews some of the informative pamphlets available to the public.

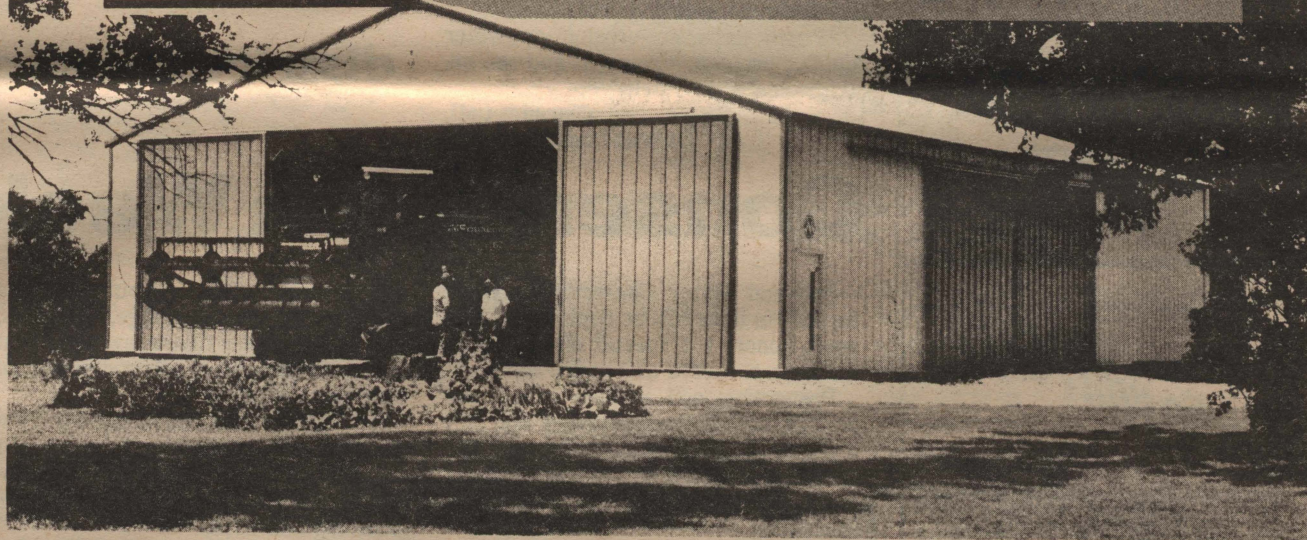


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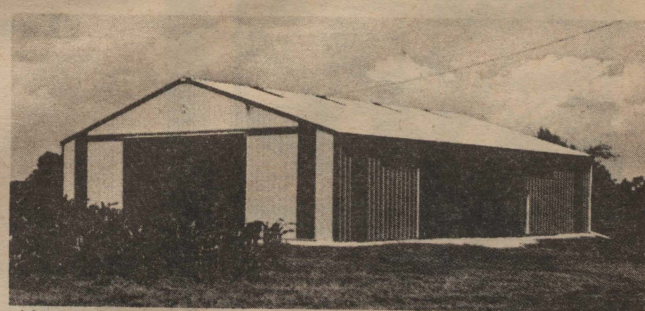
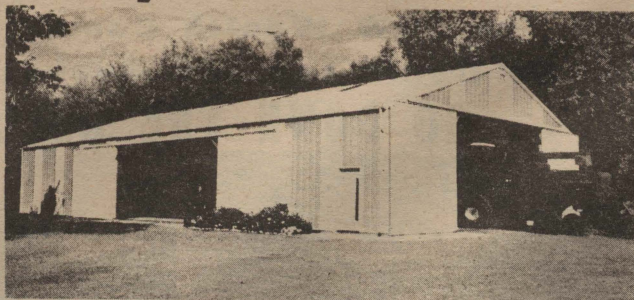
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Terrace systems for soil conservation

...by Dennis Rustman,
Soil Conservation Technician

Terracing continues to be a very much needed erosion control practice in Dickinson County. There are many acres of land in the county subject to soil erosion that should be protected with conservation practices. Terraces will control soil loss well within allowable limits.

The past few years have marked a definite change in terrace construction techniques. There are three types of terraces in Dickinson County that are being used: the tile outlet grassed backslope, the tile outlet broad base and the graded terrace. The tile outlet grassed backslope terrace has become the most popular. This type of terrace can be built across depressions and waterways giving straighter, easier to farm terrace systems with less point rows. In some instances, according to the lay of the land, these terraces can be built parallel to existing fence lines. Underground tile carries runoff safely from the field, eliminating the need for grassed waterways.

Another advantage of the tile outlet terrace is the natural topography improvement. The soil that does erode between terraces is trapped in the low areas around intakes. These areas build up gradually and the field becomes more nearly level.

Dickinson County farmers who have installed terraces in 1976 are: K. K. Richards, Milford Township; Everett

Johnson, Okoboji Township; Stanley Heikens, Excelsior Township; and Loren DeVore, Richland Township.

There is cost sharing available for building terraces. Up to 50 percent of the cost can be paid by state and federal funds. This leaves 50 percent of the cost left to be paid by the landowner.

If you are interested in having terraces built on your farm or would like more information on them, contact the Soil Conservation District Office in Spirit Lake.

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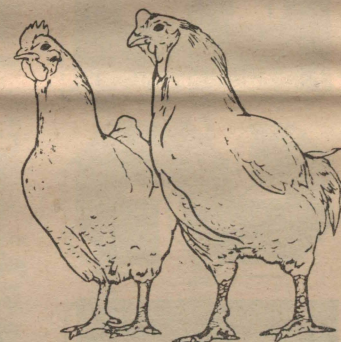
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Round Lake Farmer's Coop

There are ways to combat this very real danger. Encourage your community to plant trees and shrubs. Get recycling centers started. Don't litter at home or in the country. It's everyone's job. Yours, yours and yours. Conservation? Let's go!

Zitterich Radio & TV, Terril

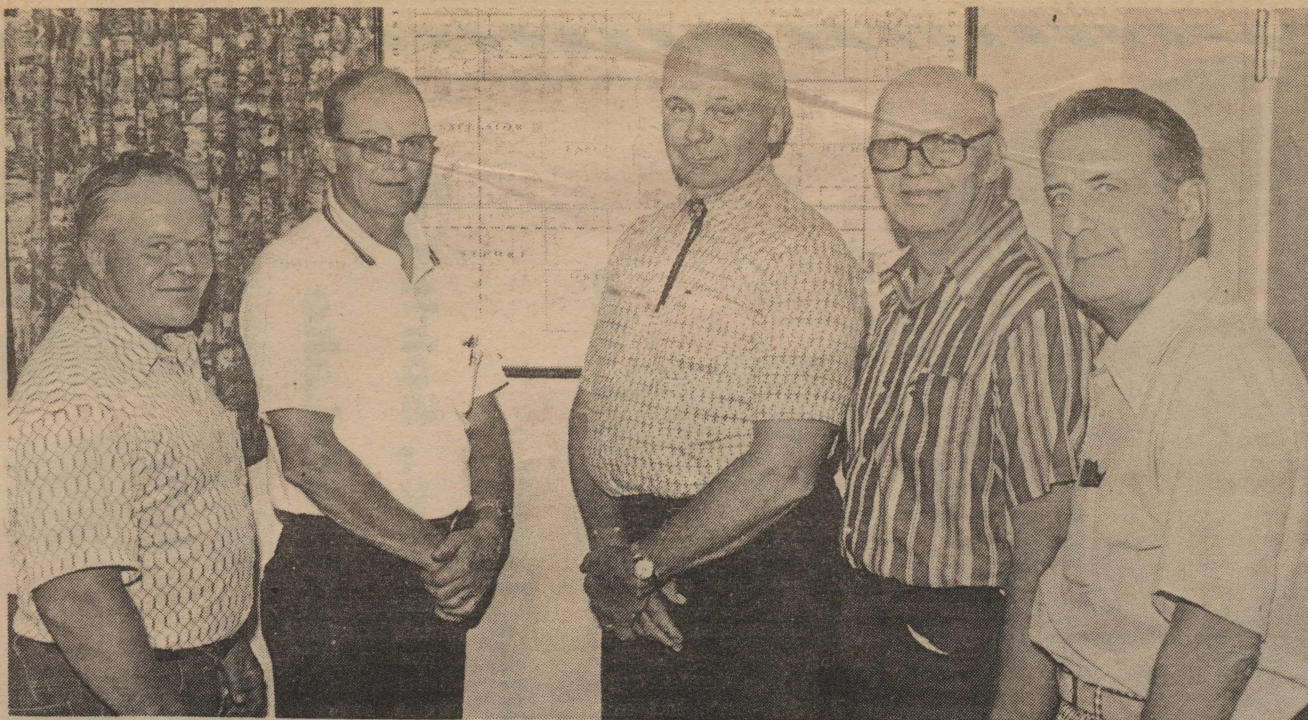
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Hy-Vee Food Stores, Inc., Spirit Lake

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Ken Roberts Realty, Spirit Lake



DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS for Dickinson County's Soil Conservation District are [l-r]: Andy Hoffman, Bob Ingwersen, Charles Shorey, Ernie Skow, and Don Schubert.



LAND OWNED by Leo Owens and farmed by Bill Ruml features a grassed waterway to provide a smooth flow of runoff water. The farm is in Westport Twp.

New cooperators for fiscal year 1976 1977

C. E. Spangler, Jerry Stockdale, Dale Luehring (2), L. L. Dunscombe, James Valen, Orville Berg, Leo Owens, Ervin Behrens, Milton Morling, Bernard Cohrs (2), Marvin Dagel, Mrs. L. C. Gilmore, Mark McCoy, Betty Newman, Gaylin Johnson, Lyle Westergard, Veri Powell, Steve Schmidt, Kaiser Bros., Barney Granstra, N. E. Oleson, A. K. Ruebel, Ed Baschke, Vernon Dykstra, Cedric Winterboer, K. K. Richards, Dean Follon, Shane Bush, Craig Schmeling, Earl Baish, Duane Sandage Real Estate and Farm Management (3), J. B. Synhorst, John Orfutt, James Leith, David Leith (2), Willard Bros. (3), Shaw Children Trust and Mel Hughes.

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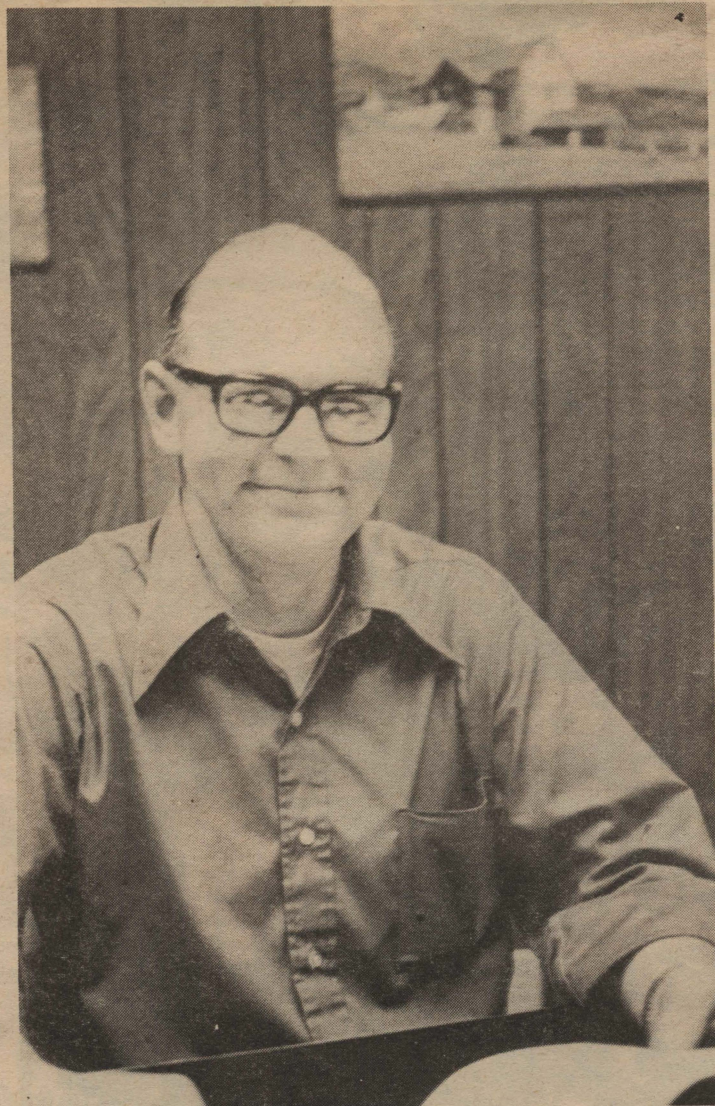
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**Lake Park
Phone 832-3151**

duane curry. . .



county director a.s.c.s.

Financial statement

Fiscal Year
1975 - 1976

District's IM Budget

RECEIPTS

Allocation from State Soil Conservation Committee \$ 1,475.00

DISBURSEMENTS

Commissioners' Mileage, Meals, Hotel	\$ 520.06
Office Supplies	156.07
Printing	45.00
Prizes for Contests	95.50
Rental for Meeting Halls	13.00
Office Expense	424.05
Meeting Expense	23.30
Released to State	200.00
Total Disbursements	\$ 1,476.98

IIM Budget

RECEIPTS

Allocation from State Soil Conservation Committee \$ 8,000.00

DISBURSEMENTS

Salary Clerk	\$ 7,148.00
Travel	110.05
Equipment	529.34
F.I.C.A.	418.16
I.P.E.R.S.	298.50
Life Insurance	36.00
Total Disbursements	\$ 8,540.05

IIM Budget [State Cost-Share]

1974-1975 Allocation	\$10,600.00
Total spent	10,259.04
Total returned to State Soil Conservation Committee	\$ 340.96

1975-1976 Allocation	\$11,500.00
Total Spent	11,445.16
Total returned to State Soil Conservation Committee	\$ 54.84

1976-1977 Allocation	\$ 8,000.00
Total unobligated funds to date	\$ 375.50

200 years plus one

Agriculture is one of the real success stories of our Bicentennial year. In 1776, we were a nation of farmers. Most founding fathers were farmers. Agriculture has always been considered the backbone of this nation's economy. Today our economic well being continues to depend greatly on how well agriculture is doing.

This past year many thoughts went through everyone's head on how many accomplishments had been made in the past 200 years. Each year many more strides are being made to achieve more soil and water conservation projects. This is being done with the cooperation of farmers throughout the countryside. With the help of the Soil Conservation Service for technical advice we were able to administer a cost sharing program to help defray the costs of these projects.

In reviewing our Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service's cost sharing program we find that assistance was given for sod-waterways and terraces on 1904.0 acres

in Dickinson County. Cost-share assistance under SCS's technical supervision also included 31.0 acres of tree plantings or windbreaks; 3.0 acres of wildlife plots and 3 water impoundment ponds to help prevent water erosion.

In cooperation, the Extension Service, Soil Conservation District Commissioners and ASCS met this past year and set up a similar cost-sharing program for the 1977 program year.

Reaching beyond the day-to-day administration of programs, we in SCS and ASCS have a mission as an agency to make the contributions of our farmers and the agricultural economy better understood and more fully appreciated. To support this effort, we offer the organization, experience, knowledge, dedication and an outstanding record of service to the agricultural community.

Submitted by:
Duane L. Curry
Dickinson County ASCS
County Executive Director

Area Office Personnel

Wallis R. Tonsfeldt, Area Conservationist
Dick Hall, Area Engineer
Wayne L. Eberly, Civil Engineer Technician
Margaret Walker, Area Clerk

District Commissioners

Andrew Hoffman, Chairman
Ernest H. Skow, Commissioner
Robert C. Ingwersen, Commissioner
Don Schubert, Commissioner
Chas. Shorey, Commissioner
James Yungclas, Assistant Commissioner
Robert Fitzpatrick, Assistant Commissioner

Field Office Personnel

Clarence M. Call, District Conservationist
Dennis Rustman, Conservation Technician
Betty Farmer, State Clerk

Extension Service

James Yungclas, Extension Director
Holle Mechem, Extension Home Economist
Carol Crocker, Extension 4-H and Youth Leader
Evelyn Albers, Office Assistant

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

Duane Curry, County Executive Director
Ruby Caskey, Program Assistant
Pat Achenbach, Program Assistant

County ASCA Committee

John Eckard, Chairman
Bruce Will
Neal Delaney

Soil Survey

Wayne N. Dankert, Party Leader
Larry Hanson, Soil Scientist
Ron Reckner, Soil Scientist

ruby caskey . . .



a.s.c.s. clerk

Why plant tree windbreaks

Tree windbreaks are good investments on farms. Windbreaks protect people, farmsteads, gardens, orchards, soils, field crops, livestock, wildlife and public facilities from the extremes of climate.

These extremes include years of low rainfall and high summer temperatures and years of scanty snowfall and low winter temperatures. Such extremes are accentuated by the persistent, high-velocity winds. Winds are especially persistent and strong during the late fall and early spring when most soils are not protected by growing crops. Wind erosion damages the structure and fertility of soils. Strong wind uncovers and blows away freshly sown seed, causes lodging of grain and corn, degrades fruits and

vegetables and drifts snow and soil across country roads.

In summer, hot, dry winds burn crops, decrease yields, increase water losses during irrigation and dry out soils. In winter, cold winds make life difficult for people and livestock. Snow drifts into ravines and road ditches, depriving fields of needed moisture and blocking transportation and communication systems.

A windbreak, as we generally think of it in Iowa, is a narrow belt of trees planted to give the farmstead protection against winter winds. Most of us want greater comfort for our farm homes. No amount of other improvements will replace a windbreak for protection from winter winds. A



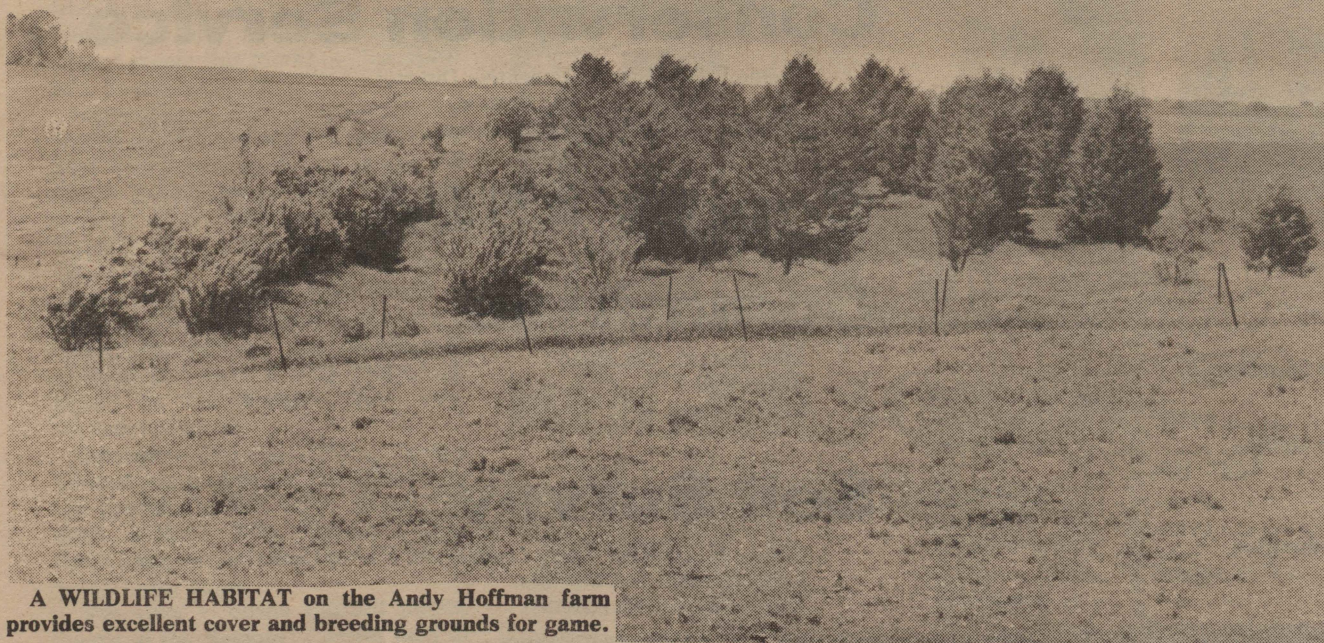
A WINDBREAK on the Elser farm south of Lake Park was shown by Crissy Elser and cousins, Jason and Pam Bryan.

windbreak can make the home more comfortable. Fuel requirements can be cut by as much as a third.

Windbreak systems can be fully effective only if used to supplement other soil conservation practices, such as stubble tillage, cover crops and strip-cropping. Windbreak systems are a part of overall farm planting.

Windbreak trees and wildlife shrubs are available each spring from your

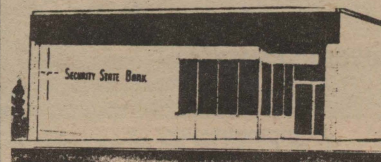
Soil Conservation District. Technical help in planning your windbreak or wildlife area is available at your county Soil Conservation Service office from your District Conservationist. Commissioners sold over 16,400 trees and shrubs during 1976.



A WILDLIFE HABITAT on the Andy Hoffman farm provides excellent cover and breeding grounds for game.

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MINIMUM TILLAGE on land farmed by Bernie Cohrs. The field which was only disced and not plowed is located on the east side of Hwy 71 south of Spirit Lake.

Warm season grasses for summer grazing

by Lynn Betts

Information specialist
Soil Conservation Service

NATIVE, warm season grasses once grazed by wild buffalo in Iowa are making a comeback in the southwestern part of the state as pasture for beef cattle.

They are called warm season grasses because peak production is reached during the hot summer months of July and August. Switchgrass, Indiangrass, and big bluestem are being tested by a growing number of cattle pro-

ducers as a possible solution to midyear pasture shortages.

The grasses green up late in May and are in full production by early July. Bromegrass, orchardgrass, and other cool season grasses taper off at this time, explains John Maddy, agronomist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

Farmers are trying the grasses mostly on a small scale — a little over 1000 acres have been seeded, much of it last year.



a.s.c.s. clerk

While most are still cautious in using the grasses, they like what they've seen so far.

Dean and Lyle McCunn are managing about 35 acres of the grasses on their mother Greta's farm near Red Oak, Iowa. The McCunns were putting 115 acres of hilly cropland to pasture, and decided to try warm season grasses along with orchardgrass, alfalfa, and birdsfoot trefoil.

"The land is rough and hard to farm, so grass seems to be the best for it," Dean says. "We seeded 10 acres of switchgrass in 1971 and 15 acres in 1972, then 8½ acres of Indiangrass last year. During the summer, we gave yearlings their choice between a switchgrass pasture or alfalfa and orchardgrass, and they grazed the switchgrass really well."

The McCunns have had a num-

ber of visitors to the farm for a look at the grasses, and say neighbors are watching them with interest.

Management is critical. In fact, Maddy doesn't recommend the grasses to farmers who tend to overgraze.

"Native grasses have to be allowed to build food reserves in their roots, so they shouldn't be grazed closer than 10 to 12 in. above the ground," he says. "This means taking only half the plant (by weight); it may be tempting to graze more, but it could ruin your stand and yield the following year."

Actually, following the take half, leave half principle for warm season grasses in July and August produces as much usable forage as cool season grasses do early and late in the growing season. If you turn cattle into pasture about July 1, as recommended, the grass should be about 1½ to 2 ft. tall.

Experience is limited on the best ratio of cool season to warm season grass pastures; most farmers trying them say it takes 30% to 40% as many warm season grass acres as cool season for balanced pasture production. You could expect to graze 2 or 3 mature cows per acre on warm season grasses in the summer with proper management.

Weeds can be a problem in getting a stand established. Farmers have found the grasses get off to a good start if they use a herbicide in mid-May to control competing growth.

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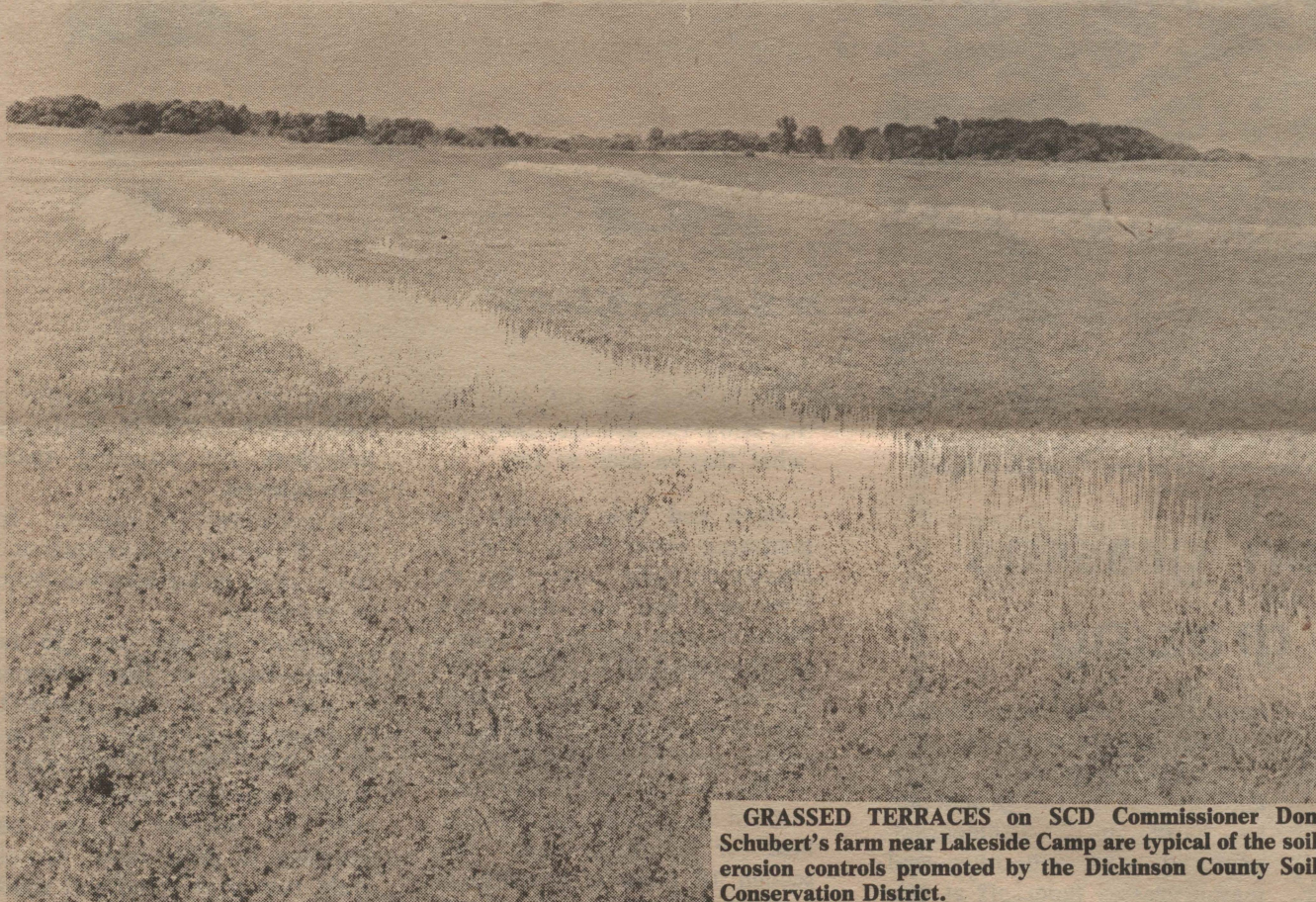
1509 MEMPHIS

Supersweet
FEEDS

SPIRIT LAKE



TERRACES in the distance slow runoff water on a farm just southwest of Arnolds Park. Ralph Wyatt, the landowner, recently cost-shared to have the water control structures installed.



GRASSED TERRACES on SCD Commissioner Don Schubert's farm near Lakeside Camp are typical of the soil erosion controls promoted by the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District.



A PIT POND on the Dean Wallace farm southwest of Spirit Lake provides water for Wallace's cattle when the small creek dries up. The water is clear, cold and usually drinkable with a minimum of chlorination. Pit ponds are cost-sharing practices.



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Spirit Lake

Iowa Conservancy Act

Commonly referred to as the soil erosion law, the Conservancy Act of 1971 asked soil conservation districts to set soil loss limits. Where these soil losses are exceeded, and a neighbor being damaged by the resulting sediment complains in writing to the district, the offending landowner may be forced to stop the erosion. The state of Iowa provides 75% of the cost of the conservation work needed. Since the act was passed in 1971, more than 100 letters have been received by districts. No cases had gone to court by the end of 1976. The law has had the effect of urging more voluntary conservation.

208 Planning

The Soil Conservation Service is working closely with the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation, soil conservation districts, and the Iowa Department of Environmental Quality to identify sources of non-point pollution and develop "best management" practices to solve the problem. Non-point pollution is, in general, sediment and attached pollutants from water runoff.

Sediment is Iowa's greatest single water pollutant by volume. An incredible 200 million tons of sediment is estimated to be washed into Iowa's streams and lakes each year.

Prime Agricultural Land Maps

The Soil Conservation Service, with a vast amount of information already available about soil characteristics, has begun a nationwide inventory of prime agricultural lands. County by county, the Soil Conservation Service is compiling and publishing prime agricultural land maps. The goal in Iowa is to have maps for at least a third of Iowa's counties by 1980.

These "prime agricultural lands" are those best suited to producing food and fiber. The soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply combine to give sustained high crop production from these lands.

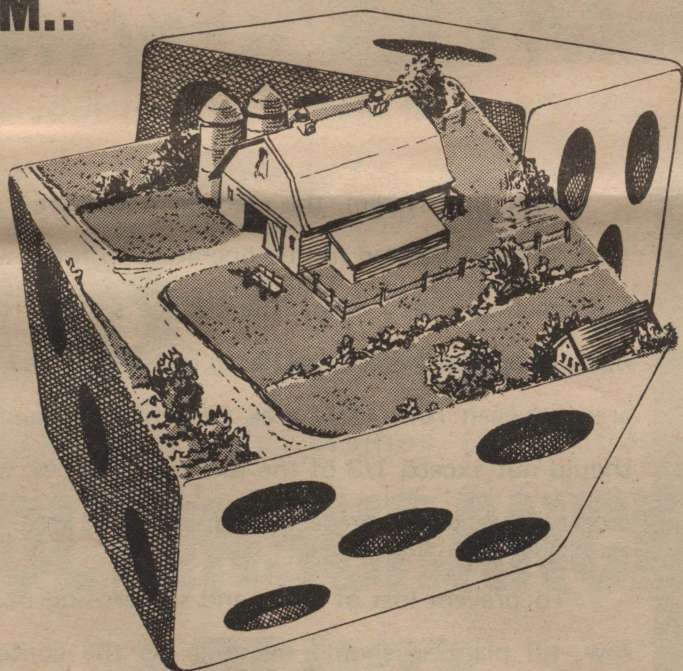
betty farmer. . .



state clerk

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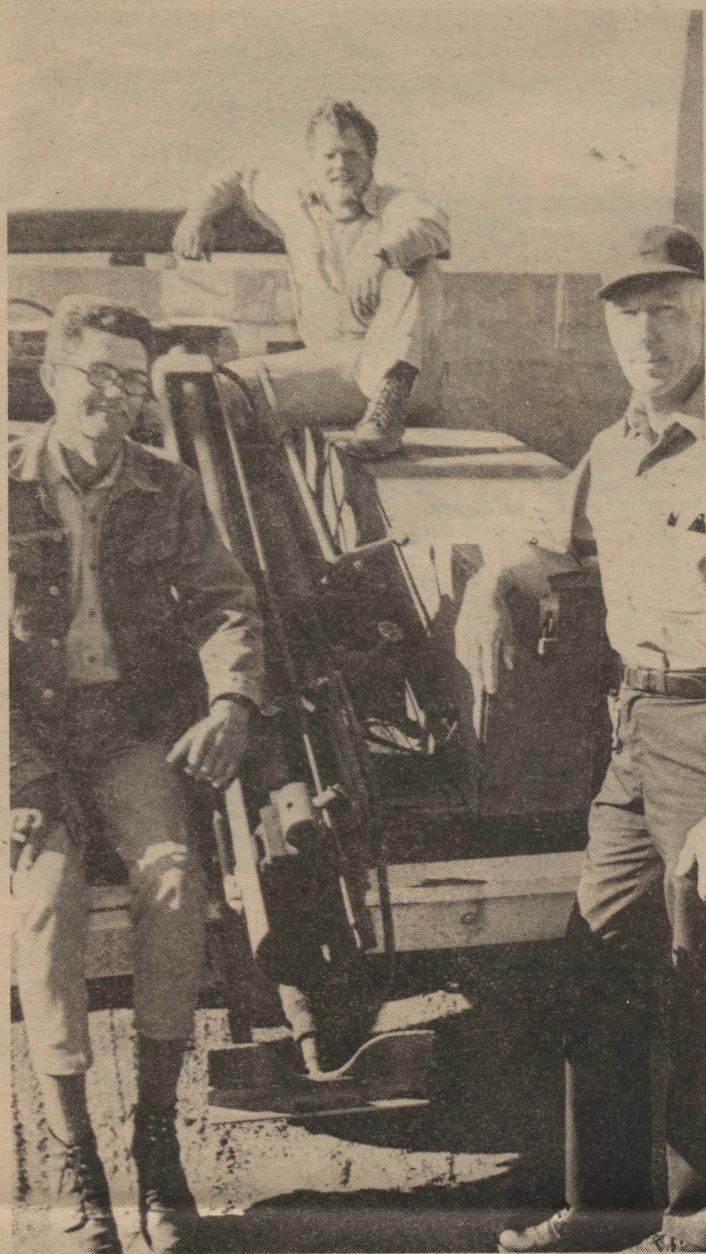
DICKINSON COUNTY MUTUAL

NORM MEINKING — LOREN HOVLAND
Phone 336-1262 - Spirit Lake



A GRASSED WATERWAY provides a natural route for runoff water. This one is located in Westport Twp. Construction of such waterways is possible through cost-sharing.

**wayne dankert ron
reckner and larry hanson**



... soil scientists

Till Planting Systems



BRIAN BARBER, a senior at South Dakota State, Vermillion, is a summer intern for the Dickinson County SCD. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Barber, rural Spirit Lake.

With this system, the seedbed is prepared and the crop seed planted in one operation in the row of the previous year's crop. The surface soil and residues are pushed from the old crop row into the center area between rows. The area disturbed in planting should not exceed $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total surface area, with crop residues left to protect the undisturbed area.

To prevent loss of stand and soil erosion in the row, till planting should be done on the contour. Contouring with a till planter to leave crop residues between the rows makes this system more effective than conventional contouring or residues used separately.

New conservation plans prepared



CLARENCE CALL, district commissioner, examines an inlet tube located behind a recently-seeded terrace on land owned by Ralph Wyatt, Arnolds Park.

county a.s.c.s. committee



bruce will, john eckard
 and neal delaney . . .

Anticipating changes in farm legislation, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) will soon require Dickinson County farmers to report their corn, wheat, grain sorghum and barley acreage. The Dickinson County ASCS office is already accepting acreage reports for feed grain acreage if the planting is complete.

According to Duane Curry, county ASCS executive director, both congressional agriculture committees have reported out farm bills which provide that if a set-aside is implemented for 1978 crops, the acreage required to be set aside may be based on a percentage of the acreage planted for harvest in 1977. Neither version of the bill proposes to use acreage planted in 1977 as a basis for establishing acreage allotments, however.

Farmers will have until Aug. 16, 1977 to report their acreage for corn, grain sorghum and barley. Farmers who fail to report planted acreage will be considered to have no planted acreage and may be ineligible for program benefits in 1978 Curry said.

ASCS employees will make spot checks of farms to assure that acreage reports are accurate, Curry added.

Subsoil moisture still 91% short

Subsoil moisture continues to be 91 percent short in northwest Iowa, but this is better than north central and northeast Iowa where the subsoil moisture is 100 percent short.

Topsoil moisture is 63 percent short in northwest Iowa, compared to 80 percent short statewide.

Percent of soybeans emerged in northwest Iowa is at 96 percent—one percent ahead of the statewide average. Eighty-two percent of the oats are headed, and 84 percent of the 1st cutting of alfalfa has been completed.



Early growth of birdsfoot trefoil pastures can be saved for mid-summer grazing (above). Grazing season can be extended into winter, by baling forage and leaving it in the field (below).



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