

POWESHIEK COUNTY

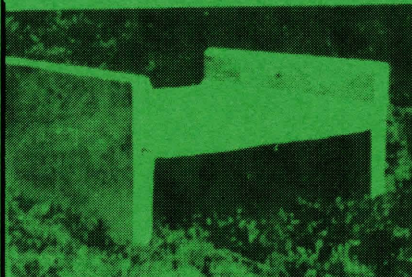


No-till planting on the contour on the Farrell Siehl farm.

Soil Conservation District Annual Report *1978*

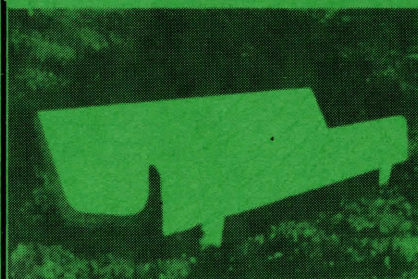
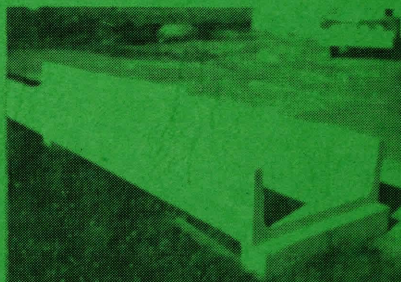
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Groups Who Assist the District

1. Soil Conservation Service
2. Department of Soil Conservation
3. County A S C S (RECP Program)
4. County Extension Service
5. State Conservation Commission
6. Federal Fish & Wildlife Service
7. State & National Assn. of District Commissioners
8. Grinnell Kiwanis Club
9. Newspapers
10. Radio & TV Stations
11. County Board of Supervisors
12. Contractors
13. Vocational Agriculture
14. 4-H Clubs
15. Boy Scouts
16. Public Schools
17. County Farm Bureau
18. County Grange
19. County Conservation Board
20. F H A
21. Professional & Business personnel
22. Izaak Walton League
23. N F O



COMMISSIONERS-Seated: [L to R] Arlene [Mrs. Delmar] Ford, Commissioner; Charles Fenner, Chairman and Helen [Mrs. Robert] Renaud, Commissioner. Standing: [L to R] Miles Clayton and Lauren Wright, Commissioners and Ken Christiansen, Ass't. Commissioner. Absent: Loren Roorda, Commissioner.



THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT PERSONNEL-[L to R] Robert Malin, State Engineering Aide II, Carol McCain, State Clerk and David W. Kudej, District Conservationist.

ASSISTED BY

A. Keith Glandon	Area Conservationist
Marvin Parmer	Civil Engineer
Francis W. Vos	Civil Engineer Technician
Kent Rice	Engineer Trainee
Kathi Ohnemus	Area Clerk



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- 1970 - Clarence-Van Wyk*, C.R. McLain, Howard Johnson, Raymond Gregory, John Thompson
- 1971 - Richard Widmer, George Morrison
- 1972 - Robert Renaud, Dorothy and Royce Renaud, Arnout Dunnick
- 1973 - Farrell Siehl
- 1974 - Ross Mintle
- 1975 - Robert Haworth
- 1978 - Jim Ahrens, Tom Harris, Leland Grattan, Jim and Bernie Hansen and L.L. Brown.

*Region VII Sweepstakes Winners also.

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Conservation tillage is a farming operation which is rapidly becoming an economical way of crop production. Leaving enough crop residue on the soil surface at planting time to protect the soil from water and wind erosion is the key.

A farmer usually will make fewer trips across the field by eliminating plowing and working the ground in the conventional manner. He does this by planting in last year's crop residue. Less labor, lower production costs, and increased net income make conservation tillage vital in today's farming operations.

As well as saving money, conservation tillage conserves ground moisture due to evaporation, reduces erosion from wind and water, and provides food and cover for wildlife through the crucial winter months.

On our steeper sloping soils, conservation tillage should be performed on the contour or in conjunction with terrace systems. At least 2000 lbs. of crop residue must be left on the soil surface to have minimal protection from water and wind erosion. With 3000 lbs. of crop residue (about 1/2 the residue from 100 bu. corn crop) soil erosion can be reduced up to one-half that of conventional tillage.

With over half the topsoil lost to erosion in Poweshiek County, conservation tillage offers one practice to reduce erosion on cropland with little or no out of pocket expense. It is one practice all farmers should use.

Conservation tillage reduces soil losses, provides for a cleaner environment, and provides cover and food for wildlife. Conservation tillage will get you planting earlier, allow you more free time, and lower your operating expenses. All in all conservation tillage is just good business and good conservation of natural resources.

David W. Kudej
 District Conservationist



Agricultural Stabilization And Conservation Service

The Poweshiek County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) administers the farm programs in the county.

All provisions of the various programs are carried out by regularly employed personnel who administer the program policies established by the elected committeemen.

Processing of Price Support Loans, administering the Feed Grain program, providing loans for on-farm storage and dryers, and providing information and funds for farmers participating in the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) are some of the programs for which ASCS has responsibility. Their office phone number is 528-4115.

The Poweshiek County ASC Committee consists of Evan Johnston, chairman, Jack Grier, Vice Chairman, and Ernest Swanson, regular member.



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Mike Rich, Trainee, inspecting sediment basins installed on the Chief Alfa farm.



Sediment basins installed on the Fisher - Martin farm.



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Services Available From The Extension Office

by Charles S. Wengert,
County Extension Director

The Extension Service is the educational arm of Iowa State University. Its purpose is to bring the results of studies and research conducted at Iowa State to people in the county. The assistance of the Extension Service is available to all people of the county, both rural and urban.

The cooperative Extension Service is set up so that Iowa State University at Ames and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperate in the educational endeavor.

The County Extension Council, made up of one representative elected from each township and the city of Grinnell together with committees on agricultural production, home economics, 4-H, community development, and public affairs, plan a yearly program to suit the educational needs of the people of the county.

The Extension Director, Home Economist, and 4-H and Youth Leader have had training at Iowa State University and are approved and recommended for positions in the counties by the state Extension Staff. With the help of specialists and supervisors from this staff, they are responsible for the planning and execution of the county program.

Extension Staff Members are Charles S. Wengert, County Extension Director; Deborah Van Arkel, Extension Home Economist; Nancy Allen, Extension 4-H and Youth Aide; Phyllis Sheetz, office assistant. Their office phone number is 623-5188.

Extension Council Members are: Mark E. Hendrickson, Chairman; John Wemer, Vice-Chairman; Douglas A. Brown, Treasurer; Janet Van Ervelde, Secretary; Richard Carmichael, Marilyn Warwick, Lois Evans, John Verdeck, Marvin Cordes, Richard Ryan, Melvin Hohl, Harriett Wisecarver, Ed Watkins, Stanley Gray, Larry Sanders, Wayne Farnum, Robert Kline.

AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Programs and activities of Cooperative Extension Service are available to all potential clientele without regard to race, color, sex or national origin. Anyone who feels discriminated against should send a complaint within 180 days to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250



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| 2. Manatts Investment Co. | 23. Keith R. Craig |
| 3. Vern Brooke | 24. Stanley Munn |
| 4. Don K. Schuldt | 25. D.L. Gray |
| 5. Madeline Harris | 26. Donald Moyer |
| 6. Milo Kruseman | 27. I. Jay Hamilton |
| 7. Kenneth J. Benda | 28. Gregory C. Steele |
| 8. Robert N. Downer | 29. H.D. Larsen |
| 9. Charles L. Klaassen | 30. Dave Price |
| 10. Bill Schultz | 31. Harold E. Iezek |
| 11. Valere Lavent | 32. John R. Wiese |
| 12. Eldon & Wesley Van Wyk | 33. Howard Hafkey |
| 13. Lloyd A. Sieck | 34. Gene Gritsch |
| 14. Clifford L. Strovers | 35. Earl J. Jensen |
| 15. Ed Peak Jr. | 36. Russell F. Hughes |
| 16. Vursel Wright | 37. Lawrence Routier |
| 17. Rochelle Brannian | 38. Howard G. McKee |
| 18. William H. Henkle | 39. Leland Fynaardt |
| 19. Grinnell-Newburg Community School | 40. Marvin Lynn |
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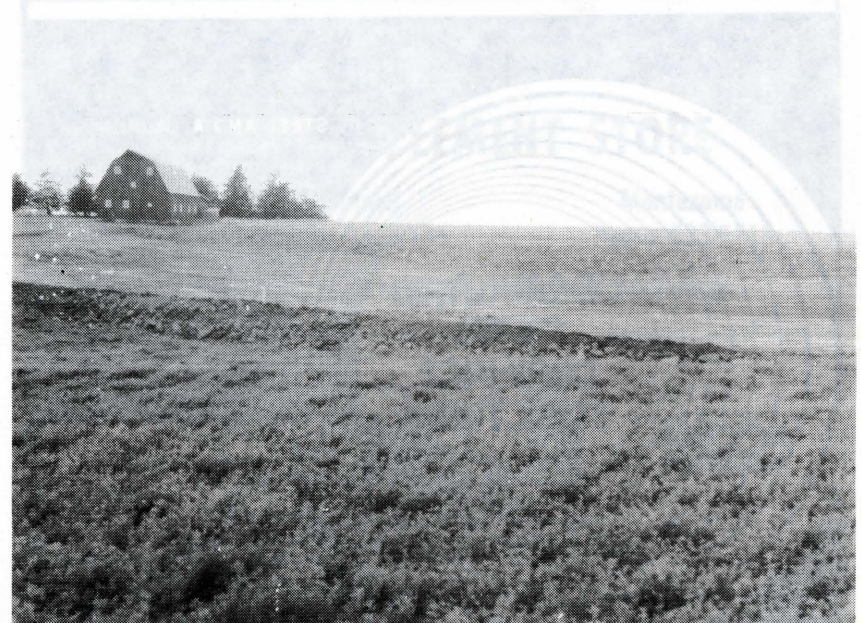
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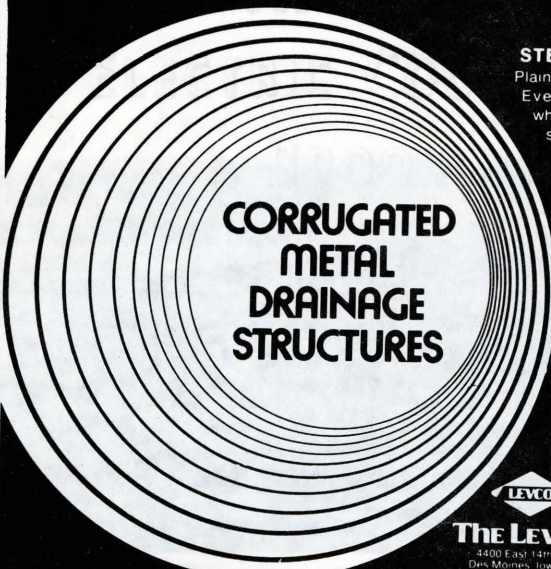
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FORESTRY - 1978

On a recent trip through central Iowa the stark barren landscape had a depressing effect. On both sides of the road as far as one could see, the land was black. The snow drifts were covered with black dirt. There was no place for a rabbit to hide or a pheasant to seek shelter. When I was a farm boy in this part of the state, winter weekends were spent rabbit hunting, exploring the slews, watching for winter birds, and trying to read the wildlife tracks in the snow. There was even a flock of prairie chickens in the neighborhood.

Farm houses stand naked against the horizon. It is obvious that the only buildings used are the house, machine shed and grain storage bins. Many farmsteads show no sign of anyone being there. They've probably gone south for the winter. All of this made me think of a paragraph from Wendell Barry's book, **The Unsettling of America:**

"A healthy farm will have trees on it -- woodlands where trees are native -- also, fruit and nut trees, trees for shade and windbreaks. Trees will be there for their usefulness -- for food, lumber, fence posts, firewood, shade and shelter. But they will also be there for comfort and pleasure, for wildlife that they harbor, and for beauty. The woodlands bespeak the willingness to let live that which keeps wildness flourishing in a settled place. A part of the health of a farm is the farmer's wish to remain there. His long-term good intention toward the place is signified by the presence of trees. A family is married to a farm more by their planting and protection of trees than by their memories or their knowledge, for trees stand for their fidelity and kindness to what they do not know. The most revealing sign of ill health of industrial agriculture -- its greed, its short term ambitions -- is its inclination to see trees as obstructions and to strip the land bare of them."

In the struggle for financial survival on the farm, it is easy to let, "Will it make any money?" be the criteria for all that is done. Regard for the land then becomes the same as if it were a factory, a building, or a commodity with money-making the sole reason for existence. Instead, why not ask if your actions make this a nicer place to live? Are you protecting the land? Will other creatures be permitted to survive?

by Ed Gardiner, Forester, Anamosa District

"Editor's note": For forestry assistance in Poweshiek County, contact your local SCS office or contact Bob Hibbs, District Forester, Box 681, Marshalltown 50158.



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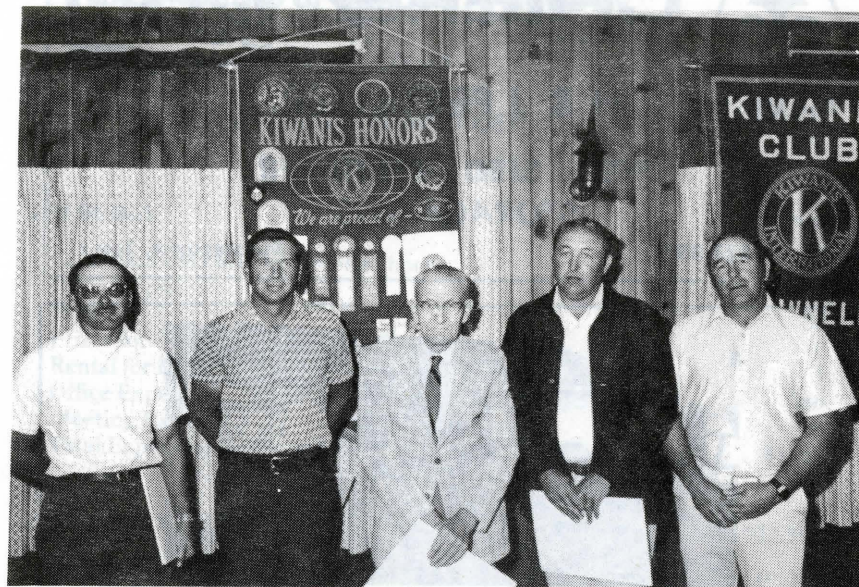
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CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS



Conservation award winners [L to R]: Jim Ahrens, Tom Harris, Leland Grattan, Jim Hansen and Bernard Hansen. Not present: L.L. Brown.

Winners in the Poweshiek County contest of the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Contest were announced July 11, 1978 at the awards dinner hosted by the Grinnell Kiwanis Club, according to Charles Fenner, Chairman, Poweshiek Soil Conservation District.

Winners were: Division I, Family Operated Farms - Hansen Bros. (Jim and Bernard) of Montezuma; Division II, Landlord-Tenant Division - Leland Grattan, Newton, owner, Tom Harris, Grinnell, tenant; Division III, new cooperator - L.L. Brown, Grinnell, owner and Ahrens, Inc. Grinnell, tenant. The L.L. Brown farm was entered in regional state judging.

Hansen Bros. land includes 930 acres of land with ponds, a grade stabilization structure, contouring, terraces, diversion, grass waterways, conservation tillage, tile, pasture planting and strip cropping.

The Grattan farm includes 280 acres with many tile outlet terraces, diversions, grass waterways, strip cropping, contouring, tiling and conservation tillage.

The L.L. Brown farms includes 100 acres with terraces, grassed waterways, tile and crop rotation. All land is adequately treated with soil losses within tolerant limits.

County judging was conducted by the Poweshiek County Soil Conservation District and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, according to Fenner.



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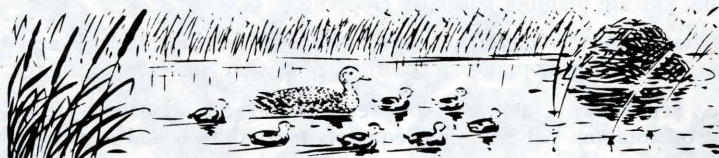
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1-M BUDGET

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Commissioners mileage, meals, hotel	795.30
Office Supplies	123.51
Printing	50.07
Prizes for Contests	0.00
Rental for Meeting Halls	3.00
Office Expense	286.70
Meeting Expense	10.45
Total Expended for Fiscal Year	\$1269.03

2-M BUDGET

\$22,700.95

Technical & Clerical Gross Earnings	19,243.00
District Share of Federal Retirement	1145.18
District Share of State Retirement	1010.21
Insurance	983.15
Clerical Meals and Travel	154.41
Equipment	165.00
Total for Fiscal Year	22,700.95

3-M BUDGET [State Cost-Share Funds]

Allocation to district	\$38,000.00
Total unobligated Funds	144.88

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CONSERVATION SPEECH WINNERS



Terry Dale of Brooklyn was the winner of this year's speech contest sponsored by the Poweshiek County Soil Conservation District. Gloria Lester [center] won second place, and Laura May [right] won third place. Both girls are from Montezuma. This year's topic was "Soil and Water - Key to Our Future".

In August 1973 the Construction of a new all Modern Sale Barn with the "Scales in the Ring" was underway at the north edge of Montezuma on Hwy. 63. Our first sale was held Feb. 7, 1974. We extend a cordial welcome to buyers, sellers and visitors.

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Wildlife Conservation

Wildlife habitat is still the key for survival of wildlife. All birds and animals need places to raise their young, food to eat, and necessary cover to endure Iowa's harsh winter.

Nesting cover is probably the biggest limiting factor in Iowa at this time of soaring land prices. Row crops dominate the landscape in most areas and offer little or no cover for pheasants and other ground-nesting birds and animals that are trying to establish a nest.

For pheasants, brome-alfalfa is the best nesting cover you can provide in most areas. Alfalfa starts growth early in the spring, and combined with the old brome stalks from the year before provides excellent nesting cover if left undisturbed through July. Odd areas, hillsides, pond areas and field borders can be seeded with this combination to make better habitat for pheasants and other wildlife.

Set-aside acres are very important areas where wildlife benefits can be realized. Oats seeded at 2½ bushels or more per acre before April 20 and left undisturbed as long as possible (July 15 or later) will provide fair nesting cover on annual set-aside acres. Any number of plant species or grass-legume combinations, if left undisturbed, will be superior to oats on fields that are set-aside for more than one year. Brome-alfalfa has been proven as the most productive nesting cover on retired fields.

Fields or small areas that are left totally undisturbed for a number of years are much more productive than those mowed or grazed periodically.

Switchgrass, a native or warm-season grass, can play an important role in wildlife and pasture management. It offers good nesting cover for wildlife and also stands up well as winter cover. Switchgrass can also be used very effectively in a pasture rotation program because it provides excellent forage during July and August when the cool-season pastures are pretty much dormant. If you desire more information on this program, contact the Soil Conservation Service for literature.

Another important application of switchgrass is for grass waterways, where atrazine carryover is a common problem. Switchgrass is tolerable of atrazine and will do a good job in waterways. This can make waterways attractive to wildlife and also provide needed soil conservation benefits.

I would like to thank the staff of the Soil Conservation Service for their help in past years. Also, thanks to the landowners who put their concern for wildlife into action and really did something about it. Whether it be switchgrass or grass-legume combinations for nesting cover, or tree and shrub plantings for winter cover, habitat improvement is still the key to wildlife conservation.

ROBERT KURTZ
WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST
OTTER CREEK WILDLIFE UNIT
203 W. HIGH STREET
TOLEDO, IOWA 52342

Accomplishment Summary for 10-1-77 to 9-30-78

	No.	Unit Of Measure
New District Cooperators	45	9045 Ac.
Basic Conservation Plans	31	6405 Ac.
Conservation Plans Revised	10	1271 Ac.
Individuals and Groups Assisted	314	
Individuals and Groups Applying Practices	202	
Strip Cropping		250 Ac.
Grassed Waterway		49 Ac.
Ponds Built	3	
Terraces		12,750 L. Ft.
Tile Drains		168,516 L. Ft.
Tree Planting		6 Ac.
Pasture and Hayland Planting		762 Ac.
Critical Area Planting		5 Ac.
Water and Sediment Control Basins	86	

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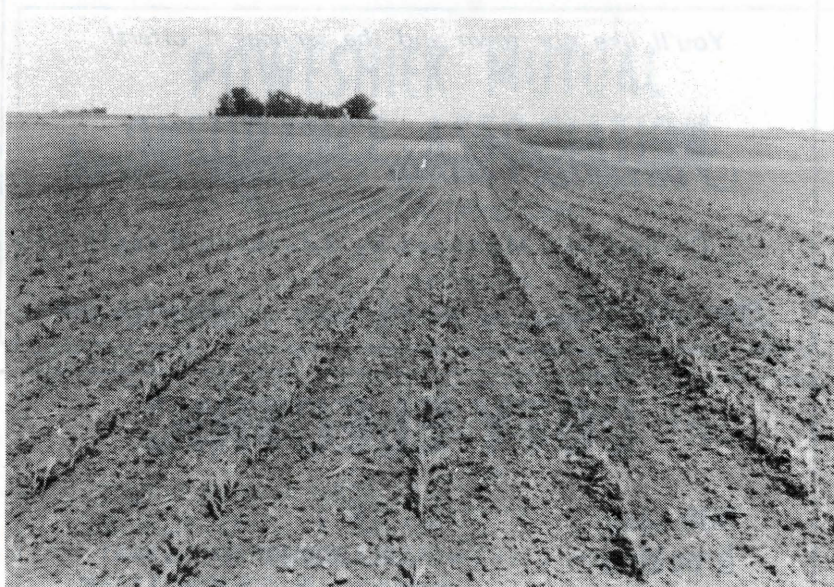
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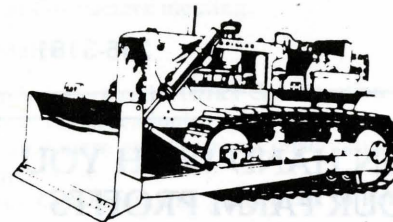
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DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS FOR

January

Commissioners and District Conservationist attend Short Course at Ames. District Conservationist presented a talk on pond management at a night school in Montezuma.

District Conservationist attended a Rural Development meeting at ASCS.

February

District Conservationist attended a Century III meeting in Newton. Annual Contractors meeting.

March

Commissioners and District Conservationist attend 208 meeting in Montezuma. District Conservationist plans outdoor classroom for Grinnell Jr. High. Commissioners and District Conservationist attend Regional meeting at Little Amanas.

District Conservationist gave a talk to Farm Bureau women.

May

5th Grade Field Day at Diamond Lake.

District Conservationist attended a Rural Development meeting at Marion.

July

District Conservationist attended Farm Bureau meeting - RCA Presentation. District Conservationist gave a talk at the Kiwanis Awards Dinner.

August

District Conservationist attended a No-Till Tour at Williamsburg.

September

District Conservationist attends a soil meeting at the Extension office.

District Conservationist attended an area meeting in Newton.

October

Commissioners held District speech contest

Commissioners and District Conservationist hold soil survey meeting in Malcom.

Montezuma Vo-Ag class met at the Robert Haworth farm.

November

District Conservationist attended a Rural Development meeting at ASCS.

Commissioners and District Conservationist attend Regional meeting at Little Amanas.

December

Commissioners and office staff attend Christmas party at Victor.

District Clerk attended Annual Conference at Fort. Dodge.

District Conservationist attended ACP meeting with ASCS.

Farmers Home Administration

Farmers Home Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, makes loans to farmers, families of low and moderate income and rural communities. These applicants must be unable to get credit from conventional sources in order to get assistance. This general purpose credit service contributes in a variety of ways to the vitality and expansion of the rural economy. It provides financial assistance for the development of essential public services and the growth of rural communities. The programs that would be most commonly used in Poweshiek County are as follows:

INDIVIDUAL HOMEOWNERSHIP LOANS:

Purpose: To buy, build, improve or relocate homes for farm service buildings; to buy building sites; to refinance certain debts.

For: Low to moderate income families who will occupy homes in rural areas. Rental and Cooperative Housing Loans:

Purpose: To build, buy, improve or repair rental or cooperatively owned houses or apartments for independent living by senior citizens and low to moderate income families.

For: Nonprofit corporations, cooperatives, municipal bodies, individuals, partnerships and corporations.

Terms: 33 years repayment.

REPAIR AND REHABILITATION HOUSING LOANS:

Purpose: To make minor repairs for safety or to remove health hazards.

For: Very low income owner-occupants who cannot qualify for housing loans but do have repayment capability.

Terms: 10 years repayment.

FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS:

Purpose: To buy land; refinance debts; construct, repair or improve buildings; improve farmland; develop water facilities and establish farm-based business enterprises to supplement farming income.

For: Qualified persons who will get a substantial share of their income from farming.

Terms: 40 years repayment.

FARM OPERATING LOANS:

Purpose: To buy livestock, equipment, feed, seed, fertilizer, birds or supplies for farm and home operations; refinance debts or pay interest on them; pay depreciation on equipment; make minor real estate improvements; improve forest lands; establish non-farm enterprises to supplement farm income.

For: Eligible operators of not larger-than-family farms.

Terms: 7 years repayment.

FARM EMERGENCY LOANS:

Purpose: For operating or living expenses and to replace livestock and equipment needed to restore normal operations after severe loss from natural disaster. Repairs to homes, essential farm buildings and related facilities are included.

For: Eligible farmers, ranchers and oyster planters.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION LOANS:

Purpose: To finance land and water development measures, forestation, drainage of farm land, irrigation, pasture improvement and related land and water use adjustments.

For: An eligible owner, tenant, leaseholder, partnership or corporation.

Terms: 40 years repayment.

ECONOMIC EMERGENCY:

Purpose: To restructure debts of bona fide farmers including corporations and partnerships who are primarily and directly engaged in agricultural production so they may continue normal farming operations. Loans cannot be made for expansion purposes but can be used for improvement in facilities.

SUMMARY

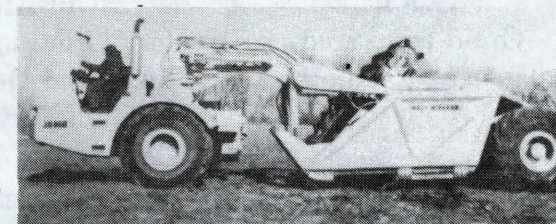
Individuals interested in obtaining information about loan programs can meet with the FmHA representative on Tuesdays between 9:30 A.M. and noon in the Malcom ASCS office. The Toledo FmHA office covers Tama and Poweshiek counties. Inquiries also can be made to the Toledo office on Mondays between 8:00 A.M. and noon.

Byron Witt, Supervisor

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Poweshiek County Soil Conservation District Commissioners on judging tour for conservation awards. [L to R]: Helen [Mrs. Robert] Renaud, Charles Fenner, Ken Christiansen, Ass't. Commissioner and Mike Rich, Student Trainee.

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