

**THE IOWA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS**

Affiliated with

The National Association of Soil Conservation Districts

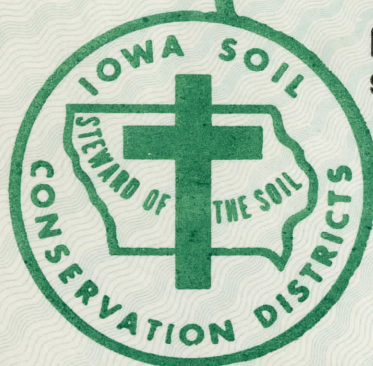
Certifies That the

LOUISA SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Is a Member of the

100% Club for 1978

This certificate is an acknowledgement of the holder's interest and active support in a sound soil and water conservation program on the land through the soil conservation district associations of Iowa.



Charles McLaughlin
President

**THE IOWA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS**

Affiliated with

The National Association of Soil Conservation Districts

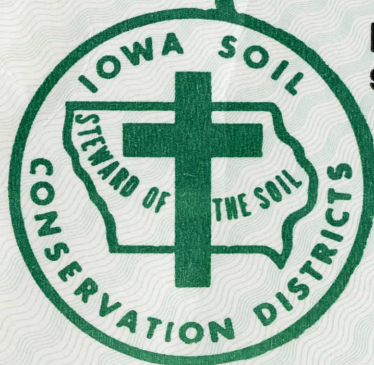
Certifies That the

LOUISA SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Is a Member of the

100% Club for 1979

This certificate is an acknowledgement of the holder's interest and active support in a sound soil and water conservation program on the land through the soil conservation district associations of Iowa.



Charles T. McLaughlin
President

**THE IOWA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS**

Affiliated with

The National Association of Soil Conservation Districts

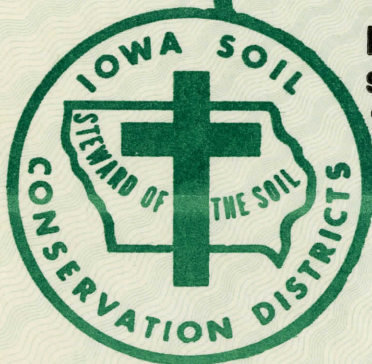
Certifies That the

LOUISA SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Is a Member of the

100% Club for 1980

This certificate is an acknowledgement of the holder's interest and active support in a sound soil and water conservation program on the land through the soil conservation district associations of Iowa.



Charles T. McLaughlin

President

SOIL SURVEY FACTS - LOUISA COUNTY

I. Background

- a. A Letter of Intent to enter into a cooperative soil survey for Louisa County was signed by the County in September 1973.
- b. The County's investment was \$50,000. This money covered approximately one-third of the cost of the field work. The state of Iowa and the Federal Government each contributed approximately one-third of the cost of the field work.
- c. The field mapping started in June 1979 and will be completed in June 1983.
- d. Louisa County consists of 257,920 acres or 11.19 townships. Rule of thumb -- approximately three-quarters of a man-year is required to do the field work in one township.
- e. Soil Scientists that worked in the county and contributed to the soil mapping included: Melvin D. Brown, Party Leader; Bennie Clarks, Jr., Richard Lensch, and Tom Brontmeier.

II. Statistics

- a. 67 soil series were identified in the county. Example: Otley.
- b. 148 soil mapping units were identified in the county. Example: Otley silty clay loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes, moderately eroded.

Note: A soil series is identified by a soil name. The soil name often is taken from the town or county where the soil was first identified and established as a series.

A soil mapping unit includes the soil series, texture of the tilled layer, slope class, and erosion class.

All soil delineations on the soil map sheets are for soil mapping units.

- c. 3 new soil series are proposed to be established as a result of the Louisa County soil survey. The type location of the proposed series are in Louisa or Muscatine county. These series are: Elrick, Letts, and Towhead.

-- More --

- d. 11 soil association areas were identified in the county.
- e. 7 land capability classes were identified. Example: Class I, Class II, etc. Class I land has few or now physical limitations for crop production. Higher numbered classes have increasing number of physical limitations.
- f. Approximately 250 detailed soil profile descriptions, 900 soil field notes and 30 soil investigation projects were made by the field party.
- g. During the course of the survey, soil samples were submitted to the Iowa Cooperative Soil Survey Laboratory for mechanical analyses and soil pH. In addition, organic carbon and available phosphorus were determined for some of these samples.

III. Publications

- a. Approximately 70 copies of the field sheets will be made available to the county. The field sheets will be one part of a two-part Advance Report.
- b. The Louisa County published soil survey report should be available in 1986 or 1987.

IV. Soil Survey Status of Iowa Counties

- a. 59 counties have completed modern soil surveys and have published reports available in the county.
- b. 13 counties have the field work completed for a modern soil survey but the report is not published. Louisa County is in this group of counties. 10 of these counties have advance reports.
- c. 18 counties are presently being surveyed.. Many field sheets are available for inspection at the Soil Conservation District or County Extension Offices.
- d. 4 counties have signed letters of intent for a soil survey. Starting dates for these counties range from 1983 to 1984.
- e. 3 counties with published modern soil surveys are in need of major updating. Plans for field work to be initiated are scheduled for 1983 and 1984.
- f. 2 counties with modern soil surveys are in need of major updating. These counties currently have no plans for initiating field work at a future date.



United States
Department of Agriculture

Certificate of Appreciation

Awarded to

Wapello Field Office

for

Superior Accomplishment

**Shawn A. Dettmann
Sherry L. Parkhurst**

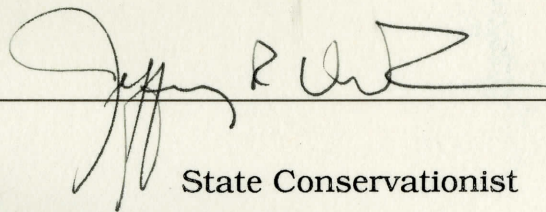
**Norman L. Stone
Janet Williams**

Gail B. Swails

Superior accomplishment for an outstanding job in completing a massive workload generated by the Wetland Reserve Program in FY92.

Date

11/30/92



State Conservationist

All of Iowa declared disaster

By Mike Williams
and Ron De Christopher

Iowa Farmer Today

The extent of Iowa's unprecedented flooding came into full focus Tuesday when President Clinton declared the entire state a disaster area.

The statewide declaration is at least very rare and possibly a first for the nation, said Keith Radakovich, a public information specialist with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Des Moines.

Also on Tuesday, USDA Secretary Mike Espy expanded his agricultural disaster area declaration statewide.

Emergency loans will be available through the Farmers Home Administration for crop losses.

Farmers with at least 30 percent loss of normal production may be eligible for 4.5-percent-interest loans.

Losses may be reported to county ASCS or FmHA offices.

Gov. Terry Branstad on Monday requested Clinton's decree be expanded from 11 to all 99 counties, as incessant rain swelled rivers, broke levees and drowned for now farmers' and other Iowans' hopes of drying out.

With Clinton's proclamation, all Iowans hit by flooding and other forces of nature this spring and summer can obtain federal aid.

People needing help may call 1-800-462-9029 or 1-800-462-7585 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Callers need to supply the following information: name, Social Security number, address where flood victims are staying, description of damage, directions to the damaged property, and insurance policy information.

THE DISASTER declaration follows the announcement July 6 of changes in federal farm programs Espy said the "farmer-friendly" Clinton administration would make to aid water-stricken Midwestern farmers.

On July 4, Clinton proffered \$1.2 billion in aid for the Midwest during his discussion with farmers on the Don and Elaine Schneckloth farm near Eldridge in Scott County.

After taking a helicopter tour of



IFT photo by Ron De Christopher

As more heavy weather bore down on Muscatine County last week, Nichols farmer Mark Elder pondered the situation during a trip to town. About 300 of his 1,100 corn and bean acres were either submerged or unplanted.

flooded areas in the Des Moines area Wednesday. Clinton upped the ante to \$2.48 billion.

Even before Clinton arrived for his latest visit, though, Branstad expressed doubt the nearly \$2.5 billion figure would suffice.

In hard-hit Southeast Iowa, Nichols farmer Mark Elder, who has about 1,100 acres of corn and soybeans, told Iowa Farmer Today last week, "I just hope that we get 50 cents on the dollar." Espy in an Iowa visit June 30 pledged to work for that amount of coverage.

Elder, who has about 160 acres under water and 140 acres unplanted in Muscatine and Johnson counties, said Clinton and Espy are trying to help.

"They definitely realize, I think,

that it's a pretty serious situation. It just costs so much money to do it anymore."

This year's waterlogged situation is worse than the drought of 1988, Elder reasoned, because that year everything got planted before disaster hit.

"And with crop insurance, of course, if you get it planted you've got some coverage. If you don't get it planted, you don't have any," he said.

DETAILS OF Espy's plan include:

- Farmers in Iowa and other Midwest states now have until July 31 to report their actual planted acreage to the ASCS.

- Farmers have until July 31 to sign up for the 0/92 Program.

Farmers who have lost crops or were prevented from planting can obtain federal farm program benefits for 92 percent of their 1993 corn acreage in spite of damages caused by this year's weather.

This includes collecting deficiency payments for unplanted crops, according to the USDA.

- Farmers have until July 31 to apply for prevented planting credit.

- The minimum five-acre requirement for setaside acres is waived.

Farmers can put qualified soaked soils into setaside to meet conservation requirements and to take better advantage of land left dry.

Branstad and other Midwest governors discussed further federal assistance with Vice President Al Gore in a teleconference on July 9, as thunderstorms dropped more rain on Iowa and bordering states.

Before their conference, Branstad said in addition to more aid, he would seek for farmers access to forage crops being grown on farmland taken out of production under federal conservation programs, and easing crop insurance rules which have blocked many farmers from being eligible for aid.

Wet and chilly weather has cut into hay and other feed supplies.

Farmers who have found themselves unable to plant a crop at all are generally not eligible for crop insurance payments. That insurance system is designed to pay for crop losses, and doesn't come into play when there simply is no crop.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.



IFT photo by Ron De Christopher

Yes, one might say, Iowa is a river these days. This sign at Columbus Junction in Louisa County could easily refer to much of the state's waterlogged condition last week. The Southeast Iowa town and surrounding farm fields — some of which are submerged in this photo — fell victim to flooding from the converging Iowa and Cedar rivers.

Scattered, limited terrace destruction

By Mike Williams

Iowa Farmer Today

Conservation practices in Iowa seem to be holding up, despite saturated soils and relentless thunderstorms.

Lynn Betts, Soil Conservation Service (SCS) information officer in Des Moines, reports scattered terrace damage across the state. Most of the destruction seems to be

on waterways. Western Iowa is faring better than the eastern part of the state, where more rain has fallen.

"Flooding is a problem, saturation of soils is a problem and there are isolated cases of severe erosion," Betts says. "I don't think, overall, that we're in one of our most-serious erosion years."

Jones and Linn counties in Eastern Iowa received some "real gully washers" just after July 4. But judging from county spot checks and relatively quiet telephone calls, there haven't been many cases of

severe damage. John Breune, Jones County SCS district conservationist, says after some county drive-by examination it appears the biggest problems have been gullies and channels carved in and around waterways.

His rough estimate is that about 100,000 crop acres in Jones County lost 20 tons or more soil per acre after these rains. Breune credits farmers' application of conservation tillage systems and other soil-saving practices with preventing more loss.

"The soils are saturated. So without any infiltration the water goes right over the top," Breune says. "But in heavier residue areas sheet erosion has been reduced dramatically."

Most Linn County erosion spotted by Gene Wolter, SCS district conservationist in Marion, was on fields where conservation practices were needed, but not in place. Wolter found established practices were working surprisingly well, despite the downpours.

"I THINK the plant canopies stop erosion more than we give them credit for," Wolter says. "Farmers have done a lot of conservation work in the area the last five years or so, and that's really showing up."

Some new waterways in Dubuque County had a fair amount of damage, according to Greg Martin, SCS district conservationist in Epworth.

The more-established waterways with plenty of grass cover and proper maintenance handled the water well, he adds.

Fields with conservation tillage practices were holding erosion to a tolerable limit.

Crawford County has received its share of moisture, but there have been no big downpours to cause farmers to worry about their conservation structures, says Jay Ford, SCS district conservationist in Denison. Most crops have been planted, and their development is ahead of many in the rest of the state.

Ford says, "No-till has done real well, and corn stalks and high residue have held up very well."

Kevin McCall, SCS district conservationist in Shenandoah in Southwest Iowa, recently traveled across the state and reports conservation practices looked as good as can be expected.

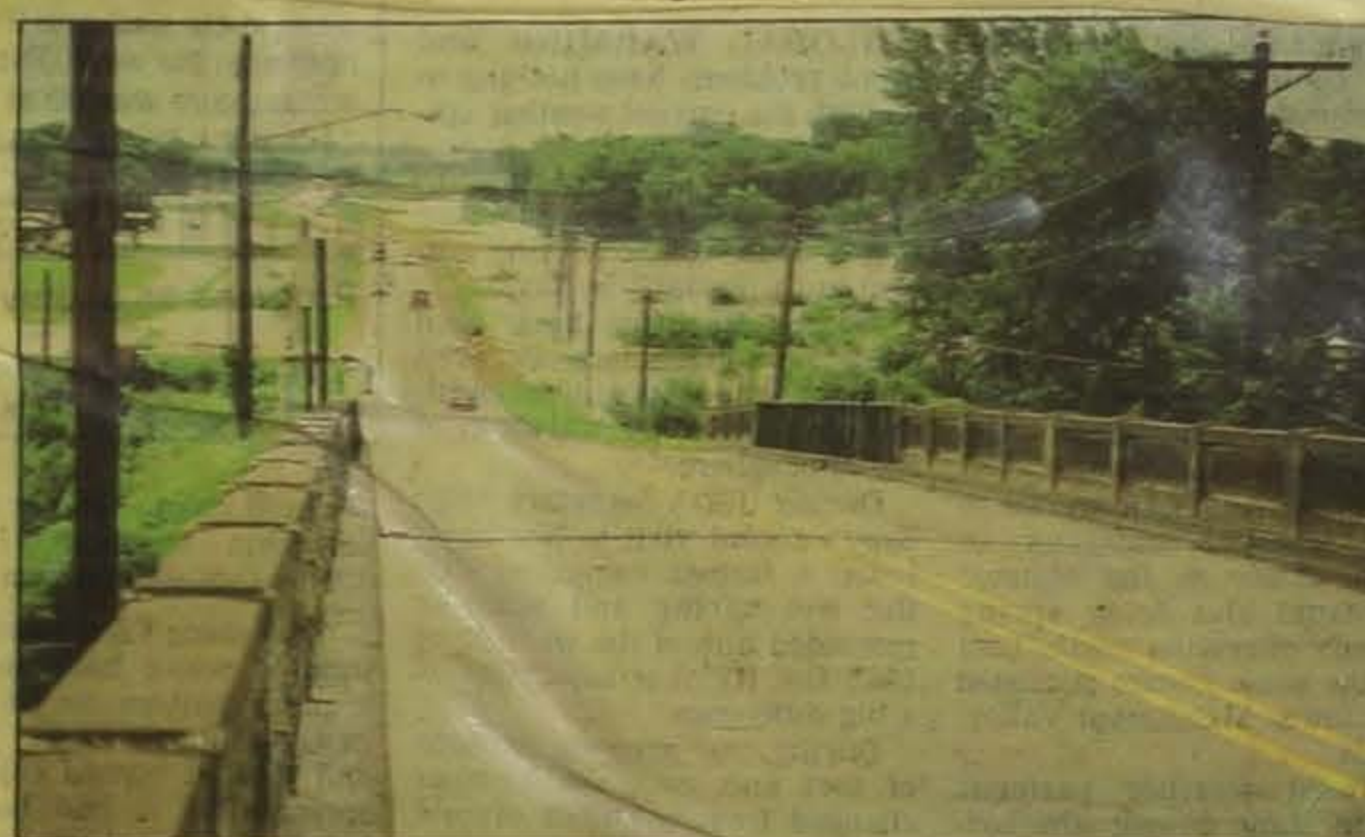
"There's a lot of erosion in a lot of areas, even with conservation structures," McCall says.

However, he's only heard of a few terraces eroding and isn't aware of any requiring a lot of repair. While even some no-till fields may have sustained soil loss, adds McCall, they are in better shape than fields with no conservation practices. ■



IFT photo by Mike Williams

On July 4, President Clinton, USDA Secretary Mike Espy, Gov. Terry Branstad and Iowa Agriculture Secretary Dale Cochran met with farmers near Eldridge to discuss flood damage. Clinton promised to release nearly \$400 million in existing disaster funds and to ask Congress to shift over another \$800 million.



IFT photo by Ron De Christopher

The Iowa River last week, as seen from the high vantage point of the Columbus Junction bridge, cut traffic to one lane on Iowa Highway 92 east of town.

IFT WATER LOG

EARLY-MAY 1993

Jefferson County farmers Nick Adam and Pat Hammes try to beat wet conditions by seeding 85 soybean acres from an airplane. In a followup interview in mid-June, Adam says the experiment is doing well. State Climatologist Harry Hillaker says, "Generally, the whole state is too wet." He reports little fieldwork progress, except in some western counties.

MID-MAY 1993

Planting delays cause some farmers to switch from long-season hybrids to mid- to early season varieties. Late planting may cause farmers to switch fertility and weed-control programs. Gov. Terry Branstad's Crop Condition Task Force — which started in the 1980s as a drought task force — reconvenes and says this year's wet conditions are worse than in 1991. Except for a few dry pockets, most Iowa farmers plant corn late.

JUNE 1993

Some meteorologists and climatologists predict the rainy spring may yield to a hot dry summer. Some even mention the "D" word — drought. Because of the cold, wet weather, USDA Secretary Mike Espy at mid-month lets farmers in 19 Iowa counties harvest forage crops and graze livestock on setaside land. Branstad's crop task force upbeat but says the weather has taken its toll. Significant yield reduction is predicted.

LATE-JUNE 1993

Wet, cool weather delays first-cutting alfalfa harvest. Western Iowa farmer Craig McElrath of Merville, like many Iowans, finds winter kill curtailed yields. "It seems like it rains every three days," he says. Virgil Schmitt, Extension crop specialist in Eastern Iowa, says the weather also caused leaf diseases.

JUNE 30, 1993

With heavy rains — and the Mississippi River and tributaries overflowing their banks — Espy stops at the Dalen Miller farm near Dumont in Eastern Iowa as part of a flood tour. Pledging a "farmer-friendly" ag department, Espy promises to take action in a couple of weeks on aid to waterlogged farms.

JULY 4, 1993

Espy and President Clinton meet with farmers at the Don Schneckloth farm near Eldridge in Scott County. Clinton promises \$400 million in disaster aid to Midwesterners and says he will ask Congress for another \$800 million. He says victims of flooding in the region will be treated similarly to people whose property was damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Andrew in Florida last year. Espy pledged to work for relief of 50 cents on the dollar for people with flood damage.

Wedged between air masses, Iowa is storm haven

By Mike Williams

Iowa Farmer Today

What's causing all this rain? And more importantly, when will it end? Those are two common questions among rain-pelted Iowa farmers these days.

The cause

A very warm, humid air mass has lingered over the center of the Southeast United States for the past few months, State Climatologist Harry Hillaker explains. At the same time, damp air has accumulated north of the Rocky Mountains.

Iowa's proximity to where these weather systems meet resulted in Iowa's drenching.

"Iowa is on the border between these two air masses, and so it's been the preferred place of thunderstorms to develop," Hillaker says. "It's not always above us but moves around the Midwest, and we're in the middle of it. So we're getting more rain in Iowa than anywhere else in the U.S."

In Illinois, the north central and west central areas are most affected by the storm systems. Illinois Climatologist Wayne Wendland says southwest Wisconsin and southeast Minnesota have been hit by above-average rainfall.

For Iowa, June was the warmest since 1895, according to Wendland. For Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota and Michigan, it was between the fifth- and seventh-wettest June.

"That's because there's been such a sustained sequence of precipitation," says Wendland. "Rain has been falling at least every other day but setting few daily records."

The change

The bad news is the current situation is not expected to change soon. The National Weather Service calls for below-normal temperatures and above-normal precipitation for the next 60 to 90 days.

However, the good news is such information is just a bit better than the flip of the coin and has limited value when try-

ing to apply to specific cases, explains Wendland. That is, don't plan planting and harvest according to such forecasts.

ELWYNN TAYLOR, Iowa State University Extension climatologist, says the combination of a low-pressure system persisting over part of South Central Canada flanked by high pressure systems on both coasts seems to develop about every five to 10 years.

Such weather systems persist for six to eight weeks, bringing excessive moisture to the Cornbelt, excessive heat to the Eastern United States and abnormal cold weather to the Northern Rocky Mountains.

Most people want some clear explanation for such long-term weather situations. But all three weather watchers are reluctant to pinpoint any particular culprit. They concede they don't know why.

HILLAKER RELUCTANTLY speculates on the possibility of indirect effects from the Mt. Pinatubo eruption in the Philippines two years ago still contributes to the current weather system.

But the cloud of Pinatubo's volcanic ash that partially blocked out the sun ended in 1992.

The cloud cooled the entire Earth an average of one to two degrees, according to Hillaker. He says it's possible because the Earth cooled that much for many months, it's taking longer for it to warm up a degree or more on average again.

Generally speaking, lower temperatures accompany greater rainfall, Hillaker adds.

Taylor speculates the El Nino warming pattern in the South Pacific may be conspiring with the current systems keeping the storm system over Iowa.

El Ninos have been known to cause weather patterns to remain closer to the equator than usual and delay spring weather's migration north. Last year, the same system persisted in the lower Mississippi Valley, he adds.

Midwest weather patterns seem to show 20-year similarities, according to Taylor. He says Richard Carlson, an ISU

research climatologist, has noticed month-to-month weather conditions which seemed to repeat themselves in the early 1950s, 1972-73 and 1992-93.

"Such cycles are far from being scientifically established," cautions Taylor. "But the similarities of the conditions is worthy of note, especially in light of conditions following those periods."

Widespread drought conditions occurred in 1954 and 1974 over the Cornbelt.

However, Wendland doesn't feel El Nino plays a role. He adds Mt. Pinatubo blew up in January 1991, and by the end of 1992 all evidence of it in the atmosphere was gone.

Satellites showed a cooling of the Earth's lower atmosphere. But temperatures were back to long-term normal by 1992, he adds. Yet, clouds continue to congregate over Iowa and rain falls repeatedly.

Despite their theories, Wendland, Taylor and Hillaker stress they don't know exactly why this is happening and why the pattern doesn't break up and go elsewhere.

"There is no big explanation. We don't have a good reason for it," Wendland says. "I wish we did."

All the rain and flooding gets people's attention because some, sadly, lose their livelihoods or even their lives, he says.

GLOBAL WARMING and ozone problems have nothing to do with the current weather system, Wendland adds.

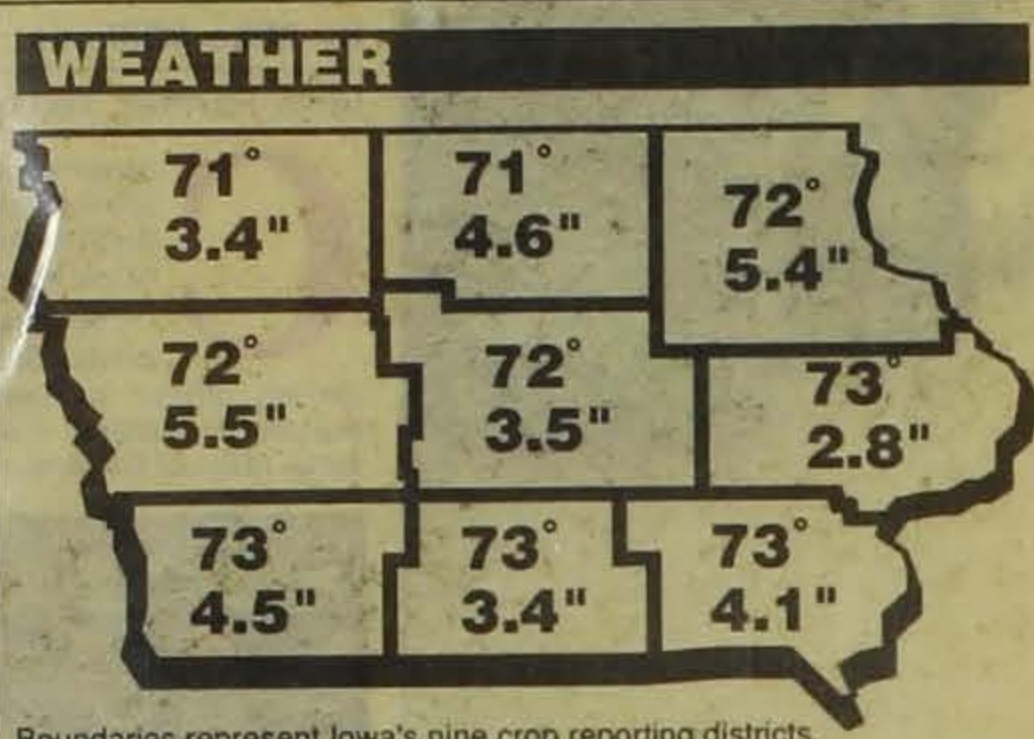
"We can't attribute this to anything environmental like that because it's something natural but unusual," he says.

"Floods like this have been going on long before we even thought about problems with the ozone or other workings of the atmosphere."

During USDA Secretary Mike Espy's recent visit to Northeast Iowa, a farmer remarked that the wet spring and summer reminded him of the weather of 1947. But Hillaker says there is a big difference.

During the growing seasons of 1947 and 1983, the weather changed from extremes of cold and wet to not and dry.

While it's possible the weather



Boundaries represent Iowa's nine crop reporting districts. Last week's average temperature and precipitation are shown.

LAST WEEK

(July 5-12): Heavy thunderstorms moved through the state everyday. Weekly rainfall average for the state amounted to 4.07 inches or four times the normal .91 inch for the week. It was the greatest amount of rain in a single week since records have been kept. This followed 8 consecutive months of heavy rainfall and has led to the worst natural disaster in state history. Weekly rainfall totals varied from 1.77 inches in Plymouth County to 9.59 inches at Denison. The greatest single day rainfall was 7.89 inches at Denison and 7.83 inches at Jefferson on July 9. Temperatures were near normal last week in the east and 2 degrees below normal in the west. The highest temperature was 90 at Burlington on July 11 and the lowest was 52 at Mason City on July 12.

FIELDWORK

Progress as of July 9	State	Last week	Last year	Normal
% Corn acres cultivated	40	30	100	100
% Bean acres cultivated	20	10	90	89

Source: Iowa Department of Agriculture

er could change to hot and dry yet this summer, Hillaker doubts that will happen.

"One thing I see different this time is we've been in a cold weather pattern for 15 months now," Hillaker says. "In 1947 and 1983, it turned cold in the spring. But it had been mild before then, so both were brief periods of cold weather."

The main concern is if it will be warm enough, long enough to allow the crop to reach maturity. The state, overall, is just slightly behind in the number of heat units normal for this time of the year, Hillaker adds.

Food: Espy makes three trips to Iowa in three weeks; on the second and third trips, he brings his boss

From page 1

other streams and reservoirs, according to the report.

Losses are expected to escalate, due to delayed plantings and slowly maturing crops. Corn, at an average of 25 inches tall, is half its normal height.

Cultivation of corn and soybeans is significantly behind normal.

Clinton, Espy and Vice President Al Gore visited Iowa and other flooded states on four occasions between June 30 and July 14.

In Des Moines Wednesday to tour the flood-ravaged city, Clinton unveiled a \$4.48 billion federal flood relief program.

A rough estimate of the damage in Iowa alone is \$1.5 billion, said Keith Radakovich, a FEMA spokesman.

Clinton directed White House budget director Leon Panetta to come up with a new relief package and said it might have to be expanded further once the full extent of the damage was known. Initial estimates put crop and property damage at \$3 billion.

"Frankly, whatever we do, we're going to have to leave open the option to go back for more," Clinton said.

Espy was the first member of the administration to shine a national spotlight on the state's flood damage.

On June 30, he flew by helicopter to Eastern Iowa farms in Butler County, as well as to South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois.

On a return trip July 4, he was joined by the president. The two met with Southeast Iowa farmers at the Don and Elaine Schneckloth farm near Eldridge in Scott County.

"I promised I'd come back, and I brought some help," Espy said. "I brought my boss to speak with you today."

LYLE GOETTSCH of DeWitt, attending the meeting near Eldridge, estimated one-sixth of the corn and soybeans he and sons Lonny and Leonard grow have been drowned this year by heavy rains and rising water tables.

"We'll just have to let it go now. It's too wet and too late to replant," Goettsch said. He wants the administration to reform crop insurance, to help needy farmers.

That was a request Espy and Clinton heard often on their tours of rain-, storm- and flood-damaged farms. After their meetings with Branstad and other governors, they announced adjustments in farm programs allowing more flexibility in farmer participation and financial assistance.

However, at least one farmer at the Eldridge meeting adamantly declined any assistance from federal tax money.

Steve Lonssaert, who just began renting 30 acres this year and raising some hogs near Long Grove, works as a mechanic and farmhand in the area, to help pay for his entry into farming.

"I feel like a boxer in the 12th round. I'm down, but I'm not out."

Dalen Miller
Dumont farmer

"I'd rather see the government not help and not increase taxes," Lonssaert said. "I'd rather have no debt and high interest rates and lower taxes."

Lonssaert figured the administration's trip to the Midwest was politically motivated and will cost taxpayers.

"How much do you think it cost us for him (Clinton) to come here, and we still have the flood?" asked Lonssaert, who favored Texas billionaire Ross Perot for president.

The flood is not only affecting farmers, but those who ship the grain down the Mississippi River.

Larry Frazee, operations manager and merchandiser for River/Gulf Grain Co. of Bettendorf, says barges moving grain have been tied up along the river and unable to move for weeks.

THE ARMY Corps of Engineers closed river traffic until floodwaters recede.

"We've been fortunate enough to truck some grain to other locations," said Frazee. "But what we've got in the elevator will stay there until we can start loading barges again."

Rains continued this week, destroying miles of levees along the Mississippi River and its tributaries.

In Southeast Iowa, Nichols farmer Mark Elder on July 8 estimated 300 of his 1,100 acres of corn and beans were either under water or unplanted. He thinks he'll probably lose 100 acres.

"We got 140 acres that we didn't get planted that was too wet," said Elder.

Another of his 160 acres were flooded by the swollen Iowa River south of Lone Tree in Johnson County or were soaked by water percolating from underground in Muscatine County.

"In 1974, it was pretty wet around here, but nothing like this," Elder told Iowa Farmer Today during a visit to town as more storms brewed.

"I've got landlords that are anywhere from 80 to 85 years old... they frankly admit they've never seen anything like this in their lifetime."

Elder said he's probably better off than some farmers in his area, noting, "The problem now is... the water's just perking right up out of the ground. The water level's rising, and it's just killing the crop that's growing."

With the National Weather Service forecasting 60-90 days of above-normal precipitation for the state, he believes farmers' plight will worsen.

"We had such a struggle last fall getting everything out. I really think that anybody that's fortunate enough to have anything around here is going to go through that same struggle or worse this fall, trying to get what is there," Elder said.

"You take what you're dealt, and you're not going to change it," he added. "It's been a pretty good struggle for a lot of the guys around here."

Farther south, Wever farmer Bill Pieper — along with many other farmers, the National Guard the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — worked day and night to maintain the levee holding back the Mississippi above this Lee County town.

Pieper had an added difficulty. He recently repopulated the breeding gilts in his hog operation and sent a message over the Iowa State University Extension statewide computer service, EXNET, to find a host farm on higher ground to temporarily house the hogs. He found a farm with buildings near Cedar Rapids.

Pieper was able to get the hogs out, but Wever residents eventually lost their battle July 11, when the levee broke and nearly 17,000 acres of farm fields flooded.

While many farmers with flatland bordering the rivers in Eastern Iowa suffered from the deluge, other areas of the state nursed saturated fields.

BRIAN LANGE, ISU Extension crop specialist in Northeast Iowa, said much of that part of Iowa, except for Dubuque County, "is probably one of the garden spots in the state right now."

"As a whole, north of Dubuque County, most crops are looking quite a bit better," Lange said. "But it is still too wet to put in many places to cultivate."

Lange added that while corn and soy-

beans seem to be doing well, even some hills held standing water from the rains. Overall, the area managed to avoid the big downpours.

However, the hay situation is different. "As much as three-quarters of the hay was put up in the summer, the quality than people would like," Lange said.

Second hay cutting will be late. Rain splashed some hay disease down onto regrowth. However, warmer weather is causing the hay to outgrow the disease, according to Lange. It's also knocking off potato leaf hoppers and drowning them in some cases.

Alan Teel, executive secretary for the Iowa Forage and Grassland Council, also works as Clarke County Extension field coordinator for integrated crop management.

TEEL SAYS hay regrowth has been slowed by the rain and cloudy days. He expects second cuttings will have to wait until Aug. 1 or later this year.

"I think we'll be real tight on quality hay, especially for dairy producers," Teel said. "Some are looking at other forages and summer annuals."

If there's a bright spot to all the moisture, it seems some of the conservation tillage practices are helping stem runoff and allowing better water filtration.

On Dalen Miller's farm near Dumont, his no-till acres seem to be holding more moisture than other ground. Miller has been farming for 17 years and never seen fields so wet. His farm was one Espy chose to visit at the end of last month.

Many of Miller's soybean and corn acres have been hit hard by excess rains and hail. "I feel like a boxer in the 12th round," Miller said. "I'm down, but I'm not out."



IFT photo by Ann Marie Degnan

The west fork of the Des Moines River began to overflow in Palo Alto County in mid-June. Waters raged near farms and over Iowa Highway 4 south of Emmetsburg in Northwest Iowa.

IFT WATER LOG

JULY 6-9, 1993

USDA Secretary Mike Espy announces federal programs to help stricken farmers, including extending to July 31 the deadline for 1992 program signup. After another thunderstorm lashing, November soybeans close at \$7.17 per bushel on the Chicago Board of Trade July 9. That level hasn't been seen since June 1989. Vice President Al Gore speaks with Gov. Terry Branstad and other Midwestern governors by teleconference and pledges a "strong response" to the flooding.

JULY 12, 1993

The USDA lowers its corn-harvest prediction 7.6 percent and its soybean-harvest prediction 3.4 percent from previous estimates. This is an unusual announcement because the USDA rarely makes adjustments this early in the season.

JULY 13-14, 1993

The state climatologist reports nine consecutive months of record precipitation in Iowa. From November 1, 1992, through 7 a.m., July 12, 1993, the state has received an average of 33.57 inches of rain. Normal average rainfall for the period is 20 inches. The old state record for average rainfall from Nov. 1 through July 31 is 31.26 inches. The state also set a new weekly average rainfall of 4.07 inches during the week ending July 12.

Clinton declares the entire state a disaster area, a first for Iowa, and according to a Federal Emergency Management Agency official, possibly a first for the United States. On July 14, Clinton and Espy return to Iowa to visit the Des Moines area.

IFT WATER LOG

NOVEMBER 1992

Wet weather stops the harvest during the first week of November. At mid-month, Bob Wisner, Iowa State University ag economist, says because 1993 is the year after an El Nino warming in the South Pacific, there will be greater-than-normal chance for drought. At month's end, Elwynn Taylor, ISU Extension climatologist, reports 4.47 inches of rain for the month. "Every drop falling after November is in excess," he says.

MAY 1, 1993

Fieldwork is delayed and livestock slog through hock-deep mud after April's barrage of rain, hail and snow. Below-normal temperatures contribute to problems caused by water-logged soil. With rain-delayed fieldwork, many worried farmers watch the clouds and listen to weather reports with near-religious intensity.

MAY 1, 1993

Mushy hay fields are reported from Clayton County in Northeast Iowa, to Story County in Central Iowa, to Monroe County in the south and all counties to the east. Small patches are reported near Fort Dodge, Carroll, Webster City and Denison in Western Iowa.

Deluge of 1993 causes lingering health risks

By J.A. Sessions

IFT Columnist

The waters have subsided. Green corn shoots now stand in the soil recently soggy and littered with flood debris.

But walk past an outbuilding near any river basin in Iowa and you will likely see a mud-stain ribbon circling high on its walls — a ghost telling tales of how high the water rose last summer.

Let it be a reminder that recovery from the Flood of 1993 is far from over.

FARMERS AND relief agents, alike, did not fully anticipate the spectrum of problems washing in with last year's flood.

In addition to catastrophic physical damage, the abnormally wet weather created numerous health and safety risks to farmers and their families.

Some continue a year later.

At the time of the flood, many resources existed to help Iowans adjust to the disaster.

Health Care TODAY

From IFT
and I-CASH

JULY



tions, agribusinesses, relief agencies and academic institutions from across the Midwest.

They identified several problem areas and produced recommendations on general safety, environmental health and mental health/stress relative to the flood.

At this point in Iowa's recovery, mental health and respiratory health are taking the forefront.

Mental health:

The tremendous stress of fighting weather, economic pressures, and other flood-related concerns encouraged injury, poor health, and despondency among farmers.

Reports of increased child and spousal abuse continue to plague much of the flood-affected Midwest.

As disaster assistance and 1992 farm income reserves run dry — compounded by the recent drop in cattle prices — expect to see heightened frustration among producers.

There were 841 calls to the Iowa Rural Concerns hotline in May, double the number from

the same time last year.

Many callers express anger, frustration, and/or signs of depression. Some have openly talked about suicide. Financial and legal worries, including divorce, predominate.

IN RESPONSE to these mental health needs, workshop recommendations call for financial and legal outreach workers to have a basic understanding of mental health counseling, other health and safety consequences, and referral options.

The recommendations also call for closer alliances between the agribusiness and mental health communities.

With ag businesses as community links or gatekeepers, health care providers can better reach farmers in crisis.

Communities can remain self-reliant in the tradition of watching out for one another.

Respiratory health:

The cool, moist conditions created by the flood led to an abundance of molds and toxins affecting air quality in homes, fields and livestock facilities.

Iowa and Missouri experts have noticed increased respiratory problems, including asthma and heightened allergies.

Various players in flood recovery, such as university research teams and Extension agencies, are beginning data collection and surveillance of farms, homes and businesses.

Scientists hope to better understand and identify the range of respiratory hazards.

For a copy of the Farm Flood Response Workshop proceedings, call 319-335-4204 or write to: CADIREP, Institute of Agricultural Medicine and Occupational Health, University of Iowa, 100 Oakdale Campus, No. 124 AMRF, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-5000.

This monthly column is a cooperative effort of Iowa Farmer Today and the Iowa Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH) in Iowa City.

Sessions is a project assistant with the Institute for Agricultural Medicine & Occupational Health at the University of Iowa.

Write: Kendall Thu, I-CASH, Institute for Agricultural Medicine and Occupational Health, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-5000.

Wetland Update



Up From The Old Creek Band

Sp. Brounig '40.

University Museums Art Collection, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

Wetlands for Iowa Program Pursues Nine Current Projects

The Wetlands for Iowa program staff at the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation is working hard on these nine natural or restorable wetlands in Iowa. The projects are in various stages of progress.

Dickinson County: An option has been secured on a 110-acre tract a quarter of a mile south of West Lake Okoboji. This land will be purchased, in part, with funds raised by the Foundation. Karmin Blunt is our land specialist in Spirit Lake, Iowa.

Also in Dickinson County, a perpetual conservation easement is being placed on 73.3 acres of land a quarter of a mile east of Lower Gar Lake. The easements restrict any burning, filling, cropping, grazing and draining on the wetland and upland areas. Both these restored areas will help to filter sediments and nutrients from the water draining into the lakes.

Hamilton County: A REAP grant has been approved to help purchase an 80-acre tract south of Webster City. This area has 25 acres of

existing wetlands and the rest, presently row-cropped, will be seeded down for upland nesting habitat.

Wayne County: David DeGeus, one of the Foundation's land conservation specialists, has negotiated an option to purchase a 480-acre tract on Medicine Creek. This area will be managed by the Wayne County Conservation Board, and it will eventually have 150-200 acres of wetlands with the remainder in upland and timber.

Other projects in their early stages include:

Polk County: an 80-acre addition to Errington Marsh northwest of Bondurant.

Also in Polk County: a 200-acre project along the old Skunk River channel

Pottawattamie County: 600 acres near Honey Creek Lake

Sac County: 87-acre addition to Burrows Pond

Warren County: 160 acres in the North River bottoms



IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

505 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 444 • DES MOINES, IOWA 50309 • 515-288-1846



Introducing the New Director

Bruce Mountain of rural New Virginia, Iowa, was recently chosen to direct the Wetlands for Iowa program. For many years, Bruce has been a volunteer leader with other habitat protection groups. His strong commitment, together with his 20 years of experience as an attorney, will provide a solid foundation for continuing our strong wetlands program. He is an avid hunter and fisherman, and he raises and trains chocolate labrador retrievers. (His young male, Beggar, recently won the 1993 Derby Iowa State Championship.) **Ben Van Gundy**, who directed our program for more than six years, left to become director of the Polk County Conservation Board. Ben now manages 5,700 acres and has a staff of 75 people. We wish him every success. Ben's accomplishments in protecting wetlands are a legacy of which we know he is justly proud.

Local Events

When the Wetlands for Iowa program began, local chapters were formed in various cities. While the program's expertise now focuses on project management and selective fund-raising rather than grassroots fund-raising, there are three original chapters active with local events.

The Kirkwood Chapter at Kirkwood Community College and the Hawkeye Chapter in Cedar Rapids sponsor the Hawkeye Wetland Classic dinner and auction each March. The 1993 Classic raised a total of \$9,400 for the Cedar Valley Greenbelt complex. Randy Brunson, Steve Atherton and Dick Heft work especially hard on this event. The Classic is held in conjunction with the Iowa Natural and Wildlife Art Show in Cedar Rapids, sponsored Wetlands for Iowa. **Mark your calendars for our 1994 show, to be held March 11-13.** Alexandra Tomes and her "volunteer army" put on a great show with able support from the chapter volunteers.

The Cedar Valley Wetland Foundation in Waterloo holds its annual **Sporting Day and Hog Roast** at the Black Hawk County Park in

September. The 1993 event included a bus tour to the new Beaver Valley project, a 60-acre wetland made possible by the hard work of this group headed by Steve Finnegan.

Awards

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service honored Wetlands for Iowa with its Wetlands Conservation Award in the seven-state Third Region. The award was given at the First Day celebration for the 1993 Federal Duck Stamp designed by Bruce Miller.

Also, the 1993 Governor's Volunteer Award was presented to Wetlands for Iowa, in recognition of the program's efforts in conservation. Volunteer Don Beneke of Pocahontas, Iowa, accepted the award on behalf of the program.

Public Policy

This year's flooding was compelling testimony of the need for more *planned* wetlands. If more wetland basins were restored, these areas would hold back excess water and allow it to slowly re-enter the watershed systems.

The federal Wetlands Reserve Program is at work in Iowa. As one of nine pilot states for the program, 83 projects were accepted in Iowa affecting 5,096 acres of wetlands. As the government finishes surveying and finalizing easements, the landowners are beginning their wetland restoration work. President Clinton had proposed \$375 dollars for the next round of sign-ups, but Congress approved only \$66.7 million for 75,000 acres in 20 states (including Iowa).

The Iowa REAP program will soon be the topic again in the Iowa Legislature. County conservation boards and private groups use these funds for habitat protection, conservation education, and soil and water conservation. REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) was funded at \$7.5 million this fiscal year, far below the authorized \$30 million level. It's important to restore funding to its original projected level.

Why "Wetlands for Iowa"?

To bring private support to wetland restoration and protection exclusively in Iowa, the Wetlands for Iowa program was formed in 1984 as part of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. The concept was formulated by a group of sportsmen. They recognized the need for private stewardship in addition to government programs to curb the loss of these valuable natural assets. The nucleus of this group included Richard Bishop, Maynard Reece, Bill Artis, Ted Meredith, Dick Cutler, Bud Hunter, Steve Atherton, John Synhorst, and Ding Engeldinger.



Wetland projects in Iowa typically involve several public agencies and non-profit organizations, each performing its most appropriate role. **Wetlands for Iowa is suited to many roles, including:**

- investigating potential projects
- negotiating the purchase of wetlands
- bringing together the combination of "players" needed for a successful project
- securing grants from public and private foundations
- raising funds in cooperation with other habitat protection groups
- purchasing project areas and transferring them to state or county government for public use
- helping the public understand the important benefits of wetlands, including habitat, water quality, flood control, and recreation

Perhaps the most vital and unique function of the Wetlands for Iowa program is to purchase important wetland areas quickly. Often when an owner decides to sell property with a critical existing or restorable wetland, quick action is essential. As a local non-profit organization, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation can act

swiftly; and, unlike agencies, it can borrow money when necessary to finance a purchase. The Foundation holds the land until it is decided which agency will assume ownership, which grant proposals can be made, and what local fund-raising efforts can be conducted. Without the unique abilities of the Foundation, many wetlands would be lost. Also, by using conservation easements and other legal tools, **the staff helps landowners permanently protect wetlands that remain in private ownership.**

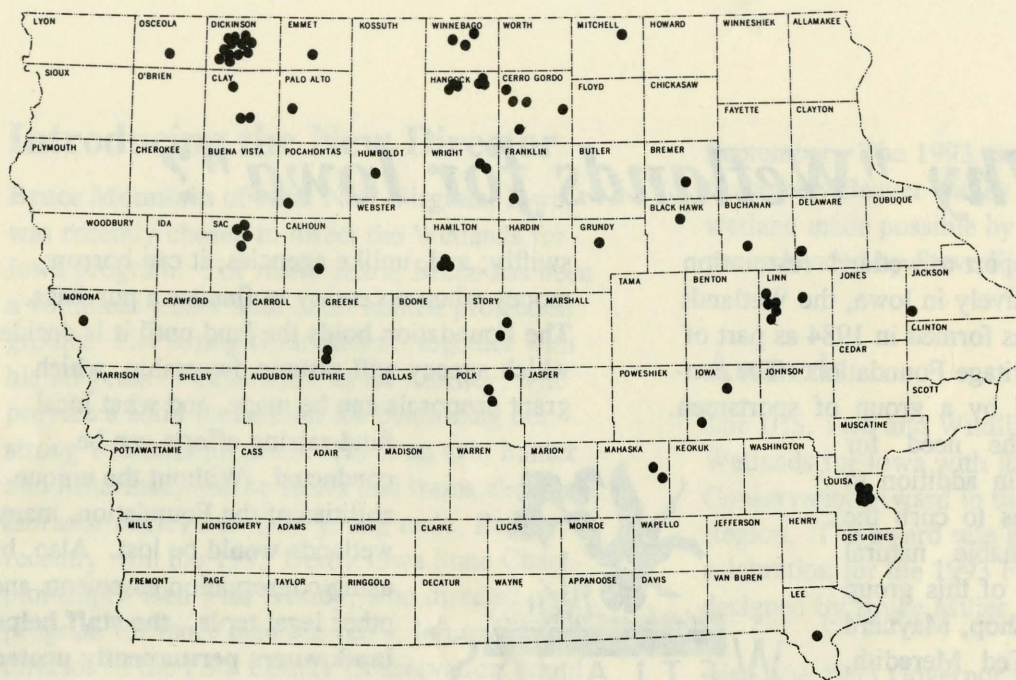
In ten years the program has participated in **68 wetland projects in 31 counties** - more than **8,600 acres of wetlands** and adjacent land.

Here's How You Can Help

To continue our leadership in wetland conservation, we rely on private contributions. Your support is necessary!

- With your contribution of \$25 or more, you'll receive our *Iowa Natural Heritage* magazine, 1994 calendar, and a "Wetlands for Iowa" decal.
- Sponsors who contribute \$200 or more will also receive a distinctive sponsor decal and lapel pin.
- You can contribute to a specific wetland project. Major project donors receive special recognition.
- Put us in contact with others who might help, or whose land may be suitable for a wetlands project.

Call Bruce Mountain at 515/288-1846 to discuss these opportunities. Also, ask Bruce about a Cattail Camouflage™ cap!



Completed Projects (October 1993)



Wetlands for Iowa Program, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

County	Year	Project	Acres	County	Year	Project	Acres
Black Hawk	1992	Beaver Valley Wetland	60	Humboldt	1993	Pioneer Prairie	80
Bremer	1992	Aldo Leopold Complex	927	Iowa	1984	Big Bend Wildlife Area	320
Buchanan	1985	Ham Marsh	10		1990	Palmer Farm Wildlife Area	167
Calhoun	1991	Johnson Prairie Marsh	120	Jackson	1990	Baldwin Marsh	15
Cerro Gordo	1987	Bluewing Marsh	37	Lee	1992	Junkins Marsh	80
	1986	Grovers Meadow	120	Linn	1987	Wakpicada Area Addn.	20
	1989	Walch Wildlife Area	303			Cedar River Greenbelt:	
	1991	Wild Goose Marsh	160		1989	Chain Lakes Wildlife Area	369
	1992	Lone Tree Point	101		1990	Chain Lakes Addition	171
Clay	1985	Robert Howe Thunderbridge Wildlife Area (2 parcels)	33		1992	Theil Addition	40
	1985	Schmerse Wildlife Area	44		1992	Goose Pond	240
Delaware	1993	Silver Creek Wildlife Area	75		1993	McBurney Addition	27
Dickinson	1988	Pachmayr Marsh	68	Louisa	1987	Indian Slough (8 parcels)	928
	1991	Jemmerston Slough Addition	6	Mahaska	1988	Rose Hill Wildlife Area	138
	1991	Spring Run Addition	260		1988	Maskunky Marsh	96
	1991	Seeman Wetland	80	Mitchell	1991	Brownsville Wildlife	177
	1991	Betty Fox Easement	5	Monona	1991	Badger Lake Addition	35
	1992	Grovers Lake Addition	13	Osceola	1988	Sutton Lake Marsh	50
	1993	Braby Easement	73	Palo Alto	1990	Burns Wetland	160
		Center Lake Wildlife Area:		Pocahontas	1985	Leo Shimon Marsh	265
	1987	Anspach Marsh	21	Polk	1992	Errington Marsh	200
	1990	Rumbaugh Tract	66		1993	Engeldinger Marsh	81
	1990	Zellmer Marsh	126		1993	Shaw Tract	190
	1991	Underwood Tract I	55	Sac	1989	Kiowa Marsh Addition	70
	1992	Underwood Tract II	51		1990	Kiowa Marsh Addition	85
		Clean Water Alliance for the Iowa Great Lakes 1991-93			1992	Burrows Pond	120
Emmet	1993	Jim Hall Marsh	78		1993	Burrows Pond Addition	34
Franklin	1990	Franklin County Fen	40	Story	1987	Ketelsen Greenwing Marsh	67
Greene	1992	Dunbar Slough Addition	38		1990	Kalsem Prairie Marsh	4
	1993	Rafferty Addition	80	Winnebago	1991	Ambrosen Wildlife Addn.	66
Grundy	1990	Holland Marsh	42		1991	Wood Duck Marsh	203
Hamilton	1989	Gordon Marsh	105		1992	Nieman Wildlife Area	79
	1990	Gordon Marsh Addition	140	Wright	1984	Rolling Acres Marsh	40
	1991	Gordon Marsh Addition	40		1985	Rolling Acres Marsh Addition	40
Hancock	1988	Meredith Marsh (3 parcels)	300				
	1993	Crystal Lake (3 parcels)	317				
				TOTAL:			
				8,651 acres			
				79 projects at 57 sites in 31 counties			
				valued at more than \$10,000,000			

A 'completely different' year

With fields looking good, Iowa farmers rush to plant

By DIRCK STEIMEL

REGISTER AGRIBUSINESS WRITER

Wapello, Ia. — A steady rain fell last week as Lloyd Meyerholz ripped through his soft, powdery field in the bottomlands along the Iowa River. But the farmer wasn't about to slow down his big, green tractor to wait for sunny skies.

INSIDE

Farm and Country looks at farmers' hopes for a profitable year and always-tricky weather forecasting.

Page 3G

With the memories of the 1993 growing season still vivid, Meyerholz is pushing hard to get ready to plant corn and soybeans. And he's still got to spread out big drifts of sand, move dead tree branches and even clear off a few plastic oil jugs before he can plant corn and soybean seeds in the soil.

Still, Meyerholz has been pleasantly surprised at the way his fields have recovered from last year's rainfall and floods. Even fields that spent the summer under several feet of muddy water appear to have bounced back and seem to be ready to raise good crops.

"It's working up real nice," the 51-year-old Meyerholz said, running his fingers through the dirt that was supposed to grow a crop of hay last summer but ended up supporting catfish and carp when the Iowa River broke from its levees in early July. "I never thought it would look this good. . . . The water here was way over your head."

It's the same all over Iowa as farmers prepare to plant their 1994 crops.

Dry Months

A string of dry months and better-than-expected field conditions have created a sprouting of cautious optimism in Iowa agriculture this spring. Farmers are becoming more and more convinced that their fields can rebound from the dismal 1993 season to produce



PAUL HISCOCKS/THE REGISTER

Like many Iowa farmers, Lloyd Meyerholz was pleasantly surprised by the condition of his fields after last year's disastrous

flooding. "I never thought it would look this good," the Louisa County farmer said last week as he got ready to plant.

average or better-than-average crops.

And most say they'll need good yields to offset last year's disappointing harvest, which sent Iowa's crop income tumbling by \$2 billion from 1992.

The recovery of the state's fields really began months ago, when warm, dry weather replaced the months of rain. Since then, Iowa's fields — which couldn't catch a single break during the 1993 growing season — appear to have caught quite a few.

Last fall's dry weather solidified the soil and allowed farmers to harvest without digging deep ruts with their heavy combines and grain wagons. Those ruts can scar and

compact the soil, hurting yields for years to come.

"By harvest time, the fields were pretty solid, and that helped a lot," said Dennis Epley, a farmer from Waverly.

Then a cold, snowy winter — combined with a few warm periods — helped break up soils that had been compacted by the pounding summer rains. "The harsh winter we had really did some good things for the soil," said Jerry Hatfield, director of the National Soil Tilth Laboratory at Iowa State University.

"Overall, I really think we are in pretty good shape . . . a lot better shape than I would have anticipated," Hatfield said. "The soil is actually very mellow now."

Fields in Shape

Farmers have come home from fertilizing and preparing their fields with the same feeling.

"We just didn't know what to expect this spring after last year, but it looks good," said Don Faidley, a farmer from Colfax, in central Iowa.

Ron Swanson, who farms near Galt in Wright County, is getting the same reading from his fields. "These are really the best field conditions we've had in some time," he said. "The soil is a little cold still, but otherwise it looks pretty good."

And Ed Wiederstein, an Audubon

farmer, put it this way: "It's really been a super spring . . . completely different than last year."

In addition to the improved weather patterns, Iowa fields probably were helped to recover from the stress of 1993 by the increased use of conservation tillage systems, Hatfield said. With conservation tillage, farmers leave more crop residue on the surface to stem erosion.

With more residue on the surface, fields were not damaged as much by the beating of the rain, Hatfield said. In addition, the organic matter helped keep the dirt from turning into a hard, concrete-

PLANTING Please turn to Page 12A

Much work ahead, but farmers eager to start planting

PLANTING

Continued from Page 1A

like mass that's almost impossible for a farmer to work up, he said.

Many Actually Need Rain

Most farmers said last week that at this point, fields actually need a little more moisture from rains like those that fell across most of the state. That would dampen the topsoil to help plants germinate. The plants then could send root systems down to tap the deep reserves of moisture left in the subsoil after last year's deluge.

There's also a distinct fear among farmers that the weather could do an abrupt about-face, leaving them to battle drought instead of excess rain.

"Farmers are skittish. And we've got a right to be skittish after what we've been through the last couple of years," said Patrick Delanty, a farmer from Charter Oak in far western Iowa.

There's no question that dry weather has allowed farmers to get a jump on fieldwork, according to the weekly survey of crop conditions by Iowa Agricultural Statistics.

Most fields are fertilized, and seedbeds are ready for corn planting, the survey said. Iowans are almost finished seeding their oats, the first crop to be planted each spring. That's a far cry from last year, when soggy fields delayed oat planting so long that many farmers simply aban-

doned plans to sow the crop.

While the surface of many fields is dry, there's plenty of subsoil moisture to help carry the crop into the summer.

That's certainly the case in west-central Iowa, Wiederstein said. "The tiles are still running around here, and my wells are still full," he said, referring to the clay pipes laid under fields to drain excess moisture from the soil.

Some Have Started

With seedbeds ready and the weather looking good, some farmers have already started planting corn. Crop experts predict that more and more will jump on the bandwagon this week as the temperature of the soil begins to rise.

After last year's delays, farmers say they don't want to waste any time getting their seeds into the soil. "When the calendar says it's time to plant, guys are going to be ready to go. They aren't going to take any chances this year," Epley said.

In Louisa County, Meyerholz said he figures he'll start planting corn in a few days. On the fields that took the brunt of the flood damage last year, he plans to hold off and plant soybeans instead of making the investment needed to plant corn.

"I don't want to put corn out there," he said. "I don't want it to wash out again like it did last year."

Much To Do

Looking at parts of Meyerholz's fields, still covered with several feet



PAUL HISCOCKS/THE REGISTER

When the Iowa River finally retreated last fall, it left up to four feet of sand in some areas, including this soybean field near Wapello.

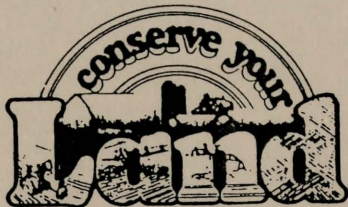
of sand, it's difficult to imagine them growing a crop of anything, acknowledges Shawn Dettmann, district conservationist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service in Wapello. Louisa County, where the Cedar and Iowa rivers meet and then flow into the Mississippi, sustained some of the worst agricultural damage in Iowa last year.

"There's really so much work still

to do," Dettmann said.

It's that way all over Iowa, said Hatfield of the National Soil Tilth Lab. Even though the fields look promising this spring, the soil is still prone to erosion after the abuse it took, he said.

"The soil is still fragile . . . I don't think it's completely recovered yet," Hatfield said.



Louisa Soil & Water Conservation District

514 Isett
Wapello, IA 52653

Phone: 319-523-6411

December 9, 1994

Dear Conservation Farmer:

The progress farmers in this county have made in conservation of our resources has been impressive. Many, many farmers deserve some words of thanks for their efforts.

You're one of a selected number of leading conservation farmers who we'd like to personally thank at a special appreciation event.

You're invited to the Louisa County Conservation Farmer Appreciation Open House at the Natural Resources Conservation Service Office (formerly the Soil Conservation Office) in Wapello at any time between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 20. We hope you'll take time to visit a few minutes with other leading conservation farmers in the county about conservation techniques that work.

Refreshments will be served compliments of the Louisa Soil & Water Conservation District. We'd also like to have you pick up a pewter Christmas tree ornament that's been especially designed as a token of appreciation for your efforts. As you can see on the enclosed appreciation card, a number of businesses and organizations have made donations in appreciation of conservation work by farmers such as yourselves.

Please notice, too, that letters of appreciation by your Senators and environmental groups are enclosed. There is widespread appreciation of the work farmers are doing to improve the environment.

Please stop by the NRCS, formerly SCS, Office on the 20th and accept our thanks in person!

Sincerely,

Louisa SWCD District Commissioners

Louisa SWCD District Commissioners

P.S. If you can't attend the open house, the token of appreciation will be held until Dec. 31. Please stop by to pick it up and add it to this year's tree as a memento of your conservation work.

Burying sand

It takes big equipment to reclaim flooded land

By JIM PATRICO



A MODIFIED POST plow cuts a furrow big enough to sink a man and requires three tracked tractors to pull it. Average estimates for a finished field, incorporating the sand back under the topsoil, ran \$300-\$600/acre, depending on sand depth and implements needed. Total removal, on the other hand, could run as high as \$3,200/acre for sand 1' deep.

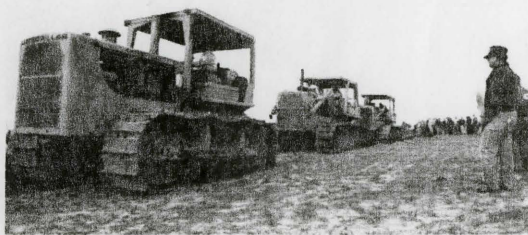
PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

■ It took three 300-hp. Caterpillars to pull the big plow. Smoke poured from their exhausts, and the Cats bucked and jerked to get the huge blade started. When the 400 people heard the roar, they came running across the sand-covered field for a better look.

The plow, with its 5' wingspan, was the star of this demonstration, and folks wanted to see it in action. Off it went, churning up black soil that the river had laid down eons ago. The soil came out in rolls and lay on the surface, covering the sand the flooding river had deposited just last summer. As the plow passed, it created a trench 3' deep. Some couldn't resist the temptation to jump into the trench to feel between their fingers the dirt at the bottom. Others used measuring tapes to check the furrow's depth.

The occasion was an SCS and University of Missouri-Extension demonstration of how to restore land covered by sand in the Flood of '93. The site was

SOME FARMERS couldn't resist measuring the big plow's furrow. At the demonstration, it measured about 3' from undisturbed sand to good soil at the bottom. Owners say their plow can go 5½' deep.



IT TOOK THREE 300-HP. CATS to pull the deep plow. The plow and other tillage implements demonstrated how to incorporate river sands into fields that were flooded last summer.



a Hardin, Mo., field where sand depths were 6" to 6'. Deep sand has to be removed or those sections of the field abandoned. Experts say shallower sand (up to 30") can be incorporated into the soil to make the field productive again.

Besides the big plow, a 38" disk, a 32" disk and a ripper worked parts of the demonstration field. And they were as impressive as the plow, in some cases doing a better mixing job and leaving the soil surface smoother.

As for the plow, company officials say that they have customers waiting to use it . . . just as soon as the levees are fixed.

Change in USDA wetlands program

9/94

Iowa farmers with flood-damaged croplands which didn't qualify for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wetlands Reserve Program or the Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program are being asked to consider signing up for the current EWRP program before the end of the year.

The USDA's Soil Conserva-

tion Service has recently revised the eligibility requirements for the program, making more land eligible for EWRP. "Until now, the societal costs of leaving flood prone lands in croplands has been greatly underestimated as part of the equation in determining which lands are eligible for EWRP," says Lyle Asell, Assistant State Conservationist for SCS in Des Moines.

Asell says under past criteria, the reclamation costs for reclaiming flooded lands for croplands was lower than the cost of restoring the land to a wetland in many cases because the long-term costs to society didn't include all the costs as-

sociated with farming the land. "Disaster payments and deficiency payments are a direct cost to taxpayers. The new EWRP formula takes these costs into account, and those payments make a big difference on whether it costs taxpayers less to have a tract of land entered into the EWRP or to keep farming in areas likely to be flooded," Asell says.

Easement values for EWRP in Iowa range from \$388 in south-central Iowa to \$962 in northwest Iowa. Societal costs for disaster and deficiency payments over a 25 year period have been estimated by the SCS to be \$761.

One of the criteria for land

to be accepted into the EWRP is that the easement value of the land be less than the cost of reclaiming the land for cropping and repairing levees. Other criteria are that the land must have been covered by flood waters in 1993; the land be capable of restoration to a wetland; at least 75% of the area offered is designated by SCS as a farmed wetland, prior converted cropland, potential wetland or a wetland farmed under natural conditions; and that the land was used as cropland at least once during the past five years.

The sign up deadline for EWRP is December 30, 1994. Interested landowners should

apply at their local SCS office.

Asell says landowners with croplands in flood plains who applied earlier for the Wetland Reserve Program but were not accepted are being sent letters to explain the EWRP program. "If the land entered into EWRP meets eligibility requirements, we then see if it's feasible to restore the land, work with the landowner to prepare a restoration plan, determine the cost of restoration, and assess the land's value as a wetland," says Jim Ayen of the SCS. The landowner is then offered the established value for a wetland easement, and the land is officially accepted into the program when the landowner

records a permanent easement. The landowner receives 75 percent of the easement payment when the easement is recorded, and the remaining 25 percent when the wetland is restored. The landowner retains ownership of the land and is responsible for maintaining the wetland according to the plan.

Iowa is one of eight Midwestern states to offer the voluntary EWRP program in response to the floods of 1993. SCS officials say the restored wetlands provide wildlife and waterfowl habitat, improved water quality floodwater retention, and groundwater recharge benefits.

7/2/94

Family endures deluge, debt, doubt

Communication
quelled personal
storms in 1993

By Ron De Christopher

Iowa Farmer Today

FORT MADISON — When last year's floods helped shove Lee County dairy farmers Sherri and Clarence Hartson toward the financial brink, she says they were stressed and scared.

Sherri says they were doing fine until near the end of June. That's when the unrelenting rains began drenching their Southeast Iowa area.

The first hay cutting came off without a hitch, but the second cutting was doomed.

"We were just about ready to do our second (cutting) when it started raining and raining," Sherri relates on a recent hot, dry day that starkly contrasted conditions of a year ago.

"The water just kept standing in the fields and we couldn't get the hay cut. The weevil had been in the first cutting, so it wasn't as good as it usually is, either."

The upshot to their waterlogged situation was having to buy hay to keep their operation going, which in the past 12 months has drained \$20,000 from their finances.

It's money they wouldn't spend in an ordinary year.

"We bought hay from just about everywhere, it seems like," says Sherri, noting some of it cost \$150-\$155 a ton.

"When you buy hay that expensive, it really puts you on the borderline with profit."

The dismal hay situation was compounded when 12 cows died from what Sherri feels are

flood-related causes. She says the abnormally wet weather produced an army of gnats, flies and mosquitoes, noting, "There were a lot of mysterious diseases hitting cattle."

In their previous 10 years of farming, they lost only two cows.

Another setback occurred when their 120 acres of corn yielded a measly 14 bushels an acre, nearly one-tenth of the previous year's 126 bu./acre yield.

"My husband ... several times made the statement, 'If we can't get our bills paid, we're just going to quit.'"

With their cash flow teetering by August, Sherri recalls, quitting farming was a real possibility for them and their four young children.

"I DON'T want to say we'd given up. We were still doing our work and doing our best at it."

"It's hard to keep going at it with an attitude that everything's going to be all right when everything looks so glum."

Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) borrowers for about eight years at the time, the Hartsons last August approached the agency for help with their finances.

"We weren't able to keep up on feed bills. We were already starting to buy hay. We knew ... this wasn't going to cash flow."

Sherri says that by the end of October, she was hit with a stark reality: "I knew if something didn't get done, we were done."

So they consolidated some of their debts into an FmHA loan, which has reduced their monthly loan payments by about \$150.

"If we can't cover them (the loan payments) and our expenses, we're done. They tell us



Lee County dairy farmer Sherri Hartson, who nearly went out of business in the aftermath of last year's flooding, gets ready to dump a bucket of feed into a trough. She and husband Clarence, who farm near Fort Madison, lost their second hay cutting and had to spend \$20,000 in the past 12 months to buy hay.

that's the last thing they can do.

"If we can't go now, we're done. That's it, and we know that."

The Hartsons also got help through their Extension office, which analyzed their finances.

"I guess at that point we were wondering, 'Are we cash flowable or not?'" Sherri says.

"I like to work and I like to farm, but if we can't cash flow, why do it? It's dumb to dig a hole year after year."

Noting they had the top twice-daily milking herd in Lee County last year, she says they made adjustments after discovering their feed expense was too high.

"Right now, we can pay our bills," Sherri says.

Recalling less-certain times

within the past year, she comments, "If we had to quit ... I guess my biggest fear would be having enough money to pay everything off."

It brought back frightful memories of having to sell 85 percent of their herd in 1990, when a problem with their new computerized feeding system resulted in an acidosis outbreak. It also reminded them of their \$40,000 drought-related loss in 1983.

"I was scared," Sherri says.

She says her two oldest children — Brian, 12, and Mary, 7 — felt the tension and worry. Cindy, 4, and Lawrence, 1½, were too young to understand.

Sherri says at the height of their dismay this past year, she considered calling Iowa Rural Concern hotline for help.

But good communication between Sherri, 33, and Clarence, 38, came to the rescue, she notes.

"We work together seven days a week. We're together a lot and talk a lot. Talking helps."

Sherri says when she heard about the increase in hotline

calls during the past year, "I wondered, 'If those people can't talk to their spouse, who are they going to talk to?'"

"I just never brought myself to call them because I guess I thought, 'What can they do?'"

Sherri says another therapeutic outlet is the local cafe.

"A lot of the area farmers go and eat lunch at the cafe. They're all talking about stuff that's going on, and it helps a lot. To know you're not alone really helps."

Another thing she's noticed in the past year — with the flooding and tight finances — is farmers are more willing to share equipment and be helpful in other ways.

"There was a time there when it seemed like everybody was kind of independent, like, 'You do your stuff and don't bother me, I'll do mine.'"

There's also been help in the community, in the form of donations to help farmers buy hay and seed corn.

"It's all helped and it really makes you feel good that these people you don't really know — they really care." ■

THE FLOOD OF 1993: Farmers remember

Mark Wurtele Fremont County

"Of the 1,400 acres (planted), I harvested 50 acres of corn and 20 acres of beans."

"I had 2,900 bushels of corn off the 50 acres (and) 191 bu. of beans off my 20 acres," says Mark Wurtele, who farms near Percival in Southwest Iowa.

"I put seven hours on my combine in '93."

He was unable to plant 300 acres in 1993. About half of his ground lies between the Missouri River and an Army Corps of Engineers levee, while the rest is east of the levee.

"In a good year, you can raise 50-bu. beans and 150-bu. corn."

Last year, "when the river started going out, it took everything on the river side. A lot of washouts and sand deposits."

Some of the holes were 10 feet deep and 200 feet wide.

Floodwaters were 42 inches deep in Wurtele's grain bins (at right).



"(My husband and I) work together seven days a week. We're together a lot and talk a lot. Talking helps."

**Sherri Hartson
Fort Madison
Dairy farmer**



**EPA approves
phase-in**

ethanol

SEE PAGE 9

IOWA FARMER TODAY®

SOUTHEAST

JUL 8 1994

July 9, 1994

2ND
CLASS
MAIL

Copyright 1994, Iowa Farmer Today

■ CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

■ JULY 9, 1994

■ CIRCULATION 70,000

■ 1 SECTION

■ VOL. 10, NO. 41

■ 60 CENTS

THE FLOOD OF 1993

Farmers not in same boat

By Myron Williams

Iowa Farmer Today

NORTH LIBERTY — Last year's flooding is gone, and so is the need for Johnson County farmers Daren and Marlyce Folkmann to canoe home.

It's not that they dislike peaceful boat rides together, but the water is down. Instead of paddling to their lane, as they did a year ago, they can easily reach home driving their pickup down the road.

Last year high water from the Coralville Reservoir in Eastern Iowa lapped to within about 20 yards of their lane. Their farmstead was never in danger, but water crested 4-5 feet over the road.

For almost two weeks, beginning last July 13, the Folkmanns had to paddle about a quarter-mile to reach their pickup parked on the other side of the floodwaters.

At the end of each day while they were marooned, Daren parked the pickup on a dry patch and reached home by canoe.

Their 270-acre farm sustained little water damage. Less than an acre of corn at the edge of a field was drowned.

These days, a lot has changed in a year for the Eastern Iowa couple.

The biggest development for the Folkmanns has been the birth of their second child. Douglas joined the family on June 24. Daughter Angela, 2½, is excited about her new sibling.

"Goose" the farm dog, who enjoyed splashing through the water last year and taking canoe rides, now romps around the farm with his look-alike offspring, "Coa-Coa."

One advantage, the Folkmanns note, was last year's high water kept unwanted guests away from the farm.

See page 3: Folkmanns ➡ ➡ ➡

**WEEK
TWO of a
two-part
series:
Remembering
and
Recovering**

**Related stories
on pages 4, 5**



North Liberty farmer Daren Folkmann takes a relaxed ride (left) down this dusty gravel road near his Johnson County home. It's the same pickup, same driver and same road in the photo above. But last year, water from the flooded Coralville Reservoir crested 4-5 feet over the road. For almost two weeks starting July 13, Folkmann and his wife, Marlyce, had to canoe a quarter-mile to reach their lane. By the end of the month floodwaters had receded enough that Folkmann could splash over the road with his pickup.

IFT photos by Myron Williams

July 2, 1994

Flood waters down, consequences persist

Looking back at last year's problems, one farmer said with relief and optimism, "We don't let it get to us more than one year at a time."

It's been a hard year, one that farmers are ready to put behind them.

Not that everything is rosy.

There are a lot of weeds and the extra expense of fighting them. A lot of herbicides aren't doing the job.

It's been a tense spring. Two- and three-day storms triggered anxieties. Farmers will breathe easier when their crop is in.

IT'S BEEN a stormy spring, and violent weather can still ruin what now looks like a bounce-back year.

Lori Reynolds with Project Recovery in South Dakota described a bleak picture of basements collapsing, pumps running continuously, high electric bills, sewers backing up, flooded pastures, poor quality feed grain, calving problems and poor cattle prices.

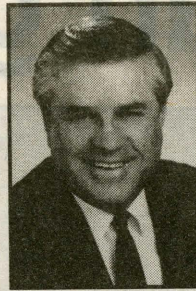
In a word: Disaster. Stress, frustration and anxiety levels are sky high.

Parts of the Midwest are flooding again, and problems have compounded dramatically.

The carry-over money from last year is gone. It will be a tight summer.

Farmers need a good summer. The Iowa Rural Concern hotline has had the busiest month of May since 1985.

Calls have not let up this spring. Here is a sampling of



Dr. Val Farmer

Rural Psychologist

IFT Columnist

issues coming in on the hotline:

- Assimilation of personal losses — keepsakes, art work, etc. — from last year's flood damage.

Some people are having second thoughts about their rejection of buyouts and are overwhelmed with the expenses of getting back on their feet.

- Ag-related small businesses suffer when farmers don't pay their bills.

They have been indirectly affected by last year's events. Small businesses are left out of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) programs.

- Increased family conflict, both in intergenerational farms and in farm marriages.

More and more people are calling in about divorce information.

- Negative reaction to corporate hog confinement facilities and other controversial community issues.

During better times, they may not vent their anger so easily.

Margaret Van Ginkel, Rural Concern hotline director in Des

Moines, says rural people seem more inclined to reach out for mental health services than they used to.

Paul Lasley, Iowa State University Extension sociologist in Ames, believes initial flood-relief efforts were positive and heartwarming — people pulling together, retrofitting homes, rebuilding levees, working with food kitchens and doing other acts of kindness.

The flood year washed out the slow six- or eight-year recovery from the farm-crisis years of the mid-1980s, and people are still suffering from the ripple effect of the '93 flood.

People's financial and emotional reserves have been drained.

Some are living on reduced income, contending with higher feed prices and lower cattle and hog prices.

It's a struggle to make ends meet.

Lasley notes, "This is an important year — a lot is riding on this year. Midwestern farmers are really anxious."

Because of 1993, farmers are facing normal risks of farming from a position of weakness.

"We're not through this by a long ways," Lasley said.

Psychologist and farmer Mike Rossman with Prairie Rose Mental Health Center in Harlan found the average farmer in his area lost \$25,00 in income to weather-related causes.

Farm stress counselors from Illinois river bottom lands report many of the same stress

"This is an important year — a lot is riding on this year. Midwestern farmers are really anxious."

Paul Lasley
ISU sociologist

reactions — communication problems, illnesses, anxieties.

Farming problems — cutworms, purple corn, slow crop growth — are the same.

Farmers who have relocated away from their land are having problems with vandalism to machinery.

They are having difficulty finding land away from the flood plain. Acreage and lease prices have shot up.

There is a loss of community in the bottoms. People are afraid and slow to move back.

Businesses aren't coming back. There is a lot of soul searching. Older farmers are considering retirement.

Some levees aren't being repaired. People feel vulnerable. They will never forget the flood.

Farmers had faith in levees, worked hard on them, then lost possessions back on the farm because they weren't prepared.

The people who lost the most are being more realistic about the river and farming being business.

Old rivalries between hill farmers and bottom-land farmers have flared up. Hill farmers

are jealous and angry about the amount of flood aid the bottom-land farmers receive.

A few farmers overstep their requests and stigmatize the rest.

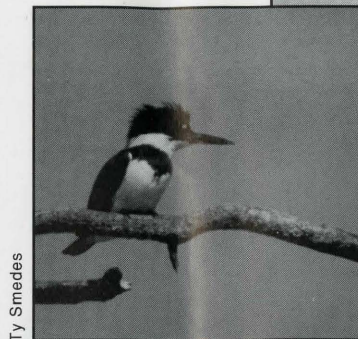
It's the traditional "have-nots" vs. the "haves." Communities are being torn apart by behind-the-back divisive comments.

NON-FLOODED, but weather-affected, communities decry the aid going into flooded communities. Somehow, the unfairness of aid sticks in the craw of those who do not qualify.

If these long-term effects being noted are any indication, we are indeed, "not out of this by a long ways."

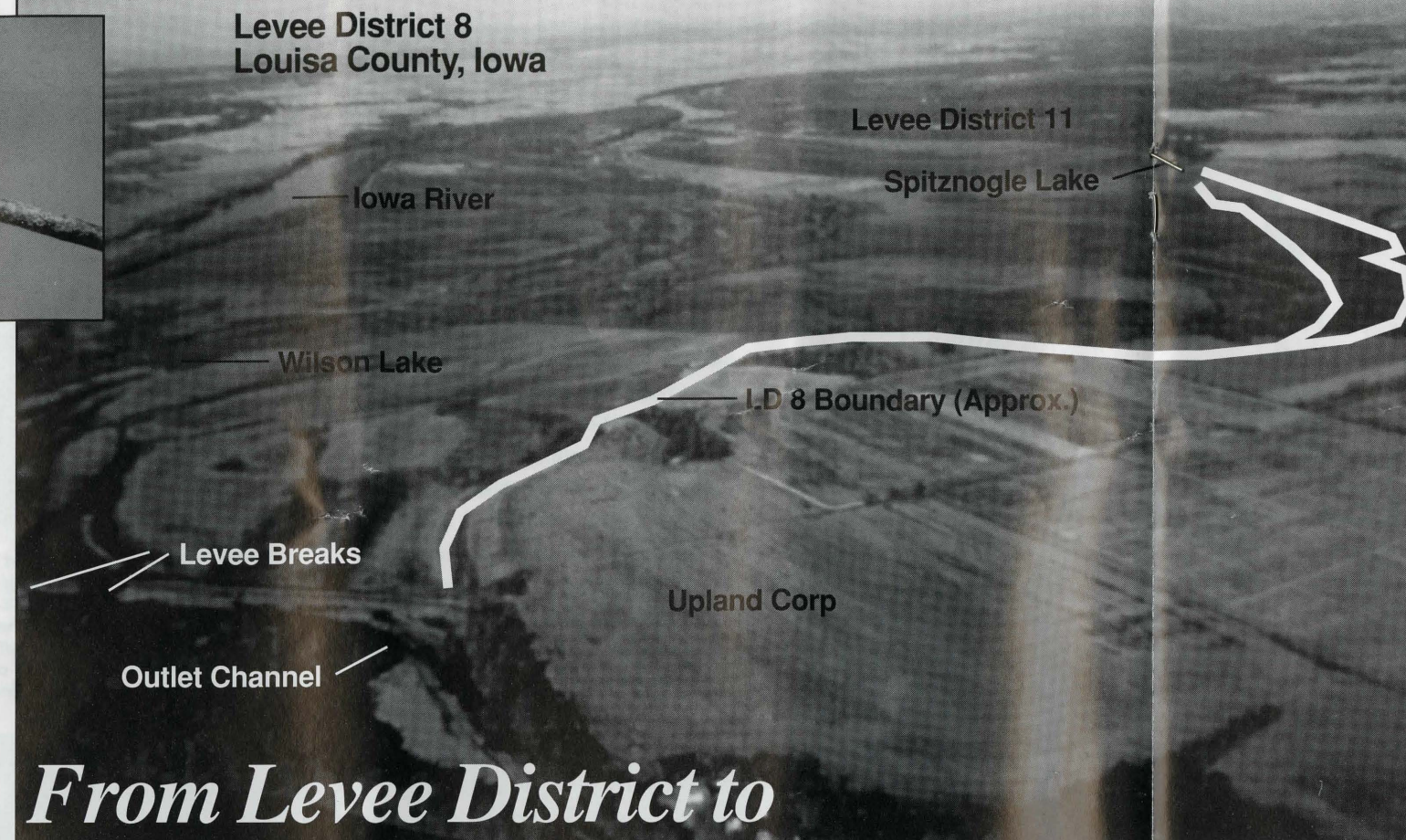
For my booklet, "Rural Stress Survival Guide," send a check or money order for \$3.45 to: Rural Stress Booklet, The Preston Connection, P.O. Box 9125, Rapid City S.D. 57709.

Val Farmer is a clinical psychologist in private practice in Rapid City, S.D. He specializes in rural mental health and family relationships.



Ty Smedes

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation is coordinating the purchase of 2,600 acres on the Iowa River. Ten landowners are selling their land after the entire levee district was enrolled in the Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program. The area will provide good habitat for many species including the kingfisher (above).



USDA Soil Conservation Service/US Fish and Wildlife Service

From Levee District to

Wildlife Refuge

BY JENNIFER EALY

“This area attracts a wide variety of waterfowl,” said Tom Bell, manager of the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge near Wapello. “The district has great wildlife potential.” During last year’s floods this may have been said of most of Iowa. In this case, Bell was referring to the development of a project begun in Louisa County after the floods of ’93. This southeastern Iowa county received extensive damage along the Iowa and Mississippi Rivers, forcing farmers in Louisa Levee District 8 to decide whether to rebuild the levee so they could continue farming or look for alternatives due to the continuing pressures of Mother Nature. Through a \$2,000,000 project initiated by the U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service (SCS), coordinated by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF), and to be managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), most of the levee district — twenty six hundred acres of land — is to be converted into a wildlife refuge. To imagine how much land this is, picture four square miles or 2,600 football fields.

The project has saved millions of tax dollars and given an option to farmers affected by the floods, thanks to intensive cooperation of government agencies and private organizations.

A flood-damaged levee district in Louisa County will soon become the Horseshoe Bend Division of the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge.

Louisa Levee District 8 is located between Wapello and Oakville, nestled on the Iowa River six miles from where it meets the Mississippi River. To landowners in the district, flooding is not a new concept. Since 1929, the levee has broken or water has been over the top 15 times. In 1993, the levee district flooded three times and caused 2.7 million dollars in damages. The land sustained variable amounts of damage. The internal drainage system was destroyed and sand filled remaining drainage and road ditches. Sand bars two to three feet high and numerous scour holes dot the landscape. Trees lay twisted and dead. Flood waters have leached most of the nutrients out of the soil. A layer of silt remains on the land that may once have held a field of bountiful crops. “The initial breaking of the levee didn’t bother me much. I had been through it enough before,” said Martha Hawk, a landowner in the district. “What really hurt was that the water didn’t go down right away. It stayed high even when the levee broke.” Neighbor Ed Yotter was out on the levee when it broke. “We spent three days down there reinforcing the levee,” Yotter said. “The next thing you knew, you’re standing on the levee watching the water come over.”

The landowners of Levee District 8 discussed several options. They could continue farming the land by repairing the levee, paying 20% of the cost themselves. Or, they could sell conservation easements on the land through the newly announced Emergency Wetlands Reserve program (EWRP). In areas hard-hit by floods, this program provides some payment to farmers in areas hard-hit by floods in return for easements that prohibit most agricultural practices on the land except hay and pasture use. Levees would be left unrepaired and the fields would be used as overflow areas to store water in times of flooding.

The Soil Conservation Service formed a task force of interested groups and agencies to discuss whether a complete buy-out of Levee District 8 could be accomplished. The task force was a diverse set, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Environmental Protection Agency, The Nature Conservancy, Pheasants Forever, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and several realtors and ag land appraisers. The plan centered around coupling EWRP easement payments with additional funds to equal a buy-out figure the farmers would accept. This would give maximum revenue to the landowners and still save taxpayer dollars. Federal funds used for the EWRP payments and the land purchase would be significantly less than the cost in federal dollars to repair the levee and infrastructure and to make future crop subsidy and disaster payments.

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation was chosen by the task force to coordinate the proposed project because of the Foundation’s reputation for ingenuity, flexibility, quick action, and leadership on such model projects. Foundation staff met quickly with all 13 landowners in the district, explaining the proposal and learning about each one’s

Other organizations crucial to this project:

- SCS provided most of the funding through the EWRP program.
- FWS provided most of the remaining funds needed to purchase the properties, and FWS will manage the refuge.
- FEMA provided funds set for flood repair in the district to be used instead for land purchase as an alternative flood plain program.
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and The Conservation Fund (TCF) provided a revolving fund of \$500,000 so that the land payments could be made more quickly to landowners. NFWF made grant funds available, and TCF matched that grant. Both will be repaid as federal funds become available.
- Pheasants Forever, Izaak Walton League, and Waterfowl USA provided private funding for the project.



INHF/Gerald Schnepf

Louisa Levee District 8 received national attention. In November, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy (second from left) and General Galloway, executive director of the President’s Committee on Interagency Floodplain Management Review visited the area. They met with landowners and organizations concerning the refuge option and declared the area a national model for alternative floodplain management.

Ignoring financial problems won't solve them

By Dan Zinkand

Iowa Farmer Today

Inability to pay bills is common among farmers hit by the Flood of 1993, Iowa Rural Concern attorney John Baker in Des Moines says.

He advises farmers who can't meet their obligations to talk with their creditors and consider debt restructuring.

There are a variety of sources for help. Farmers can check with the Farm Law Project of Legal Services Corp. of Iowa and private attorneys.

"IOWA ATTORNEYS have been very good at helping out" by charging less or nothing for their services, he says.

Farmers with financial problems want to know what their forfeiture, foreclosure and bankruptcy rights are.

Important issues to consider include:

- Do you have good records?
- Have you had your finances computer analyzed by Extension?

• What are your goals when you talk to a creditor?

"Financial problems don't get better when you ignore them," Baker says.

"I think next year we will continue to see the effects of the flood."

In 1993, many farmers had grain to sell from the record 1992 crop, Baker says. But with the sharply reduced 1993 yields, he notes, "I think we are going to see people with difficult financial positions."

In 1993, there was a loss of liquidity and more borrowing, says Jeff Plagge, president of First National Bank of Waverly and chairman of the American Bankers Association's Executive Ag Committee.

But Plagge says there also was a high level of cooperation as farmers talked with their lenders and Iowa State University Extension personnel.

Farmers need to consider tax and financial considerations when disasters occur, he says.

Although 1994 began really well for Iowa crops, Plagge notes, cattle and hog

"Make sure to make your lender aware of things, whatever they might be. You never know what's available until you ask."

Chris Beyerhelm
FMHA farmer program chief
Des Moines

prices haven't fared so well.

"You have your spring optimism, which is traditionally there."

HE URGES farmers to communicate with their lenders and gather financial information. Having done this, it's recommended to review plans and carry through.

Farmers are advised to protect themselves from abnormal risk. It's too late for multi-peril crop insurance, but hail

insurance is still available.

Plagge says if problems develop, don't delay talking to lenders. "Lenders just don't like surprises."

When it comes to disaster assistance, Baker suggests farmers address the following questions:

- If they were denied assistance, did they appeal?
- Did they have an appeal hearing?
- Did they have help at the hearing?

Chris Beyerhelm, farmer program chief for the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) in Des Moines, says he's surprised at how well the agency's loan portfolio came through the flood.

As of June 17, the FmHA delinquency rate in Iowa was 10.8 percent. A year ago, it was 11.1 percent, Beyerhelm says.

"For the kind of business we do, that's not too bad."

Like Plagge and Baker, Beyerhelm also says it's essential to communicate with lenders. "Make sure to make your lender aware of things, whatever they might be. You never know what's available until you ask."■

IOWA FARMER TODAY®

SOUTHEAST

2ND CLASS MAIL

 CAR-RT SORT **CR 2
 508115
 SCS LOUISA CD
 514 ISETT ST
 MAPELLO IA 52653

Copyright 1994, Iowa Farmer Today

■ CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

■ JULY 2, 1994

■ CIRCULATION 70,000

■ 1 SECTION

■ VOL. 10,

■ 60 CENTS

THE FLOOD OF 1993

Remembering & Recovering



Photo courtesy of John Gorham Photography

One year ago this month, the Pieper family of Wever watched as floodwaters threatened to engulf their Southeast Iowa farm. Carl, Craig and Henry Pieper built this 6-foot dike last July around the perimeter of their farm when the levee on the nearby Mississippi River was swollen by floodwater. The levee broke July 11. Water rose to within 36 inches of the top, and one night 4-footwaves crashed in. But the dike held. SERIES BEGINS ON PAGE 3.

One year ago, every farmer in Iowa either personally waged a battle - or was glued to a television watching - as the horrors of the greatest flood of our time washed over us.

In a two-week series, IFT revisits the summer of 1993 and tells the rebuilding story of the months that followed.

INSIDE:

WEEK 1

- ▶ Month-by-month rainfall retrospective
- ▶ Emotional and financial stresses of fighting nature
- ▶ Personal farmer accounts

Good News...
Thanks to our members!



IOWA
NATURAL HERITAGE
FOUNDATION

"FOR THOSE WHO FOLLOW"

Where water quality begins

Joint efforts in the Raccoon River watershed could benefit everyone.

By the time it gets to Des Moines, the Raccoon River has gathered all the crud and corruption washed off of 3½ million acres in western Iowa. It mixes everything from lawn and garden fertilizers to heavy-duty agricultural weed and bug killers, plus feedlot runoff and anything else that flows downhill, creating the swirling soup that serves as a major source of drinking water for one-tenth of Iowa's population.

Des Moines Water Works director L. D. McMullen said analyses of the Raccoon's soup can measure the varying popularity of herbicides (Cyanazine is up, Atrazine is down) and also varying management practices. A decline in nitrogen may result from more judicious use of the fertilizer.

Herbicides and nitrogen can be toxic at sufficient concentrations; both are removed (as is lots of other junk) before the water goes into the city's pipes. The river water's quality is obviously important to a lot of people. And last week, several Iowa agricultural and environmental organizations revealed plans for a joint effort to show how that quality can be improved.

Involved are the Iowa Farm Bureau, the Des Moines Water Works, Agribusiness Association of Iowa, commodity groups for soybeans, corn, hogs and cattle, and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, which spearheaded the effort. The organizations will provide the services; the Northwest Area Foundation of St. Paul, Minn., will put up \$554,000 to pay the bills to set up demonstration projects of soil and water management practices that help filter and purify the water reaching the Raccoon.

Projects will include wetlands restora-

tion, creation of grass buffer strips along riverbanks, crop and feedlot management practices and other means of reducing pollutants. Such practices also conserve the rich Iowa topsoils.

In the half-century since Iowa soil conservation districts were organized, conservation practices have been put in place on one-third to one-half of the state's 26 million acres of farmland. They include terraces, small farm ponds, grassed waterways, etc. Bill McGill, who runs the financial incentive program for the Iowa Agriculture and Land Stewardship Department's soil conservation division, said Sac, Carroll and Guthrie counties, three of the 10 sharing part of the Raccoon watershed, are above average in percentage of farmers protecting their land.

Since 1973, the state has paid half the cost for some of the conservation work undertaken, and for 30 years before that, the federal government has paid the same proportion. But there is still much to be done, and recent congressional slashing of soil-conservation budgets makes outside help welcome. The Northwest Area Foundation's grant could hardly be better timed.

Establishing a bunch of demonstration projects over 3½ million acres won't measurably thin the soup of pollutants flowing in the Raccoon. But they can serve as models showing neighbors how easy or hard it is to keep the unwanted chemicals from reaching the rivers. And in time, as pollution-control practices spread, less topsoil would leave the watershed's farmlands, and a cleaner river could supply the needs of greater Des Moines.

Des Moines Register; October 19, 1994

Flooding leads to new wildlife refuge; Iowa floodplain restored in Louisa Co.

Iowa's flood of '93 has led to the beginning of a wildlife refuge consisting of 2600 acres in Louisa County.

This project came about as a result of the devastation of land along the Iowa River and a decision of landowners to enroll in the Emergency Wetland Reserve Program, then sell the land to create the refuge. This area will now store water and reduce flood damage elsewhere the next time the Iowa River overflows.

This project was initiated by the U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service, coordinated by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and is to be managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Even though the project is a \$2,000,000 expense, the amount to restore the levee district would have been an extra \$1.5 million.

This area, located six miles north of the Mississippi River between Wapello and Oakville, has flooded 15 times in since 1929. The thirteen landowners involved agreed to the program which includes dissolving the

levee and drainage districts.

The new refuge will be known as the Horseshoe Bend Division of the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge. It includes several lakes formed by an old ox bow of the river. The remaining area will consist of riverine forests, marshes or open areas.

This project will serve as a model from which the economic impact and details may lead to more natural methods of managing flood plains in the U.S. It has also created an important wildlife refuge, not a common happening in Iowa.

Daily lowegian, Centerville; August 15, 1994

Iowa Natural Heritage assists in restoration of Burrows Pond

Burrows Pond, a former wetland two miles northeast of Early, can now be restored. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation has assisted in negotiating two land purchases and two land trade agreements with area landowners to secure the entire wetland basin. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will own and manage the site.

The Burrows Pond restoration idea was initiated by the Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company when the company's founders (the Rutledge family) chose this project as a centennial celebration project (1893-1993).

In 1992, the Rutledge family contacted the Foundation to assist in the acquisition of the first two land parcels. Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company provided major funding in these initial land purchases. The land trade agreements have added two more parcels; total acreage for the Burrows Pond wetland project is 291 acres.

"The Foundation is very pleased to be involved in all four pieces of the puzzle that will make the restoration of Burrows Pond a reality," Mountain said, adding, "Out of the 9,000 acres of wetlands and adjacent uplands across Iowa that the Foundation helps to protect, Burrows Pond has been one of my favorites and is an outstanding project."

Wildlife biologist Mike Mahn of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources said the additional land will help provide uplands necessary for the protection of the integrity of the marsh.

"The ideal wetland requires three acres of upland for every acre of marsh," Mahn said, adding that the

restoration of the pond will yield valuable nesting grounds for wildlife species. Mahn also said, however, that the greatest news about Burrows Pond is its favorable location within the drainage district.

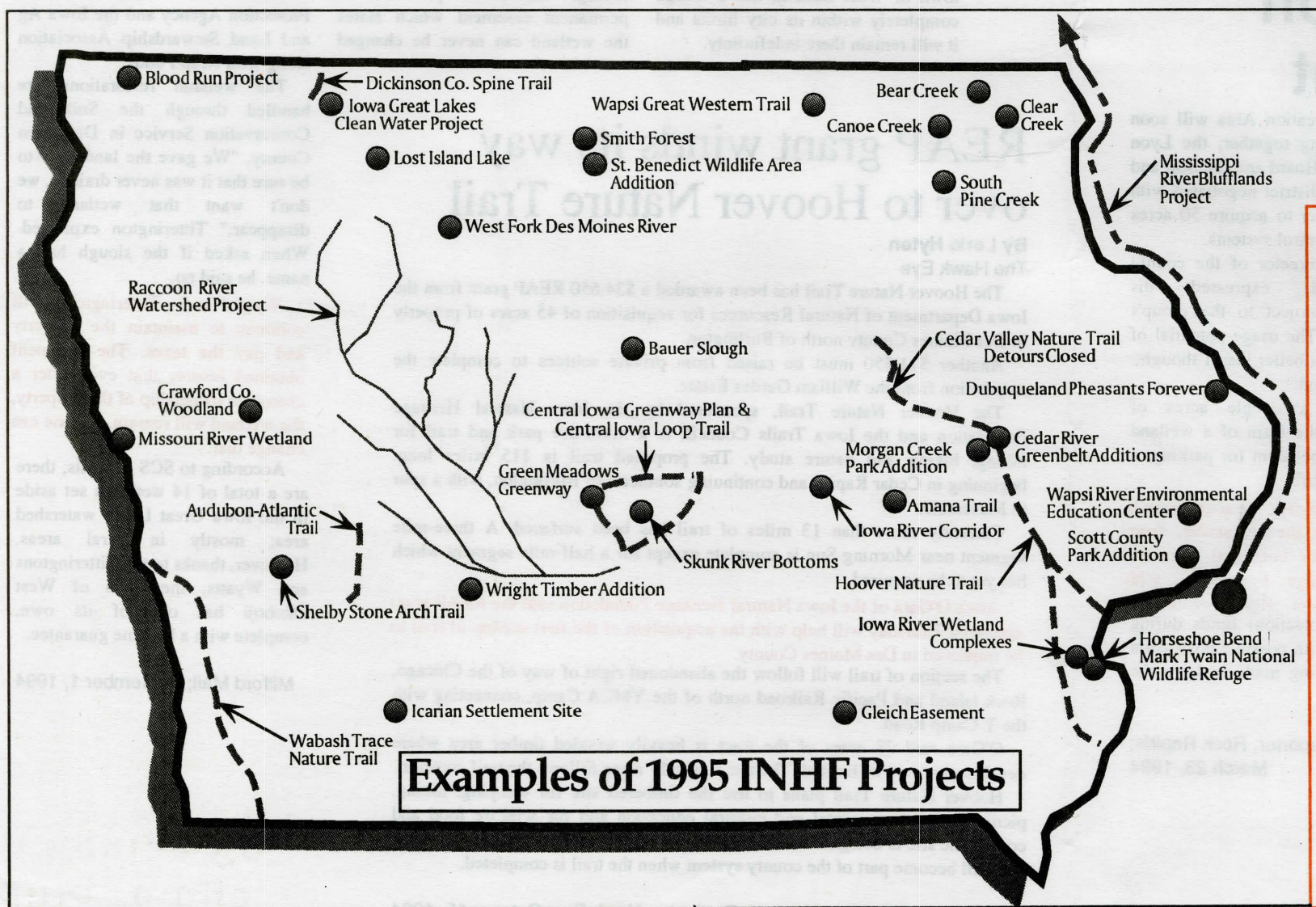
"The wetland's location makes the project more feasible because it ensures that neighboring drainage districts won't be adversely affected," Mahn said. "Wetlands trap silt and act like a water treatment facility by breaking down contaminants. Water temporarily stored in marshes also alleviates flooding downstream, and in this case, alleviates some of the demands of the drainage district facility."

According to Mahn, the restoration of the pond could improve the local economy and environment. "Public wetland areas like Burrows Pond encourage hunting, birdwatching, and wildlife photography," he said.

He cited the popular Klowa Marsh, an INHF project three miles south of Burrows Pond as an example where area and out-of-state residents visit on a regular basis. Mahn said Burrows Pond area opens to the public this fall when the hunting season begins. Access is through a parking lot located on a gravel road one mile south of county blacktop D15, four miles south of Early on State Hwy 71.

"Burrows Pond will also be host to nongame species that require wetland habitat, such as the great blue heron, yellow-headed blackbird and marsh wren; I see Burrows Pond as a place where people can view and visit a wetland eco-system. Marshes make great outdoor classrooms because students can observe first-hand a community of living organisms," Mahn added.

Lake View Resort, June 29, 1994



Examples of 1995 INHF Projects

As an INHF member in 1995, you'll support great projects like these.

That's good news for all of us... and "for those who follow!"

Construction on Wabash Trace proceeds with good weather

Progress on the Wabash Trace Nature Trail is proceeding well, thanks to good weather for construction. Last year's rains and floods washed out several portions of the trail and stalled construction. Repairs are now being made by volunteers and contractors with partial funding from FEMA.

"People are getting anxious to see the trail completed to Shenandoah this summer," said Lisa Hein, Trails and Greenways Director for the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. "There have been an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 visitor use days on the trail already this year, so it is important that we get caught up on construction and allow users to get to the small towns."

Currently the trail is open and maintained from Council Bluffs to about four miles southeast of Malvern. Segments are completed around Imogene, Shenandoah and Coin. The goal is to complete the surfacing from Council Bluffs to Shenandoah by the end of August.

South of Strahn the compacted limestone surface of the trail has been laid, but it has not been graded or rolled and the trail is not yet considered open. This segment and other unopened portions will receive a lower maintenance priority until the trail surface is completely finished.

An Iowa Young Adult Conservation Corps crew has been working diligently on trail maintenance, mowing and sign installation. The crew is also helping to improve the prairie and grounds at the Iowa School for the Deaf which adjoins the trail.

Tresemmer Engineering of Red Oak has completed the design for the bridge across the East Nishnabotna River north of Shenandoah. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation will be seeking construction bids in mid-July. Federal funds to cost-share the bridge were confirmed

this spring. The required matching funds are being raised through an "adopt-a-plank" campaign in addition to major contributions and pledges. Donors can adopt a plank for \$10; it will take 700 planks to get across the river plus approximately \$15,000 to complete the construction into Shenandoah.

Shenandoah Valley News Today; July 7, 1994

**Your membership dollars
go to work
all across Iowa!**

These stories are just a sample
of the good news that happens
all year long...because of
people like you!

West Okoboiji slough protected



HOWARD TITTERINGTON'S GRANDSONS stand by the sign at the entrance to their family's portion of a wetland dedicated to the Clean Water Alliance Wetland Restoration Project. Standing, left to right, are Blake, Dylan and Cole, sons of Tim and Rhonda Titterington. (Photo by Doris Welle)

By DORIS WELLE
Editor

The word slough conjures up images of shallow water, reeds and wide open spaces with prairie grasses blowing in the breeze.

For one slough, that is not a completely accurate description. The town of West Okoboiji has a slough completely within its city limits and it will remain there indefinitely.

Howard Titterington, along with his family, and Ralph Wyatt with his family have dedicated some of their properties, which connect making the slough area, to a Clean Water Alliance Wetlands Restoration Project.

The slough and its surrounding acreage has been put into a permanent easement which states the wetland can never be changed

into a development area or agricultural land. The easement was paid for by Clean Water Alliance funds used to protect the water quality of the Iowa Great Lakes.

Funding for the Alliance project came from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Iowa Ag and Land Stewardship Association along with Reap Funds.

The wetland restorations are handled through the Soil and Conservation Service in Dickinson County. "We gave the land over to be sure that it was never drained, we don't want that wetland to disappear," Titterington explained. When asked if the slough had a name, he said no.

Wyatt and Titterington will continue to maintain the property and pay the taxes. The easement obtained insures that even after a change in ownership of the property, the wetland will remain. No one can change that.

According to SCS officials; there are a total of 14 wetlands set aside in the Iowa Great Lakes watershed area; mostly in rural areas. However, thanks to the Titteringtons and Wyatts, the town of West Okoboiji has one of its own, complete with a lifetime guarantee.

Milford Mail; September 1, 1994

Pahoja addition bought

Lake Pahoja Recreation Area will soon grow in size. Working together, the Lyon County Conservation Board and the Soil and Water Conservation District negotiated with an adjoining landowner to acquire 50 acres to implement water control systems.

Mike Wallace, director of the county conservation board, expressed his enthusiasm for the project to the group's members last week. "The usage potential of that area is turning out better than I thought. Things are looking good."

In addition to a couple acres of impounded water in the form of a wetland and pond, there will be room for parking, a walking trail and wildlife.

Most of the funding for the acquisition is "in the bank" while the remainder, from \$5,000-\$9,000, will be borrowed from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation with payback coming from REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) funds during the next five years. With possible possession in June, plans are being made to have the area surveyed.

Lyon County Reporter, Rock Rapids;
March 23, 1994

REAP grant winds its way over to Hoover Nature Trail

By Lorie Hyten
The Hawk Eye

The Hoover Nature Trail has been awarded a \$34,650 REAP grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for acquisition of 45 acres of property in Des Moines County north of Burlington.

Another \$11,550 must be raised from private sources to complete the acquisition from the William Gerdes Estate.

The Hoover Nature Trail, sponsored by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and the Iowa Trails Council, is a multi-use park and trail for hiking, biking and nature study. The proposed trail is 115 miles long, beginning in Cedar Rapids and continuing southeast to Burlington, with a spur to Muscatine.

Currently more than 13 miles of trail has been surfaced. A three-mile segment near Morning Sun is complete except for a half-mile segment which has yet to be acquired.

Anita O'Gara of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation said the REAP grant approved Thursday will help with the acquisition of the first section of trail to be improved in Des Moines County.

The section of trail will follow the abandoned right of way of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad north of the YMCA Camp, connecting with the Y Camp Road.

O'Gara said 28 acres of the tract is heavily wooded timber area where development will be limited. The remaining 17 acres follows the trail corridor.

Hoover Nature Trail plans to use the timbered site for camping, hiking, picnicking, environmental and cultural education and for wildlife food and cover. The site is designated as a stopping point along the Hoover Nature Trail and will become part of the county system when the trail is completed.

Burlington Hawk Eye; October 15, 1994

THE FLOOD OF 1993: Farmers remem

Iowa Farmer Today 7/2/94

Kit Spangler Henry County

Southeast Iowa farmer Kit Spangler figures last year was one for the history books.

"I've never seen a year like last year and I hope I don't ever see it again. It's living a part of history, I guess," he says.

"Last year we finished planting corn around the 20th of June. I had to pinch myself that I was planting some fields because the conditions were so bad. One bottom field was so wet, the clods squished back around the seeds."

Spangler's perseverance was unrewarded. He only harvested 0-25 bushels an acre.

"The only side effect (from last year) is I'm trying to recover from my forage problems," says Spangler, who milks 60 Holsteins near Hillsboro (shown at right). His alfalfa crop was drowned out. He is trying to re-establish those stands.



The Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program

The Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program was established in 1993 to offer alternatives to rebuilding levees for protection of croplands against flooding. Iowa is one of eight Midwest states eligible for the program.

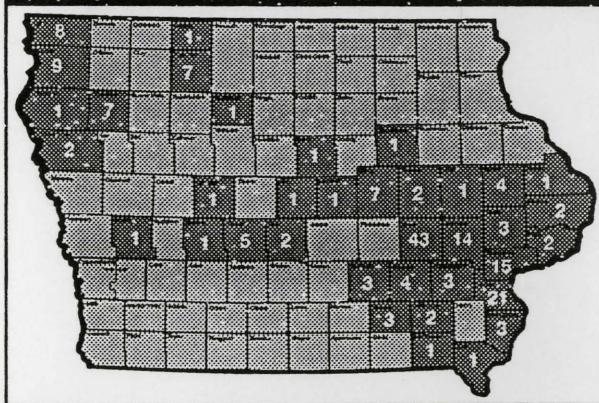
In the EWRP, landowners are encouraged to consider restoring flooded lands to wetlands rather than rebuilding levees, clearing debris, and restoring the land to cropland.

Landowners are offered the opportunity to sell permanent easements to the federal government, which guarantees the land will remain in wetlands.

The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service. The agency offered a signup period in the fall of 1993 for landowners in the state that led to more than 5600 acres of flood-prone land being accepted into the program.

A signup for the program continues, with interest by landowners in the program surpassing the government funding available.

EWRP offers



185 EWRP offers submitted as of July 13, 1994. LD-8 accounts for a large portion of the 14,676 acres offered.

Levee District 8

A Wetlands Restoration Project



A History of Broken Levees, Flooded Croplands

Levee District 8, a 3,000 acre area in Louisa County, Iowa, has a history of being flooded by the Iowa River. The levee district had received federal funds to repair damaged levees 14 times in the past 60 years.

Levee repair costs over the years have totaled \$850,000; in 1993 dollars, the cost of repairing levees has been more than \$3.9 million.

The estimated cost to repair levees broken by the 1993 floods was \$757,000. On October 13, at a meeting of landowners and a number of federal and state agencies, landowners were generally in favor of selling their land because of the flood-prone nature of the area. On March 31, 1994, the LD8 Board of Trustees voted to disband and abolish the levee district.

The Wetlands Option

Most of the 12 landowners within the flooded area are opting to enter the Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program, granting permanent easements to the federal government for wetlands and wildlife use of the area. In other cases, the land may be purchased by private conservation organizations.

Most of the area will become designated as the Horseshoe Bend Division of the Mark Twain Wildlife Refuge, and will be maintained as a refuge by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

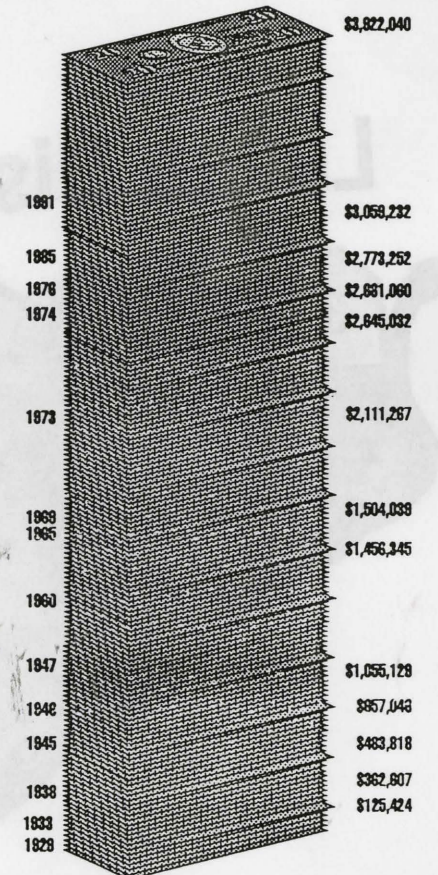
Agencies and groups supporting the levee district in restoring more than 2000 acres of floodprone cropland to wetlands include the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FEMA, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Nature Conservancy, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, the Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District.

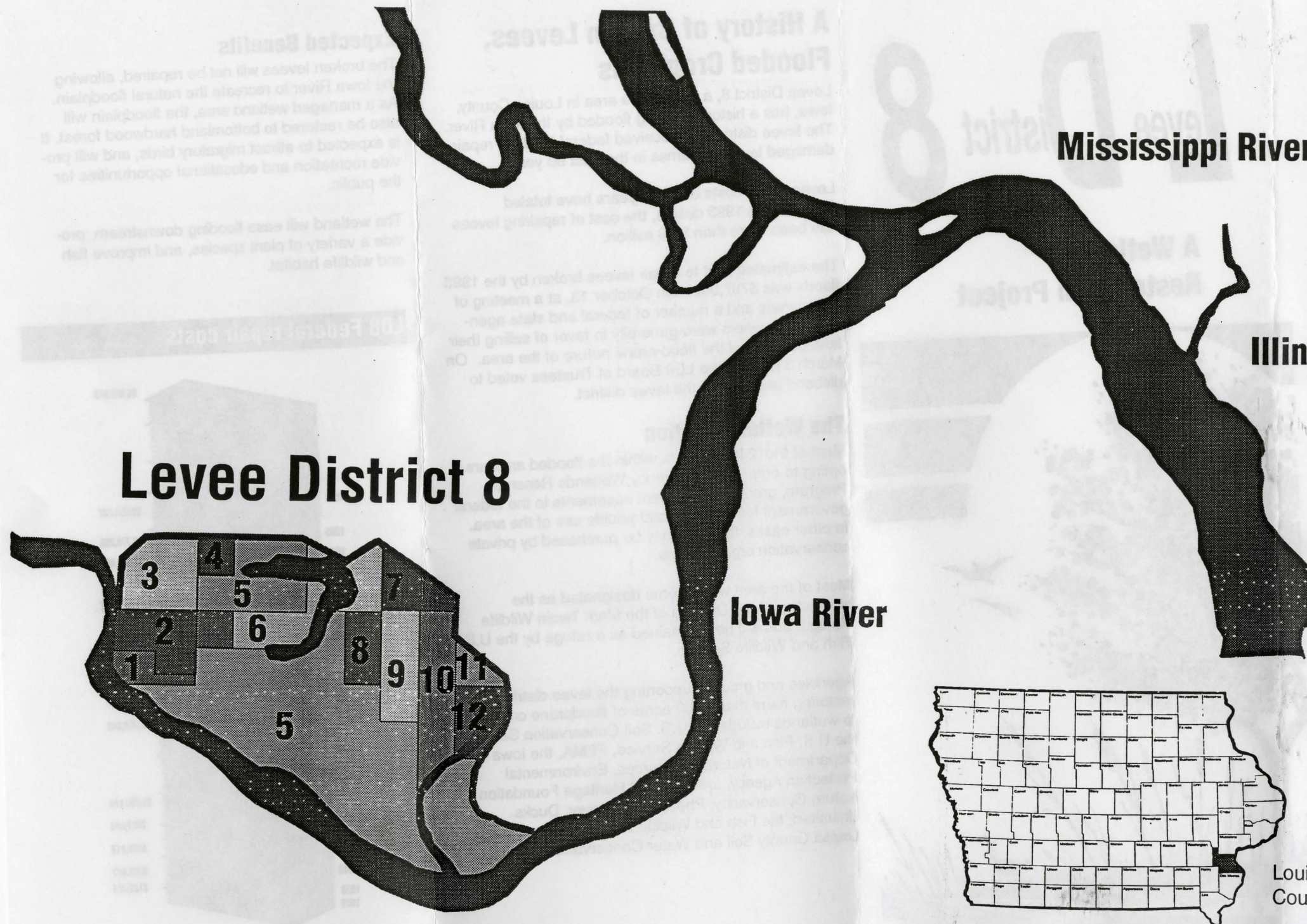
Expected Benefits

The broken levees will not be repaired, allowing the Iowa River to recreate the natural floodplain. As a managed wetland area, the floodplain will also be restored to bottomland hardwood forest. It is expected to attract migratory birds, and will provide recreation and educational opportunities for the public.

The wetland will ease flooding downstream, provide a variety of plant species, and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

LD8 Federal repair costs





LD8 Landowners

- 1 Martha Hawk
- 2 Mary Boysen
- 3 J. Dulin
- 4 Jack Parsons
- 5 Gabeline Trucking
- 6 Ed Yotter
- 7 Paul Gustison
- 8 William Archibald
- 9 Janet Lanz
- 10 Tom Lindeen
- 11 Gary Spitznogle
- 12 David Grimm

Louisa County farmers to be thanked for conservation efforts

Louisa County farmers will be able to participate in a first-of-its-kind effort to publicly thank Iowa farmers for their soil and water conservation accomplishments late this year. A group of conservation and farm organizations are spearheading a campaign that is expected to involve urban as well as farm groups in thanking up to 30,000 farmers in Iowa for their progress in environmental protection.

In Louisa County the Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are planning to honor local farmers who are us-

ing good conservation practices. Look for ballot boxes around the local communities and nominate as many farmers as you would like who are practicing good conservation on their land.

Conservation and farm groups are planning appreciation events after this fall's harvest in many counties across the state. Organizers plan to invite as many as 300 farmers in each county to receive a token of appreciation and thank you's from urban, conservation, environmental,

and business groups.

"We're fairly certain such an ambitious plan has never been undertaken, here or anywhere else," says Shawn Dettmann, District Conservationist. "But on the other hand, the progress in conservation is unprecedented, too, so I think the idea is a good one. The general feeling is it's about time we thanked our conservation-minded farmers," Dettmann says.

Jeff Vonk, State Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service in Iowa, confirmed that conservation work is being applied by farmers at an accelerated rate. "The floods last year really slowed conservation work, but in 1992 conservation practices were applied at rates from 2 to 9 times traditional rates. We can see the differences on the ground as we travel across the state," he says.

Iowa Farmer Today 7/2/94

Melvin Johnston Woodbury County

Last year's flooding resulted in strangely skewed records on the Melvin Johnston farm near Smithland in Western Iowa. Johnston's corn yields ranged from 195 bushels per acre on high ground to zero on flooded land, with an across-the-farm average of 25 bu./acre.

The 195 bu. were enough for Johnston to win first place in the state division of the National Corn Growers Association contest.

"The river (Little Sioux) started going out on the 18th of June (1993). It showed up on the 19th and 20th. That's when I was flooded," says Johnston.

The river was rising again this past June 20 as wild weather ranged across Western Iowa that day.

"The river is out up at Spencer and Cherokee, but going down now," says Johnston. "It will be up again if we get a good rain up there."

Reaching out for help

Taking care of yourself, as well as crops, livestock

By Dan Zinkand

Iowa Farmer Today

If the cows are sick, cattlemen call a vet. For weed problems, growers rely on advice from crop consultants and chemical dealers.

For stress or other personal problems, farmers need to use the same information-seeking approach, says Dr. Val Farmer, a Rapid City, S.D., psychologist and IFT columnist.

Asking for advice is just another way of maximizing resources, says Dr. Farmer.

And it lets farmers retain control of their lives,

"Once you get those good ideas, you are back off and running again."

AS IOWA farmers get back on the track after the Flood of 1993, calls to the Iowa Rural Concern Hotline in Des Moines for advice are on the rise.

In May, the hotline received 841 calls, twice as many as in May 1993.

"It's building," hotline counselor Jan Fleming says. "It's not dying down."

The number of calls is the highest for a May since the hotline began in 1985.

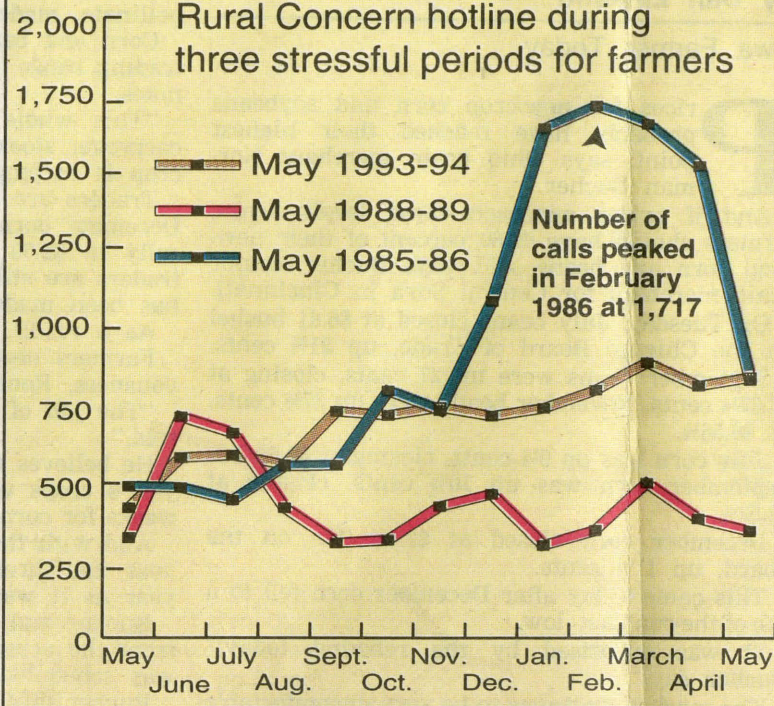
Fleming says while people who call survived the flood, they are distraught

"We have a lot of calls of stress in the marriages," she says.

"When a farmer fails at farming, he's losing his identity, the way of life he's always known,"

Calls on gradual uptrend this year

Number of monthly calls to Iowa Rural Concern hotline during three stressful periods for farmers



Source: Iowa Rural Concern, started in 1985

IFT graphic by Lori S. Leonard

Fleming notes. She says struggling farmers feel they've "screwed up," then wonder: "Who am I, if I'm not a farmer?"

Dr. Farmer says signs of stress include:

- Worry, high anxiety, depression and other strong emotions;
- loss of energy and lack of concentration;
- weight gain or loss;
- increase or decrease in sleep; and
- anger, irritability and blame.

Fleming and Dr. Farmer offer the following suggestions for

people who believe friends or family are stressed:

- Don't wait, talk to the person;
- build trust, which takes time and patience; and
- be concerned when someone is quiet and remote.

Fleming says there are 47 members of the Family Support Network throughout the state to help people cope with problems.

Hotline callers are referred to the appropriate network staff member. All calls are confidential. The hotline is answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Dr. Farmer says people who are stressed often try to solve

things by themselves, which often makes things worse.

Sharing problems and expressing emotion is helpful, he advises. People then can sort out the options for solving problems.

Concrete plans help people regain control, Dr. Farmer says. "You can manage during a time of crisis. ... Your management has to sharpen up to cope with the new circumstances."

Dr. Farmer says if people's efforts to turn things around fail, "they need to look for outside resources."

He says farmers are more reluctant than others to seek help.

DR. FARMER ADVISES people to stop worrying about what the neighbors think.

In fact, he says, there's a pleasant surprise waiting for farmers who seek help: "Once they do that, they find themselves surrounded by people who are supportive."

People commonly continue to suffer from the effects of a disaster one year later, says Victor Fischer, University of Iowa assistant professor of social work in Iowa City.

And people typically re-experience much of the emotion of a traumatic event on its first anniversary and subsequent years, Fischer explains.

He suggests farmers get together with friends on the anniversary and discuss not only what they lost, but also what they gained from the flood.

While there were negatives, Fischer says, people found they were able to handle lots of problems.

And communities worked together in the flood's aftermath.

"I really encourage celebration," he says. ■

Seeking assistance

Agencies and organizations offer assistance to farmers. Listed are the types of services offered, contact names and/or telephone numbers.

FARM FOCUS - Job training for families

Creston:

Pat Butcher - 800-222-6857

Waterloo:

Carol Mackintosh
800-299-3430

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

Financial, Credit
Farm Program Chief
Chris Beyerhelm
515-284-4695

FARM LAW PROJECT
Legal Services Corp. of Iowa

Cedar Rapids:

Tim Jackson - 800-332-0419

Council Bluffs:

David Lawler - 800-432-9229

Des Moines:

Scott Hartsook - 800-532-1275

IOWA MEDIATION SERVICE - 515-223-2318

IOWA RURAL CONCERN

Counseling, Referral
800-447-1985

PRAIRIEFIRE

Advice, Referral
515-282-0052

Also, check the telephone book for the nearest offices of Area Agency on Aging, Iowa State University Extension, Community Mental Health Center and Community Action Program.

Source: Above agencies

7/2/94

SIGNS OF TROUBLE



IFT file photo

In March 1993 the signs of what was to come were already being reflected in some Iowa fields. This soaked Henry County field of corn stubble is in Southeast Iowa.



IFT photos by Ron De Christopher

ABOVE: As yet another storm rolled into Muscatine County near Nichols last July, this sign alerted motorists they'd need to find another route to their destination. The photo was taken on Iowa Highway 70. **RIGHT:** During normal times, one can look at this area and see farmland in the distance. Last July, however, the converging Iowa and Cedar rivers near Columbus Junction submerged much of the Louisa County countryside.

What a difference a year makes

By Ron De Christopher

Iowa Farmer Today

After what must have seemed like an ordeal on the high seas last year for flood-weary farmers, the waters a year later are calming.

Many across the state report it's been a relatively good growing season so far.

But on the human side, troubles tied to the Flood of 1993 haven't receded. The number of calls to Iowa Rural Concern hotline in May 1994 were the highest for that month since the hotline began in 1985.

■ WEEK ONE of a two-part series
THE FLOOD OF 1993: Remembering and Recovering

In an Iowa Farmer Today two-week retrospective on last year's trauma, psychologist Dr. Val Farmer in an interview says farmers can regain control of their lives by seeking help for stress.

And finding help with their finances is equally important, say experts who work with farmers and ag finance.

IFT'S series includes a list of where to reach out for

personal and financial help.

Additional coverage includes details of the \$11 million-plus distributed so far to Iowa farmers through the Emergency Conservation Program. That tops any other ASCS flood disaster aid offered in Iowa.

The money went toward repairing terraces and other conservation structures, removing debris, leveling and shaping land and fixing fences.

Also, the Soil Conservation Service reports many Iowans are removing flood-damaged farmland from row crop production and restoring it to wetlands under the Emergency Wetland Reserve Program.

Weather-wise, soil moisture figures from Iowa Agricultural Statistics in Des Moines help tell the tale of two seasons:

- Topsoil moisture was 3 percent surplus as of June 26 this year, compared with 77 percent as of June 27 last year.

- Subsoil moisture was 4 percent surplus this year, compared with 85 percent last year.

Consider the grim and soggy news in Ag Statistics' Crops and Weather report for the week ending July 11 last year.

Into Iowa's ninth consecutive month of above-normal precipitation, the report stated: "Heavy thunderstorms

See next page: Flood retrospective

IOWA FARMER TODAY

Vice President/Publisher

Steve DeWitt

Publications Editor

Lori S. Leonard

Managing Editor

Bob Davis

Advertising Sales Manager

Terry Reilly

EDITORIAL

MAIN OFFICE:

Local number 319-398-8461

Nationwide WATS 800-475-6655

Assistant Editor

Myron Williams

Copy Editor

Ron De Christopher

Crops Field Editor

Dan Zinkand

Livestock Field Editor

Jeff DeYoung

Contributing Editor

Kevin Blind

Iowa Pork Today

FIELD OFFICES:

Field Editors

Gene Lucht (phone) 515-964-5501

Joyce Vogelmann (phone) 515-756-3356

ADVERTISING SALES

DISPLAY ADVERTISING:

Local number 319-398-8461

Nationwide WATS 800-475-6655

FAX number 319-398-8482

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING:

Local number 319-398-8461

Nationwide WATS 800-475-4692

FIELD OFFICES:

Advertising Representatives

Craig Mittag (phone) 515-345-2635

Jim Irvine (phone) 712-263-6581

CIRCULATION

Circulation Coordinator Mary Stein

Local number 319-398-8457

Nationwide WATS 800-475-6655

PRODUCTION

Production Manager Becky Croy

Local number 319-398-8461

Nationwide WATS 800-475-6655

MAILING ADDRESS

Iowa Farmer Today

P.O. Box 5279

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406-5279



Established in 1984, Iowa Farmer Today is published by The Gazette Co., 501 Second Ave., S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401. Qualified farm operators receive this publication and Iowa Pork Today without charge. Iowa Farmer Today subscription rate for non-qualified operators is \$28/year; or \$34/year with Iowa Pork Today. Iowa Farmer Today is published weekly. Iowa Pork Today is published 10 times per year. Individuals may subscribe by calling 1-800-475-6655. Second-class postage paid at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Iowa Farmer Today, P.O. Box 5279, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406-5279 (USPS number 002141). Copyright 1994 by Iowa Farmer Today. All rights reserved.

9/94 Soil practices Loan Program

The 1994 legislative session has established a new Soil Loan Program. The act included an appropriation of \$500,000. This appropriation is to establish an interest-free loan program, making funds available to landowners for any required matching contribution to the Federal Emergency Conservation Program for the repair of permanent soil and water conservation

practices. Loan funds shall only be used by persons who receive assistance under ECP to restore a practice to its condition prior to the flood damage which occurred in 1993.

Funds will be allocated by the Division of Soil Conservation on a first come first served basis. Applications for the program are to be made through the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. All practices need to be approved by the commissioners and the technical staff has to inspect the practice to determine if the repair meets eligibility requirements.

Landowners have until June 1, 1995 to complete the project. A 20 year maintenance agreement is required.

Loan funds are to be used in combination with USDA-ASCS, Emergency Conservation Program funds to pay up to 100% of the cost of repair. Each loan made shall be for a period not to exceed 5 years. Loans shall be paid back to the loan fund in equal yearly installments due March 1 of each year the loan is in effect.

If you have any questions or are interested in the program contact the SWCD office.

Take time to review your conservation plan

Winter is a good time to review your Conservation Compliance Plan. While making your cropping plans for the upcoming season on your Highly Erodible Land, remember to coordinate those decisions with the components in your plan.

Your plan should cover the major items such as: 1. Crop Rotation. 2. Row Direction 3. Tillage Systems. 4. Waterways.

In addition, some plans have additional items such as terraces, field strips, and contour buffer strips.

To help you stay eligible for the federal programs, take a close look at the items that are required for Conservation Compliance. Usually items 1 through 4 listed above are considered to be required items. Other items may also be included.

Crop Rotations should be reviewed to see if your cropping history is similar to what has been planned. For example, if you have planned a continuous corn rotation, your cropping history should not show soybeans being planted in that field.

Row Direction refers to contouring or farming across the slope. If your plan called for these times, grassed headlands or field borders are usually part of the system.

Tillage Systems are planned according to the amount of residue left on the surface of the ground after planting. This is usually expressed in the percent of the ground that is covered by last year's crop residue. Examples might be 30% soybean stubble or 60% cornstalks. Your plan could
Consv. cont. Page 8

Conservation plan cont. from page 1

also list the type of tillage system to be used, such as no-till. With the excellent conditions we had last fall some additional tillage may have been done and you may want to take an extra look at this component of your conservation plan.

Waterways should be field inspected to make sure grass is well established and no gullies have formed. Waterways are required in fields where runoff starts to concentrate and erosion is not controlled by other methods such as terraces.

Everyone participating in USDA farm programs was required to have their conservation plans fully applied by January 1st of 1995. Our office is required to complete status reviews of conservation plans every spring to determine whether or not these plans are applied. In the past if a producer was found not to be following their conservation plan we had the option to carry them over to the next year while they brought the plan up to date. We are no longer allowed to do that and the determination will be made FINAL within the same year.



United States Senate
Washington D.C.

October 26, 1994

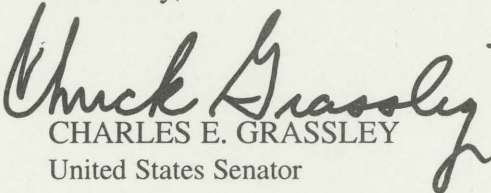
Dear Friend:

With great pride, we commend you for your efforts to preserve Iowa's soil and water resources through implementation of conservation measures.

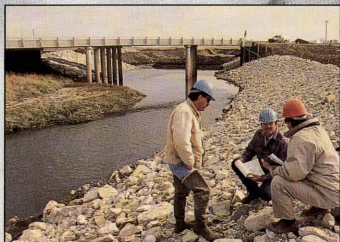
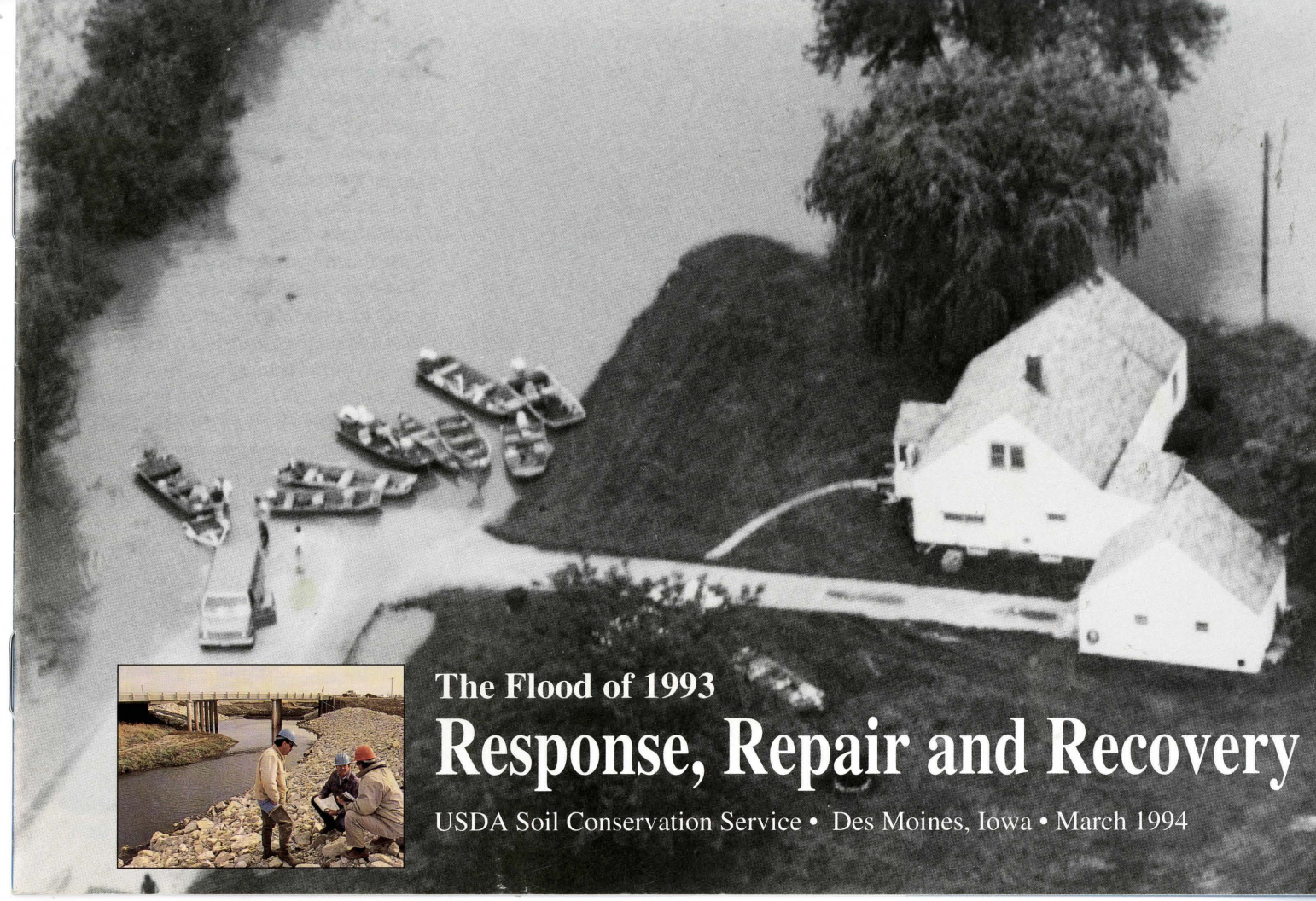
Your accomplishments, along with those of thousands of other Iowa farmers have had a tremendous impact on improving the quality of our environment. Future generations will look back with appreciation on the difference you made in helping to preserve these limited resources.

Thank you for everything you have done and keep up the great work!

Sincerely,


CHARLES E. GRASSLEY
United States Senator


TOM HARKIN
United States Senator



The Flood of 1993

Response, Repair and Recovery

USDA Soil Conservation Service • Des Moines, Iowa • March 1994

RECORD BREAKING RAINFALL: Iowa's wettest summer

"By far it was the wettest summer ever recorded in Iowa history"

Harry Hillaker
State Climatologist

Cover photo courtesy of the Des Moines Register / Photo by Bob Nandell

2

During the summer of 1993, a measurable rain fell somewhere in the state for more than 40 consecutive days and nights.

The downpours repeatedly filled Iowa's streams and rivers to flood stage levels. Many times the waters overflowed streambanks, flooding farmland and backyards alike.

According to State Climatologist Harry Hillaker, Iowa experienced its wettest summer in history during 1993.

Iowa had reached its normal annual rainfall level by July. By September, the state reached record annual precipitation.

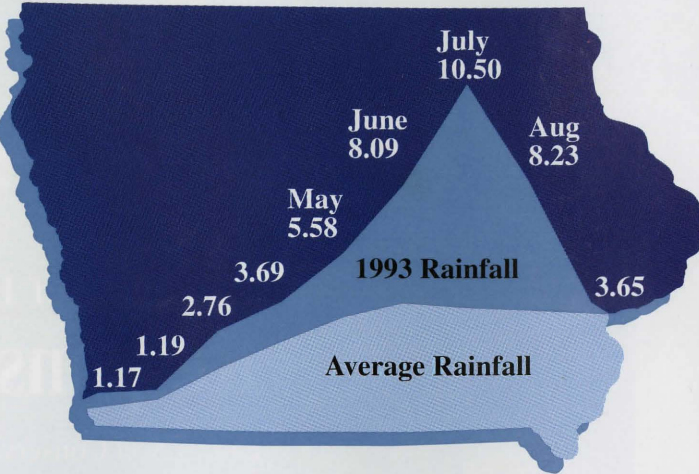
Dozens of rivers and streams across the state remained above flood stage for days at a time. In July, all of the state's major reservoirs — Saylorville, Coralville, Rathbun and Red Rock — were full and flowing through their spillways.

In response to the record rains, Iowans sandbagged their homes, reinforced levees and helped their neighbors move to higher ground.

Flood damage was so widespread, all 99 counties were declared disaster areas by the federal government.

The Iowa Association of Counties estimated the flooding caused at least \$30 million in damages to public facilities.

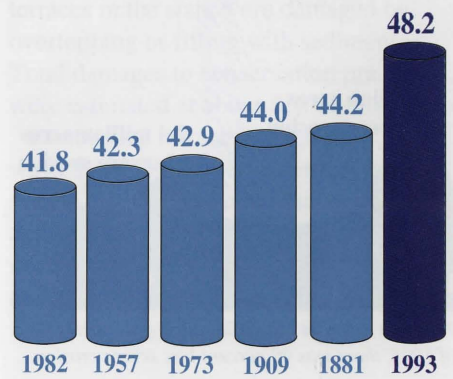
Summer 1993 rainfall compared to average years



Saturated ground prevented a million acres of corn and soybeans from being planted in 1993. And crops that survived to harvest didn't always do well. Last year was the smallest hay crop since 1949 and the worst oat crop ever.

This book illustrates and explains how the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Iowa responded to the heavy rains and floods of 1993. SCS helped restore damaged conservation practices, repair damages to public facilities and worked with other agencies and groups to provide assistance to as many Iowans as possible during the state-wide flood recovery effort.

Iowa's record breaking rains



Many roads and bridges across the state, including this one in Montgomery County, were temporarily closed because of high waters or damages caused by flooding.

3

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN WORSE: What worked and what didn't

"That watershed project helped us a bunch, only one person got badly flooded here in Dunlap"

Martin Smith
Dunlap Mayor

According to historical data, the damages caused by the spring and summer floods of 1993 could have been worse.

Soil conservation practices like no-till farming, crop residue management, terraces and contour stripcropping helped reduce erosion and runoff caused by Iowa's record rainfall.

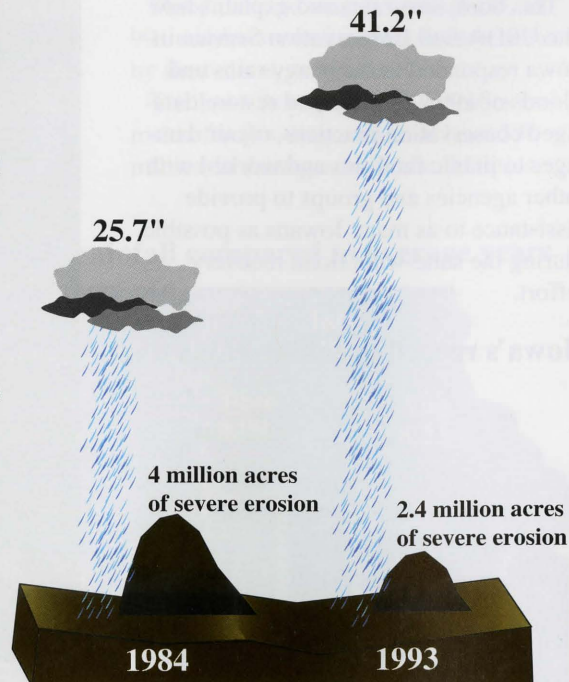
When these practices were widely used in a concentrated area, along with erosion and flood control dams as part of a watershed protection project, the combination reduced upland flooding damages.

For instance, a FEMA official assessing statewide damages noticed a striking lack of damages to the roads and bridges in the Dane Ridge Watershed Project, while a drainage area just over the ridge had serious flooding damages.

Dunlap Mayor Martin Smith said a watershed project that includes a dam upstream from his town prevented terrible flooding.

"Without that project, we wouldn't have been so lucky," he said.

However, despite watershed projects and the use of soil conservation practices some severe erosion did occur in the state. SCS conservationists estimated



Despite a 170 percent increase in rainfall during the spring and summer of 1993, there was 40 percent less severe erosion.

Iowa had 2.4 million acres of severe erosion — defined as land with 20 or more tons of soil loss an acre. This damage cost Iowa farmers about \$14 an acre or \$35 million, according to SCS estimates.

If it weren't for the recent voluntary soil conservation efforts of farmers, however, erosion damages could have easily tripled. For instance, in 1984 there were four million acres of severe erosion with a rainfall of only 60 percent of 1993 amounts.

The record rainfall caused major damage to conservation practices. SCS conservationists estimated nearly 80 percent of the grassed waterways installed in the last two years were damaged by gully erosion. As many as 10 percent of the terraces in the state were damaged by overtopping or filling with sediment. Total damages to conservation practices were estimated at about \$20 million.

Established terraces and grassed waterways that were used in a conservation system with crop residue management and other practices stood up to the rains much better than those that were used alone.



Projects that offer entire watershed protection, including Prairie Rose in western Iowa, helped prevent severe erosion during 1993.

ROAD TO RECOVERY: Emergency watershed protection program

"By joining forces and combining resources with SCS we made the proper repairs and better served the public,"

Jim Hogan
Federal Highway
Administration

When the flood waters broke through levees, more than just farm fields and residential homes were damaged. Many public facilities including roads, bridges and sewer lines, were damaged as well.

Through the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program, SCS is helping communities with public facilities damaged by last year's floods. In mid-July of 1993, SCS staff began surveying and assessing flood damages. At the same time a core group of engineers, technical and support staff formed the EWP headquarters in Indianola.

Through the EWP program, SCS pays the costs of repairing eligible sites after a community or other unit of government requests assistance by submitting a Damage Survey Report (DSR).

Ineligible DSRs were referred to other agencies.

For the first six months of the recovery effort, SCS officials waived the rule requiring sponsors to match federal funds with a local contribution.

However, since December 10, 1993, sponsors have been required to match federal funding with a 20 percent local contribution.

To meet this requirement, local sponsors have contributed cash, in-kind goods and services, or a combination.

More than 1,000 requests for assistance were submitted before Iowa SCS stopped accepting new requests on January 15, 1994. Iowa received more EWP assistance requests than any of the other nine eligible Midwest states. Kansas, which received 695 requests, ranked second. As of January, 3,340 assistance requests were received by the eligible states.

Within Iowa, 80 counties submitted assistance requests. About 40 percent of the requests were submitted by southwest



Many projects, similar to this Page County bank stabilization project, were funded through EWP.

Iowa counties, including Montgomery County, which submitted more than 50 requests.

Iowa EWP projects include repairing levees which have been breached or overtopped with flood waters, removing debris from bridge pilings and other structures, and stabilizing streambanks to protect public facilities like roads and bridges.

The cost for making all the requested repairs is estimated at \$37.7 million. In 1993, Iowa SCS received a total of \$12.88 million for flood repair work.

However, Iowa SCS will receive additional EWP funding through a supplemental emergency appropriations bill passed by Congress in February. Because of the additional funding, there should be enough money to complete all eligible repairs.

By February 1994, SCS had completed 206—more than 20 percent —of its highest priority repair projects, at a cost of \$5.4 million. Another \$3.5 million had been contracted.

Nationally, about \$19 million had been

spent on completed repairs or had been contracted for future projects by February 1994.

Iowa SCS will continue to work on emergency projects through 1994 and possibly longer.

Damage Survey Reports submitted by Iowa counties



EWP: Bank Stabilization

About half the EWP assistance requests sent to SCS asked the agency to help stop the erosion of stream and river banks near public facilities.

These projects can be found across the entire state; however, a majority were concentrated in southwest Iowa.

Bank stabilization sites were among the highest priority projects, because in many cases the problem threatened county and state bridges.

Work began immediately on some bank stabilization projects in July. By February, 53 of the 558 projects were completed with another 30 projects underway.



A bank stabilization project in Carroll County prevented this bridge from collapsing.

"If we hadn't gotten the help as fast as we did, the next heavy rain would have knocked out that bridge"

Dave Paulson
Carroll County Engineer

About 250 projects were referred to other agencies.

One of the projects completed last fall included a bridge in Carroll County.

Dave Paulson, Carroll County Engineer, worked with SCS engineers to keep that bridge from collapsing.

"If we hadn't gotten the help as fast as we did the next heavy rain would have knocked out that bridge," he said. "We would have had a big chunk of concrete out there in the creek."

Approximately one out of every ten EWP projects in Iowa involved repairing a levee that had been breached or overtopped by flood waters.

Many of these projects were concentrated in extreme southwest Iowa along the Nishnabotna River and along the tributaries of the Mississippi River in southeast Iowa.

The highest priority levee repair projects were near public facilities such as water treatment plants, where the safety of entire communities was threatened.



Randy Robb, Fremont County District Conservationist, surveys a levee repair project before it was completed late last fall.

At one site SCS helped repair five broken and damaged areas along a two-mile stretch of levee in Clinton County that was protecting county roads and several hundred acres of farmland.

"We couldn't get in the field all summer—didn't get anything planted. I know we'd have been flooded this spring again if the levee wasn't fixed," said Paul Riedesel, who farms near Wheatland.

By February, SCS had completed 25 levee repair projects. An additional 23 sites were underway or were in the

design stage. About 40 levee repair projects were referred to other agencies.

EWP: Levee repair

"I was worried about whether they'd get the dike fixed before winter, but they did it fast, and did a good job"

Paul Riedesel
Clinton County Farmer

EWP: Debris removal

"Our crews had a hard time keeping up with the debris. EWP was the blessing we needed"

**Chuck Malek, Chairman
Howard County Board
of Supervisors**

Many bridges and other public facilities across the state were threatened by the debris carried downstream by flood waters.

Nearly 20 percent of the requests submitted asked SCS to help communities remove debris from bridges and other public facilities. These projects were also concentrated in the southern half of Iowa, especially in the southwest and southeast corners of the state.

Debris removal was among the highest priority emergency work during the first



Debris removal projects, like this one in Howard County, were high priority EWP projects.

months of the recovery effort. Quick action was necessary to prevent future rains from causing more damages which would have been more costly to repair.

About 60 percent of the 201 debris removal projects were completed by February. SCS was also preparing contracts for an additional five sites.

About 30 debris removal projects were referred to other agencies.

Between September 1993 and February 1994 about 60 SCS engineers and engineering technicians from across the country helped the Iowa staff design and supervise EWP repair projects.

Six contract specialists also worked in Iowa, helping prepare bid packets and other contracting work. Each worked in the state for about six weeks.

Out-of-state help included three volunteers from Canada. The Canadian government paid their salaries while the volunteers worked in Iowa.

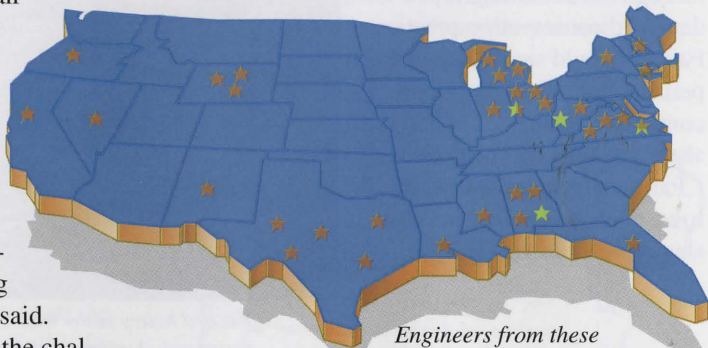
One Canadian volunteer engineer, Wade Morrison, designed grade stabilization, streambank stabilization and levee repair projects for an 18-county area.

"No one had previously worked on such a tight schedule, so we brought all our ideas together. We were trying different designs, improving them as we went," he said.

"I'd do it again. I like the challenge of complicated jobs."



Wade Morrison and Jim Melville, both of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration of Saskatchewan, Canada, measure riprap.



Engineers from these states helped Iowa SCS.

SCS FLOOD RECOVERY TEAM: Help from across the country

"It was amazing with people coming and going so often, that a team could work so well together"

**Wade Morrison
Canadian volunteer**

**EMERGENCY
CONSERVATION
PROGRAM:
Repairing conservation
practices**

*“We’ve had a record amount
of requests from Iowa farmers
asking for ECP funds to
repair damaged practices”*

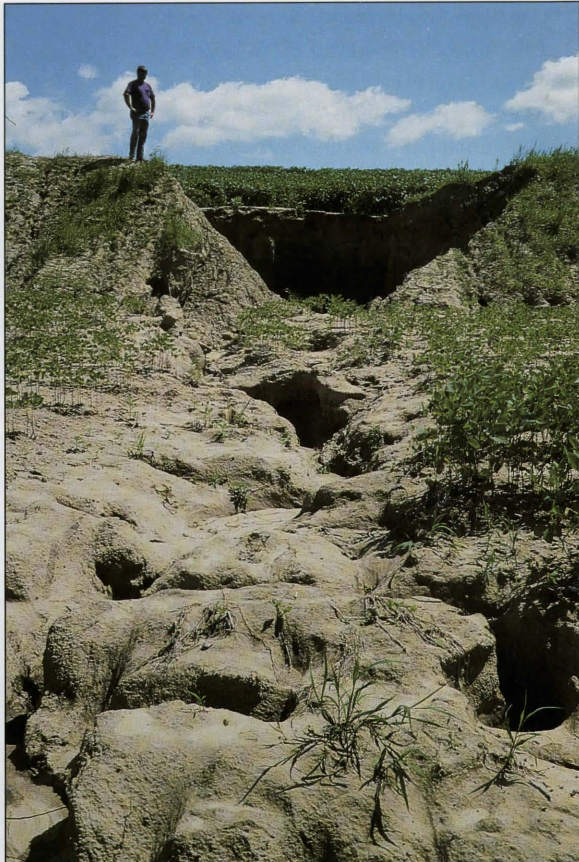
Tom Grau
ASCS State
Executive Director

SCS conservationists and conservation contractors continue to work with Iowa farmers to repair damaged conservation practices.

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), a USDA-funded program administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), provides money to farmers to help repair conservation practices like terraces and grassed waterways which were damaged by the flooding of 1993.

Iowa farmers received more than \$7 million in ECP funds through ASCS to help repair damaged conservation practices. Farmers could receive up to 64 percent cost share; each local committee set deadlines and cost share amounts for their county.

Farmers from more than 90 Iowa counties applied for cost share funds through ECP.



Record heavy rains washed over saturated Iowa farmland, damaging conservation practices including this terrace in Fremont County.

The Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program (EWRP) is helping farmers and landowners convert qualifying flood-damaged cropland to wetlands.

Farmers with land covered by flood waters in 1993 were offered an alternative to the expensive process of restoring their land for crop production.

More than 14,000 acres of flooded Iowa cropland were submitted to EWRP. About 38 percent, or 5,344 acres, were accepted into the program initially. Iowa received an initial allotment of \$4.23 million in EWRP funding for easement, restoration and other costs.

In Louisa County, Iowa SCS worked closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others to convert about 3,600 farmland acres into a floodplain wetland.

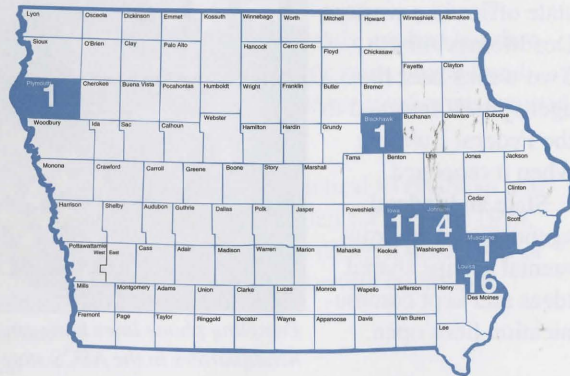
Missouri had the most EWRP offers, with 21,600 acres submitted and 12,300 acres accepted. Nationally, landowners from the seven Midwest states eligible for

EWRP submitted a total of 43,680 acres. About 60 percent— 25,400 acres —were accepted into the program at an estimated cost of \$15 million.

Under EWRP, SCS purchases a permanent easement to the land entered into the program and pays for wetland construction and restoration. In Iowa, these easement values were set after SCS officials consulted with other agencies, farm commodity and environmental groups, and farm managers and appraisers. Iowa easement values ranged from \$962 to \$388 per acre.

Farmers with land accepted into the program are required to maintain the restored wetland area.

Accepted EWRP offers



**EMERGENCY
WETLANDS
RESERVE PROGRAM:
Providing an alternative**

*“EWRP is a great example of
how agencies can work with
private-interest groups to best
benefit the public”*

Edward A. Thomas
Federal Emergency
Management Agency

RECOVERY PARTNERS: State and federal agencies pull together

"Agencies on the levee review committee worked together to assess damages and repair levees as quickly as possible"

Jerry Ostendorf
Iowa Emergency
Management Division

During the flood recovery efforts, government agencies and private interest groups worked together to help as many Iowans as possible.

Every agency was faced with unlimited number of repair and restoration problems, so by working together more work was completed than if the agencies had worked separately.

For example, several USDA agencies shared office space after flooding in Des Moines forced the agencies to close their downtown offices.

SCS and several other USDA agencies moved to temporary state headquarters at the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) state office in a western Des Moines suburb. Two weeks later the agency staff returned to the Federal Building when it reopened.

State and federal agencies and environmental groups shared ideas and kept communication lines open.

Representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, SCS, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Iowa Emergency Management Division and others formed a levee review committee to coordinate the repair of levees as quickly and efficiently as possible.

In addition, representatives from FEMA and SCS looked for repair projects that might be better suited to another agency. As a result, about 350 SCS flood repair projects were referred to other agencies.



Dangling phone lines hang among staff at the temporary SCS state headquarters in the ASCS state office last July.

Heavy rains and flooding not only created problems for communities across the state, but also caused widespread delays in the schedules Iowa farmers had made to protect their soil.

In response, SCS enacted a one-year wetness variance for wet and flooded farms. It allows producers to continue to receive USDA benefits if they agree to revised schedules for completing the work included in their conservation compliance plans.

Before the variance was enacted, producers were required to complete their plans by December 31, 1994. The variance extends this deadline.

"No one can question that heavy rains and flood damages have been severe and a disaster for Iowa agriculture. As bad as it has been, however, it doesn't serve as a reason to ignore environmental concerns. Producers should plan to do what they can to get back on track with planned conservation practices," said Jeff Vonk, State Conservationist for SCS in Iowa.

SCS will use the variance during status reviews this year where wet weather in 1992 and 1993 prevented conservation work to be done as scheduled. Local

District Conservationists will issue each variance on a case-by-case basis. Some of the requirements set by the variance include:

- Tracts not affected by wetness must be on schedule with application and maintenance of practices.
- Practices scheduled to be completed before September 1992, must be applied as scheduled and maintained.
- Annually applied practices such as contouring, crop residue management, no-till and stripcropping must be in place when the 1994 crop is planted. Leaving the soil bare after planting is not acceptable.
- Practices already applied but damaged by heavy rains or wet conditions must be repaired or maintained in 1994.
- If it is impractical to establish practices scheduled for 1993 or 1994, they may be delayed until 1995 or later, under certain conditions.

WETNESS VARIANCE: SCS gives farmers some extra time

"It was simply too wet to get some work done, so we're taking a reasonable approach in trying to work with farmers"

Jeff Vonk
SCS State Conservationist

All programs and services of SCS are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

THE FLOOD OF 1993: Farmers remember

Iowa Farmer Today

7/2/94

Warren Varley Guthrie County

Slugs plagued 60 acres of Warren Varley's river bottom corn near Stuart last year in West Central Iowa.

"They just ate everything. They ate the corn plants as they emerged from the ground."

Varley at first thought the big circles in his field were wet places, but the circles got bigger.

He investigated and found the slugs.

"Big circles in the field that were just bare," he says. Varley had not seen a slug problem before 1993.

"The best treatment? Sunshine and warm weather."

He describes the year as "really remarkable."

On the ridges, the loess soil produced pretty well, but the sidehills didn't. Corn on the sidehills and the river bottom was awful.

"Hardly worth combining." Varley comments.

Jim Bartling Hardin County

"I don't think the boys and I worked so hard and accomplished so little," Iowa Falls farmer Jim Bartling says of last year's wet season. "I hope I never see another one like it."

"It's the worst year I've ever had since I started farming in 1967," says Bartling, who rents and owns about 1,100 acres in North Central Iowa.

Besides poor crops — 60-70 bushel corn and 19-20 bu. soybeans — Bartling says 1993 hit him with a "double-whammy" by dampening his cow herd performance.

He had more open cows than ever before. He blames fertility problems on the silt washed onto his pastures by flooded creeks.

His feeder cattle also averaged 100 pounds lighter than normal. The problems probably were all caused by lack of nutrition, he thinks.

Roger Iverson Poweshiek County

Delayed planting was the biggest drawback of 1993 for Roger Iverson of Grinnell. Also, yields were down. "I didn't even do the Masters (yield contest) on my beans," Iverson says. He only got 156 bushels an acre on his Masters corn plot.

"But actually, it was just one 20-acre field. The rest was down, 80-100" bu./acre.

Bean yields were better on the rolling ground Iverson farms in Central Iowa. "My better flat ground, the water sat on them and killed them."

He notes, "What was really nice about it (1993) was the fall. I just wasn't looking forward to mudding the crop out."

"I ran all fall and hardly had any breakdowns." He put 1,000 hours on his four-row combine. "Sixty dollars in repairs. That was just minor things and I just changed them while I was unloading."

July 9, 1994

DISASTER AID**Counties receiving more than \$50,000****Federal conservation aid from Flood of 1993**

COUNTY	AMOUNT
Audubon	\$74,485
Benton	289,133
Black Hawk	341,227
Boone	75,682
Butler	120,088
Carroll	115,100
Cedar	346,797
Cerro Gordo	93,096
Chickasaw	95,986
Crawford	224,556
Dallas	63,400
Davis	59,998
Decatur	106,234
Des Moines	215,000
Emmet	54,538
Franklin	177,291
Fremont	216,600
Greene	112,857
Grundy	116,580
Guthrie	327,317
Hamilton	78,851
Hardin	153,354
Henry	343,272
Howard	154,132
Humboldt	73,324
Iowa	217,887
Jackson	87,960
Jasper	95,100
Jefferson	202,200
Johnson	229,075
Jones	75,884
Keokuk	507,600
Kossuth	64,800
Lee	302,139
Linn	196,748
Louisa	277,600
Lyon	86,572
Mahaska	317,300
Marion	148,900
Mitchell	63,612
Monona	51,500
Muscatine	305,687
Osceola	83,865
Page	124,271
E. Pottawattamie	66,476
Poweshiek	74,180
Ringgold	66,040
Story	99,252
Tama	578,005
Taylor	142,862
Union	157,500
Van Buren	88,500
Wapello	268,667
Warren	53,400
Washington	723,805
Webster	104,608
Winneshiek	89,896
Wright	59,400
TOTAL*	\$11,051,607

*The total includes all Iowa counties, not just those receiving more than \$50,000. Four counties - Buchanan, Cherokee, Harrison and Ida did not request any aid.

THE FLOOD OF 1993: Farmers remember**Duane Redlinger
Washington County**

When last year's rains hit Duane Redlinger's farm near Washington he knew he was in trouble.

"On July 4th we really got a big rain," he says. "During the month of July we got about 12 inches."

For Redlinger, 64, the result was silting and washing to an extent he had never seen before.

Several terraces were broken or washed away. Several more were eroded farther up the hill as waves of mud filled in the space behind them.

"The mud was 2 to 3 feet deep behind some of them," he says.

Some type of harvest was possible on about 75 percent of the farm, though yields and test weights were both very low.

**Harold Feller
Dallas County**

Harold Feller thinks he might have spoken too soon.

"I remember making the comment two or three nights before the flood hit that while everyone around us was getting all that rain, we were really lucky," the Dexter farmer says. "Then we got hit."

About a third of his family's 1,250 acres borders the South Raccoon River.

"I thought it was kind of ironic that the only field I got cultivated was done the night before the flood hit," says Laree, Harold's brother. "I guess I should have kept going."

The brothers also lost some hay that was stored along the river. "We went to look at it, and the bales were just floating away," Laree adds.

"Our dad's lived along here for 80 years, and he said it was the worst he's ever seen," Harold says. "That's the highest he's ever seen the water."

**Martha Peterson
Lucas County**

"We have 20 acres of bottom land along the Whitebreast Creek," says Martha Peterson. "We had it planted when the water came, and it was about 7 to 10 feet deep."

Peterson and her husband, Paul, farmed that land for the past 50 years, and 1993 was only the second time they failed to harvest a crop from it.

The water that covered their field washed out parts of the river bank in three places. On one end of the field, it left a sandbar which must be removed.

Perhaps the oddest coincidence is the name of the county road near the Peterson residence.

It's H2O, a sign that could be easily mistaken for the chemical symbol for water.

Peterson, laughing at the similarity, says, "Kind of ironic, isn't it."

**Dennis O'Neal
Woodbury County**

"Last year was terrible," says Dennis O'Neal of Hornick. "We had 7-8 inches of water standing at a time. We lost a lot of crops. Yield was reduced. Yields were only some better on high ground, because it was so cool."

The 1994 season is going much better.

"The crops look pretty good. We were dry for March and April, when we needed to be dry. The corn is all laid back now. I can't get over it anymore. That helps."

The worst problem O'Neal has encountered so far is poor weed control.

"None of the chemicals are working. It was too dry. Then when it did rain, it was too late. We sprayed it all a second time."

Trickle-down theory**Weeds upstream in '93 afflicting fields downstream**

IFT photo by Joyce Vogelmann

Cattails joined the list of common weed pests in 1994. The reedy swamp plant, some sedges and other marsh plants are popping up in places they have never been before, including cornfields.

"Any weed that was upstream last year is out in the fields this year," explains George Cummins, Northern Iowa Extension crops specialist in Charles City. "Pre-emergence grass controls are not killing it. In areas that were flooded there are some very heavy and unique weed pressures, and it will take a while to clean it up."

The appearance of marsh plants in the middle of a field can surprise farmers. "Farmers are finding plants they don't recognize out there," says Jim Jensen, Southeast Iowa Extension crops specialist in Mt. Pleasant.

"In areas that flooded last year, even some of the woodland plants floated down."

Cultivation and dry weather will take care of problems presented by cattails and other marsh plants in cornfields, the ISU specialists agree.

July 2, 1994

Iowa Farmer Today

Weary of frequent floods, some look to wetlands

By Dan Zinkand

Iowa Farmer Today

BELLE PLAINE — In a good year, Jim Foley's river bottom corn ground along the Iowa River can produce 130 bushels an acre.

Flooding changed that last year.

"Weren't any crops at all in 1993," says Foley.

"I supposed there are 70 acres that will never be the same. The current gouged out new channels," he says.

Foley is one of many Iowa County farmers interested in turning flooded bottom ground into wetlands, says Steve Johnston, Soil Conservation Service (SCS) district conservationist. They aren't the only farmers interested in wetland restoration programs, which pay in exchange for a permanent conservation easement restricting the land to wetlands.

Statewide, 1,058 landowners offered 57,439.4 acres this spring for the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), says Bill Hawks, conservation program specialist with the state ASCS office in Des Moines. In the fall 1993 signup for the Emergency Wetland Reserve Program (EWRP), 174 farmers in 33 counties offered 14,617 acres.

The USDA accepted 34 offers covering 5,344 acres at an estimated cost of \$4.23 million, says Laura Greiner, SCS public information specialist in Des Moines.

Offers not accepted for the initial EWRP in fall of 1993 were automatically considered for a more recent round of funding. The EWRP is for flooded farmland damaged in 1993. Most of it is river bottom ground.

An easement value was set for farmland in Iowa's

nine crop reporting districts.

For the WRP, land doesn't have to be damaged, and it tends to be located away from the river, he says.

Much of the land offered in the latest WRP was from North Central Iowa, the state's "pothole" area, Hawks says.

NATIONALLY, THERE'S \$66.675 million available for 75,000 acres in the latest WRP signup, Hawks says.

"We know that only about one of seven acres offered" will be accepted, he notes. These offers are being ranked by the USDA. An offer then will be made to the landowner, who can decide to accept or reject it.

Hawks says he expects a decision from the ag department soon.

In 1993, 15,000 acres were damaged by flooding in Iowa County, Johnston estimates.

"I think the SCS, through the easement program we have right now, is responding to a demand created by economics and flooding." In Iowa County, 32 landowners applied for the fall EWRP.

Twenty-eight applications were for about 3,000 acres along the Iowa River.

Eleven applications for 1,423 acres later were accepted. This spring, county farmers made 35 offers for the WRP, Johnston says.

Foley has about 373 acres along the Iowa River. About 85 are in timber, the rest is tillable. His bid for entering the tillable ground into EWRP was accepted.

While the ground is being cropped this year, it will be converted to a wetland by March of 1995, he says. ■



IFT photo by Ron De Christopher

Last summer, as unrelenting storms hammered the state and pushed rivers out of their banks, this Washington County farm near Riverside had a lake all its own. This year, the nearby English River is back to its normal level and the Southeast Iowa land has been reclaimed for farming.

◆◆◆ Folkmann

From page 1

"It sure cut down on visits from salesmen. It was kind of nice and quiet," Daren, 23, noted at the time.

"Some of the salesmen caught that reference to the peace and quiet," he says today, smiling.

Fieldwork this year went well. Daren started planting corn April 19 and beans May 10.

"This year was nice to be able to work in the fields. As nice and dry as it was, I didn't worry about getting stuck."

He quit planting beans June 26 last year because it was so late. One 40-acre beanfield never got planted.

That field later filled with "natural vegetation," which "is only good for holding the soil," Daren notes.

"Last year, I felt like we never planted enough," he says. He's had to buy a lot of corn to feed his sows.

While working in a neighbor's field this year, Daren notes, "It was kind of weird drilling beans where there was 20 feet of water over the ground (last year).

The main reminder of last year is the heavy weed pressure in the fields. He thinks the flood waters must have carried in a lot of weed seeds.

Chemical control this year wasn't as good as Daren had hoped. Some spots have heavy weed infestation.

"There's no correlation as to why there's weeds in some spots and not in others," he says. Neighboring farmers have reported the same problems. ■

July 2, 1994

SE Edition • Iowa Farmer Today/Saturday, July 2, 1994 9

Weather one factor farmers, lenders can't control

The heavy rain and resulting floods last year were a disaster which killed 48 people and forced over 74,000 individuals from their homes.

It is an event which will go down as one of the worst natural disasters of the century and certainly hit agriculture and many farms, farm families, and any number of agribusinesses very hard.

The reduced quantity and poor quality of the 1993 harvest, particularly for corn and beans, was the most obvious result of the heavy and widespread flooding.

An estimated 9 million acres were either unplanted or planted and then destroyed, and the states with the largest losses of acreage included Missouri with 12 percent, Minnesota with 11 percent, South Dakota with 8 percent and Iowa losing 7 percent.

Compared to other types of natural disasters which are rel-

atively short-lived — such as hurricanes and tornadoes — the floods have impacted Midwest residents for an extended period of time.

IN A RECENT meeting in Omaha, I had an opportunity to compare notes with Moe Russell, who heads up the branch lending division of Farm Credit Services of the Midlands.

Because Farm Credit is a national chain of cooperative ag lenders, Moe had a good handle on the overall impact of the flood on ag operators in several states and had some interesting figures to share.

Moe has jurisdiction over lending offices spread throughout Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming, and when the depth of the disaster became apparent, Farm Credit offered a Disaster Assistance Program to Land Bank and PCA customers who were hit with financial difficulty.



**Issues
and
Strategies**
**Bill
Helming**
IFT
Columnist

The program essentially allowed those customers the option of deferring one year's payment on their loans and also provided low-interest loans to those who had equipment or facilities destroyed by flooding.

Figures Moe had compiled as of May 31 of this year show the financial impact on ag operators.

So far, over 1,485 customers have taken advantage of the Disaster Assistance Program, Moe said, including reamortized

loans totaling \$168.9 million.

In addition, Farm Credit made over 55 low-interest loans totaling almost \$1 million.

According to these figures, the biggest demand for relief took place in the Perry area, and that obviously reflects the severe flooding which took place there.

Other areas in Iowa reporting large numbers of customers receiving relief under the Disaster Assistance Program were Cedar Falls and Newton.

SOME IOWANS impacted by the flood last year may think they are the only ones who experienced problems, but Moe noted other areas that were also struggling with severe weather and flooding.

For example, a large number of customers around Watertown, S.D., took advantage of the Disaster Assistance Program, reflecting serious problems resulting from last year's

floods in eastern parts of that state. Heavy activity was also reported in the Lincoln, Neb., area, Moe said.

Many ag lenders, including commercial banks, need to be congratulated for their efforts in working with borrowers and helping their customers bridge the economic gap left by last year's flooding.

Fortunately, many ag operators were in fairly strong positions to withstand one year of poor production, and we're hopeful this year will bring some relief.

But the situation points out once again how much agriculture depends on the weather, the one aspect of production that is absolutely and completely out of the control of the farm operator and the ag lender. ■

Economist Bill Helming is president of Helming Consulting Services.

Tree, shrub seedlings make gift giving easy

WAPELLO—The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District is taking orders for tree and shrub seedlings. These make a nice gift for that hard-to-buy-for person on your gift list. Seedlings will arrive early in April.

Seedlings range from 1-4 feet in size. Varieties available are silver maple, green ash, red oak, black walnut, Colorado blue spruce, Eastern white pine, Eastern red

cedar, Amur maple, aromatic sumac, common lilac and sand cherry.

If you are interested in a variety not on our list, give us a call. We will try to obtain them for you if they are available from our nursery.

A minimum order is 10 of one variety for \$10. Tree shelters are also for sale. All orders can be picked up at the Louisa County NRCS Office in Wapello. For more information or to order, call 523-6411.

Gazette 12/6/95

28,000 more acres signed up for wetlands restoration

Iowa landowners have now signed up to restore about 80,000 acres of wetlands in various programs

BY LYNN BETTS, INFORMATION OFFICER,
USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE, DES MOINES, IOWA

Iowa landowners have signed up with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to restore another 28,554 acres to wetlands. The sign-up, the third in USDA's Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), was held May 30 through June 30.

The latest round of applications brings the total acreage intended for wetland restoration on private lands in Iowa to about 80,000 acres.

"This signup, and the others before it in both the WRP and the Emergency Wetlands

Reserve Program, show the great interest private landowners have in wetlands, says Leroy Brown, state conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). "The restorations they have planned will reverse the trend in wetlands losses in Iowa. When these get restored, we'll see wetlands in the state like we haven't seen in years."

Brown notes there has been publicity recently on conflicts between private landowners and USDA

and other agencies on wetlands regulations. "Some of what you read or hear would tend to make you think farmers are not interested in wetlands, but a sign up like this one shows that isn't true. We have a very diverse group of farmers and landowners. There is interest in wetlands," says Brown.

In 23 counties, 500 or more acres were offered for the program. Another 43 counties had applications for acreages up to 500 acres. Top counties

and acreages were Washington, 2,002; Jefferson, 1,842; Wayne, 1,585; Muscatine, 1,726; Tama, 1,410; Carroll, 1,185; Winnebago, 1,100; Polk, 1,042; Van Buren, 1,000; and Palo Alto, 1,000.

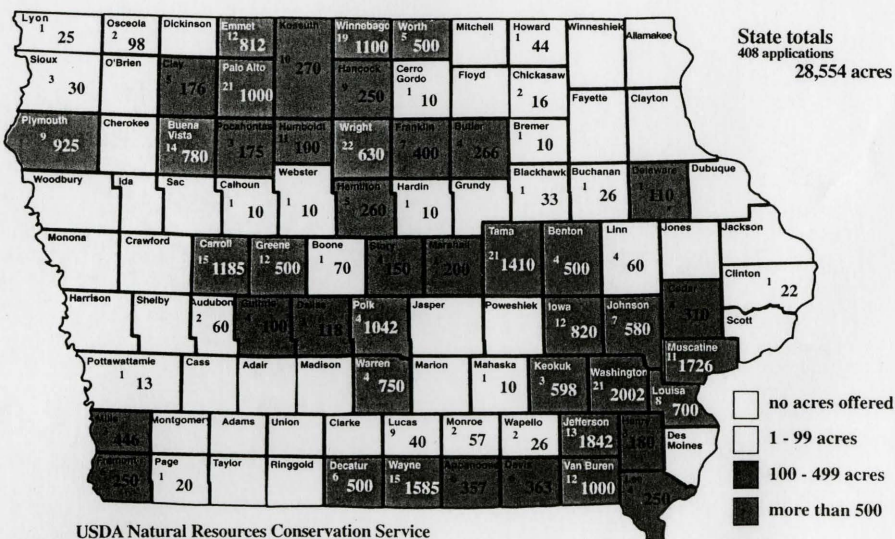
The 28,554 acres offered by 408 Iowa landowners would take almost one-fourth of the national acreage intended for the program in 1995. The WRP was funded by Congress at \$92 million to enroll up to 118,000 acres in 1995.

The latest round of applications are being reviewed to determine eligibility, says Jim Ayen, state resource conservationist for NRCS. The NRCS state office will rank the eligible offers. A state technical committee will then review ranked applications and make recommendations to the national NRCS office for funding.

"We'll get back to those landowners tentatively accepted to see if they're still interested, get an appraisal of the land offered, and begin the easement process," explains Ayen. "Hopefully, the easements can be recorded in six months and the restorations can be done in 1996." ♦

Wetland Reserve Program

...applications and acres offered for participation in 3rd signup



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
July 13, 1995

AG UPDATES

Final deficiency payments mailed to Louisa County corn growers participating in ARP

Louisa County Executive Director John Bartenhagen announces the final deficiency payments totaling \$1,302,521 were mailed the week of October 16th to corn growers in Louisa County. Deficiency payments are being paid to farmers who agreed to comply with the 1994 Acreage Reduction Program by limiting planted acreage and complying with the conservation provisions in the 1990 Farm Bill. Farmers who enrolled in the program and complied with all provisions are eligible for payments because the national average market

price for the 1994 corn crop (measured between September 1, 1994 and August 31, 1995) was less than the \$2.75 per bushel Target established by Congress. The payments issued this week represent the final 14 1/4 cents of a total 1994 deficiency payment of 57 cents per bushel.

ISU Extension Economist Dr. Dan Otto says that as each dollar of this income is spent for goods and services in the local economy it is estimated it increases income for other individuals and business by an additional \$1.20. Based on that model, these payments will mean a total of

\$2,865,596 additional income for Louisa County. This additional income will affect sectors of the economy as farm households acquire personal goods and services in addition to production inputs for raising crops and livestock.

Bartenhagen also announces that \$1,966,075 of 1995 rental

payments will be issued to Louisa County producers who have idled land in the 10 year Conservation Reserve Program. These payments will be issued as soon as the 1996 Agricultural Appropriations are finalized in Washington D. C. and will have similar income multiplying effect on the local economy.

Tremendous Turnip



Peggy Hunt, Wapello, brought in this 6.3 lb. turnip to the Republican office this week. The prize specimen was raised by her husband, Pete.

USDA intends zero acreage reduction for 1996

WASHINGTON, October 6, 1995 — Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman today announced that he intends not to require feed grain producers participating in the 1996 feed grain program to idle land.

"Official announcement of the provisions of the 1996 feed grain program cannot be made until new farm legislation is passed by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton," Glickman said. "However, after the harvest period, feed grain farmers will begin preparing fields for spring planting and they need to know as much as possible about next year's program."

USDA expects a continued tight supply/demand situation. Under the existing program authorities, zero percent acreage reduction requirements would be appropriate for the 1996 feed grain program for corn, grain sorghum, oats, and barley. However, this may change,

depending upon the outcome of the 1995 Farm Bill and any major shifts in marketing conditions. The Administration has proposed use of acreage reduction only as market situations warrant.

Because the authority to implement a feed grain program similar to the present program expires with the 1995 crops, today's announcement is made to provide producers with an indication of what the 1996 feed grain acreage reduction program requirements might be, assuming the reauthorization of current authority.

"I know the difficulties and uncertainties producers will face this fall if they have to make planting decisions without specific knowledge of program requirements," Glickman said. "USDA will continue to work with the Congress for enactment of new farm legislation that will put an end to this uncertainty."

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

DALE M. COCHRAN
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE



SHIRLEY DANSKIN-WHITE
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

HENRY A. WALLACE BUILDING
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

TO: LOUISA SWCD
FROM: GERALDINE FRIDLINGTON, INFORMATION SPECIALIST
RE: 1995 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AWARDS PHOTOS
DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 1995

GF

Congratulations on having a soil and water conservation award state winner from your district, and thank you for your help in making this year's awards presentation more appealing to those in the audience by providing slides or photos of your award recipients.

Enclosed are complimentary photos of your award recipients which were taken during the awards presentation ceremony. Please keep one copy of the photo for your office and give the other to your recipient. Photos with captions and narrative material were sent to the newspapers you requested. If there were any extra photos, I have enclosed them for you to use.

Please help me judge the effectiveness of this publicity effort by sending me copies of all the articles which appear in your local newspapers about awards winners. Note, in some cases districts indicated newspapers from a neighboring county, so watch for articles about individuals who may not be from your district. I hope you will receive good publicity from this effort.

Also enclosed are any slides or photos about your award recipient which you sent in for our use during the awards program. Those in attendance appreciated seeing slides of some of the projects and individuals being recognized. Many commissioners and their guests commented on how nice it was to be able to see the winner clearly, even if they were sitting in the back of the room.

If you have any questions, call me at (515) 242-6343.



Applications accepted for REAP cost-sharing projects

2/95 Wap
Rep.

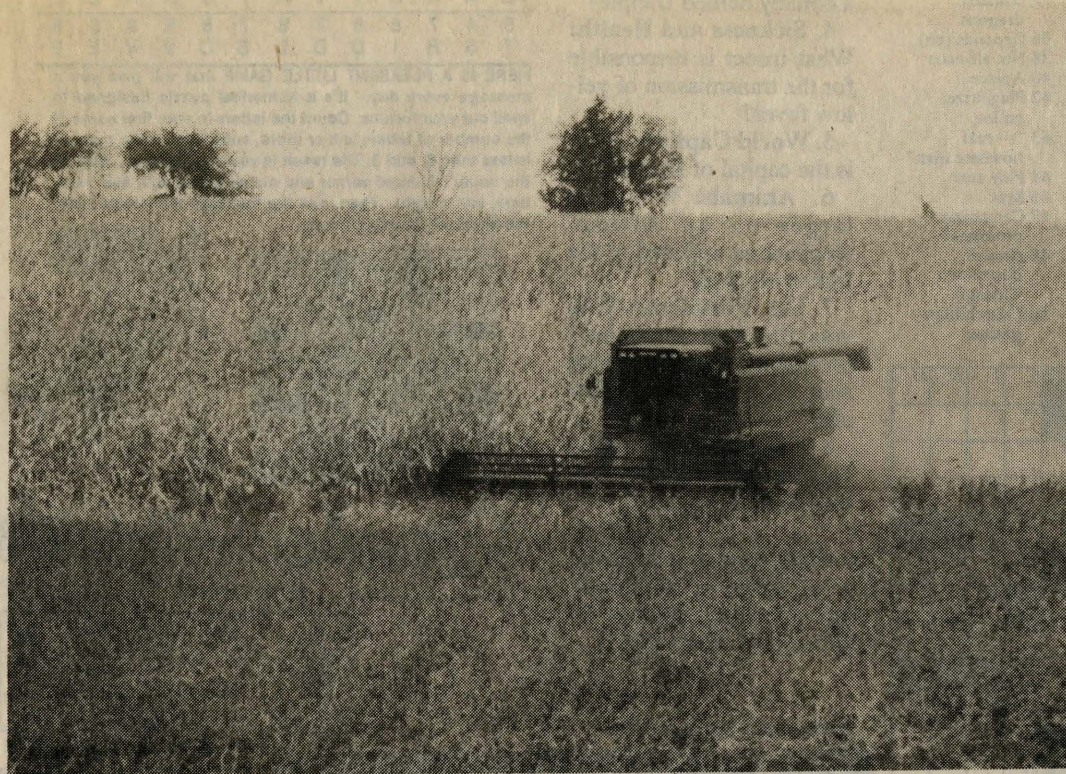
Applications are being taken for forestry, planned grazing systems and native grass projects. Projects consist of tree planting, farmstead and field windbreaks, native grass

plantings, planned grazing systems and timberstand improvement. The Louisa Soil & Water Conservation District is taking the Resource Enhancement and Protection Fund applications at the Natural Resources Conservation Office, 514 Isett in Wapello. The REAP program is

state funded.

In order to qualify for cost share you must sign up before any construction begins, have your project approved from funding by the District commissioners, obtain a plan from the NRCS or the District Forester, and meet NRCS specifications. If your project is funded you receive 75% cost share on approved expenses after it is completed and bills are approved by the District. A 20 year maintenance agreement is also a requirement for each project.

Area farmers work to bring in the harvest



The Harvest is proceeding as this picture shows. The farmer was finishing this field of beans last Friday just east of Wapello.

Farmers are in the fields as the 1995 growing season nears an end.

At the Farmer's Elevator and Exchange, Inc., in Wapello, Candy Gerdes reports that beans are yielding about 30-50 bushels per acre with a moisture content of about 10%. Beans are about 85% harvested at this time.

Corn is yielding about 100-150 bushels per acre with moisture content of about 19 1/2%. Corn is about 20% - 30% harvested at this time.

The Wapello Elevator's storage capacity is fine. Gerdes says a bin originally designated for corn has been designated for additional beans, so there will be no problems storing either crop. Gerdes adds, "Most farmers are storing at this time, except what has been contracted ahead of harvest, to watch what prices are going to do."

At Oakville Feed and Grain, Inc., Steve Cummings, of the Grain Department says beans are yielding about 35-45 bushels per acre with a moisture content of about 10%. They are about 80% harvested.

Corn is yielding between 50-180 bushels per acre with a moisture content between 17% and 20%. Corn is about 20% harvested at this time.

Cummings says their Morning Sun facility is reporting similar yields and moisture content and they are as far along in the harvest as the Oakville area.

Cummings adds, their storage capacity is fine and they will have no trouble storing what the farmers bring in.

Both experts say the gross income per acre is down a little this year but not as much as predicted, because higher grain prices are compensating somewhat for lower yields.

Gerdes says some farmers have been surprised because they anticipated their beans to do better, and their corn not to do as well as it appears from the yield figures.

Cummings and Gerdes agree that if the weather holds, harvest should be complete in about two weeks.

Wap Reg
10/95

Gift of nature solves buying dilemma

WAPELLO—Having trouble finding a unique gift idea? Look no further! The district has a lot of products that we would love to sell to you. Stop by the office at 514 Isett, Wapello, for order forms or more information. You may also call 319-523-6411.

Consider a mushroom growing kit. Varieties include Morel, Shiitake, Hericum, and Pleurotus. Imagine mushrooms grown at home. What a splendid idea.

Think about perennials: Daylilies, ferns, including Christmas ferns, maidenhair, and royal ferns, trailing periwinkle, Japanese spurge, purple wintercreeper, English ivy, creeping lily, lilyturf, and grapevines. Priced at competitive prices for priceless beauty and enjoyment.

For the bird lover we have

hummingbird feeder kits. All in one, this package includes a special blend of wildflower seeds guaranteed to attract hummingbirds and a special hummingbird feeder with nectar to greet them as they arrive year after year.

Wildflower seed is available in a wide variety and can be enjoyed year after year with little or no maintenance.

Ever hear of beneficial insects? Well, there is such a thing and we have them available for you. The praying mantis takes care of all types of pests in your garden and is a wonder to watch work. Also, ladybug beetles are nature's control for aphids and other soft-bodied pests. Imagine your neighbors' envy at your pest-free garden.

Supertube treeshelters and vispore tree mats are still available

for your own tree plantings as well as for gift giving to the one person who has everything.

And don't forget the District's annual tree sales. A variety of seedlings are always available to enhance and benefit your property for a small investment of time and money. Gift certificates are available.

We also have marker flags available.

So if not for yourself, remember parents, grandparents, in-laws, teachers, friends, newlyweds, memorials, and countless others who might enjoy any or all of our unique gift ideas. Stop by the office for additional information.

Do I. Gazette 12/16/95

Growing gifts that last

The Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District is taking orders for tree and shrub seedlings. These make a nice gift for that hard to buy for person on your gift list. Seedlings will arrive early in April. Profits from the sales help fund conservation education in Louisa County.

Seedlings range from 1 to 4 ft. in size. Varieties available are Silver Maple, Green Ash, Red Oak, Black Walnut, Colorado Blue Spruce, Eastern White Pine, Eastern Red Cedar, Amur Maple, Aromatic Sumac, Common Lilac, and Sand Cherry.

If you are interested in a variety not on our list, give us a call, we will try to obtain them for you if they are available from our nurseries.

Minimum order is 10 of a variety for \$10. Tree shelters are also for sale. All orders will be picked up at the Louisa County NRCS Office in Wapello. For more information or to order, call 523-6411.

Thursday, November 9, 1995

Legal
I
Ton

Halloween Hike enjoyed



Laura Souer, Beth Black, Julie Boline, Beka Hall, Joy Neubauer, Alissa Dickey, Rodrigo Montoya, and John Metcalf listen as Julie Ohde gives them instructions for carving pumpkins for this year's Halloween Hike. The annual event is held at Virginia Grove, and is sponsored by the Louisa County Conservation Board. Fifth grade students from Louisa County carve jack-o'-lanterns which light the path along the hike. Many locals clubs and volunteers made this year's event an enjoyable and informative evening for more than 350 hikers.



IOWA PARTNERS FOR WILDLIFE QUARTERLY REPORT April 1995

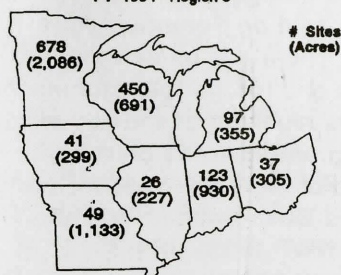


*The intention of this report is to keep
all of our Partners for Wildlife informed
of habitat restoration achievements throughout Iowa.*

PARTNERS FOR WILDLIFE 1994 IN REVIEW

The Partners for Wildlife Program (PFW) was established in 1987. Since that time, the PFW has been responsible for the restoration of 14,358 wetland basins totaling 56,290 acres in the eight-state Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Habitat restorations are completed by field personnel in cooperation with many partners, including conservation organizations, government agencies, and, most importantly, private landowners. The following is a review of the habitat restoration work accomplished in Iowa, in 1994.

WETLAND RESTORATIONS
FY 1994 - Region 3



In 1994, 41 wetland areas totaling 299 acres were restored. The cumulative total from 1987-1994 is 978 sites covering 5,490 acres.

These restorations provide floodwater storage, reduce nutrient and sediment loads, enhance water quality, and increase fish and wildlife habitats. Most sites are restored to their original or similar plant community. In Iowa, this is usually a emergent wetland community, with such plants as cattail, bulrush and sedges.

PFW projects are starting to include native prairie reconstruction in Iowa. In 1994, five sites totalling 53.4 acres were reestablished to prairie. The FWS has also provided technical assistance to landowners about prairie seeding and the benefits of prescribed burning.

The PFW has also helped in coldwater stream restoration in northeastern Iowa. Two projects were completed in 1994. The Mestad Spring project, to note, partnered the FWS with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, angler groups, and the landowner to restore a length of trout stream and provide off-stream cattle watering facilities.

PFW personnel provide technical assistance to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for their Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). The WRP was first offered in 1992 as a means for landowners to voluntarily retire farmed wetlands from production. The program's goal is to restore one million acres of wetland nationwide over a 10-year period. In the 1994 WRP, intentions were signed for 1058 sites totaling about 50,000 acres. From those, 728 intentions met the ranking criteria and received a ranking. Initially, 63 intentions - 5,705 acres received funding. Just recently additional funds have become available and 117 intentions - 7,318 acres will also be funded. This amounts to 180 intentions - 13,023 acres for 1994!



The Emergency Wetland Reserve Program came to a close in 1994. This program was a result of the Flood of 1993 and \$65 million in federal funds were made available to USDA to purchase conservation easements on flood prone lands in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. As of January 31, 1995, 420 intentions had been filed for 34,000 acres in Iowa.

An entire levee district was enrolled in EWRP and the FWS, with a great deal of help from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, was able to buy out the remaining landowner property interest. This area, once called Louisa Levee District 8, covers about 3,000 acres near the mouth of the Iowa River and is now called Horseshoe Bend, becoming part of the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge.

All in all, 1994 was a very good year for the Partners for Wildlife Program. Many areas of native habitats were or are being restored in Iowa. This program can not succeed without the cooperation of our many partners, especially the private landowners. We hope that 1995 will have the same successes.

NEWS OF NOTE



The 1995 Wetlands Reserve Program is scheduled to begin sign-ups at the end of May. This year the program will be available in all 50 states and is being administered by the Natural Resources

Conservation Service (NRCS) (formerly Soil Conservation Service). Check with your local NRCS office more information.



Ron Andrews of the Iowa DNR reports that there are 14 trumpeter swans now at the Kettleton Waterfowl Production Area near Spirit Lake. These birds are part of the state's trumpeter

swan reintroduction program. Ten of these birds will be free flying this year and hopefully are imprinted on the Kettleton area for nesting in future years. We hope these swans continue to **trumpet the cause for wetlands!!**

The Pocahontas County Conservation Board, working with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, acquired over 250 acres of timber, wetland, and native prairie last summer. A REAP grant and CRP income were used to purchase the land and several groups including, Pheasants Forever, Whitetails Unlimited and Ducks

Unlimited have expressed interest in contributing to the project. The area is located along the west fork of the Des Moines River north of Rolfe, Iowa, and should be open to the public this April. For more details, please contact Dan Heissel, Executive Director Pocahontas CCB at (712) 335-4395.

The City of Walnut, Iowa, in Pottawattmie County, through the cooperation of numerous civic and government agencies, will have a 5-acre restored wetland, outdoor classroom



and recreation area in the near future. The local community and several government agencies have worked together on everything from conceptual designs, engineering plans, grant writing, and bake sales. The Walnut High School Class of 1996, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have played significant roles in the development and fund raising portion of this project. With adequate funding, the first stage of the project should be completed sometime this summer.



The 4th Annual Sow Your Wild Oats Day at Walnut Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Prairie City, Iowa, will be held on Saturday, June 10th. There will be exhibits, events and refuge tours for visitors and the highlight of the day will be sowing prairie seeds on refuge land. For more information, please contact Dave Aplin at Walnut Creek NWR (515) 994-2415. It

will be a fun day, rain or shine!

Tom Lichter, the focus of our very first SPOTLIGHT article, was given the 1995 Stewardship Award for an individual by the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture for his outstanding contributions to wetland restoration. Congratulations Tom!!



SPOTLIGHT

SPOTLIGHT is a regular feature to present people and programs that are making the Partners for Wildlife Program work.



Wetland and Prairie Restoration in Polk County

In the early part of 1993, a group of conservationists began a project that will eventually become the Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt. Chichaqua Wildlife Habitat, an 1,800 acre county park, composed of an old oxbow wetland is located in northeastern Polk county. This 1,800 acres forms the nucleus of future acquisitions with the intention of restoring additional wetland, woodland and native grass prairie along the old, pre-drainage channel of the Skunk River.

The Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt is an excellent example of how conservation groups work together as partners. At the same time the idea of a larger Chichaqua was forming, other groups of dedicated sportsmen and women were raising money and looking for opportunities to invest in the future of conservation. Two chapters of Pheasants Forever, The Iowa Capitol and Northern Polk Chapters, were fund raising

and assisted the Polk County Conservation Board (PCCB) to acquire an unique area which would become the Sand Hill Unit of Chichaqua and the first new piece of the Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt. The PCCB, with additional funding from a Wildlife Habitat Stamp grant, purchased the 190-acre Sand Hill. The land is well named for wind blown sand from the Skunk River valley covers underlying glacial till. This combination of geological elements made for poor farmland that was alternately

too wet or too dry. An attractive feature of this hilly land is an 8-acre, dry-mesic, native prairie on the west facing slope overlooking the Skunk River floodplain.

The PCCB seeded 100 of the sandiest acres to little bluestem and sideoats gramma grass, but funding was needed to restore drained wetlands. Pothole wetlands and a sandy slough had been tiled and ditched. An estimated \$9,000 was needed to restore five wetland areas. The PCCB staff and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service believed the Partners for Wildlife Program was the best mechanism for restoring the wetlands. Soon, funding was provided through Ducks Unlimited and administered by the FWS Private Lands Office.

Sand Hill was acquired in 1993, through a cooperative effort of state, county and private funding and seeded the same year. Wetland restoration began in the fall of 1994. This spring, water and waterfowl have returned to Sand Hill. Geese, ducks

and shorebirds are plentiful and represented by many different species. Life has returned to the potholes and along the slough.

What had been abused farmland has become a premiere wildlife area through the efforts of many people and organizations. Sand Hill and the larger Chichaqua bottoms area are only a few miles from the Des Moines metro area, but when you're walking through the native prairie or along the edge of a prairie pothole, you could be a hundred miles or a hundred years removed from the pressures of city living.

Ben Van Gundy, Director of the PCCB, said, "The results of this project remind me of the successful restorations I was involved with in northern Iowa, when I was with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Everyone involved with this operation has reason to be proud of their efforts."

-- Loren Lown, Polk County Conservation Board

EDITOR'S NOTES

Nancy Derey, Iowa Private Lands Office

If you were anxiously awaiting your January 1995 issue of the **Iowa Partners for Wildlife** Quarterly Report, we apologize that one was not printed. Given our workload at the beginning of the year, we were unable to write the January issue.

We do appreciate hearing from our readers about the usefulness of this report.

The next **Iowa Partners for Wildlife** Quarterly Report will be mailed on or about July 1, 1995. If you have information, articles, or suggestions for this next report please contact the Iowa Private Lands Office (515) 994-2188 before **June 1, 1995**. If you would like to add or delete names or addresses from the mailing list, please contact me at (515) 994-2188.



PARTNERS FOR WILDLIFE PROGRAM

United States Fish & Wildlife Service
Iowa Private Lands Office
P. O. Box 399
Prairie City, IA 50228



Shawn A. Dettmann
SCS District Conservationist
Louisa County SWCD
514 Isett
Wapello, IA 52653

FIRST CLASS MAIL

10/95

Kemper tractor to appear in calendar

Warren Kemper's 1939 Case DC will appear in the 1996 Classic Tractor Calendar. Kemper's tractor was selected from hundreds of entries to appear in the seventh edition of this popular calendar. Thousands of these calendars are sold throughout the United States every year.

This tractor's distinctive Flambeau Red became the Case color, replacing grey. Introduced in 1939, it became one of the most popular models in the Case line; the "DC" was sold until 1955.

The entire Kemper family is involved in collecting Case tractors, notes Warren, who's a past president of the J.I. Case Collectors Association. Their tractors include ones purchased by his grandfather and father. 30 Cases are included in their combined collection.

The Case DC is a 3-plow tractor weighing 4,700 pounds. The 4-cylinder engine has four forward speeds. The styled grill was new too. These tractors were fitted with single or dual front wheels, steel or rubber.

In addition to appearing in the 1996 calendar, Kemper's tractor will also be a part of an hour-long video tape and a 20" x 30" poster featuring the 14 other restored tractors that make up the 1996 calendar.



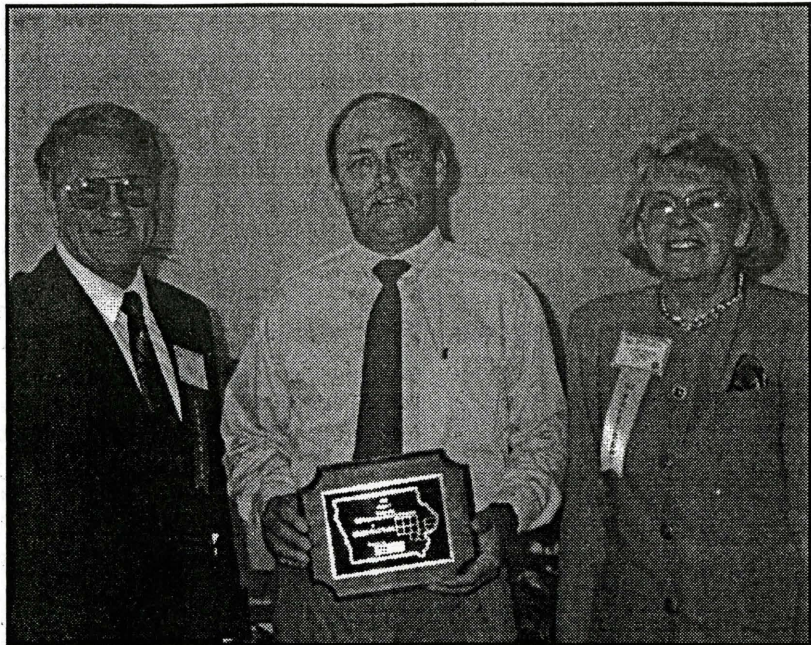


Leland Roudybush (middle) of Muscatine was one of the eight regional finalists for the 1995 Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners presented during the 49th Annual Meeting for Iowa Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners held recently in Des Moines. The award is co-sponsored by *Wallaces Farmer* and the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners. *Wallaces Farmer* Editor Monte Sesker and Association Vice-President Jeanette Winegarden presented the award.



Leland Roudybush (middle) of Muscatine was one of the eight regional finalists for the 1995 Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners presented during the 49th Annual Meeting for Iowa Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners held recently in Des Moines. The award is co-sponsored by *Wallaces Farmer* and the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners. *Wallaces Farmer* Editor Monte Sesker and Association Vice-President Jeanette Winegarten presented the award.

The Columbus Gazette
Thursday, September 28, 1995



Leland Roudybush (middle) of Muscatine was one of the eight regional finalists for the 1995 Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners presented during the 49th Annual Meeting for Iowa Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners held recently in Des Moines. The award is co-sponsored by *Wallaces Farmer* and the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners. *Wallaces Farmer* Editor Monte Sesker and Association Vice-President Jeanette Winegarden presented the award.

8-29-95
Sent to
Helen in
Miss. Co. requested
as she requested
ideas from
other counties

Helen,

Louisa County held their 50th Anniversary celebration in conjunction with a pasture walk held by Forever Farmers Shared Vision Group and the District.

We sent special invitations to past commissioners and SES employees. Each one of the past employees + Commissioners as well as present commissioners received a 50th anniversary coffee mug (from NACD catalog).

The Cattleman Assoc. prepared and served a steak sandwich meal.

A pasture tour included the planned grazing system being put in by Commissioner Tom Utter. Those not caring to go on the pasture tour could take part in a craft workshop on ~~the~~ dried flower arrangements. Each person could make several small grapevine wreath arrangements (3" size).

Approximately 50 attended. Janet



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Soil
Conservation
Service

Federal Building
210 Walnut St., Ste. 693
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

March 24, 1995

Mr. Mike Braun
Chairperson
Louisa County Soil and Water
Conservation District
514 Isett Street
Wapello, IA 52653

Dear Mr. Braun:

As you celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District this year, congratulations! This milestone marks many years of dedicated volunteer service to the community by commissioners and many others.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service would like to recognize that service, as well as the accomplishments you have made in natural resources care over time.

Thank you for your commitment to a very worthy cause.

Sincerely,

Leroy Brown
State Conservationist

Enclosure



The Soil Conservation Service
is an agency of the
Department of Agriculture

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Louisa Soil &

Water

Conservation

District

celebrates 50th

anniversary

The Louisa Soil & Water Conservation District celebrated their 50th anniversary with a pasture tour and dinner served by the Cattleman's Association. Several past commissioners and SCS staff persons attended the public meeting. Farms Forever co-sponsored the event which was held at the farms of Roger and Marianne Hunt and Tom and Janet Utter on August 21, 1995. A plaque from the NCRS was presented to the District by Bruce Trautman, Area Conservationist. Shawn Dettman, District Conservationist, was also honored with a certificate for being selected as Area 5 Employee of the Month. Approximately eighty persons attended the event.

A craft demonstration by Cathy Chalupa on dried flower arrangements was enjoyed by those not attending the pasture tour. Participants decorated grape vine wreaths.

Wap. Rep. 8/31/95

LOUISA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

49th ANNUAL REPORT



514 ISETT, WAPELLO, IA 52653

PHONE: 319-523-6411

ASSISTED BY U.S.D.A. - NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF STATE FUNDS FISCAL YEAR 1994-95

1-M BUDGET (95 FY)

Total Allocation: \$3000.00

Disbursements 2761.23

Commissioners Expenses

1106.47

Office Supplies & Postage

1154.76

Association Dues

500.00

Total Expended

2761.23

Returned to State Committee

238.77

(FY 95)

3-M BUDGET

94-95

Allocation

39,710.25

Obligated

32,969.52

Balance

6,740.73

93-94

Allocation

45,971.00

Obligated

41,228.33

Balance

4,742.67

92-93

Allocation

53,018.28

Obligated

53,018.28

Balance

0

All 3-M funds allocated to farmers for financial assistance on conservation projects

(FY 95)

REAP (Resource Enhancement & Protection Program)

F-94

Allocation

32,105.00

Spent to Date

11,457.59

Released to State

20,647.41

P-94

Allocation

82,176.70

Obligated

73,818.49

Released to State

8,358.21

F-95

Allocation

6,266.00

Spent to Date

6,266.00

Released to State

0

P-95

Allocation

3,198.00

Spent to Date

3,198.00

Released to State

0

REAP Program funds can be used for forestry and native grass plantings as well as windbreaks, planned grazing systems, and water and soil protection practices.

ORGANIC NUTRIENT WASTE PROGRAM

(FY 94)

ONMP-94

Allocated

8,640.00

Obligated

7,500.00

Spent To Date

0.00

Released to State

1,140.00

ONMP-95

Allocated

11,221.00

Obligated

7,500.00

Spent to Date

0

Release to State

3,721.00

ACTIVITIES (FY 95)

The District sponsored a booth at the Louisa County Fair with the Louisa County Conservation Board. The theme this year was "The Underground".

The fourth annual Halloween Hike co-sponsored by the District and the County Conservation Board was a huge success. "The Mighty Mississippi" was the theme with people portraying various aspects of water pollution to the hikers.

The Annual Conference was held Sept. 8 and 9 but none of the Louisa County District Commissioners were able to attend.

December 20, 1994, a Farmer's Appreciation Open House was held at the NRCS Office from 9 to 6. Each landowner attending received a pewee ornament commemorating the event.

The open house was enjoyed by landowners and operators as they reminisced about days gone by as well as the current farm situation.

January 24 - 25, 1995, Lee Roudybush and Tom Utter attended the Grazing Symposium in Des Moines.

In February the Annual Contractors Meeting was held at Karen's Cafe in Wapello. A breakfast meeting was well attended.

The District's new educational program is in operation. It is available to area counties as well as Louisa. A fee will be charged to other counties to help cover expenses. The District will fund the programs in our county with educational funds from the tree sales program.

The Spring Regional was held March 8 in Cedar Rapids. Commissioner Roudybush and Shawn Dettmann, D. C. attended.

March 28, 1995, the District Commissioner Martin Hoeg and Lee Roudybush toured the Grain Processing Ash Area.

April 30 - May 7, 1995 the Soil & Water Stewardship Week. The District offered county churches bulletin covers.

In April the District sponsored a \$250 scholarship for a Louisa County senior. It was awarded to Joshua Young from Wapello Community School.

The District sold tree seedlings for the fifth year. The tree sales netted \$1927.18 for the district. This money will be used for conservation education.

The District helped sponsor the Summer JTPA Youth Program and a Promise Jobs employee.

The District sent out newsletters and news releases to local newspapers during the year to increase awareness of programs and assistance available on soil and water conservation.

ASSISTING AGENCIES

Cooperative efforts from the following agencies have greatly assisted the delivery of district programs and services to the public. Special thanks is extended to:

- Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
- Iowa State University Extension Service
- Farmers Home Administration
- Louisa County Board of Supervisors
- Louisa County Conservation Board
- Geode RC&D
- Louisa County RC&D Committee
- Louisa County REAP Committee
- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
- Federal Emergency Management Assistance

ALL DISTRICT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ARE OFFERED ON A NONDISCRIMINATORY BASIS WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, SEX, AGE, MARITAL STATUS, OR HANDICAP.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS FISCAL YEAR 1995

Code	Description	Total	1995	1994
100	New District Cooperators		21	27
102	Individuals Assisted		321	492
106	Landowners Applying Practices		113	93
108	Resource Mgt. Sys. Planned (ac)		1681	1481
327	CRP Planting (ac)			4168
329	Cons. Tillage/No-Till (ac)		1032	8785
330	Contour Farming (ac)		144	6532
380	Farmstead Windbreaks (number)		0	4
412	Grassed Waterways (ac)		57	351.65
600	Terraces (ft)		12008	39,600
638	Water & Sediment Basins (number)		25	23
612	Tree Planting (ac)		8	201.1
410	Structures (number)		4	3

BASIC DATA - LOUISA COUNTY

125	Operating Units (tracts)	1,823
125	Operating Units (acres)	241,014
170	Tracts with No Highly Erodible Fields	908
171	Tracts with Highly Erodible Fields	850
171	Acres of High Erodible Fields	53,775
173	Acres with an approved Conservation Plan	84,201
	Acres with Revised Plans	28,682
172	Acres with an approved Conservation Plan applied	22,098
174	Wetlands	3,588

Mark Twain Wildlife Refuge gains 2,575 acres in Louisa County

An impressive collaboration of time, effort and money has recently given the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge a 2,575-acre addition.

The addition, named the Horseshoe Bend Division, was formerly Levee District No. 8 in Louisa County. The area is part of the Iowa River flood plain about six miles from the Mississippi River.

After the levee broke during the 1993 floods, the complex 15 month project began. The 13 landowners in the levee district unanimously agreed to dissolve the district and leave the levee unrepaired. Ten of the landowners sold or traded their land in the floodplain, requiring a total of 27 real estate transactions. Much of the land was enrolled in the Emergency Wetland Reserve Program before it was sold to the Iowa Natural Heritage Founda-

tion and transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In some cases, INHF purchased nearby land to trade for the floodplain property.

Tom Bell, manager of the refuge, is excited about the final transfers of the land and said that it proves "that we can cooperate between agencies, private groups and landowners and create something beneficial to all of us." The area will store flood waters, improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat.

The project began when the Soil Conservation Service (now known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service) formed a task force of interested groups and agencies to discuss the possibility of a purchase that would give maximum revenue to the landowners and still save taxpayer dollars. While the project

cost nearly a million dollars, returning the land to row-crop production would have cost more than twice that amount.

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, as coordinator of the project, evaluated the land, negotiated the sales or land trades with landowners, received and dispersed funds, acquired land titles and transferred the land to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. To make funds available to the landowners as quickly as possible, The Conservation Fund and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation created a \$500,000 revolving fund for the land purchases. Pheasants Forever contributed \$10,000 to the acquisitions.

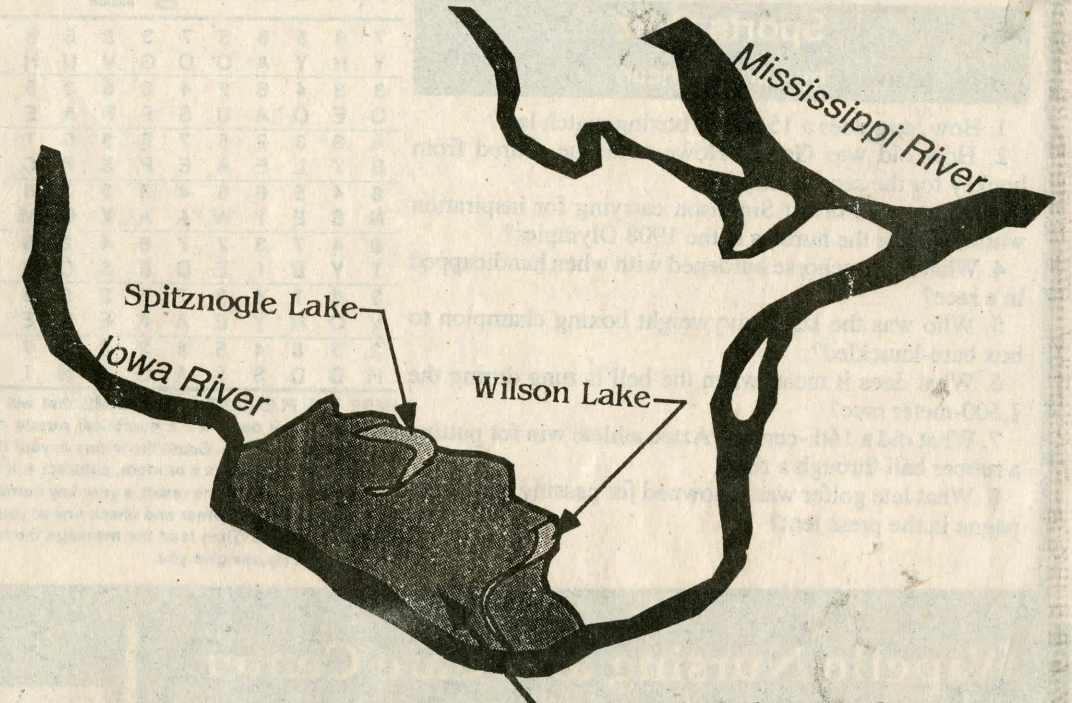
Mark Ackelson, INHF President, said, "This project is twice the size of any other project we've accomplished, and it's among the

most complex. We're very pleased to have been part of a project of national significance that offers so many benefits to local Iowans." INHF, one of Iowa's largest non-profit land conservation organizations, has assisted 283 land projects in Iowa. The member-supported organization builds partnerships and educates Iowans to protect, preserve and enhance Iowa's natural resources for future generations.

The refuge staff is still developing a specific plan for restoration, management and recreation on the site. The proposed plan must be published in the county register and be available for public comment for 60 days. Any revisions follow the same procedure. However, Bell said that they will likely begin by disrupting the internal drains and planting some native trees and grass species. "We're more or less trying to put back what was

there," he said. The trees and grasses will both prevent erosion and help return the area to its natural state.

Michael Bornstein, wildlife biologist at the refuge, said that the regeneration of the site is a great opportunity to study the wildlife communities in the area and assess the value of restored floodplains for fish, wildlife and plant species. The Iowa Natural History Association is eager to comprehensively monitor the area and make recommendations for management, and restoration ecologists and wetlands managers across the nation are interested in the results. Funding for the study is expected from a variety of environmental groups. Bornstein said that even though "it will be a few years before significant community and wildlife changes occur," it is necessary to study the area now as the natural succession begins.



Horseshoe Bend Division of
Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge

From Levee District to Wildlife Refuge

by Bruce Mountain

The farmers were grim as they stood at the road below Bob Hawk's house that leads into the upper end of Levee District 8 and Louisa County, Iowa. It was 7 a.m. on July 8, 1993, and it appeared they were going to lose again. There had been record rains in the Iowa River basin; and Levee District 8, only six miles from the Mississippi, was feeling the brunt of the massive run-off as it funneled 12 million acres down the river.

The levee was built in 1927 to protect 2,000 acres of crop ground. The area also contained 600 acres of old oxbows and sloughs (Spitznogle Lake, Sunfish Lake, Rush Lake, Parsons Lake, Wilson Lake, Hall Lake, and Diggins Slough) and riverine forests. It had been estimated the levee was a 25-year levee (able to withstand floods that occur once every 25 years), but in the last 60 years it had been breached 14 times.

This looked like it would be number 15. Ed Yotter and the other farmers stood at 551 feet above sea level, and the lower end of the district, at 541 feet, was already under several feet of water due to seepage up through the saturated ground and through the levee. By 8 a.m. water started to lap over the top of the levee at several locations, so the 25 farmers and neighbors moved off the main levee and worked to reinforce the cross levee between Levee District 8 and the adjacent up-stream levee district, number 11.

At 9 a.m. word came that the main levee of District 11 had broken and water was gushing in. By 11 a.m. water was coming over the main levee in District 8 like a waterfall. Officially, the main levee was breached in six locations and the cross levee was breached in five, but actually these were the accumulation of many smaller breaches all along the levees. At its height, the flood water was more than two feet over the top of the levee, drowning the hopes of another year's crop.

When the flood water finally receded in September, the farmers looked over the damage. They were stunned by the numerous scour holes (some 25 to 100 feet long and 17 feet deep), sand deposits (some 6 inches to 6 feet deep), and flotsam. The Soil Conservation Service (SCS), now known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service, moved in to assess the damage to the crop ground in Levee District 8 (it was later set at up to \$3,000 per acre) and to estimate the costs to fix the roads and drainage system. The Army Corps of Engineers obtained estimates to fix the levees.

But the landowners were tired of fighting the river. And conservationists and public officials knew this oft-flooded land shouldn't be farmed. For a brief time after the waters receded and before the repairs would need to begin, the situation was ripe for change, and a variety of agencies and nonprofits seized the opportunity. They put together a buy-out of the properties in Levee District Number 8 and created—a year and a half later—Horseshoe Bend, a division of the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge and a good case study of how a coalition can move quickly when conditions—and the will for change—are right.

Gathering Funds and Willing Buyers

If the flooding of Louisa County's levee had been a localized incident, the levees would have been rebuilt (\$800,000), the drainage ditches cleared (\$400,000), the sand bars removed, the scour holes filled, and the debris removed (\$1.7 million) for an estimated \$2.9 million. This excludes the additional costs and federal dollars for disaster payments (\$200,000) as well as crop insurance payments and the non-recoverable costs of the landowners. (Today, it is believed that these estimates were low because in the adjacent levee district, number 11, where the levee was actually repaired, the initial estimate proved to be 80 percent below the actual costs.)

This was not, however, a localized incident. The flooding of the entire Upper Mississippi River Basin in 1993 was the worst in years. At many of the U.S. Geological Survey gauging stations along the Mississippi, the flow levels exceeded the hundred-year mark. In response, Congress passed the Emergency Wetland Reserve Program (EWRP) in October 1993 as a part of flood relief support. Without the funds provided by this program, the Louisa Levee District buy-out could not have occurred.

The federal government's disaster aid program was developed to provide compensation for severely damaged crop ground and also to break the cycle of paying for similar damage caused by future floods. Under the program, the Department of Agriculture would purchase a permanent easement on crop acres where the damage caused by the flood exceeded the value of the easement. The easement would prohibit all but very limited agricultural practices, and in Louisa County, it was set at \$683 per acre.

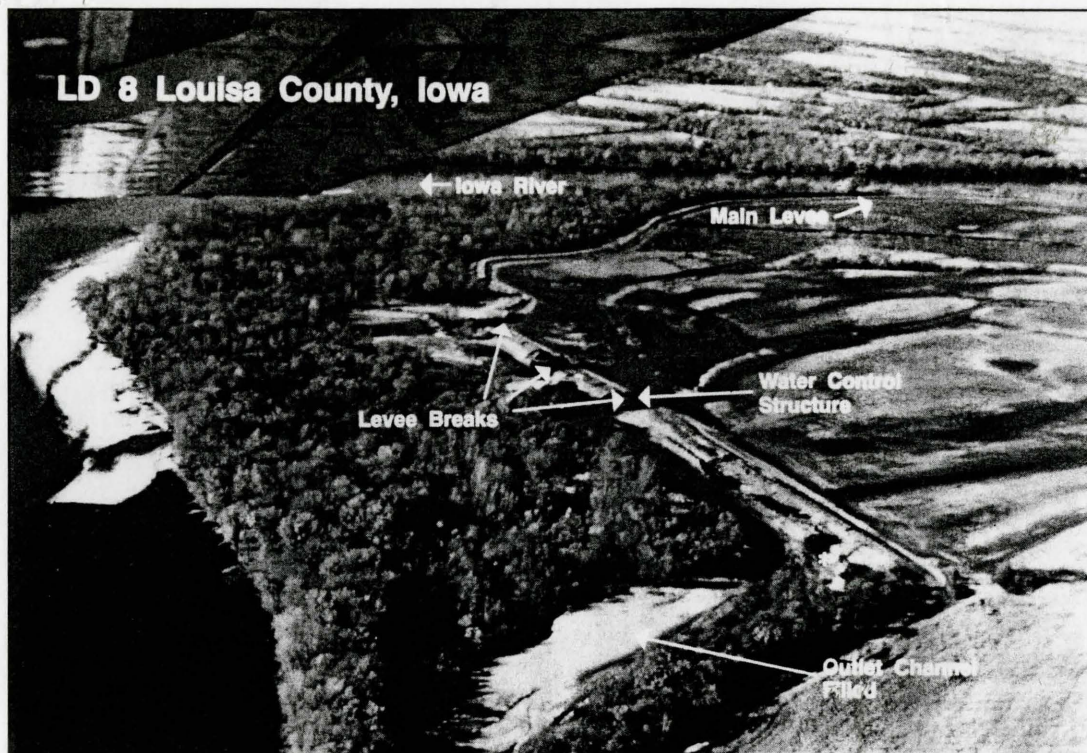
In early October, the Iowa office of the SCS proposed the idea of buying out the entire levee district, but only from willing sellers and only if the district were dissolved so as to ensure that future levee reconstruction costs would not be incurred. The SCS did not have the funds or the statutory authority to purchase the district, so, in late October, it organized meetings with its own representatives, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Corps, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Pheasants Forever, and other interested parties to seek a solution.

The group immediately realized that for the project to be successful, quick action would be needed. With winter approaching, the dredge barges the Corps needed to repair the levees would soon be frozen out. The group thought that a buy-out of the fee title to the parcels in the levee district could be accomplished through joining the Emergency Wetland Reserve payment with additional cash to be raised to equal the fair market value of the property.

The area also qualified for FEMA assistance. Applications were made to the Iowa Disaster Management Office, which helped handle FEMA payments, to have the buy-out declared as an alternative floodplain project. That declaration would make up to 90 percent of the disaster payments eligible to be applied for the buy-out. However, an estimated

Bruce Mountain is director of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's Wetlands for Iowa Program.

LD 8 Louisa County, Iowa



additional \$500,000 to \$600,000 would still be needed to accomplish the project. Representatives for the FWS indicated they would have the money but not until 1994. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation then agreed to provide a \$250,000 grant to be matched by \$250,000 from The Conservation Fund; these monies would be used as a loan or stop-gap funding until the FWS funds became available. Other non-profits, such as the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and Pheasants Forever, also provided funding.

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, a 15-year-old private group, was asked to be the project facilitator. The Foundation would coordinate the offers to purchase land from the individual landowners, coordinate the Emergency Wetland Reserve Program funding with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Conservation Fund monies, and oversee the eventual transfer of the properties. Before the buy-out could proceed, the ultimate owner and manager of the area had to be determined. The choice was between the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Due in part to state budgetary constraints and federal management personnel available at the nearby Mark Twain Wildlife Refuge, the FWS was the logical choice to hold title and manage the project.

Another condition for the project to proceed was the closing of the levee district and drainage district. Therefore, the statutory requirements for closing the districts, including legal notice and voting procedures, had to be researched. The final closing took place on March 31, 1994.

Once the landowners agreed to the concept, offers to purchase had to be negotiated with each landowner. The district is owned by 13 different landowners with parcels ranging in size from 13 acres to more than 1,500 acres. One farm is owned by an investor/operator, and another was deeded by President James Polk under federal patent to the owners, Jack and Merrit Parsons's great-great-grandfather, in 1846. Two sisters, Mary Boysen and Martha Hawk, each owned Century Farms, a designation given to farms that

have been in the same family for 100 years. Another farm was acquired by duck hunters in 1929, and it is still operated as a private duck hunting club by the heirs of the six original partners.

We concluded that all of the offers to landowners had to be based on a consistently applied formula. Several of the landowners said that they were dissatisfied with the offers, but eventually agreed to them, based on the knowledge that other landowners were getting the same offers and that there were no "special deals." By sticking to this strategy, individual negotiations and appraisals were avoided.

The first offer was signed December 13, 1993, and the last one was executed May 6, 1994. Seven of the ten landowners had closed by November 30, 1994. The rest closed by the end of 1994 as the farmers finished their field work.

Many Partners

Completing a project with so many partners and landowners in such a short time required creativity, cooperation, and attention to detail. One of the more important aspects of this partnership was the Cooperative Agreement signed by the Soil Conservation Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. This agreement delineates the responsibilities of each party. One useful provision of the agreement is one that specifies that access will be available to top-level officials when efforts were stymied on the local level.

The public/private mix in the project was important. The public and private partners can be divided into five categories, each of which served different roles and functions: implementing non-profit organizations, jurisdictional agencies, funding agencies, funding non-profits, and project managing agencies.

In this project, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation was an implementing or facilitating non-profit organization. An implementing non-profit was necessary because flexibility and speed were needed to consummate the project. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's Wetlands for Iowa Program

was chosen for the project, in part, because it has expertise in land acquisition projects and in forming partnerships with state and federal agencies and other non-profits to fund the purchase of such projects. In this case, the Wetlands for Iowa Program had the responsibility to educate landowners on the concept of merging the Emergency Wetland Reserve Program easement with a buy-out.

The Foundation also had many other tasks. It did a preliminary appraisal of the land in November of 1993 and devised the uniform buy-out plan. It paid for a quick appraisal of cropland and non-cropland based on comparable sales and pre-flood land values. From this, a portion of the value due to the flood damage, as determined by SCS, was deducted to arrive at the current value. In dealing with non-motivated sellers, the Foundation packaged the idea as an attractive alternative to farming in the floodplain and as being fair among all neighbors.

The Foundation also negotiated offers to purchase land with each landowner and provided the flexibility to customize each transaction. Tax deferments were provided through three-way land exchanges. For example, the Foundation purchased land from a third party (pursuant to the instructions of the owner of levee district land) and then traded the land for land in the levee district. The Foundation then would receive the EWRP payment. Non-levee district acres were purchased to round out tracts that were not eligible for the EWRP. For example, the Spitznogle brothers owned 12 acres inside the levee district, but wanted to sell 20 acres to have square boundaries. The additional eight acres was purchased with some of the funds provided by other nonprofits.

Finally, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation developed a timetable for all public and private participants to ensure each was fulfilling its responsibilities. These included appraisals, surveys, title problems, financing, preparing grant applications, closing on each parcel, and transferring each to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The many jurisdictional agencies involved in the project—the Soil Conservation Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Corps—had responsibilities that varied in breadth and longevity. The SCS was responsible for evaluating flood damage to each land parcel and for implementing the Emergency Wetland Reserve Program. The wetland restoration requirements of the EWRP for the participating landowners were the responsibility of the FWS. The FWS also conducted the environmental assessment and environmental impact studies and engaged an independent appraiser to assess the properties and develop comparable figures from in-house appraisers. These figures were very close to the “quickie” appraisal obtained by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.

FEMA's involvement included assessing damage compensation under its statutory authority and developing the project as an alternative plan. FEMA also had a role as a funding agency for the project as did the SCS and the FWS. Funding non-profits included the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Conservation Fund, Pheasants Forever, and the Izaak Walton League. The fifth category of partners were project managing agencies, which included the SCS, the FWS, and the Corps.

Typically, this type of project does not work in normal regulatory frameworks. Entrenched bureaucrats, enamored with their own regulations, can be a death knell to a project. The time it takes to babysit hesitant landowners and coordi-

nate state and federal agencies does not permit one agency to be inflexible in interpreting its regulations when the intent of the regulations can be met through cooperative and imaginative initiatives. All partners need access to top agency personnel because someone outside the organization can sometimes get results, whereas agency personnel may not have the authority or the influence to buck their way up the system.

The Louisa County levee buy-out required close inter-agency cooperation. As an example, SCS defined the value of damages to the land for purposes of qualification for EWRP. FWS then directed its appraisers to use the same data and valuation premises in determining the fair market value of the land. We would have had difficulty closing the project if the agencies had used two different methods of appraisal and the land qualified for EWRP but would not qualify for the buy-out.

Another example: Regulations for the SCS for EWRP easements, and the FWS for land acquisitions, required their respective legal counsel to determine that landowners had marketable title to the land, subject to the guidelines of the project. Through negotiations, SCS agreed to accept FWS opinions of title. This avoided a separate time-consuming step by keeping the project out of the hands of at least one set of government lawyers.

The last ingredient for success was agency flexibility. For example, EWRP regulations require all easements to be surveyed and this would have caused an immense delay in the project. To its credit, SCS waived these regulations, since most of the acquisitions involved the entire tract. Surveys were then conducted only on five parcels split on irregular boundary lines.

Severe Lessons

This unique project is giving farmers an opportunity to find alternative agricultural land to continue farming without fighting the floods. Additionally, it provides short- and long-term savings to taxpayers because a one-time, fair-market purchase of flood-prone land is much cheaper than continued, expensive federal programs to rebuild levees, clean drainage districts, repair land, and pay disaster payments. All of these costs are interspersed with crop-deficiency payments and insurance claims. In addition, our latest calculation shows the Fish and Wildlife Service saved \$235,000 by having the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation facilitate the transaction. The federal government still has the responsibility to provide existing protection in certain floodplains; but it also must develop alternatives to controlling nature, such as relocating willing landowners and returning parts of the floodplain to the river.

The great flood of 1993 taught us some severe lessons. We have to expand our mission from just controlling the water that affects our individual properties to effectively dealing with the effects of the water all the way down the river ecosystem. We also have to learn to live with the river system by holding more of the rain water where it falls and by slowing its movement through the system, thereby allowing the river to reestablish some of its checks and balances.

Lastly, we have to stop “just greasing the squeaky wheel” and find ways to spread the available federal funds for floodplain management among the various alternatives that benefit the general public. This includes developing a management plan for the entire river system, coordinating pertinent programs and agencies and—where there are willing landowners—giving some of our natural resources back to nature. ■

NEWS RELEASE

THOUSANDS OF IOWA FARMERS TO BE THANKED FOR CONSERVATION EFFORTS

DES MOINES --In a first-of-its-kind effort, thousands of Iowa farmers will be publicly thanked for their soil and water conservation accomplishments late this year. A group of conservation and farm organizations are spearheading a campaign that is expected to involve urban as well as farm groups in thanking up to 30,000 farmers for their progress in environmental protection.

"I don't think there's any question but what these farmers have made substantial progress in caring for soil and water, and many of us think it's time to say thank you to conservation-minded farmers," says Glenn Buresh, President of the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners and a farmer from Ely, Iowa.

Buresh says he and other farmer don't think the conservation job is done by any means, but the progress being made should be acknowledged. "The majority of Iowa farmers are picking up the pace of conservation work voluntarily, often at an extra cost. The least we can do is give them some moral support," Buresh says.

Conservation and farm groups are planning appreciation events after this fall's harvest in many counties across the state. Organizers plan to invite as many as 300 farmers in each county to receive a token of appreciation and thank you's from urban, conservation, environmental, and business groups.

"We're fairly certain such an ambitious plan has never been undertaken, here or anywhere else," says Bill Horan, a farmer from Rockwell City and President of the Iowa Corn Growers Association. "But on the other hand, the progress in conservation is unprecedented, too, so I think the idea is a good one. The general feeling is it's about time we thanked our conservation-minded farmers," Horan says.

Jeff Vonk, State Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service in Iowa, confirmed that conservation work is being applied by farmers at an accelerated rate. "The floods last year really slowed conservation work, but in 1992 conservation practices were applied at rates from 2 to 9 times traditional rates. We can see the differences on the ground as we travel across the state," he says.

Vonk says farmers are responding responsibly to government guidelines that ask farmers to protect the land in order to continue to be eligible for U.S. Department of

Agriculture programs. For instance, contour farming is being applied at rates four times traditional rates; waterways at a nine times traditional rates; no till farming at seven times. Practices that improves water quality such as grassed field borders, contour buffer strips and grass filter strips are becoming much more prevalent on the landscape only in the past two to three years, Vonk says.

He also notes that Iowa farmers have voluntarily cut nitrogen use in recent years, while farmers in other Midwest states have increased nitrogen use. He expects 1994 to be a banner year for conservation and water quality improvement work in Iowa.

Iowa Farm Bureau Federation President Merlin Plagge says he's pleased a recent survey shows that a high percentage of both farmers and urban residents believe farmers are making progress in conservation measures. "We're supporters of voluntary conservation programs, and it's important that people know farmers are making progress on their own, without mandatory laws," Plagge says.

The farm groups would like more dialogue with their urban neighbors. "We need better communications between producers and those people living in urban areas for a common understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing all of us in conservation and environmental areas." says Yvonne Wente, Secretary of the Iowa Soybean promotion Board.

The Corn Grower, Farm Bureau, Conservation Districts, and Soybean Promotion Board, Iowa Soybean Association and SCS are five of the core group of organizations planning the appreciation program. Other core members are the Division of Soil Conservation of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa State University Extension, and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

The groups are asking for donations from businesses in Iowa to help with the program. Early pledges of financial support include those from Dupont Agricultural Products, Pioneer Hi-bred International, Zeneca Agricultural Products, the Iowa Farm Bureau, the Corn Growers, the Soybean Promotion Board and the Pork Producers.

Governor Branstad is expected to declare a conservation farmer appreciation week for next December. Local businesses, Chambers of Commerce, environmental groups and local governmental officials are being asked to join in giving thank you's at the appreciation events.

Plans also call for television and radio public service announcements stating "a conservation farmer is your friend"

and the printing of thousands of color brochures that show 40 ways Iowa farmers are improving the environment.

The group is also encouraging such ideas as classrooms adopting a conservation farmer, the use of an 800 telephone number for callers to get in touch with a conservation farmer, and other actions that will create more contact and understanding among farmers and their urban neighbors.

Reprint From

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

© 1995 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

★ ★ MIDWEST EDITION

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1995

DES MOINES, IOWA

Iowans Can Handle Pig Smells, but This Is Something Else

* * *

Giant Hog 'Factories' Strain Inherent Neighborliness Of a Rural Community

By SCOTT KILMAN

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

CLARION, Iowa — This two-stoplight town is normally as placid as it gets. The weekly newspaper covers issues such as lawn mowers blowing grass clippings onto streets. Business follows the well-worn cycles of farmers planting corn and raising pigs.

But the pigs now spell trouble.

Long a sideline for grain farmers, hogs have become the focus of a high-tech, corporate form of agriculture. All across Wright County, companies are building metal-and-concrete complexes that pack in thousands of genetically uniform pigs at a site, regulating every aspect of their short lives before the slaughterhouse beckons.

The efficiency of these megafarms is matchless, lowering the cost of producing pork and driving some farmers out of the business. And the smell can be awesome.

Watch Your Head

Outside them lie huge waste lagoons, some emptied by "manure guns" that fling their cargo through the air onto surrounding fields — and occasionally onto passing cars. Some rural families are moving to town to escape the stench, which stings the eyes up close and can waft for a mile across the countryside.

This new way of farming is stirring complex emotions in rural Iowa, where hogs are a part of the culture. An Iowa group crowns an annual Pork Queen, and the gift store at the Des Moines airport carries pig likenesses on everything from refrigerator magnets to cookie jars. Roughly a third of Iowa's farmers keep some pigs, which until recently were one of the few fairly dependable sources of profit in an uncertain occupation.

Pigs also have helped a lot of young people get started in farming, earning the moniker "mortgage-lifter." With just a small lot and a wooden shed, a person could tend some sows, sell the offspring and eventually earn enough to buy land to raise the glamour crop: corn.

Populist Tradition

But last year the swelling population of hogs controlled by firms such as Iowa Select Farms and North Carolina's Murphy Family Farms helped sink U.S. prices to their lowest level in two decades, below the cost of production for most family farmers. Some 4,000 Iowa farms gave up on hogs.

Besides the hit to the pocketbook, company farms offend an agrarian wariness of big business. "Iowa has a prairie populist tradition," says Gov. Terry Branstad, a Republican. "We all cheer for the little guy." State law curbs corporate ownership of farmland.

Yet resistance to corporate control helped sink an earlier livestock business in Iowa — chickens — and some are concerned that bucking hog factories could cost the state another industry.

The issue has turned meetings here of the county Board of Supervisors into such heated affairs that a panic button was installed so supervisors could summon the sheriff's office. Vandals have struck the construction sites of some corporate hog complexes. The sheriff's department patrols them, and it tracks their sprawl with pins on its wall map.

Says Iowa State University's agriculture dean, David Topel: "I'm worried

Please Turn to Page A5, Column 1

Neighbors in Iowa Try to Cope With Big, Odorous Hog 'Factories'

Continued From First Page

about towns getting torn apart."

Take Kanawha, population 763. Vicky Anderson and her husband, Les, used to go with David and Holly Thompson, the farm couple down the gravel road, to dances at the Surf Ballroom in nearby Clear Lake, the site of Buddy Holly's last gig. When Mr. Thompson broke a hip three years ago, Mr. Anderson helped castrate piglets. But their friendship has come to a sad end. "He's not a farmer anymore," growls Mr. Anderson. "He's a factory."

A little more than a year ago, Mr. Thompson got a contract to raise hogs owned by Land O'Lakes Inc. of Minneapolis. He borrowed \$700,000 to erect five buildings, each bigger than the passenger cabin of a Boeing 747. The site produces 12,000 hogs annually.

Neighbor Richard Eliason, who has an ordinary-size hog herd of 400, is so upset that he is boycotting stores that do business with Mr. Thompson. He says the smell from the Thompson complex

a quarter-mile away makes it impossible for his family to, for instance, eat a picnic lunch on the lawn. Another farmer pulled a son out of a Bible class taught by Mr. Thompson, whose teenage daughter has been taunted in school.

Pressed by Mr. Thompson's neighbors, county officials are trying to shut him down. Iowa counties have relatively little power over farming activity. So authorities

in his county, Hancock, are arguing to the Iowa Supreme Court that Mr. Thompson is so big he isn't a regular farmer anymore but a commercial enterprise. That would mean he needs a county zoning permit — which they wouldn't grant.

"I feel like the sheep man in a range war," Mr. Thompson says as he walks to one of his metal-sided buildings.

The inside looks nothing like an old-fashioned hog shed. There is no shoveling manure. The hogs, 20 to a pen, stomp their waste through the slatted floor into a 30-inch-deep pit, which drains outside to a 1.5 million-gallon lagoon. Food pellets are delivered by automatic feeders and water by mechanical nipples. A thermostat controls heaters and ventilation. Thanks to all the labor-saving devices, Land O'Lakes figures a hog needs just 12 minutes of human attention during its four months at the Thompson place, making it possible for one person to run the operation.

Mr. Thompson may symbolize ominous change to his neighbors, but he was himself the victim of change in the past. During the 1980s debt crisis, he and a brother were pushed off a family farm that could no longer support the entire clan. After working seven years in a factory to buy land to return to farming, Mr. Thompson, now 40, chose to grow hogs a new, less-risky way: under contract.

He collects about \$12 a head from Land O'Lakes regardless of swings in the hog market. As a result, he is one of the few hog growers around who have made much money amid the miserable prices of late. The arrangement also lets Land O'Lakes skirt state curbs on corporate farming since it owns just the hogs, not land.

"We've lost a lot of friends over this," says Mr. Thompson, sitting at his dining-room table leafing through a scrapbook of

local articles about him. "But I see farming strictly as a business any more."

This new way is making a hog-farming relic of Tim Pate, who sees farming as a way of life. Mr. Pate, 39, began raising hogs as a teenager for ribbons at the Wright County fair. He did so well he didn't bother with college, acquiring cropland instead. A Clarion banker is willing to lend him what he needs to greatly expand the herd and build modern facilities — in other words, to try to compete with company farms.

But their rise both here and in states outside traditional hog country has convinced Mr. Pate that prices will stay low, and profit margins thin. Besides, he says, he isn't willing to subject his neighbors to the smell. So he sold off his 130 breeding sows and will soon market their last offspring. Then he will concentrate on field crops.

"I'm going to miss the old girls," says Mr. Pate, stepping into their old-fashioned wooden shed. The floor was covered with straw to cushion the feet of his sows — which, unlike swine in modern facilities, were allowed to root outdoors. "Pigs gave me my independence," Mr. Pate says. "But technology is changing so much so quickly. The good times are over for little guys like me."

Faced with such a transformation, officials in Wright County are soberly going along with the trend. They have welcomed Austin J. DeCoster, an egg baron from Maine. Backed by Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., among others, he is building the capacity to produce some 450,000 swine a year — three times what the entire county produced three years ago. He leases sites to Iowa Select Farms, whose land holdings are restricted.

Wright County officials say new hog operations have probably created 200 jobs, and for the first time since 1920 the county is growing. Mister G's, a clothing retailer, recently added a women's store. Five new houses were built last year in Clarion — a boom for a town of 2,700 people.

Mr. DeCoster won't be interviewed. His

construction chief, Myron Lawler, says his boss is rejuvenating a local industry. "It's going to take the modern technology we're bringing in," he says.

But families are feuding over whether to sell their land for more of the giant hog farms. Officials fear trouble when the smell is fanned by summer winds.

And the Wright County Monitor worries about an eroding of society in its corner of Iowa. "Of greatest concern is what this issue is doing to the people in our community," writes Barbara Dorsey, the publisher. "Will we still be friends?"

Once Again Excessive Lagoon Odors Over ¼ Mile Away Can Cause A Disruption in Cashflow and Neighborhood Continuity

This is just one more example for the need for a manure nutrient odor controlling Slurrystore System

SOIL DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED



The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District has awarded its 1995 scholarship to Joshua Young of Wapello. Young is a senior at Wapello High School where he will graduate in May. In addition to the local award, Young will now compete at the regional level for the scholarships from the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners.

Wap. Rep. 3/95

Dear NCAS,

Thank you for the silver pin. I'm going to wear it on my FFA jacket. The pin looks really nice. Again I thank you.

Sincerely,
Brit Reid
Member of Soils Team



Thank You

FFA

Thanks a bunch, for pins

We appreciate it alot!

Roger Allworth

Dear SCS,

Thank you for sponsoring the Dairy Cattle team pins, also thank you for your support of the FFA.

Jeany Bink

Dear S. C. S.,

I thank you for sponsoring our Dairy Cattle pins we recieved last night. It was highly appreciated.

Thanks,
Keith Allen

Dear S.C.S.,

Thank you for sponsoring the dairy cattle pins we recieved at the parent member banquet. It meant alot to me.

Thanks,
Jarrett Ball



FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for:

- premier leadership
- personal growth
- career success

through agricultural education.



*America's
Best*

*Thank
You*

A close-up photograph of a white card. The word "Thanks!" is written in a large, cursive, multi-colored font. The letters are colored in a gradient: the 'T' is red, the 'h' is orange, the 'a' is yellow, the 'n' is green, the 'k' is blue, and the exclamation mark is purple. The background of the card is covered in a repeating embossed pattern of the words "THANK YOU" in a light, sans-serif font. The card is slightly tilted, and there are some small, dark spots on its surface.

Thanks for considering and
selecting my application for
the Louisa Soil & Water Scholarship.

Sincerely yours,
Josh Young

2/95 Way Rep

Trees for Sale

The Louisa County Soils and Water Conservation District (LCSWCD) is now taking orders for a wide variety of trees and seedlings. The sale of these trees helps fund conservation education in Louisa County.

The LCSWCD is offering both hardwood and evergreen trees. These bareroot trees average 18 inches in height and are sold in bundles of 10 of one variety for \$10. Also available are potted spruce, pine, pecan and chestnut trees in limited quantities.

The LCSWCD will be taking orders until February 28. For more information, or to order, call 523-6411.

Trees offered for planting

The Louisa County Soil & Conservation District is taking orders for tree and shrub seedlings. The tree seedlings average 18 inches in height and will arrive in early April. Profits from the sales will help fund conservation education in Louisa County.

This year the tree seedlings available include red oak, black walnut, arborvitae, Austrian pine, Colorado blue spruce, and eastern white pine, little leaf linden, crabapple, apricot, and red oak. Shrubs available are the autumn olive, amur maple, bittersweet, Nanking cherry, and rododier dogwood.

The District also will have potted pine and spruce varieties available. Specific information on these will be available at the Natural Resources Conservation Service Office, formerly the SCS office in Wapello. The phone is 523-6411.

If you are interested in a variety not on our list, give us a call we will try to obtain them for you if they are available from our nurseries.

Minimum order is 10 of a variety for \$10. Tree shelters are also for sale. All orders will be picked up at the Louisa County SCS office in Wapello. For more information or to order, call 523-6411.

Unique gifts available from the Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District

Having trouble finding a unique gift idea? Look no further! The district has a lot of products that we would love to sell to you. Stop by the office at 514 Isett, Wapello for order forms or more information. You may also call 319-523-6411.

Consider a Mushroom Growing Kit. Varieties include: Morel, Shiitake, Hericum, and Pleurotus. Imagine mushrooms grown at home. What a splendid idea.

Think about Perennials: Daylilies, Ferns, including Christmas ferns, Maidenhair, and Royal ferns, Trailing Periwinkle, Japanese Spurge, Purple Wintercreeper, English Ivy, Creeping Lily, Lilyturf, and Grapevines. Priced at competitive prices for priceless beauty and enjoyment.

For the bird lover we have Hummingbird Feeder kits. All in one, this package includes a special blend of wildflower seeds

guaranteed to attract hummingbirds and a special hummingbird feeder with nectar to greet them as they arrive year after year.

Wildflower Seed is available in a wide variety and can be enjoyed year after year with little or no maintenance.

Ever heard of Beneficial Insects? Well, there is such a thing and we have them available for you. The Praying Mantis takes care of all types of pests in your garden and is a wonder to watch work. Also, Ladybug Beetles are nature's control for aphids and other soft bodied pests. Imagine your neighbors' envy at your pest free garden.

Supertube Trees shelters and Vispore Tree Mats are still

available for your own tree plantings as well as for gift giving to the one person who has everything.

And don't forget the District's annual tree sales. A variety of seedlings are always available to enhance and benefit your property for a small investment of time and money. Gift certificates are available.

We also have marker flags available.

So if not for yourself, remember parents, grandparents, in-laws, teachers, friends, newlyweds, memorials, and countless others who might enjoy any or all of our unique gift ideas. Stop by the office for additional information.

+++++

Wetland Reserve Program

Third sign-up to be

May 30-June 30

The third SIGN-UP for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) brings several significant changes from the first two sign-ups. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly the Soil Conservation Service, now administers the program, including the payments of easements. A second major change is that the program is being offered nationwide - the first two sign-ups were limited to fewer than half the states.

The intent of the program remains the same. Landowners are offered the appraised agricultural "as is" market value of their land in exchange for signing a permanent easement on the land, and restoring the land to wetland.

As in the second WRP SIGN-UP, there is no bid.

A summary of the SIGN-UP process beginning May 30:

1. Interested landowners receive and sign an application to participate. The NRCS will help determine if the land proposed to be entered into the program is eligible.

2. The landowner, NRCS and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) complete a site ranking worksheet, stake the area, and draw up a preliminary plan for restoring the area to wetlands. The plan includes types of

practices, any necessary structures, and estimated costs associated with restoration.

3. In mid-August, the NRCS State Office will rank all Iowa applications. The State Conservationist will then notify all landowners submitting applications of whether or not they are tentatively accepted.

4. On tentatively accepted lands, where the landowner is still interested in the program, a certified appraiser will appraise the land intended for WRP. The landowner will be offered the appraised dollar value for the easement. The land owner then files the easement and restores the wetland.

If you are interested or have further questions come to the NRCS Office, 514 Isett, Wapello, or call 319-523-6411.

Wap Rep. 6-8-95

Ross

Bookkeeping

Business & Personal

Accounting

Phone Days:

523-6883

(Winfield

Contractor's Office)

Nights: 523-5623



Dettmann-Easler to attend Conference

The Louisa County Conservation Board met in regular session on Wednesday, September 25, at the Louisa County Heritage Center in Wapello.

Detra Dettmann - Easler has been chosen as one of three from Iowa to attend the North American Association of Environmental Educators Conference, to be held in San Francisco, for five days beginning October 30, 1996. The Board approved interim financing for the trip, and will be reimbursed by two Iowa groups that are sponsoring Dettmann - Easler for the conference.

Also, because of Dettmann - Easler's additional responsibilities in the past year, the Board approved flex time hours, an increase in hours, and a shift to salary for her.

Approval was given to submitting a Farm Bureau grant application. The new program provides funds to assist the county Farm Bureau offices in developing programs that investigate non - point source pollution. If received, the grant would provide money to the LCCB and Louisa County Farm Bureau to develop a workshop that would train people in other counties to use a soil erosion/water quality model that was developed last year by LCCB in cooperation

with the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District.

A bid of \$600 from Jordie Beeding to repair a scour hole at Indian Slough was approved.

In an update on the REAP grant applied for to make improvements and land purchases at Virginia Grove, the LCCB did not receive the grant.

A report was given on the annual Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards Conference that was held in Ottumwa on September 20-21, Jim Rudisill, Greg Terry and Wayne Ryan attended from LCCB.

Approval was given to hire a local contractor to complete the final hook - ups on the new septic system at Langwood 4-H Reserve.

Boardmember Greg Terry gave an update report on his investigation of a gun safety class for younger children. He continues to research the idea.

The Board continues to negotiate with Dick Reid, of Columbus Junction, on the construction of a handicap access fishing dock at Virginia Grove.

The fiscal year 1996 Annual Report was distributed to Boardmembers for review. Final action will be taken on the report at the October meeting.

FFA Soils Team earns State Gold Award



Members of the Wapello FFA Soils Judging Team are front - Tawsha Wright and back row, left to right - Keith Allen, Jarrett Ball and Nate Stover.

The Wapello FFA Soils Judging team received a gold rating and 8th place in the 15th annual Iowa FFA Soils Career Development Event (CDE) held at Boone on Saturday, October 19th, 1996. Thirty teams (the top five teams from each of 6 districts) were entered in the state event.

Wapello team members included Jarrett Ball, Nate Stover, Keith Allen, and Tawsha Wright. Ball was the 8th high individual out of 120 participants.

The team had to qualify for the state event by placing in the top 5 teams at the Southeast District FFA competition held at the Muscatine Community College. Twenty-five teams participated in the District. The team members were the same with Ball again placing 8th as an individual.

The top 5 teams qualified for the 46th Annual International Land Judging Contest in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in May. Wapello's entire team returns next year.

The training for this contest began with a soils unit in the Agriculture II class at the high school. Further assistance was offered the group by the local Natural Resources Conservation office. Norm Stone and the area soil scientist spent time with the group helping them texture soil and determine soil color. Frank Springsteen also dug several pits for the team to use in training.

The Soils CDE involved taking a 40 question test over soils and conservation and judging of 4 soil pits. At each pit site, contestants had to answer 40 questions. The soils scorecard is divided into five sections.

In the surface features section the students have to calculate the

slope and identify the landscape position.

Under the profile section contestants identify the color and texture of the surface soil and subsoil, evaluate surface and internal drainage; determine parent material and native vegetation, and determine the presence or absence of major horizons.

The third phase of the scorecard asks the student to place the land into its major land capability class and subclass according to NRC standards.

Next the students have to determine which of the following practices to apply to the land: tile, grass waterways, contouring, terracing, strip cropping, and conservation tillage. They also have to measure surface residue.

In the final section of the scorecard, they have to answer questions related to the land's use as a site for a house with a basement, as a septic tank absorption field, and as a source of topsoil.

The Soil CDE was organized by the cooperative efforts of Dr. Gerald Miller, ISU Extension

Agronomist, ISU Extension Service and Agronomy Department, U. S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Iowa Department of Education, and the Iowa FFA.

Other sponsoring organizations included the Iowa Corn Promotion Board, Iowa Association of Soil and Water District Commissioners, ISU Student Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, the Iowa Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, Professional Soil Classifiers of Iowa and the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Speak your mind.

Feel good about it!

On Election Day

Vote for your candidate.

Vote for your country.

But most of all...

Vote **for** Yourself.

Preparation: A good understanding of the issues is essential. This is the only way to make a good choice.

Ad
Council

U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service

NEWS RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Name: Connie Ramirez,, District Conservationist
Address: 514 Isett Wapello, IA 52653
Phone: 523-6411

On April 25th, the Louisa County Conservation Board sponsored a field day at Indian Slough for local 4th graders from the L&M School District. All county 4th graders participated on different days. Activities included Wetland Metaphors, Wetland Wading, Eco-Beaver, Food Chain Games, and Digging Into Soil. During the session Digging Into Soil, students had the opportunity to sample and observe wetland soils by using color charts and hand lenses. Digging Into Soil was lead by Connie Ramirez, District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. She is pictured here with several of the L&M students and their teacher Sharon Duytschaver.



All programs and services of USDA are available to everyone without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin.

5/96

U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service

NEWS RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Name: Connie Ramirez,, District Conservationist
Address: 514 Isett Wapello, IA 52653
Phone: 523-6411

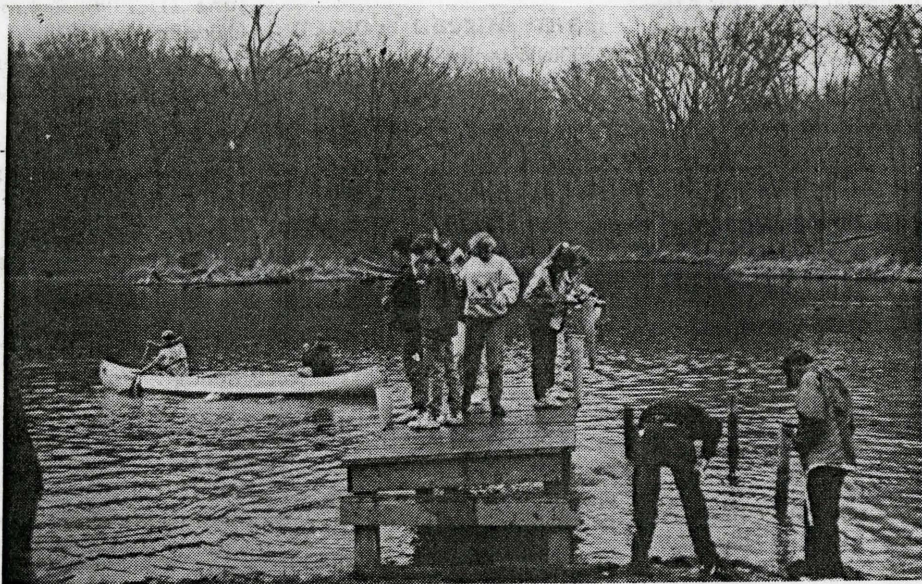
On April 25th, the Louisa County Conservation Board sponsored a field day at Indian Slough for local 4th graders from the L&M School District. All county 4th graders participated on different days. Activities included Wetland Metaphors, Wetland Wading, Eco-Beaver, Food Chain Games, and Digging Into Soil. During the session Digging Into Soil, students had the opportunity to sample and observe wetland soils by using color charts and hand lenses. Digging Into Soil was lead by Connie Ramirez, District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. She is pictured here with several of the L&M students and their teacher Sharon Duytschaver.



All programs and services of USDA are available to everyone without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin.

5/96

Field day at Indian Slough



Sixth graders from Wapello and Columbus Community Schools learn about canoeing and pond life at Langwood 4-H Reserve near Grandview. The sessions were part of the Sixth Grade Outdoor Field Days sponsored each year by the Louisa County Conservation Board.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service

NEWS RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Name: Connie Ramirez,, District Conservationist
Address: 514 Isett Wapello, IA 52653
Phone: 523-6411

On May 3rd, Columbus Junction and Wapello 6th graders enjoyed a day at Camp Langwood sponsored by the Louisa County Conservation Board. Students learned how to canoe, fish, took a nature hike for bird identification, and studied aquatic life by identifying critters in Camp Langwood's pond. Pond studies were lead by District Conservationist, Connie Ramirez of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. She is pictured here with Columbus Junction's sixth graders and their teacher Mr. Kuehl.



Thursday, June 11, 1998

Filter strips clean water the old-fashioned way

Filter strips might be described as the original water purifiers.

Long before they were called anything, strips of grass, trees and shrubs were slowing the flow of water, and filtering sediment before releasing cleaner water into lakes and streams.

Connie Ramirez, District Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, says filter strips are valuable because of their ability to collect sediment, chemicals and nutrients. The vegetation uses these nutrients rather than

allowing them to enter water supplies.

"In addition to their water quality benefits, the grass, trees and shrubs in filter strips provide cover for small birds and animals," Connie says. "And because they cover the ground, they reduce soil erosion from those areas, too."

When selecting plants for use in a filter strip, there are some things to consider. Connie encourages farmers to establish plants that are best adapted to the soil types in the fields and those that will provide the type of

control needed. The amount of control needed can vary, for example, depending upon whether a farmer wants the filter strip around a sinkhole, to control runoff from a feedlot or to filter runoff from cropland.

"The filter strip concept certainly isn't new," Connie says, "but it does have a place on many farms." Filter strips along ponds, wetlands and cropland adjacent to streams are eligible for the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program.

Farmers can get more information about filter strips from the NRCS office.

Halloween

Hike set

for

October 26

The Louisa County Conservation Board's Annual Halloween Hike will be held Saturday, Oct. 26, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Virginia Grove Recreation Area. The theme for this year's hike is "Iowa — 150 Years of Change." Guides will lead participants on a 45-minute hike on a timbered trail, stopping along the way to hear from wolves, deer, trees, flowers and people from 1846 - 1996.

Reservations for the hike are required and can be made by calling the Louisa County Conservation Board at 523-8381. A minimum of one adult for ever three children attending is requested.

There will be refreshments for everyone who brings along a non-disposable cup. There is no charge for the hike or refreshments but donations to cover the cost of expenses will be accepted.

The Halloween Hike is co-sponsored by the Louisa County Conservation Board and the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Louisa Co. Soil and Water Conservation District

The Louisa County Soil and
Water Conservation District
Commissioners will meet on
Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. at the INRCS
office in Wapello.

LOUISA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Wapello Republic

50th ANNUAL REPORT



514 ISETT, WAPELLO, IA 52653

PHONE: 319-523-6411

ASSISTED BY U.S.D.A. - NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF STATE FUNDS FISCAL YEAR 1995-96

LOUISA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS:

Tom Utter, ChairpersonConcord Twp.
Martin Hoeg, Vice Chm (6 mo.).....Wapello Twp.
Leland Roudybush, Vice Chm (6 mo.).....Port Louisa Twp.
Michael Braunn.....Union Twp.
David Shull.....Columbus City Twp.
Julie Ohde, Assistant Comm.....Marshall Twp.
Kathy Dice, Assistant Comm.....Grandview Twp.
Tom Wahl, Assistant Comm.....Grandview Twp.
Detra Dettmann-Easler, Asst. Comm.....Morning Sun Twp.

PERSONNEL ASSISTING THE DISTRICT

FEDERAL

Connie Ramirez, District Conservationist
Norman Stone, Technician
Bruce Trautman, Area Conservationist
Doug Morningstar, Area Engineer
Ron Snyder, RC&D Coordinator
Gail Swails, Technician

STATE

Janet Williams, Secretary
Paul Valin, Field Representative
Stan Tate, District Forester
Bill Ohde, Wildlife Biologist

1-M BUDGET (96 FY)

Total Allocation: \$2900.00

Disbursements 2899.77

Commissioners Expenses

1504.05

Office Supplies & Postage

895.65

Association Dues

500.00

Total Expended

2899.70

Returned to State Committee

.30

IFIP FUNDS (Iowa Financial Incentive Program)

95-96	Allocation	16,983.00
	Obligated	13,599.58
	Balance	3,383.42
94-95	Allocation	69,272.25
	Obligated	68,272.25
	Balance	1,000.00
93-94	Allocation	45,971.00
	Obligated	38,565.57
	Released to State	7,405.43
	Balance	0

All 3-M funds allocated to farmers for financial assistance on conservation projects.

REAP (Resource Enhancement & Protection Program)

F-96	Allocation	7,820.00
	Spent to Date	7,820.00
	Released to State	0.00
P-96	Allocation	11,538.00
	Obligated	11,538.00
	Released to State	0.00
F-95	Allocation	6,266.00
	Spent to Date	6,266.00
	Released to State	0.00
P-95	Allocation	3,198.00
	Spent to Date	1,468.58
	Released to State	1,729.42

REAP Program funds can be used for forestry and native grass plantings as well as windbreaks, planned grazing systems, and water and soil protection practices.

ORGANIC NUTRIENT WASTE PROGRAM

ONMP-96	Allocated	16,566.00
	Obligated	0.00
	Spent to Date	0.00
	Released to State	16,566.00
ONMP-95	Allocated	11,221.00
	Obligated	7,500.00
	Spent to Date	6,671.03
	Released to State	4,549.97

ACTIVITIES (FY 96)

The District sponsored a booth at the Louisa County Fair. The theme this year was "Trees". August 1, 1995, the county Conservation Review Group met at the FSA Office, Commissioners Martin Hoeg and Lee Roudybush attended as well as District conservationist Shawn Dettmann. August 2, 1995, the Strategic Planning Meeting was held in Keosauqua. Shawn Dettmann District Conservationist represented Louisa County as none of the commissioners were able to attend.

August 21, 1995, the District sponsored a Grazing Tour at Chairman Tom Utter's farm and neighboring farm owned by Roger Hunt. The Commissioners celebrated their 50th anniversary at this event and invited all past district commissioners who were in the area. A steak sandwich was prepared by the Louisa County Cattleman Association.

The Annual Conference was held Sept. 7 and 8 with commissioners Tom Utter and Lee Roudybush attending.

The fifth annual Halloween Hike co-sponsored by the District and the County Conservation Board was huge success. "Birds" was the theme with people portraying various birds and telling the hikers about their species.

January 4, 1996 - District organizational meeting was held and the 1996 officers are Tom Utter, chairperson; Martin Hoeg, vice chairperson; and Janet Williams, secretary-treasurer.

The District's new educational program is in operation. It is available to area counties as well as Louisa. A fee will be charged to other counties to help cover expenses. The District will fund the programs in our county with educational funds from the tree sales program.

January 16, 17, 18 - Annual Short Course, Ames, Iowa.

February 29, 1996 - Annual Contractor Meeting was held for area contractors at the Tomahawk.

The Spring Regional was held March 6 in Davenport, Iowa. No commissioners attended due to early morning weather conditions.

April 30 - May 7, 1996 was Soil & Water Stewardship Week. The District offered county churches bulletin covers.

In April the District sponsored a \$250 scholarship for a Louisa County senior. It was awarded to Sunny Parkhurst from Wapello Community School.

The District sold tree seedlings for the sixth year. The tree sales netted \$1908.17 for the District. This money will be used for conservation education.

June 4, 1996 - District sponsored an open house featuring wetlands. It was an opportunity for area landowners and operators to meet our District Conservationist Connie Ramirez.

The District helped sponsor a Joint County CRP Demonstration Plot. It is located in Washington County. A field day was held in September.

The District helped sponsor the Summer JTPA Youth Program and a Promise Jobs employee.

The District sent out newsletters during the year to increase awareness of programs and assistance available on soil and water conservation.

ASSISTING AGENCIES

Cooperative Efforts from the following agencies have greatly assisted the delivery of district programs and services to the public. Special thanks is extended to:

- Farm Service Agency formerly ASCS
- Iowa State University Extension Service
- Rural Development Agency formerly FHA
- Louisa County Board of Supervisors
- Louisa County Conservation Board
- Geode RC&D
- Louisa County RC&D Committee
- Louisa County REAP Committee
- US Fish & Wildlife Service

ALL DISTRICT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ARE OFFERED ON A NONDISCRIMINARY BASIS WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, SEX, AGE, MARITAL STATUS, OR HANDICAP.

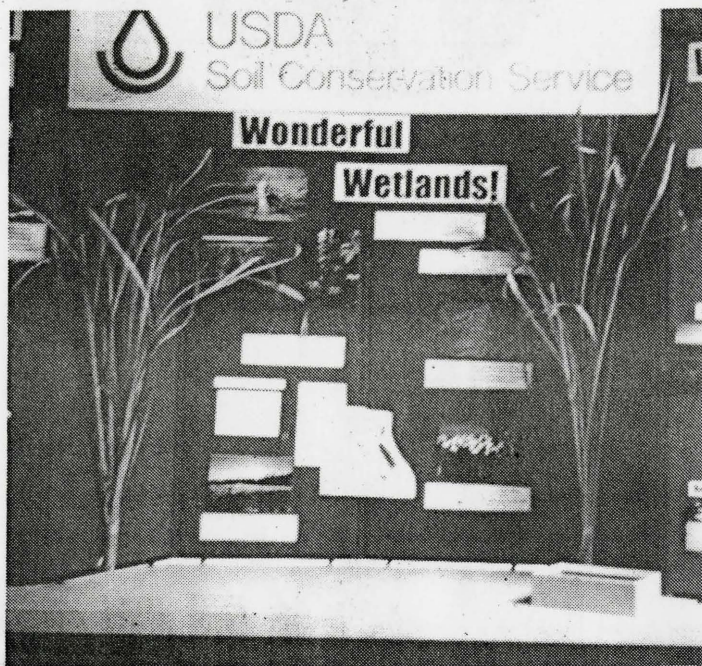
DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS FISCAL YEAR 1996

Code	Description	Total	1995	1996
100	New District Cooperators		21	20
102	Individuals assisted		321	564
108	Resource Mgt. Sys. Planned (ac)	1681		889
327	CRP Planting (ac)			310
329	Cons. Tillage/No Till	1032		247
330	Contour Farming (ac)	144		246
380	Farmstead Windbreakers(number)	0		7
386	Field Borders (ft)			3019
412	Grassed Waterways (ac)	57		28
600	Terraces (ft)	12008		4700
638	Water & Sediment Basins (number)	25		9
612	Tree Planting (ac)	8		142
410	Structures (number)	4		1

BASIC DATA—LOUISA COUNTY

125	Operating Units (tracts)	1787
125	Operating Units (acres)	199,888
170	Tracts with No Highly Erodible Fields	967
171	Tracts with Highly Erodible Fields	820
171	Acres of Highly Erodible Fields	48,855
173	Acres with an approved Conservation Plan	42,605
172	Acres with an approved Conservation Plan applied	48,761

National Wetland month



National Wetland Month was celebrated recently. As part of the celebration the Louisa County Natural Resources Conservation Service held an open house. The purpose of the open house was to show the benefits of wetlands. Wetland benefits include a variety of things. They include, water quality, the ability to filter sediment, reduce soil erosion, reduce flooding, and give us yet another outdoor recreation area. Wetlands are an ideal place to hunt, watch wildlife, take photographs and just relax and

enjoy nature. Many acres are being restored privately as well as publicly. Never in Iowa's history have so many acres of wetlands been restored to their natural state. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, contact the NRCS office in Wapello, Iowa for more information. Restoring these lands offers an unprecedented opportunity to enhance a wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and provide aesthetic personal enjoyment. Our office is located at 514 Isett in Wapello, and our phone number is 523-6411.

NRCS Office holds Priorities Workshop

Conservation minded individuals and USDA agencies met to discuss the direction we would like to see Louisa County go in the next few years. Many ideas were expressed and will be considered as priorities areas and agricultural practices are set. The participants plan to meet in a few weeks again to finalize priorities. These priorities will then be evaluated by the State Technical Committee and used in the obligation of Federal funds process.

On-the-go Application

By Gene Lucht

Iowa Farmer Today

OAKVILLE — Rich Siegle doesn't have fancy multi-colored field maps telling him about his operation.

But he does have a machine which tests nitrogen levels and applies N at the same time.

That puts him a step ahead of most Iowa farmers in the N-application game.

Only a few producers use applicators as advanced as the one owned by Siegle and two other farmers in this Des Moines County community.

This set-up is called the Soil Doctor System, made by Crop Technology Inc. of Houston. The Soil Doctor has been on the market since 1990, but few Iowa farmers are using them yet.

Alfred Blackmer, Iowa State University professor of agronomy, has researched soil tests for nitrogen. But he has not worked with a machine which can test and apply nitrogen on the go.

IF SUCH a machine were accurate, it would be very helpful to farmers, Blackmer says.

"It would be marvelous," he adds. But Blackmer has seen little independent research on the Soil Doctor or other similar machines.

"I would like to see a good evaluation done," he says.

The key might be in how to calibrate on-the-go testing and application machines.

Blackmer says a good system would rely at least partially on a soil-testing program to help calibrate the machines correctly.

Craig Elliott, marketing manager for Vision System, a global-positioning system (GPS) system made by Rockwell International Corp., says the on-the-go application idea would work with many GPS systems, but it's not necessary.

"There isn't any one technology that is going to dominate this field," he says.

According to John Colburn, president of Crop Technology Inc., farmers should be able to

use an on-the-go tester and applicator without ever plugging into a GPS system.

However, Colburn adds, many farmers who invest \$10,000 in a Soil Doctor are likely to eventually invest in a GPS system for its mapping and record capabilities.

Siegle and his partners, Lee Robertson and Mark McCully, bought the machine last spring and are using it on 3,000 acres near Burlington.

They lease a tractor to use with the machine and hired a semi-retired farmer to run the rig, leaving them free to deal with other spring farm work.

They added a yield monitor on the combine last fall.

Siegle used the applicator without getting into global-positioning technology last year. He plans to eventually use GPS in conjunction with his application system.

"We're just in the infancy stage," he says.

The machine features electronic sensors designed to measure soil nitrate levels.

Siegle plugs in a yield goal, and the sensors give an on-the-go reading of N levels, adjusting applications to meet his yield goal accordingly. The field pass is made shortly after the corn has emerged.

He says the corn suitability rating of the soil is important because realistic yield goals are necessary to the system.

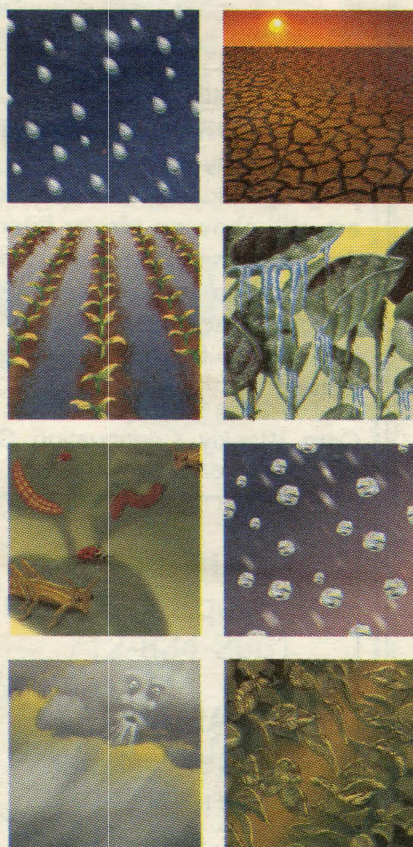
The system appealed to him as a way to cut N use and to get a more accurate reading on his river-bottom land, where soil types and textures change often.

Last year's wet spring weather and difficult planting conditions, did not provide a good test for the system, Siegle says. Still, he was surprised by what the readouts told him.

Some areas where he expected N levels to be high actually showed low levels, he says, and vice versa. ■



Rich Siegle uses a Soil Doctor nitrogen applicator on his farm in Des Moines County. Siegle and two friends share ownership and use of the machine. The Soil Doctor uses electronic sensors to measure nitrogen levels. Siegle plugs his yield goal into the machine, which then applies a variable N rate adjusted to meet the goal.



Demand the Best. Demand Dawson.

You're an American farmer. You do everything in your power to produce the world's food. You're the **best** at what you do.

We're Dawson Crop Insurance. We've been insuring American farmers since 1917. We're the **best** at what we do.

When you make your crop insurance decision - demand the best. Demand Dawson.

For the name of the nearest independent agent representing Dawson Crop Insurance, call 1-800-437-4680.



P.O. Box 1820 • Fargo, ND 58107

OPEN HOUSE AT NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION OFFICE

An open house is being planned for June 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Natural Resources Conservation Office (formerly SCS), 514 Isett in Wapello. The public is invited to come and visit with the Louisa Soil & Water District Commissioners and meet the new District Conservationist, Connie Ramirez. Stop by and discuss conservation issues with the staff or just say hello and have a cup of coffee and cookies. There will be a display and video on wetlands available to view as well as information on other projects the staff is involved with.

Open House at Natural Resources Conservation Office

An open house is being planned for June 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Natural Resources Conservation Office (formerly SCS), 514 Isett in Wapello. The public is invited to come and visit with the Louisa Soil & Water District Commissioners and meet the new District Conservationist, Connie Ramirez. Stop by and discuss conservation issues with the staff or just say hello and have a cup of coffee and cookies. There will be a display and video on wetlands available to view as well as information on other projects the staff is involved with.

6/4/96

Open House Guests

Wayne A. Barnes

Don Wilbur

Larry Boyer

Ron Stoum

~~Mr Matthews~~

~~Debbie~~ Debbie Easter

Keith Miller

Jim Wagnon

~~Don Stoum~~

Bob Wahl

Lee Rudy Bush

Zetter Bros.

Gerald Tiefker

Jim Williams

Stan Tate



Ourth has an impact

■ R.E.A.P. delegate:
Burlington resident wants to protect the environment for the future.

By Jim Rudisill
The Hawk Eye

When Al Ourth slips into one of the Iowa House of Representative desks later this month as a delegate to the 1996 Iowa Resource Enhancement And Protection (REAP) Congress, he will be continuing a long tradition of support for one of Iowa's primary environmental programs.

"I've been involved in REAP ever since it started," the burly, 49-year-old Burlington resident explained recently.

As he settled into a chair in the Des Moines County Courtroom, following his shift as bailiff at the courthouse, Ourth recalled one of the first public meetings on the REAP program in southeast Iowa around six years ago.

"There were about 300 people at that," he said, adding, "I'd like to see that again."

While attendance at the bi-annual regional meetings that lead up to the REAP Congress have fallen off the last several years, Ourth said the program is continuing to see strong support from the public.

Earlier this year, the Iowa Legislature extended the original 10 year life of the program in an effort to eventually provide the \$300 million initially established for it.

Ourth, a former teacher and a current member of the Three Rivers Environmental Council (TREC), gave some of the credit for convincing legislators to adopt the extension to environmental education programs around the state.

"My hope is that the legislators' own kids came home and said look what we learned today, and maybe (the legislators) said maybe this is a good program and we should continue it," he said.

Ourth's own outdoor training and education came through more practical experiences.

He grew up on a farm just outside Nauvoo, Ill., and just a stone's throw from the Mississippi River.

"I could sit on the front porch and cast into the river," he said with a fisherman's smile.

Modern progress, in the form of a wider Highway 96, eventually put an end to that activity, but Ourth continued to enjoy the outdoors.

"As a kid growing up I spent as much time on the river as I could," he said.

"I learned to row a boat as soon as I walked," he continued.

When the river wasn't calling however, the farm, where his 90-year-old mother still lives, was.

"The type of farm I grew up on doesn't exist anymore," Ourth said sadly, recalling how the old



Darrin Phlegley/The Hawk Eye

Al Ourth, a member of the Des Moines County Resource and Enhancement Protection (REAP) seeks to preserve the environment for future generations.

homestead was a self-sufficient enterprise.

"We had milk cows; we did some row cropping; we had an orchard; it had everything," he said.

Even the water was something special - until the highway was widened.

A spring had provided the farm with clear, fresh water throughout the year, but the highway project plugged it.

"We had to drill a deep well and the water just was not the same," Ourth said, hinting some of those lost treasures are the reasons he fights now for the environment.

"I want Garrett (Ourth's five-month-old grandson) to be able to enjoy the things I was able to enjoy," he said, his voice crackling with emotion.

"I don't know who wrote the statement, and I may not have it quoted just right, but we don't own the land, we're just borrowing it from our grandkids," he said.

"America, as the land of plenty, has given the false sense of there is more of where this came from," he explained, "so, unless we can educate people that these resources are finite, eventually we'll end up with a lower level of living then we enjoy now," he said.

Ourth has followed through with those efforts.

In addition to his volunteer work with TREC, the Des Moines County REAP Committee, which he chairs, and his own teaching and counseling background, which includes a stint on the Burlington School Board - Ourth has also worked with the scouting program, Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation and Audubon Society.

He also finds time to volunteer with the Miss Burlington Scholarship Program, the Snow Bowl fundraiser, Red Cross and

pressed hope for quick congressional passage of the effort.

"This wilderness spans the heights of the majestic Brooks Range, towering over the seasonal pageant of migrating wildlife along the Arctic coastal plain in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I think it most appropriately symbolizes Mollie's spirit; wilder, more powerful and more free from the influence of man than anywhere else in America," he announced.

THE LEE COUNTY Conservation Board will host a song bird and wildflower hike Saturday, July 6, at the LCCB's Wilson Lake Park. The hike will begin at 9 a.m., but participants are asked to contact the board at 319-463-7673 to register before the hike.

Trail - West Branch (Millie Gregg, 319-627-2626)

Beattie will receive honor

■ Notes: Alaskan wilderness area to be named after former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director who died last week.

By Jim Rudisill
The Hawk Eye

An effort has been launched to name an Alaskan wilderness area in memory of former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Director Mollie Beattie.

Beattie, the first woman director of the FWS, died last week following a year-long battle with brain cancer.

In a statement released June 25, Secretary of the Department of Interior Bruce Babbitt ex-

Propeller key to boating

By Bill Schultz
The Associated Press

If your boat isn't giving you the performance you want, the problem could be as simple as a propeller that doesn't match the motor.

It's not hard to pick the right propeller, the one that provides the desired performance while the engine is within the manufacturer's recommended operating range.

The first step, according to Peter Dean, president of Propco Marine Propellers, Inc., of Monroe, Ga., is to get out your owner's manual, or call the engine manufacturer and find the recommended rpm range at full throttle.

Take your boat out and find out how fast your engine turns over while running at full throttle.

Program causes concern

■ Land purchases:
Money falls short of what landowners expected, even after the Horseshoe Bend Division.

By Jim Rudisill
The Hawk Eye

Death and taxes are two things everyone seems to share, except government. While federal, state and local governments normally don't render onto Caesar, a few government agencies do fork over in some cases.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources continues to pay property tax on land which it purchases under the Iowa Wildlife Habitat Stamp Program and the Iowa Resource Enhancement And Protection (REAP) Program, while some county conservation boards also pay property taxes on land which generates income for them.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) does not pay property taxes on the land it acquires, but through a complicated revenue sharing program, the agency does funnel money back to local governments in lieu of property taxes.

Sue Julison, district manager for the Wapello District of the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge, recently encountered some of the problems that can develop from the complicated program, which actually started over 60 years ago.

"In 1935 the (FWS) began to make revenue sharing payments to counties that contained Service land," she said.

Using funds generated from timber harvests, camping fees, concessionaire revenue, oil and gas leases and other sources, the FWS returned 25% of the income back to those counties where the refuge land generating the income was located.

Julison said the revenue-generating activities are only developed on refuge land after biologists and managers establish that beneficial effects will result from the activity.

Louisa County initially did not share in this revenue because most of the refuge land in the county did not generate income.

"When local farmers have farmed within the Louisa Division, they have been on a crop share system rather than a cash rent basis," Julison pointed out.

In addition, much of the refuge land is actually not owned by the FWS, but by the Corps of Engineers, which does not pay taxes or have a revenue sharing plan.

Julison said a change in the law in 1964 allowed more counties to begin sharing in the revenue.

"The law was changed to allow all affected counties to receive a portion of this pot of money, even if no refuge revenue had been generated in their county that year," she explained.

"Counties are entitled to receive an annual payment equal to either 25% of revenue; ¼ of 1% of the value of the land; or \$0.75 per acre, whichever is larger," Julison said.

Since the FWS land in Louisa County generated such a small amount of revenue, the FWS calculated the county's share based on the ¼ of 1% appraised value option. That normally meant a few hundred dollars a year was provided to the county, based partly on about 45 acres of land which the FWS did own in the county.

In 1994 however the picture for Louisa County, and the FWS, radically changed.

That's when the FWS and other organizations joined forces to acquire the Horseshoe Bend Division, a 2,654-acre wetland complex formerly known as Levee District 8. The appraised value of the land was set at \$1.76 million and under the revenue sharing system, full entitlement to Louisa County should have been \$13,170.

Julison, however, said quirks which had developed in the program continued to plague it.

"In 1976 there began to be shortages in revenue and payments to counties had to be reduced," she said.

Congress stepped in to supplement the payments, but those supplements have dropped over the years.

"Since 1989 payments have averaged 81% of full entitlement," Julison explained.

Even with that rub, the landowners in Levee District 8 who sold their land in 1994 were expecting the FWS to continue paying over \$10,000 in revenue sharing after assuming ownership of the land.

Last year, after the FWS completed the purchase on 389 acres of land, it provided the county with a check for \$2,226.

Julison said some landowners became worried over the low amount, thinking the FWS had

reneged on the \$10,000 payment that had been expected.

"We had not completed the purchase on the Horseshoe Bend Division at the close of our fiscal year," Julison said.

Most landowners understood that explanation, but this year another snafu developed over the payments.

"Payments are normally made in April and are for the previous fiscal year, (but) because of the government shutdowns and lack of a budget, the payments (were) delayed," she said.

Reports of landowner discontent began filtering back to Julison, who could do little except try to explain the problem.

"There was a lot of confusion," she understated.

The check finally arrived last week, just a few days before the county's fiscal year end, but unfortunately, reduced revenue production and a lower congressional supplement cut the shared amount to only 65.7% of the full entitlement.

For Louisa County that meant a payment of \$8,655.

Julison said she understood the frustrations some residents might have with her agency, but said the FWS was making an effort.

"It's not a perfect system, but at least there is a mechanism by which the Service tries to make up for lost revenue, she said.

"We wish the payments could always be 100%, but there simply isn't enough revenue for this to happen and congressional appropriations don't cover the shortfall," she added.



RON WAS SO SPECIAL

We the family of Ron Wagner wish to express our thanks for all who were there for us in our time of need. We will never forget prayers, memorials, phone calls & visits, food, and beautiful service at Genesis Fellowship. God bless all of you.

The Wagner Family

STOP BEATING AROUND THE BUSH...

And start enjoying the excitement of the Outdoors



Don't Let This Big One Get Away

delivered to your home or business monthly

Field test and more

the
SOUTHEAST IOWA OUTDOORS
magazine

REGULAR FEATURES:

THAT'S NEWS TO ME by Jim Rudisill
FIELD TEST by Johnnie Crain
FISHING EDITORIAL by Ron Carter
HUNTING EDITORIAL by Gene Murray
SOUTHEAST IOWA SPOTLIGHT
COOKIN' ON THE WILDSIDE
MISFIRES AND BACKLASHES by Gene Murray
and much much more each month!

YES! I want 12 BIG issues

mailed to my home monthly for just \$10⁰⁰

Enclosed is my check or money order for \$10

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Mail to:

the
SOUTHEAST IOWA OUTDOORS
magazine

P.O. Box 10 Burlington, IA. 52601

☐ new ☐ renewal

Shadowing Day

On April 25, 1996 Kristy Dameron participated in Shadowing Day. She went to work with her mother Judy Dameron at the Louisa County Farm Service Agency. There she learned how to use the computer, sorted labels for their newsletter mailing, picked up the mail with Janice Webb and helped deposit money at the bank. Part of the day was also spent with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, formerly the Soil Conservation Service. Technician, Norman Stone showed Kristy how to survey and did a survey of the office parking lot. Connie Ramirez, the District Conservationist at NRCS, also took time out to show her how to use the soil probe and show the different horizons of the soil. She enjoyed her visit and hopes to come back again next year.



Norman Stone shows Kristy how to survey

Sixth graders visit Langwood



On April 25th, the Louisa County Conservation Board sponsored a field day at Indian Slough for local 4th graders from the L&M School District. All county 4th graders participated in different days. Activities included Wetland Metaphors, Wetland Wading, Eco-Beaver, Food Chain Game, and Digging Into Soil. During the session Digging Into Soil, students had the opportunity to sample and observe wetland soils by using color charts and hand lenses. Digging Into Soil was lead by Connie Ramirez, District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Series. She is pictured here with several of the L&M students and their teacher Sharon Duytschaver.

Soil and Water Conservation

District scholarship available

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has a scholarships available to Louisa County high school seniors who will be continuing their education at the college level. The recipient of the \$250 local award will also be entered into competition for scholarships at the state level in the amounts of \$600, \$400 and \$300.

Applications are available through high school guidance counselors and are due in the Louisa County SWCD office by March 1. The local scholarship is made possible through the SWCD's environmental education program which is funded by tree sales to the public.

For more information contact Janet Williams at 523-6411 or Julie Ohde at 523-8381.

Soil and water conservation offer scholarship

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has a scholarship available to Louisa County high school seniors who will be continuing their education at the college level. The recipient of the \$250 local award will also be entered into competition for scholarships at the state level in the amounts of \$600, \$400 and \$300.

Applications are available through high school guidance counselors and are due in the Louisa County SWCD office by March 1. The local scholarship is made possible through the SWCD's environmental education program which is funded by tree sales to the public.

For more information contact Janet Williams at 523-6411 or Julie Ohde at 523-8381.

3-28-96

Soil District Scholarship awarded



Sunny Parkhurst

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District has awarded its 1996 scholarship to Sunny Parkhurst of Wapello. Parkhurst is a senior at Wapello High school where she will graduate in May. In addition to the local award, Parkhurst will now compete at the regional level for scholarships from the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District commissioners.

3-28-96 Wap. Rep.

I Cor 5.
Aug Agenda



Keck Memorial Library

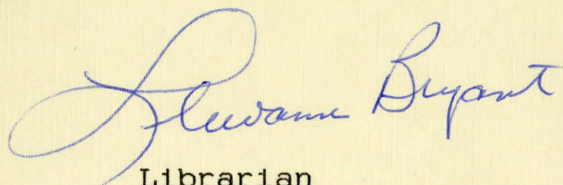
Our Library Board wishes to thank you for
the new book

**THE ART FRESHWATER FISHING by Dick
Sternberg**

purchased for our library in memory of

Sam Murray

A record is kept in our Memorial Book and
a book plate is placed in each donated
book, showing the donor and the person to
be remembered.



Librarian
Keck Memorial Library
119 N. 2nd St.
Wapello, IA 52653

Keck Memorial Library
119 N. 2nd
Wapello, IA 52653

To Louisa Co. Soil and Water Conservation

514 Isett

Wapello, IA 52653

Terms _____

Please detach and return upper portion with your remittance. \$_____

[illegible]

Your Check is Your Receipt

APR 29 1996



Thank you
... for caring

Sanis County Commissioners
and staff

I've been notified that
you have donated a book
to the library in memory
of my dad. That was very
nice of you. They will
notify me when it comes in.
Thank you.

The Family of
Sam Murray



Keck Memorial Library

4/ 196

Dear Louisa County Soil and Water
conservation board,

Thank you for sponsoring me to my
contest in South Dakota. You will be pleased
to know that I recieved 1st place in the Forestry
- Natural Resources Job interview and Career planning
in Ag Education contests. Your sponsorship
was greatly appreciated. I will be more than happy
to do a slide presentation in June, when I return
from work in Montana, to show you where your money
went.

Thank you

Sam Willson

Wapello Jr./Sr. High School

501 Buchanan

Wapello, IA 52653

April 15, 1996

Scholarship Committee

Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation Office

Wapello, Iowa 52653

Dear Members:

Thank you for supporting higher education and the students of Wapello Community School District through your scholarship program. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. Again this year, local scholarship contributors will provide a significant amount of money to assist graduates in the pursuit of their educational goals. I commend the soil and water conservation district for being an important donor.

Thanks again for the interest you express in the youth of our community.

Respectfully,

Robert N. Nelson

Robert N. Nelson, Counselor

Workshop scheduled for Cost Share Program changes

All interested persons are invited to attend a workshop on Sept. 17, 9a.m., at the Louisa County NRCS/FSA Office to discuss priority areas and practices for Louisa County. As we embark into the new era with the 1996 Farm Bill the community

is being challenged to help set priorities for our county. Plan to attend and have a say in the direction our county should be going. This may be your only chance for input on conservation funding issues.

Wap. Rep. 9-12-96

Continuous CRP sign-up offered

The purpose of the continuous sign-up is to allow farmers flexibility to use certain conservation practices on their land. Eligible practices under this continuous sign-up are:

- filter strips
- grassed waterways
- riparian buffers
- shallow water areas for wildlife
- field windbreaks
- shelter belts
- contour buffer strips

Areas meeting requirements of

these conservation buffers are automatically accepted into the CRP, assuming the landowner is willing to accept the maximum rental rate allowed. Producers do not need to go through a competitive process. An additional incentive of 20% or 10% over the going county CRP rental rate are paid for many of the continuous sign-up practices.

Louisa County producers may sign up for CRP in the Wapello FSA office or contact the NRCS office for further information.

CRP continuous sign-up

The purpose of the continuous sign-up is to allow farmers flexibility to use certain conservation practices on their land. Eligible practices under this continuous sign-up are:

- filter strips
- grassed buffers
- shallow water areas for wildlife
- field windbreaks
- shelter belts
- contour buffer strips

Areas meeting requirements

of these conservation buffers are automatically accepted into the CRP, assuming the landowner is willing to accept the maximum rental rate allowed. Producers do not need to go through a competitive process. An additional incentive of 20% or 10% over the going county CRP rental rate are paid for many of the continuous sign-up practices.

Louisa County producers may sign up for CRP in the Wapello FSA office or contact the NRCS office for further information.

Wap. Rep. 10-1-97

10/9/97
Wap. Rep.

Deadline nears for CRP sign-up

John Bartenhagen, County Executive Director, today announced that the next Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up will be held during a 5-week period from October 14 through November 14.

"This will be another opportunity for landowners to sign up for a voluntary program to get financial and technical assistance for improving their land, water, and wildlife resources," Bartenhagen said. "If you haven't tried to get into the program, if your CRP contract offer was not accepted in Sign-up 15 last spring, or if you have contracts that expire(d) in September 1997 or September 30, 1998, this is the time to make new contract offers."

The CRP is designed to improve America's natural resource base. Landowners enter into contracts with the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to enroll erodible and other environmentally sensitive land in contracts for 10 to 15 years. In exchange, they receive annual rental payments and a payment for up to 50 percent of

the cost of the cost of establishing approved practices.

Maximum CRP payments will be determined based on county average dryland cash or cash rent equivalent rental rates adjusted for site - specific, soil - based productivity factors. CRP payments will include an additional amount, of \$5 per acre per year, as an incentive to perform certain maintenance obligations. Cost - share assistance will be provided to establish approved cover on land enrolled in the CRP.

An informational meeting to discuss the 16th CRP sign - up is scheduled for Wednesday, October 15 at 2 p.m. in Wapello at the Briggs Civic Center. Agency personnel from the Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service will be on hand to explain the program and answer your questions.

Interested producers and landowners should contact the Louisa Farm Service Agency at 512 Isett in Wapello (Telephone 319 - 523 - 6381) for additional information on the CRP.

Europeans learn about area wetland restoration



Division refuge manager Sue Julison, Wapello, gestures toward a restored wetland, while several European water resource managers listen to her explanation about the formation of the Horseshoe Bend Division of the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge. The managers were in Louisa County last month as part of nationwide tour of the Mississippi River.

Around 25 European water resource managers recently learned about wetland conservation efforts in Louisa County, when they toured the Horseshoe Bend Division of the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge.

The Europeans stopped in Louisa County late last month, as part of an eight-day trip down the Mississippi River to learn how the U.S. handles a variety of water resource problems.

According to local conservation officials, these "exchange students" were part of a World Wildlife Fund (WWF) project designed to foster understanding between river managers, policy makers, flood control experts and other conservationists.

A similar group of American

resource managers visited Europe last year.

According to Constance Hunt, Director of the WWF's Freshwater Conservation Program, the tours will help develop management plans for both the Mississippi and Rhine Rivers.

"We hope experts from both rivers will be better prepared to balance public demand for reduction in flood damages, improvements in water quality, restoration of native plant and animal communities and improved commercial transportation," she said.

Following their tour of Horseshoe Bend, the group toured farms south of Oakville and enjoyed a pig roast with area farmers.

10/9/97 Wap. Rep.

Farming Alternatives Resource Materials now available at Keck



Llewann Bryant, Keck Memorial Librarian (left), accepts donations of funds and new books from
l-r, front row - LCSWCD Administrative Assistant Janet Williams, Assistant Soil Commissioner and
Farms Forever secretary Kathy Dice and Asst. Soil Commissioner and Farms Forever member Detra
Dettman-Easler. Back row - Soil Commissioner Lee Rowdybush and Farms Forever member Jack
Reif.

Farms Forever, a local Shared Visions group, and the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commission (LCSWDC) are working to make Keck Memorial Library a F.A.R.M. (Farming Alternatives Resource Materials) Library.

F.A.R.M. will provide information on non - conventional farming practices in hopes of promoting farming diversity and sustainable agriculture in Iowa.

Farms Forever received a \$3,026 grant for this project from Shared Visions, a collaborative effort of Practical Farmers of Iowa, ISU Extension and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Funding for Shared Visions came from a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The LCSWDC has also promised continued annual financial sup-

port for the project.

Some of the topics now available at Keck are tree crops, nut growing, pastured poultry, the grass-fed beef business, emu farming, the greenhouse business and permaculture (permanent agriculture). Additional subjects are available through Iowa's inter - library loan system - ask at the Library, or, if you have internet access, through the Iowa Locator service.

Librarian Llewann Bryant says the 12 books donated on Friday will be on display in the "new" book rack and have also been tagged with special F.A.R.M. stickers so they will be easy to spot when added to the general collection. The money donated on Friday will be used to purchase additional books and to process the new books into Keck's collection.

Wap. Rep. 6-5-97

Field to nursery: the life story of a tree

Ever wonder how much time and effort went into growing that beautiful tree you brought home from the nursery? Look behind the scenes with the American Nursery & Landscape Association (ANLA).

A shade tree spends about the first six years of its life with the grower. Most trees start out as small seedlings or cuttings. Often, they are grown for up to two years by a grower who specializes in training vigorous, straight-trunked, healthy young trees.

Next, these young trees are transplanted to the fields of other growers who take the next two to four years producing the trees offered by your garden center or landscape professional. The trees benefit from careful pruning, fertilizing, and other care to keep them strong and healthy.

Most trees are dug from the growers' fields and shipped to market in the early spring or fall, when they are dormant. Once harvested, they can be planted at

any time you can dig a planting hole. Some growers also specialize in "summer-digging" trees.

These trees are usually acclimated under shade or cooling mist, to overcome any shock of being dug during the growing season. Certain trees with coarser root systems can't be dug in summer. River birch and willow oak are two examples.

Evergreens stay an average of five years with the grower. They are often transferred from a small pot to the field. During the five year growing period, plants are sprayed, irrigated, pruned and sheared. Much of the work is done manually over considerable acreage. Growers try to time shipments for fall or spring, the optimum harvesting window for evergreens. Again, you can plant at any time the ground is not frozen.

Quality trees are easy to spot, if you know what to look for. Ask your nursery professional or consult books to learn correct tree structure

before you buy. Some trees need a strong central leader; others are vase-shaped. A firm clay loam root ball is preferable to a loose, sandy root ball because clay holds roots better than sand. The more roots lost, the more shock the tree experiences.

Like children, a tree's strength depends on the quality of its early care. Ask a nursery professional where and how their trees are grown to get the most value for your dollar. Speaking of value, adding larger trees to the landscape increases home value by an estimated 15 to 18 percent.

Soil Conservation Service news

Filter Strips for CRP

Filter strips might be described as the original water purifiers.

Long before they were called anything, strips of grass, trees and shrubs were slowing the flow of water, and filtering sediment before releasing cleaner water into lakes and streams.

Filter strips are valuable because of their ability to collect sediment, chemicals and nutrients. The vegetation uses these nutrients rather than allowing them to enter water supplies.

In addition to their water quality benefits, the grass in filter strips provides cover for small birds and animals. And because they cover the ground, they reduce soil erosion from those areas, too.

The USDA offers a continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up. Filter strips are just one of those eligible practices under this sign-up. Filter strips can be used along drainage ditches, streams, around ponds, and wetlands. Landowners are

paid rental payments each year for taking the land out of production and planting it with grasses.

If you think you may be interested in this program stop by the Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) for more information. The NRCS office can give you guidance on types of grass to plant, an estimate of your rental payment based on the soil types and provide any other technical assistance needed.

Louisa County Conservation Board

Groups discuss environmental education goals

By Connie Street

WAPELLO - A newly formed Langwood Steering Committee held its first meeting Sept. 30. About 20 interested persons are serving on the board.

To assist the group in setting its missions and goals Louisa County Conservation Board Executive Director Jim Rudisill met with the group, then at the regular meeting of the Louisa County Conservation Board held Oct. 1, he discussed the roll of the committee.

"I told them we have a long term interest in Langwood," said Rudisill. "We have a 35-year lease. We've revitalized the latrine and reroofed the shelter and we've done assorted other projects. We are interested in maintaining and improving the reserve."

The conservation board is specifically interested in using the area for environmental education activities.

"We expect the steering committee to present several options to the board," said Rudisill.

Rudisill said he hopes to set up some tours at other residential camps in southeast Iowa.

He also noted that the Wapello D.A.R.E. program is assisting with projects at Langwood 4-H Reserve near Grandview.

The board approved an environmental education proposal with the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District. The program is in two parts: Save Our Soil and Keep Our Water Clean. The soil program will be directed toward Louisa County fifth graders, while the water program is geared to seventh and eighth graders. The soil and water district will pay the conservation board \$50 per class. The two programs are expected to reach 400 students.

According to Rudisill the needs assessment surveys sent out in the mail in September are still coming in. They have not been processed yet, but he said that he expects a change in priorities since the last survey was taken in 1987.

This year two surveys were sent to each household, instead of one. "It's apparent that a lot of women are completing the surveys this time. In 1987 the surveys were completed by about 78 percent men and 22 percent women."

Halloween Hike eyes backyard animals

The annual Halloween Hike is planned for 7 - 9 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 25 at Virginia Grove Recreation Area. This year's theme is "Backyard Wildlife" and the 45 minute hike will take participants past characters such as possums, skunks and raccoons.

Reservations are required for the hike and can be made by calling the Louisa County Conservation Board at 523 - 8381. The hike is free of charge but donations are accepted.

The Halloween Hike is sponsored by the Conservation Board with help from many volunteers and organizations from all over the county.

10/9/97
Wap. Rep.

Workplace Communications Class:

A Hands-on Approach to preparing for Work

by Susan Veach

The 9th graders are already asking, "When can I take that class where you get to go out and work?"

In recent years, several classes at Wapello High School have featured job shadowing experiences. The class currently taught as an English credit is called Workplace Communications, and is offered to juniors and seniors. Students

select an area business and spend the Monday, Wednesday, and Friday class periods working. Tuesday and Thursday are spent in the school-based classroom learning.

At the worksite, students are encouraged to learn everything they can about the business where they are placed. This might include: purchasing and ordering, merchandising, the everyday problems of operation, laws affecting that particular business, and the advantages/disadvantages of owning a business. In addition, students

learn people skills: good telephone manners, how to serve customers, how to resolve a conflict, how to approach a supervisor with a suggestion, and how to interview successfully.

The students respond well to this "hands-on" approach, partly because what they are learning in the classroom will really be used once they are earning a living. Effort is made to avoid a menial "broom pusher" program in which students go out and work but don't learn anything about the business itself. The program is for all students; those who plan to attend a 4-year college will still need workplace skills for the future.

Students and businesses currently participating in the program are:

Ruger Allworth, Allworth Enterprises
Jarrett Ball, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Dustin Breuer, working with

Richard Bryant
Wendy Brown, Hair Dimensions and CC's
Bobby Gerst, Farmers' Elevator and Exchange
Darcy Hardin, The White Elephant at Oakville
Kortney Heater, Wapello Elementary School (Bev Kuntz's classroom)

Angie Hook, Benjamin Apothecary
Kasi Klein, Jack and Jill
Tanya Mitchell, Wapello Elementary School (Linda Gipple's classroom)

Matt Schell, Farmers' Elevator and Exchange

Jason Yackle, Mills Sales and Service

Other business who participated during the first quarter were Tri-State Envelope Corporation and Wapello Food Center. Business interested in participating during third quarter are urged to contact Susan Veach at 319-523-3241.

Reactions from businesses have been very positive. Rosie

Mills at Mills Sales and Service says, "Jason has a very positive attitude toward his work. He is very competent in the mechanical field and capable of handling the tasks assigned to him. I've enjoyed working with him and hope he continues to utilize his ability and pursue secondary education in the mechanical field."

Scott Rollinger, RPA, commented, "The program has been a wonderful opportunity for Benjamin Apothecary and hopefully for the student. Having her [Angie Hook] here has helped tremendously and has made me reflect on how we do things so I can explain to the student why we do the things we do."

Nancy Cardwell of CC's and Wapello Video says, "I think this program is good because it shows the students all the aspects of running and working in a small business."

In the classroom, the traditional textbook is only one of the tools used. Students are

given assignments using computer software, the Internet, and current magazines so that they can have the latest information about the field they are considering and make good decisions.

However, along with this latest information, students need a good traditional background in the basic ethics of work. Examples are maintaining a good attitude, showing up on time neatly dressed, and giving a full day's work.

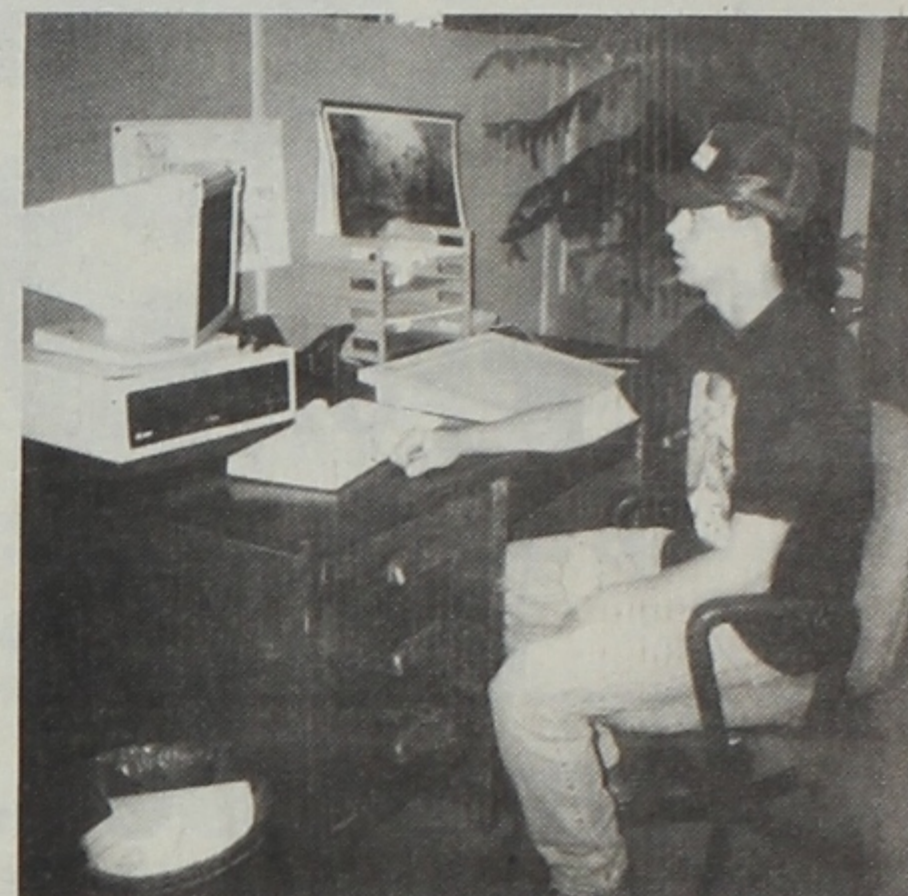
The public is invited to a School-to-Work presentation on December 4 at the high school parent-teacher conferences. The presentations will take place in Ms. Veach's room across from the high school office. Mrs. Vineyard, Mr. Meier, and Ms. Veach will be discussing their workplace programs, along with some of the students involved. Refreshments will be served.

Employers who are participating in the program or who have participated in the

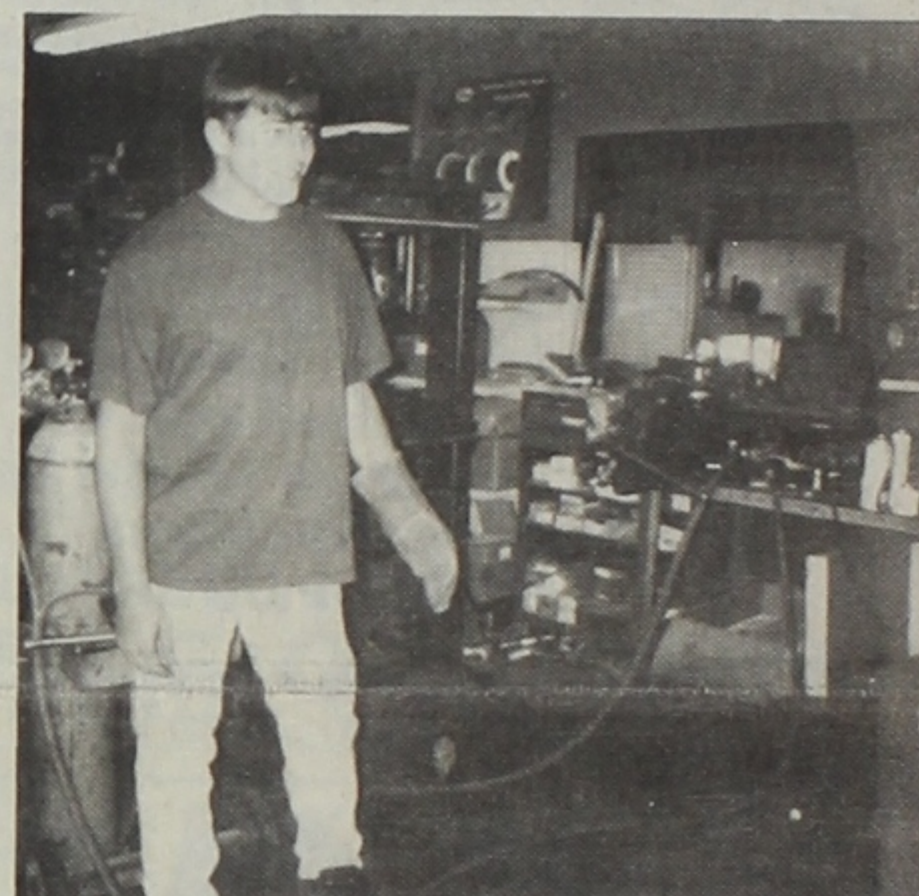
program in the past are welcome to take part in the presentations or set up a display. We would also welcome parents whose

students are in the program, and former students. Call Diane Vineyard or Susan Veach at 523-3241.

FURS WANTED
BUYERS OF FURS, DEER AND BEEF HIDES
MERSCHMAN FUR & WOOL CO.
West Point, IA 319-837-6494
HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 7:30 pm; Sat. 9 am - 4 pm
SUNDAY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY



Jarrett Ball at USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services.



Jason Yackle at Mills Sales and Service



Kasi Klein at Wapello Jack and Jill

0% INTEREST NO DOWN PAYMENT

for 6 Months on all Sony Camcorders.

SONY CCD-TRV12 •2-1/2" color swivel screen •Super long recording time •Digital noise reduction •26 power zoom •0.5 lux low light 	SONY CCD-TRV22 •2-1/2" color swivel screen •Digital noise reduction •Super long recording time •Steady shot stabilization •26 power zoom 	SONY CCD-TRV52 •3 1/2" color swivel screen •5-head recording system •Hi-Fi stereo sound •30 power zoom NEW LASERLINK WIRELESS CONNECTION Transfers pictures & sound to TV without cables
SONY video Hi8 CCD-TRV62 •3-1/2" color screen •Hi-Fi stereo •Steady shot •30 power zoom •Laser link wireless connection •5 head recording 	SONY video Hi8 CCD-TRV82 •4" color screen •Eye level color viewfinder •Steady shot •Hi-Fi stereo •Laser link •5 head recording 	SONY Digital Video Cassette Camcorder DCR-TRV7 •Digital video recording with 680,000 CCD IMAGER •120X digital zoom •Photo mode •Super steady shot
Canon ES870 OPTICAL 20x ZOOM Color! Hi-Fi STEREO 	WE TRADE! Used Camcorders from... 	Canon ES10V OPTICAL 16x ZOOM •16X optical zoom •3" color screen •Digital effects

DIGITAL STILL CAMERAS

The World's First 3.5" Floppy Disk Digital Cam!

SONY Digital Mavica •2.5" LCD viewfinder/ display monitor •Inexpensive 3.5" 2HD floppy disk storage media •Up to 40 images per floppy •Large 640X480 image size •Universal JPEG format 	Four Models From The World's Choice! OLYMPUS Model 220 350,000 pixel \$499 ⁹⁵ Model 320 810,000 pixel \$699 ⁹⁵ OVER 25% Of All Digital Still Cameras Sold Are Returned Due To Inferior Quality NOT SO WITH OYLMPLUS! Model D500 Single lens reflex zoom, 810,000 pixel \$999 ⁹⁵ Model D600 Single lens reflex 200m, 1,410,000 pixel \$1,299 ⁹⁵
Olympus Stylus Epic DLX The smallest, lightest weight Stylus yet! •Quartz date feature •Panoramic picture Capability •All-weather 	YASHICA microTEC 120 EXCELLENCE IN OPTICS •38-120mm Power Zoom Lens •11 Elements in 8 Groups •Extra Quiet, Advanced Zoom Operation •Background Brightness Control •Macro Mode to 15.6 inches •Real Image Zoom Viewfinder •Easy-to-use, Backlit Picture Taking Mode Selection Dial

SOUTHEAST IOWA'S SUPER CAMERA & VIDEO STORE

CAMERA LAND

108 NORTH MAIN STREET • DOWNTOWN BURLINGTON • PHONE: 319-752-0051

WE TRADE

STORE HOURS
 Mon.-Thurs. 9-6
 Friday 9-7
 Saturday 9-5
 Sun. Til Christmas 1-4

Weight Watchers

* FREE OPEN HOUSE MEETING *

• Briggs Center (Briggs Room)
 • North Water St.
 • Wapello, IA
 • Thursday - December 4
 • 5:00 pm

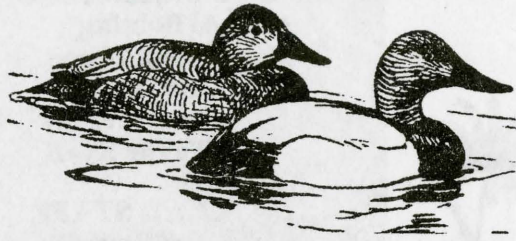
SOMETHING NEW IS HERE!!

123 Success

..Delicious Food Plan...Motivation...Convenience...Support..

IF UNABLE TO ATTEND, CALL 1-800-391-3130 ext 1427 TO REGISTER BY PHONE

As people vary, so does individual weight loss, maintenance, and results. Offer available at COMMUNITY MTGS. only. WEIGHT WATCHERS INT. INC., owner WEIGHT WATCHERS TRADEMARK.



LCCB Newsletter

Louisa County Conservation Board

Volume 11 Issue 4

Fall 1997

For more information
or to register for any
programs listed here,
contact the LCCB
at 523-8381

Bird Feeding

Wednesday, October 15
7:00 p.m.

Columbus Jct State Bank

Learn more about bird feeding and the birds you can attract to winter feeders. Mr. Weir Nelson of Cedar Rapids will be the evening's speaker at this free program cosponsored by the LCCB and the Feed Wagon. In addition there will be handouts, door prizes and more.



Halloween Hike

Saturday, October 25
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Virginia Grove Park

This year's theme is "Backyard Wildlife" but you've probably never seen anything like these creatures anywhere! Skits along the way may include skunks, possums, sparrows and toads.

Reservations are required. Call the LCCB at 523-8381 to reserve a time. This annual event is free of charge but donations are accepted.

Co-sponsors are the LCCB and the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District. The hike is also made possible by volunteers from all over the county.

Wildlife Refuge Driving Tour

Sunday, November 9
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Mark Twain National Wildlife
Refuge, Louisa Division

The wildlife refuge is normally closed to all use from September to January but personnel there are giving the public a one-day opportunity to see the area. Since this should be during the peak of waterfowl migration there is good chance people will see many ducks and geese.

Refuge staff will be on hand to answer questions. There will be a stop along the route where participants can view the waterfowl through spotting scopes.

For more information, contact the refuge at 523-6982.



Park Notes

- Toolesboro is closed for the season except for school groups and organized tours. To make an appointment contact the LCCB office. The museum will reopen to the public in May.
- Water will be shut off at Langwood, Snively and some parts of Virginia Grove by mid-October.
- Sidewalks and the drinking fountain have been completed at Virginia Grove.
- The shelter at Chinkapin is ready for use.

Household Help

No, we aren't offering to come clean your house! However, we may be able to help make



your work around the house, yard and car safer. We use dangerous chemicals every day around our homes and few of us know as much as we should about their proper use and disposal.

The LCCB wants to present a program about these household hazardous materials to your civic, church or neighborhood group. Call Deb at the LCCB to reserve a date.

This educational program is made possible through a grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Cosponsors of the program in Louisa County are the LCCB, the Louisa Regional Waste Authority and the Monsanto Fund.

Backyard Pond Information

Information on building backyard ponds is available at the LCCB office. Stop by and get your copies to use in planning for next spring's garden.

The LCCB serves persons of all abilities. If you require special accommodations to participate in these programs, call the LCCB in advance of the event to make arrangements.

Turn in those surveys!

By the time you get this newsletter, all residents of Louisa County should have also received an LCCB survey. The survey seeks residents' input on conservation board areas, programming and future needs.

If you have not yet gotten your survey, contact the LCCB. If you have, please fill it out and return it! Your input is vital to helping us improve our service to you.

The survey is being funded by the **Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation**. Help in mailing preparation is being supplied by the Odessa Residential Care Center.



Chinkapin Bluffs Shelter

The new picnic shelter at Chinkapin Bluffs Recreation Area has been completed. Funding for construction of the shelter was provided by the board and the Fuller family. The shelter was dedicated in the name of the family at a ceremony on September 7.

Like shelters at other LCCB areas, the Fuller Shelter may be reserved for a \$10 fee by calling the LCCB at least one week in advance. When not reserved, the shelter is available to all park users on a first come basis.

Roadsides in Bloom

Newly paved Louisa County X61 will not only be functional, it should eventually be beautiful. Thanks to a **\$23,900 grant** from the Iowa Living Roadway Trust Fund (LRTF), about **25 acres** along the road will be **planted to native prairie grasses and flowers**.



In addition, a **Truax native grass drill** will be purchased with the grant money and will be available for **wildlife plantings on private ground**.

The roadside planting is a joint project of the LCCB and the Louisa County Engineer's office. Funding for the **LRTF is provided through the Resource Enhancement and Protection program (REAP)**.

Job Opportunity

The LCCB has an opening for a 20 hour/week maintenance technician. Duties include park maintenance, development, equipment upkeep and other responsibilities. The job is funded under the SCSEP program so applicants must be 55 or older and meet income guidelines. Call Jim at the LCCB for more information.

LCCB MEMBERS

Al Bohling
Greg Terry
Lee Harris
Gene Murray
Wayne Ryan

LCCB STAFF

Jim Rudisill
Julie Ohde
Detra Dettmann-Easler
Tom Wahl
Frank Williams
Wilbur Hartsock
Betty Perkins
Ruth O'Brien
Deb Krohn

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 -3:00
or by appointment

The Louisa County Conservation Board meets the last Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Louisa County Heritage Museum, 609 James L. Hodges Avenue, Wapello, Iowa. Meetings are open to the public. These dates are subject to change.

Louisa County's programs and facilities are consistent with pertinent federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age and handicap.

For those who cannot read the size of print in this publication, a larger print version of the text is available by writing or calling the LCCB.



Louisa County Conservation Board
609 James L Hodges Avenue
Box 261
Wapello, Iowa 52653

LOUISA COUNTY SWCD
514 ISETT
WAPELLO IA 52653

BULK RATE
U S POSTAGE
PAID
WAPELLO IA
PERMIT NO 23

2 con.
8.
JUL 7 1997



National Association of Conservation Districts
recognizes

LOUISA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

for
exceeding quota
contribution
1997



June 19, 1997

DATE

GERALD VAP, NACD President

Soil District Scholarship Awarded

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District has awarded its 1997 scholarship to Jennifer Miller of Grandview, Iowa. Miller graduated from L-M Senior High School in May.

In addition to the local award, Miller also competed at the

regional level for scholarships from the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners.

Funding for the local scholarship and other education projects is made possible through tree sales by the soil and water conservation district.

Soil and Water Conservation District offers trees for sale

For the seventh year in a row, trees are being sold at the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District office until February 28. The office is selling a variety of seedlings to raise money for conservation education in Louisa County.

The tree seedlings range from 1 - 4 feet tall and arrive in early April. Varieties include Silver Maple, Butternut, Red Oak,

Eastern White Pine, Colorado Blue Spruce, Black Walnut, Red Osier Dogwood, Common Lilac, and Nanking Cherry. A minimum order is 10 of one variety for \$10. The sale ends February 28.

Also available are tree shelters and Vis-Poe mats to aid in tree growth. For more information, or to place an order call the Louisa County Natural Resource Conservation Service office at 523-6411.

1/23/97

Soil, Water District sells tree seedlings

For the seventh year in a row, trees are being sold at the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District office until February 28. The office is selling a variety of seedlings to raise money for conservation education in Louisa county.

The tree seedlings range from 1-4 feet tall and arrive in early April. A minimum order is 10 of one variety for \$10. The sale ends February 28.

Also available are tree shelters and

Vis-Poe tree mats to aid in tree growth. For more information, or to place an order call the Louisa County Natural Resource Conservation Service office at 523-6411.

11/22/97



*America's
Best*

4-97
I cor' 9.

*Thank
You*

APR 7 1997

Louisa County NRC S,

We all from the socks team
would like to thank you for sponsoring
us last night. Without your support we
wouldn't be able to have our pins

Thanks.

Nathan
Stover

Keith Allen
Carroll Ball

Farming Alternatives Resource Materials Library

group will disband. Members made this choice because they felt they had done some good things together, but their energy was needed elsewhere. A closing committee is overseeing the group's remaining resources during the collection's development. A plan to assure the collection is used was developed and is being implemented. Included in this plan is a

celebratory event this coming winter in Wapello highlighting the collection. **The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners have agreed to support the library in the future.** If anyone would like a title list for the F.A.R.M Library, call Kathy Dice at 319-729-5905.

Franklin County Rural Development Committee

This group's goal is to investigate the feasibility of adding value to local crops and livestock. Their Shared Visions project included activities aimed at this goal. The project also sought to create awareness and demand for value-added products.

The main focus has been high-quality pork products from animals raised without antibiotics. Project activities in 1996 included gathering production information on a swine breed used for these pork products and developing display materials for a booth at the Franklin County fair where the products and other value-added opportunities were promoted.

Another 1996 project component included having the annual fall Hampton Farm-City Banquet focus on value-added production and marketing. The group helped bring Doug Honold, a farmer

from Coon Rapids, to the event to be its keynote speaker. Mr. Honold described his experience developing a beef product and getting this product sold through restaurants and grocery stores to the 160 attendees.

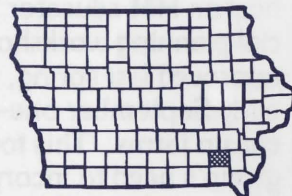
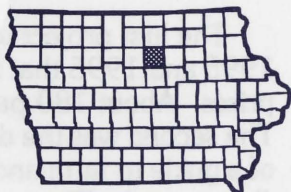
Group members are well-connected to other local groups. Examples include the local FFA and Chamber of Commerce. These connections have been valuable, but members have had severe time limitations. This past spring when group leaders tried to get members to choose another project for their remaining Shared Visions funds, the response was low. Group leaders felt that a project was not possible at that point and they decided take a breather from meeting until this fall.

Growing the Future

This Jefferson County group has been working with more people and expanding its activities, which is consistent with the group's goal. This goal is to develop cooperation and harmony among Jefferson County residents and collaboratively examine and test ideas, crops, and products that are suited to their county and can help farm families be prosperous economically, socially, and environmentally.

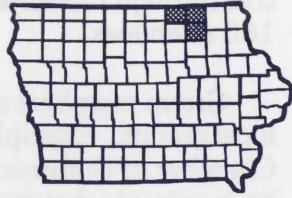
The group is using funds from Shared Visions in three areas: agroforestry; alternative crops; and transitioning land into organic production. The project also includes outreach activities. In 1996 and 1997 they had several field days that were very well attended. With Leopold Center support, Growing the Future and other local groups and agencies held a sustainable agriculture conference in March of 1997 that 250 people attended. These groups also cooperated to publish local newspaper supplements in 1996 and 1997 that described their efforts to develop a more sustainable agriculture in the area. Growing the Future has also brought in speakers for special presentations, the most recent being Bill Heffernan of the University of Missouri.

The group has worked with other local groups to secure additional funding. Last year these groups received a SARE producer grant and another from



area to find enough interested producers to make it economically viable."

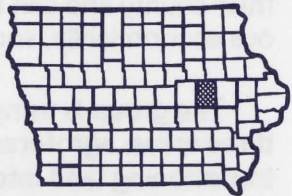
Coalition for Holistic Agricultural Resource Management (CHARM)



This Northeast Iowa group supports its members in their efforts to use Holistic Management (HM) to make decisions. The group includes three non-farming individuals and four farm families. They continue to rotate their monthly meetings between member homes, though they no longer meet during the busy spring and fall.

The group's first Shared Visions project was to host an HM educator for a September 1996 financial planning workshop. Their second project, approved last spring, helped cover the costs of an early September one-day bus tour to several Wisconsin farms. This tour is aimed at addressing the group's need to incorporate more outreach to others in their efforts. Additional outreach after the tour will include stories in newsletters and local papers and a poster presentation at the annual PFI winter workshops.

Farm Fresh CSA



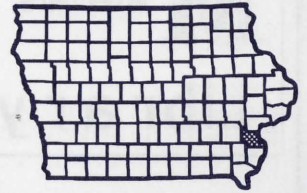
This group used its initial project funds from Shared Visions to establish a new CSA in Benton County. This CSA started in 1995 and included four producers. During the CSA's first year these producers pooled and delivered their vegetables to CSA members. However, the producers lived too far from each other and many of their members, making this operating method inefficient.

Subsequently, the group changed its approach and used Farm Fresh CSA as an umbrella organization. The CSA helped with publicity and member recruitment and each producer had their own members. This operating method worked much better. As well, funds from Shared Visions were to be used to develop a common record-keeping system and

undertake research on cold frames to extend the growing season.

The group's third project was to establish a new farmers' market in Blairstown that would serve local people and visitors to a popular state park nearby. The idea was to involve local youth in the market, with an alternative function being that the market would be a place to sell excess produce from the CSA producers. However, due to time constraints earlier this year the market was never developed.

Louisa Co. Farms Forever



The vision developed by members of this group for its work was "provide quality opportunities for people to work, live, and play through support for owner-operated, diverse, prosperous farms and businesses and a healthy land that people value and support." The group used Shared Visions funding for three projects that were aimed at helping achieve this vision.

The first project was a series of farm tours in 1995 and 1996 that focused on alternative enterprises. About 180 people attended these tours. The second was the development and distribution of a guide to farm and home products of the Louisa County area. This guide included a map of seventeen local operations and descriptions of each. The group distributed the guide widely and had it published in the Wapello newspaper as full-page ad, with the paper giving the group a reduced rate.

The group's final Shared Visions project, which is now being implemented, is developing a collection of resources on alternative farming practices at the Wapello public library. The collection is called the F.A.R.M. Library, which is short for Farming Alternative Resource Materials Library. They are coordinating this project with the Prairie Talk group's organic farming collection at the Solon public library to avoid duplication.

Group members also decided last February that this project will be their last and the

(Continued on next page.)



10/15/98
Wap. Rep

A message to every Iowa farmer

We don't know your plans for your corn and soybean fields this fall after harvest. But we think it's good business for every farmer to think through the reasons for the

actions you take on the farm, this fall or any time.

That includes the reasons for tilling in the fall. It's very difficult to find good reasons – economic or otherwise – to till soybean ground, for instance. And studies show crop systems that make use of heavy residues to hold soil and farm inputs in place also are among the most profitable.

So, if this fall happens to be an open one, and you have the opportunity to fill your land, we just ask that you think it through, to be sure you are tilling for a good reason. We know there are good reasons for not tilling this fall, such as keeping your options open for next spring, and protecting soil and water resources.

If you're one of the thousands of Iowa farmers using a sound crop residue management system, we hope you will encourage others to adopt similar practices.

Before you decide whether you need to do any tillage this fall, we ask you to consider soil conservation and economics as part of that decision.

Dan Brucne, Conservation Districts of Iowa

Doug Lindgren, American Soybean Association

Roy Bardolc, American Soybean Association

Larry Kay, Iowa Corn Growers Association

Ed Weiderstein, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation

Leroy Brown, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Jim Gulliford, Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa Department of Ag and Land Stewardship

Diane Thompson, State Soil Conservation Committee

Wendy Wintersteen, Extension Service, Iowa State University



Ardith Ostrem, librarian at the Columbus Junction Public Library, accepts the books donated to the library in memory of Tom Utter from Kathy Dice, assistant Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation commissioner.

Books donated in memory of Tom Utter

The Columbus Junction library will officially receive a small collection of books from the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners at 10:30 A.M. Wednesday, September 23, 1998, in honor of the late soil commissioner, Tom Utter.

Tom Utter volunteered his time as soil commissioner from 1978 till his death in April of 1998. During that time he served as vice-chairman and chairman, helped raise funds for conservation education, and represented the commissioners on the county REAP

committee.

In his memory the commissioners wished to donate conservation related books to the Columbus Junction library. With the help of head librarian Ardith Ostrem they selected the following books: *Agatha's Feather Bed* (children's book), *Our Endangered Planet: Soil, The Ancient One* (youth adult book), and *Soil Conservation* (text book). The books will be available to the general public after the presentation.

Commissioners seek nominees for election

WAPELLO — The terms of two Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners, Martin Hoeg of Wapello (Wapello Township) and Leland Roudybush of Muscatine (Port Louisa Township) will expire at noon on Jan. 4, 1999. Successors will be elected at the general election on Nov. 3, 1998. The term is 4 years for these two positions.

Two partial terms for Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners will also be on the ballot for the general election. These partial terms would begin immediately following the election and expire Jan. 2, 2001.

Any qualified elector residing in the soil and water conservation district, which is all of Louisa County including cities and towns, is eligible for the office of commissioner, except that no more than one commissioner may be a resident of any one township. The only incumbent commissioner is Mike Braun of Columbus Jct. (Union Township); therefore, residents of this township would not be eligible for office at this time.

Prospective candidates seeking the office of soil and

water 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 Louisa County Courthouse no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 26, 1998.

Individuals elected in November 1998 will serve a term of four years commencing January 4, 1999. Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners serve without a 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 Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District Office, 514 Isett, Wapello, IA 52653, phone 523-6411.

All programs and services of USDA are available to everyone without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin.

In June, the school board heard presentations by four architectural firms: DLR of Des Moines, Durrant of Dubuque, Neumann Monson of Iowa City, and Wehner, Pattschull, Pfiffner of Iowa City and decided to study the presentations before making a decision.

Each of the architectural plans was estimated in the \$7 million to \$8.5 million range. The school has a bonding capacity of \$6.5 million.

Neumann Monson was the preferred choice at a special school board meeting July 13, although Durrant came in a close second. Members of the facilities study committee had been asked to make a recommendation after reviewing the proposals. Their choice was also Neumann Monson.

The facilities committee had set priorities for what is needed in the school building: more and larger classrooms, physical education/recreation/sports areas, labs, music rooms, media center, cafeteria/kitchen, district administrative offices, building administrative offices, auditorium and infrastructure/land/bus barn.

The plans call for a major renovation of the present building, including the infrastructure.

Conservation Reserve Program sign up begins

DES MOINES, Iowa - The U.S. Department of Agriculture will begin accepting applications for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) enrollments under the 18th sign-up period Oct. 27 to Dec 11.

To be eligible for CRP, the land proposed for enrollment must have been planted in an agricultural commodity in at least two of the last five crop years or be marginal pasture that can be planted in trees as a riparian buffer. In addition to those basic requirements, the land must also meet at least one of the following requirements: be considered highly erodible as determined by compliance provisions, be considered a cropped wetland, be subject to scour erosion, be located in a national or stat

Acceptance of land into the CRP is based on the Environmental Benefits Index

(EBI) figure assigned to all lands considered for enrollment. That number is arrived at by calculating the benefits a chosen CRP practice has on wildlife habitat, water quality, on-farm benefits from reduced erosion, longterm benefits, air quality, the benefit of enrolling the land into a Conservation Priority Area and the cost.

Due to its popularity, the CRP has become highly competitive in recent years, said Todd Bogenschutz, DNR wildlife biologist. Consequently, CRP practices that scored high enough to be accepted in the past may not qualify now. To increase the chance for acceptance, Bogenschutz recommends landowners consider a CRP practice that will maximize the EBI figure while keeping costs affordable. Bogenschutz said the practices that scored highest in the 16th sign-up will also score

the highest in the current

One CRP practice Bogenschutz recommends landowners consider is the CP-4D permanent wildlife habitat practice. Under the practice, landowners can choose from five options when considering a planting program. According to Bogenschutz, CP-4D allows for planting of the least expensive seeding mixture while giving the landowner the most flexibility in what is planted. It also gives the landowner the maximum amounts of points allowed for the wildlife cover factor of the EBI.

Landowners interested in the CP-4D practice should contact the NRCS district conservationists in their county for additional information.

DNR wildlife biologists will also work with landowners to develop the optimal habitat plan for CP-4D contracts.

11/12/98 Wapello Republican

Conservation District seeks commissioners

WAPELLO - The terms of two Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners, Martin Hoeg of Wapello, (Wapello Township) and Leland Roudybush of Muscatine (Port Loiesia Township) will expire at noon on Jan. 4, 1999. Successors will be elected at the general election on November 3, 1998. The term is 4 years for these two positions.

Two partial terms for Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners will also be on the ballot for the general election. These partial terms would begin immediately following the election and expire Jan. 2, 2001.

Any qualified elector residing in the soil and water conservation district, which is all of Louisa county including cities and towns, is eligible for the office of commissioner, except that no more than one commissioner may be a resident of any one township. The only incumbent commissioner is Mike Braun of Columbus Jct. (Union Township); therefore, residents of this township would not be eligible for

office at this time.

Prospective candidates seeking the office of soil and water 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 Louisa County Courthouse no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 26, 1998.

Individuals elected in November 1998 will serve a term of four years commencing January 4, 1999. Soil & Water 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 Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District Office, 514 Isett, Wapello, IA 52653, phone 523-6411.

District Commissioners meet

3/12/98

WAPELLO - The Louisa Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners will meet at 1 p.m. Monday, March 16, at the NRCS Office 514 Isett St., Wapello.



National Association of Conservation Districts
recognizes

LOUISA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

for
exceeding quota
contribution

1998



May 4, 1998

DATE

Rudy K. Rice

RUDY K. RICE, NACD President

May 28 1998
Rice

MAY 08 1998



DELBERT WINTERFELD
Secretary-Treasurer

May 4, 1998

**Board of Commissioners
LOUISA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
514 ISETT ST
WAPELLO IA 52653**

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the National Association of Conservation Districts, thank you so much for your district's quota contribution for 1998. We are honored to have your confidence and commitment as we fulfill our mission to conserve America's precious natural resources.

Your outstanding support of NACD places your district at the highest recognition level for quota contribution. We would be so very pleased if you would display the accompanying five-star certificate in a prominent place to show your support for natural resource conservation.

NACD exhibited remarkable health this past year and 1998 looks even more prosperous. Many portions of the landmark *21st Century Task Force Report* are now in operation, and control of NACD is more firmly in the hands of local conservation districts and their state associations. That is the way it should be.

Most important, however, NACD, can and will continue to support each local conservation district as they work to improve the quality of the land and water that we care for so much. Thanks to your support, our organization and the conservation district movement are stronger than ever. For that reason alone, we will continue to earn your trust.

Very truly yours,

Delbert Winterfeld
Secretary/Treasurer

DW/plm

THIS IS YOUR RECEIPT. Amount Pd : \$ 550.00

National Association of Conservation Districts
408 East Main Street - P.O. Box 855 - League City, TX 77574-0855
Phone (281) 332-3402 - FAX (281) 332-5259

*Came after
sent in carbon
receipt.*

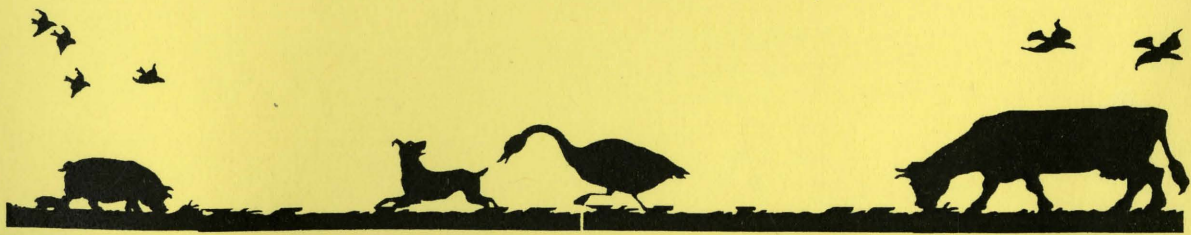
Come Join Us...

F.A.R.M. Library Celebration Dinner



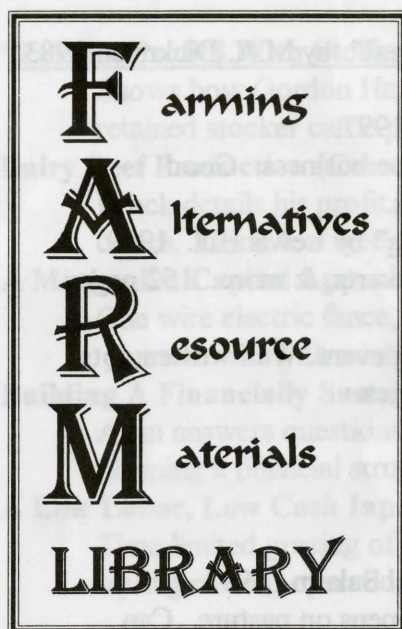
Thursday, 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
January 29
Heritage Center, Hwy 61
Wapello, Iowa

The Shared Visions group, Farms Forever will be hosting a free dinner of emu meat and pasture raised chicken to celebrate the creation of their alternative agriculture library. During the evening there will also be presentations on tree crops, emus, and pasture raised chicken. All are invited but pre-registration is required. To make a reservation call Kathy Dice at 319/728-5905 by January 26.



Attended by: Lee Roudy bush Swed Chairman;
Janet Williams, D. Secretary; Tom Wahl, Kathy Dice, +
Detra Dettman-Easler, Assistant Commissioners.

98?



F.A.R.M. Library Title List

January 1998

Below are materials available at the **Keck Memorial Library** in **Wapello, Iowa**. You may receive these books, videos, and other publications through Iowa's interlibrary loan system. Tell your librarian the title and author of the publication that interests you and that the material is available at Wapello, Iowa.

The libraries will pay for the postage of mailing the material, but a small donation to your library will help defray their costs.

If you have internet access you may use the Iowa Locator to find more titles of interest. You may visit the web site of our sister library, **Prairie Talk** in Solon, Iowa at <http://www.netfrog.com/prairietalk/>. Prairie Talk has organized a resource library on Organic Farming.

Crop Ideas and Information

"A Farmer's Legal Guide to Production Contracts" by Neil D. Hamilton. 1995.

A comprehensive legal guide for farmers and their lawyers on production contracts.

Easy to read and understand. Good to read before you sign a contract. 175 pages.

"Alternative Field Crops Manual" Univ. of Wisconsin-Extension, Univ. of Minnesota. 1989.

Concisely and uniformly covers 50 different crops with 50 chapters. Well organized and easy to read. Includes amaranth, flax, lupine, sesame, wild rice, and more. Growing advice is biased toward production using high chemical and machinery inputs. Over 400 pages.

"Tree Crops - A Permanent Agriculture" by J. Russell Smith. 1950.

Smith was ahead of his time by advocating fruit and nut trees with pasture as a way to bring profitability and soil stability to farms. An enjoyable classic. 408 pages.

"Nut Growing Ontario Style" John Gordon Jr. 1993.

A guide to establishing nut tree plantings in fluctuating temperate climates. Published by the Society of Ontario Nut Growers. 171 pages.

"Pecans: A Grower's Perspective" by G. Wesley Rice. 1994.

A humorous and detailed textbook on northern pecans and their cultivation. 198 pages.

"Diseases of Trees in the Great Plains" by Jerry W. Riffle & Glenn W. Peterson. 1986.

Excellent photos and clear writing allow for easy identification of diseases on trees in your yard, orchard, or windbreak. Also gives advice on control. 149 pages.

"Shiitake Growers Handbook" by Przybylowicz and Donoghue. 1990.

Well written and illustrated book. Gives beginner or grower everything he needs to know to be successful in this specialized, high-value crop. 217 pages.

"American Ginseng - Green Gold" by W. Scott Persons.

An excellent guide to ginseng production. Valuable for novice and experienced grower alike. Detailed information on site selection, planting, maintenance, harvesting, expected yields, marketing, and more. Covers different growing methods, low input to intensive. 172 pages.

"How To Raise Two Cash Crops For Profit - Ginseng and Golden Seal" by M.A. Dickman. 1983.

Some information on raising goldenseal and ginseng. 36 pages.

"Secrets To a Successful Greenhouse and Business" by T.M. Taylor. 1997.

A complete guide to starting and operating a wholesale greenhouse business. Good details on greenhouse and small business management. 154 pages.

"Christmas Trees - Growing and Selling Trees, Wreaths, and Greens" by Lewis Hill. 1989.

Well written. Covers land, species, growth, care, equipment, markets, & more. 152 pages.

"The Perfect Pumpkin" by Gail Damerow. 1997.

This guide covers pumpkins as a value added crop and marketing event. Well written, lots of good information. Not for large commercial growers. 220 pages.

Livestock Options

Poultry

"Pastured Poultry Profit\$ - Net \$25,000 in 6 months on 20 acres" Joel Salatin. 1993.

A proven, labor intensive method for raising chickens in movable pens on pasture. Can produce an income from a small acreage as good or better than most off farm jobs.

Pastured Poultry Profits (Video) by Joel Salatin.

See the whole Salatin process from start to finish. Shows all actions, such as how the grazing cages are moved and butchering. Very detailed video. 45 minutes.

"Chicken Tractor...All New Straw Bale Edition" By Andy Lee & Pat Foreman. 1994.

The book that inspired pastured poultry. A guide to raising poultry in movable pens on your garden, yard or pasture. 320 pages.

Sheep/Goats/Pigs

Spring Pasture Lambing (Cassette Tape) by Janet McNally. 1994.

How to eliminate the need for lambing barns in a subdivided pasture situation, can actually produce healthier lambs. Excellent live recording from grazing conference.

"Grass Farmers" by Allan Nation. 1993.

A collection of stories of grass farmers. Specific and diverse examples will give you a jumpstart on ideas for beef, dairy, sheep, goats, pigs, or poultry on pasture. 192 pages.

Cattle

Grass Dairying: An Introduction to Rotational Grazing (Video)

Shows how to use stockpiled autumn grown pasture and intensive grazing to extend the grazing season. Will work with sheep or beef cattle too. 30 minutes.

Milking Systems - New Zealand Style (Video) by Vaughan Jones.

Shows simple efficiency of New Zealand dairies and labor saving tips. 17 minutes.

Pasture Primer: A Hands On Guide to controlled Grazing (Video) by Pratt & Ingram

Excellent introduction to the principles of controlled grazing and pasture ecology.

Includes pamphlet with summary and exercises. 60 minutes.

"Salad Bar Beef" Joel Salatin. 1995.

A guide to a tried and proven method for entering the natural, grass-fed beef business.

Shows how to get a \$500/acre return on small farms. 368 pages.

"Pa\$ture Profit\$ With Stocker Cattle" by Allan Nation. 1992.

Shows how Gordon Hazard accumulated and stocked a 3000-acre ranch solely from retained stocker cattle profits with no bank leverage. 192 pages.

Dairy Beef Production (Cassette Tape) by W.A. Brock. 1992.

Brock details his profit figures and shows how to successfully buy and graze baby dairy calves. Good live recording from grazing conference.

A Minimalist Capital Approach To Ranching (Cassette Tape) by R.L. Dalrymple. 1992.

One wire electric fence, no hay, no feed, ATV's rather than tractors - technology allows you to ranch with minimum of capital. Excellent live recording from conference.

Building A Financially Sustainable Operation (Cassette Tape) by Allan Nation.

Allan answers questions about getting started in grass farming, time frames to profitability, and planning a financial structure. Excellent recording, interview style.

A Low Labor, Low Cash Input Cow-Calf Operation (Cassette Tape) by R.L. Dalrymple.

Time limited grazing of stockpiled fescue or annual ryegrass can keep costs low in a spring calving operation. Excellent live recording from conference.

Exotic Livestock

"The Emu Farmer's Handbook" by Maria and Phillip Minnaar. 1992.

A bible for emu farmers. This book is easy to read, well illustrated, and very informative. Covers handling, nutrition, chick care and much more. 178 pages.

"Deer Farming: A Practical Guide To German Techniques" by Gunter Reinken. 1987.

A very full and comprehensive book on fallow and red deer farming. Written for use in Germany, but lots of useful information for Iowans. 289 pages.

"Buffalo Producer's Guide To Management & Marketing" National Buffalo Assc. 1990.

An easy to read textbook on raising, feeding, breeding and marketing bison. 543 pages.

"Upland Game Birds: Their Breeding and Care" Leland B. Hayes. 1995.

Practical information for the beginner or experienced game bird breeder. Covers a total of 44 species of quail, partridge, pheasant, wild turkeys, and guinea fowl. 360 pages

"Red Claw: Raising the Giant Australian Freshwater Crayfish" 1995.

A practical guide. Red Claws grow large in warm water in one year. 47 pages.

"Small Scale Crayfish Farming For Food and Profit" by D.R. Wilson. 1989.

Concise booklet of research and personal experience on raising crayfish. Advice on raising in Northern states. 50 pages.

Elk

"Elk Farming Handbook" by Thorleifson, Pearse, and Friedel. 1997.

Excellent manual that gives details on raising, breeding, and marketing elk. Includes financial analysis of start up and of costs and returns. 213 pages.

Animal Health & Welfare (Video) by Bob Hudson. 1997.

North America's Elk Breeders Association convention presentation on raising Elk. Good sound quality, decent visual.

Animal Nutrition (Video) by Dr. Lyle Renecker. 1997.

N.A. Elk Breeders Ass. convention presentation on animal nutrition. Very detailed and comprehensive. Good sound quality, decent visual.

Farm Management

"Holistic Resource Management" by Allan Savory. 1988.

The thought model used for economic and ecological decisions in HRM is explained in detail here. Useful for any natural resource user. 512 pages.

"Holistic Resource Management Workbook" by Sam Bingham with Allan Savory. 1990.

HRM theories explained in cowboy english and shows how to put them to work for your ranching operation. 181 pages.

"Introduction To Permaculture" by Bill Mollison. 1991.

A guide to creating sustainable human environments. Covers permaculture principles, site designs, garden, tree and grain crops, animal forage systems, and more. 216 pages.

"Permaculture - A Designer's Manual" by Bill Mollison. 1988.

Text book used for teaching permaculture. The philosophy behind permaculture is one of working with, rather than against, nature. Wonderfully complex concepts are explained simply and elegantly. Hundreds of informative illustrations. 575 pages.

Business/Marketing Ideas

"How To Earn Extra Money In the Country" by Ken Scharabok. 1996.

An index of ideas for making money in rural areas. Easy to use with lots of additional sources of information offered. 202 pages.

"The Agri-Preur's Prosperity Manual" by Peter Reese. 1995.

How to survive and profit in the new economy and rediscover the joy of rural living.

Shows self-reliant rural families how to manage a profitable business. 92 pages.

"52 Ways To Accelerate Profits" by Peter Reese. 1995.

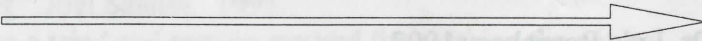
Manual on how to build a business without giving away the store. 116 pages.

"Free To Create" by Peter Reese. 1996.

How to combine inspiration, research and proven outlines to influence others and change our world. 142 pages.

The **F.A.R.M.** library was created with a grant from **Shared Visions** which is a collaborative effort of Practical Farmers of Iowa, ISU Extension, and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Shared Visions is supported by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Continued yearly support for the **F.A.R.M.** library is provided by the **Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners.**

For more information about any of these titles or the **F.A.R.M.** library please contact Kathy Dice at (319)729-5905. To receive an updated list of books available please send a self addressed, stamped envelope to: 

Farms Forever
c/o Kathy Dice
13882 "T" Ave.
Wapello, Iowa 52653
(319)729-5905



County Conservation Board hosted its annual Halloween Hike at Virginia Grove Park last Oct. 24. Once again the hike was a big success with and another good turnout. Pictured above. (left) and Wayne Gieselmann (right) perform as a flying squirrel and Super Squirrel.

10/98 Wap. Rep.

Halloween Hike



Deb Krohn played the part of a morel mushroom and her twin sister, Amy Spencer, was a stinkhorn during the conservation board's annual Halloween Hike last week.

10/98 was.
Rep.



1923 **75th** 1998 **Anniversary**

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship cordially invites you to an employee celebration of our 75th Anniversary at 1:30 p.m. on October 16th, 1998.

The festivities will take place in the Wallace Building Auditorium, with refreshments following. Please help celebrate this milestone.



**Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Dale M. Cochran
Secretary of Agriculture**



OCT 08 1998

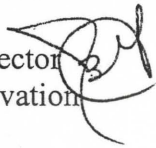
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship



DALE M. COCHRAN
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

(515) 281-6146

TO: Division of Soil Conservation Field Office Staff

FROM: James B. Gulliford, Director 
Division of Soil Conservation

DATE: October 7, 1998

RE: IDALS 75th Anniversary Employee Celebration Travel Authorization

An announcement was mailed this week to each SWCD office announcing the 1:30 p.m., October 16, 1998, observance of the 75th anniversary of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. The observance will take place in the Wallace Building Auditorium, East 9th and Grand, Des Moines.

DSC field employees who choose to attend are authorized to do so. Those attending may claim mileage and lunch reimbursement within state allowances. Please combine travel whenever possible to reduce costs.

If travel time and participation in this event will exceed a normal eight-hour work day, contact your supervisor to arrange an adjusted schedule for the work week (October 16-22). Likewise, if your normal Friday work day is four hours and you choose to attend the celebration, contact your supervisor to arrange an adjusted work schedule.

JBG:ejj

1923 **75th** 1998 Anniversary

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

75th Anniversary Celebration
Wallace Building - Des Moines, IA
October 16, 1998

In 1923...

- The Nobel Prize for Literature was won by William B. Yeats.
- Forming a cloud 300 miles long and 100 miles wide, grasshoppers destroyed crops in Montana.
- The first issue of *Time* magazine is published.
- U.S. Steel reduces its working day from 12 hours to eight hours and profits increase.
- An earthquake in Tokyo, Japan kills 100,000 people.
- The first electric razor is patented by Schick.
- President Coolidge lights the first White House Christmas Tree.
- Sanka Coffee is introduced.
- Milky Way and Butterfinger candy bars are introduced.
- Robert Frost writes "Stopping by Woods on a snowy Evening."
- Gaston Ramon of France develops the tetanus toxoid which leads to wide-scale immunization against the disease.
- "Yes, We Have No Bananas" and "Who's Sorry Now" are two of the most popular songs of the year.
- Edwin Hubble, U.S. astronomer, discovers that the blurry masses in the Milky Way, once considered gaseous bodies, are actually stars, thus proving the galaxy is much larger than originally thought.

Agricultural Facts

	1923	1998
Number of Farms	213,000	98,000
Total Acres Farmed	33.28 million	33.20 million
Average Farm size (acres)	160	339
Total Value of Iowa Farm Products	\$500 million	\$12.9 billion
Number of Hogs on Farm	15 million (Oct. 1)	15.2 million (Sept. 1)
Number of Cattle (Total Cattle Jan. 1)	4.34 million	3.75 million
Corn Yield (bushels per acre)	41	138
Corn Price (per bushel)	\$0.62	\$2.52 (1997)
Principal Crops	Corn, Oats Wheat	Corn, Soybeans





In Loving Memory

THE BROKEN CHAIN

We little knew that morning that God

Was going to call your name.

In life we loved you dearly,

in death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you,

you did not go alone:

for part of us went with you,

the day God called you home.

You left us peaceful memories,

your love is still our guide;

and though we cannot see you,

you are always at our side.

Our family chain is broken,

and nothing seems the same;

but as God calls us one by one,

THE CHAIN will link again.

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS RICHARD UTTER

March 5, 1948 - April 22, 1998

SON OF
Richard & Phyllis Hesseltine Utter

HUSBAND OF
Janet Allman Utter

FATHER OF
Sara, William & Katie

FUNERAL SERVICE
Saturday, April 25, 1998
10:00 AM
Stacy-Lewis Chapel
Columbus Junction, Iowa

CLERGY
Rev. Walden Paige

MUSIC
Marsha Gerot

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS

Bill Besgrove	Randy Griffin
Roger Hunt	Charles Shellabarger
Dick Grimm	Dana Troyer
Lowell Baker	Bill Faler
Steve Eberlein	Mark Smith
Roger Hafner	John Allman

CASKET BEARERS

Jim Utter	Eric Tackenburg
Bob Utter	Don Deckert
Dan Wanfalt	Matt Gish

INTERMENT
Newell Cemetery
Columbus Junction, Iowa

Miss Quad approved for environmental funding

USDA has approved \$31,000 in funding for Miss-Quad, a four county project under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). A local work group determined an area located north and east of Grandview as a viable project under EQIP and is an environmental priority for Louisa County.

Land treatment and education for this project will focus on soil resources and water quality as the primary concerns. The secondary concerns for this area are sedimentation, aquifer protection from chemicals and flooding.

Now that the project is approved, the local work group determined the eligible practices to address the natural resource concerns. They established cost share, incentive payments and methods of cost-share for eligible prac-

tices as well as establishing the application sign and ranking periods.

Sign up began on May 15 and will end on June 15 for Miss-Quad. Producers in Miss-Quad may sign up at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or the Farm Service Agency (FSA). EQIP is a locally led program, and 1998 is the first year that local projects have been established and funded. This program affords a great deal of local input with USDA agencies serving as the local contact. Under EQIP, landowners sign 5 to 10 year contracts that include treatment on land to a sustainable level for the natural resource concern. Statewide, \$5.4 million was distributed in Iowa among 52 projects.

Col. Gazette 4/3/98

Natural resources conservation service restores floodplain wetlands in Iowa

The WRP is a USDA program that producers can use to restore wetlands on floodplain croplands. The USDA pays the producer the appraised value of the land in exchange for an easement that retires the land from cropping. As much as 25% of the area may consist of noncropland and still be part of the easement payment. The restoration work may include earthwork to construct shallow water areas, tree plantings and prairie grass plantings. NRCS pays for 100 percent of the restoration and easement cost. It's a good alternative for producers frustrated with flooding and crop damages. Louisa County has over 4,272 acres of floodplains already under easement through the Wetland Reserve Program and Emergency Wetland Reserve Program. The EWRP was especially designed to help landowners recover from damages caused by the great flood of 1993. Both programs have been used to restore wetland values important for water quality. Wetlands act as "bladders" for both our ground and surface waters. Rain is captured in to low lying areas where it undergoes physical and biological processes that clean contaminates from

the water. Iowa lost more than 90 percent of its wetlands in the past century. Restoring wetlands is important for Iowa's environment.

The Wetland Reserve Program continues to be funded. Producers apply at the Natural Resources Conservation Service office by completing an application and ranking form. The applicant is not obligated until he or she agrees to the appraised easement offer.

Wetlands can be developed on the upland via the Conservation Reserve Program. It includes a practice that landowners can use to create shallow water areas on up to five acres of upland cropland. It pays for 50% of the cost of building a small dam for storing shallow water. It also pays a ten year rental payment for the area taken out of production. Once the ten years has expired, the producer can return the site to its former condition for farming. Creating a wetland to filter sediments from runoff can effectively improve water quality. This program is especially attractive since it is part of the Continuous Sign-Up under the Conservation Reserve Program.

Col. Gazette 8/19/98

NRCS honors members

WAPELLO – The Louisa Soil and Water Conservation Service, 514 Isett St., will host an open house from 11 a.m. to noon, Friday, Dec. 18, at the NRCS office in Wapello. Retiring District Commissioners Martin Hoeg and Lee Roudybush will be honored and four new commissioners, Harold Hunter

of Columbus City Township, Kathy Dice of Grandview Township, Virgil Corey of Wapello Township, and Mary Boysen of Marshall Township, will be welcomed to the board.

The public is invited to stop by for refreshments, and to meet the new commissioners.

Practical Farmers of Iowa

Farmers helping farmers
make better decisions



Farms • Families • Communities

• PFI's mission •

to promote farming systems that are
profitable, ecologically sound, and good
for families and communities



STEWARDSHIP AND PROFIT

FARMS, FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES

Practical Farmers of Iowa

Founded in 1985 —

Comprised of over 500 farmer and non-farmer members —

A nonprofit organization that works to —

- encourage on-farm, farmer-managed research into profitable farming methods that preserve the land while supporting farming families
- share the results of this research with neighboring families
- invigorate, strengthen, and sustain rural communities



Stewardship and profit

PFI holds that —

- profitable farming can preserve soil and water while protecting the health and income of farm families,
- farmers and agricultural scientists, working together, are finding ways to make this happen, and in turn
- rural communities are being revitalized.

STEWARDSHIP AND PROFIT

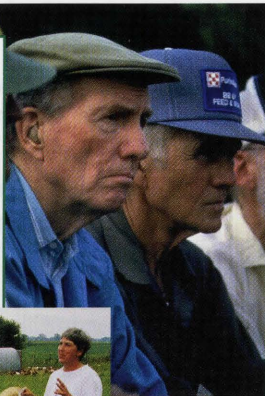
FARMS, FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES

Community-based farming

PFI farmers are active members of their communities. They know that the character of rural towns reflects the farming that surrounds them, and their concerns are reflected in the practices they use. Their knowledge about these practices comes from personal experience and their own research. They share this knowledge with others from their communities through field days, meetings, and workshops.

"PFI is the premier farmer driven research organization in sustainable agriculture, having a strong and active membership, a credible vision and mission, creating tangible models on-farm."

...W. K. Kellogg Foundation



Courtesy of Jerald Dewart



Partnerships

Partnerships and the support they generate are important to PFI. Partners include:

- Iowa State University Extension
- Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture
- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE) of the USDA
- Iowa State University Department of Agronomy
- Iowa State University Department of Sociology
- W. K. Kellogg Foundation
- The Northwest Area Foundation
- Wallace Genetic Foundation
- The Educational Foundation of America
- Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
- Community Food Projects Program of the USDA

Since 1985, this support, together with member's dues, has totaled over \$2,000,000.

Farmer-managed research

PFI cooperators determine what management practices they will evaluate on their own farms. Each year they carry out several dozen trials and collect the data themselves, analyzing results with assistance from Iowa State University scientists. The field trial design is simple, yet it allows trial results to be evaluated statistically. These trials often compare the cooperator's customary practice side-by-side with an alternative practice.

Ingenuity and innovation

The on-farm research of PFI cooperators has led to a wide range of new techniques. Innovations found on PFI farms include weed management with reduced tillage, grass-based livestock systems, certified organic production, effective nutrient rates and placement, specialty crops, agroforestry, and alternative models of pork and poultry production. These techniques build on the strengths and resources of each farm. They produce profits while maintaining ecological integrity and balance.

PFI members are also leaders in new marketing models. They use a variety of direct marketing techniques to supply their urban neighbors with high quality beef, pork, poultry, eggs, fruits and vegetables. These techniques are reconnecting farmers with their communities while enhancing local economies.

Member benefits

- Quarterly newsletter (*The Practical Farmer*)
- Lending library with over 150 books and videos
- District meetings and local get-togethers for information and social exchanges
- Member directory of skills and interests
- Guide to statewide field days
- Summer camp for families and youth
- Womens' annual winter gathering
- Direct contact with growers for meat, vegetables, and fruits
- Workshops and seminars across the state on new practices

Note to non-farmers

Many non-farmers belong to our organization. If you are interested in environmental quality, safe and healthful foods, and vibrant rural communities, you can help achieve these goals by joining Practical Farmers of Iowa.

Please mail form and check to
Practical Farmers of Iowa
2035 190th St.
Boone, IA 50036-7423



PFI Membership Application

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
COUNTY _____
STATE _____ PHONE _____

DO YOU RECEIVE A SIGNIFICANT PART OF YOUR INCOME DIRECTLY FROM FARMING IN IOWA? YES _____ NO _____

INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS: \$20 - ONE YEAR; \$50 - THREE YEARS

Farmers helping farmers make better decisions

PFI
2035 190th St.
Boone, IA 50036-7423



Courtesy of Jerald Dewitt

lo Republican

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1998

50¢ per copy

per. Serving all of Louisa County. Box 306, Wapello, Iowa 52653

Wapello City Council

Riverbank project grant approved

By Jim Rudisill

WAPELLO - The Wapello City Council has agreed to move forward with an erosion control project on the Iowa River, after learning Friday that a \$126,875 state grant has been approved for the work.

Mayor L.J. Thompson told the council during a special session the state funding will be funneled through the Imminent Threat Set-Aside of the Iowa Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). It will be combined with more than \$1 million in federal funds already earmarked for the project through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program.

Wapello will still need to provide about \$60,000 to meet the total estimated project cost.

"I don't know where we're going to get that money," Mayor L.J. Thompson said, but indicated borrowing or using money left over in this year's budget might be options.

The funds will be used to stabilize several hundred feet of riverbank north of the Iowa Highway 99 Bridge. An unsuccessful effort was made several years ago to stop the erosion along that section of bank by using concrete aprons.

Later, the city used a different method south of the bridge,

reshaping the bank, driving wood pilings and using riprap.

Officials said they will use that method on the latest control effort.

Officials did not indicate when construction will begin.

In other action, the council also approved hiring Tammy Pallister, Wapello, as a new full-time city employee.

Officials said they expect Pallister to initially spend most of her time at city hall. City Clerk Gwen Wilkerson is currently on medical leave and a part-time assistant recently quit. The city has been filling in with a temporary employee.

Once Wilkerson returns to work, Pallister may spend time at the library or other city departments.

Council member Ed Fisher said that might cause problems, particularly at the library, since Pallister's starting wage will be higher than other city workers there.

"I suggest we don't get a full-time person," he said.

Other council members however disagreed.

"I know what you're saying, but we need a full-time person right away - right now," Jim Keldgord said.

Wapello Republican

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1998

50¢ per copy

Serving all of Louisa County. Box 306, Wapello, Iowa 52653

Wapello City Council

Riverbank project receives funding

By Jim Rudisill

WAPELLO - The latest effort to solve the Iowa riverbank erosion problem in Wapello has received a shot in the arm from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Wapello Mayor L.J. Thompson told the city council last week the NRCS has transferred \$720,625 in funding assistance to Des Moines. Thompson said the money will be available for the city to use on a proposed erosion control project once the city agrees to move forward with the proposal.

The city however is waiting to hear about additional funding from a state agency before it makes a final decision.

According to Thompson, the additional funding from the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) is needed to meet the project's projected cost of \$827,500. If the IDED funds are provided, the final



These concrete pads were installed north of the Iowa 99 bridge to inhibit erosion. They have deteriorated and will be replaced.

the riverbank north of the Iowa Highway 99 bridge have failed.

apparently been successful at slowing the erosion south of the

be a new position. Currently the city employs one full-time clerk and a part-time clerk.

Soil, Water Commissioners meet

WAPELLO — The Louisa Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners will hold their regular meeting at 7 p.m. July 27, 1998, at the Natural Resources Conservation Office at 514 Isett, Wapello, IA 52653.

All programs and services of USDA are available to everyone without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin.

APR 29 1998

To
Thank You



Thank-you so much
for all you guys have
done. It is greatly
appreciated. Thanks
for the memorial gift.
He really enjoyed working
with the NECS staff.

To thank you
and to say
your thoughtfulness
meant so much
The Tom Utter family.

APR 15 1998

Don
Young

Louisa County NRCS,

Thank you for sponsoring
the Soils CDE awards at the
ffa banquet. Your support
is greatly appreciated.

Jon Ball
George
Richell

- Justin McElroch
Nathan Curtis Stover

Memorial for Tom Utter

The Columbus Junction library will officially receive a small collection of books from the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 23, 1998 in honor of the late soil commissioner, Tom Utter.

Tom Utter volunteered his time as soil commissioner from 1978 till his death in April of 1998. During that time he served as vice-chairman and chairman, helped raise funds for conservation education, and represented the commissioners

on the county REAP committee.

In his memory the commissioners wished to donate conservation related books to the Columbus Junction library. With the help of head librarian Ardith Ostrem they selected the following books: *Agatha's Feather Bed* (children's book), *Our Endangered Planet; Soil, The Ancient One* (young adult book), and *Soil Conservation* (text book). The books will be available to the general public after the presentation.



Obituaries

Thomas R. Utter

Funeral services for 50 year old Thomas Richard Utter of Columbus Junction were held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 25 at the Stacy-Lewis Funeral Home, Columbus Junction, Iowa with the Rev. Walden Paige officiating. Burial was in the Newell Cemetery, rural Columbus Junction. Tom Utter died Wednesday at Muscatine General Hospital, Muscatine, Iowa following a farm accident.

In lieu of flowers the family requested that stuffed animals be given to be donated to a local hospital.

A memorial has been established at the funeral home for his children's education.

Visitation was held 4 - 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home with the family present.

Thomas Richard Utter was born March 5, 1948 in Muscatine, Iowa to Richard and Phyllis Hesselstine Utter. Tom married Janet Anne Allman July 22, 1972 in Arlington, Virginia.

Tom had been a farmer in the area. He was a 1972 graduate of Iowa State University. He was a member of the Louisa County Farm Bureau, the Louisa County Soil Conservation Board and the Louisa County Cattlemen Association. Tom was also a member of the National Rifle Association, the West Liberty Gun Club, and the Wilton Gun Club. Tom was a Methodist by faith.

Tom is survived by his wife, Janet, three children, Sara, William Richard and Katie Utter, all at home, Columbus Junction; his parents, Richard and Phyllis Utter and his grandmother, Callie Hesselstine, all of Columbus Junction; two brothers, Bob and Nancy Utter, Columbus Junction and Jim and Bonnie Utter, Bondurant, Iowa; two sisters, Janine Utter, Columbus Junction and Julie Utter-Beuter, Walker, Iowa; and many nieces and nephews.

WHIP Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

The U. S. Department of Agriculture conservation officials in Iowa have announced allocations of \$263,552 in wildlife conservation funds targeted to three priority practices in the state. The funds will be available during fiscal year 1998 to help Iowans develop and improve fish and wildlife habitat on private lands through the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

Under WHIP, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical assistance, including helping participants prepare a wildlife habitat development plan, and cost share payments up to 75% of the cost of implementing practices, such as planting native vegetation and

streambank erosion. Each state developed priorities to identify the type of habitat or species to target for improvement.

The priority practices approved in Iowa for 1998 include shelterbelts; riparian corridors; and grassland restoration, preservation and management. Coldwater streams in northeast Iowa will be targeted for riparian corridors; a ten county area south of Interstate I-80 will be targeted for grassland restoration; and shelterbelt applications will be considered statewide.

WHIP presents a really good opportunity for landowners to develop and enhance wildlife habitat on their land, which will benefit wildlife, as well as those

Iowans who enjoy outdoor recreation, such as fishing, hunting and wildlife watching.

Applications are now being accepted at local USDA Service Centers and conservation district offices. Shelterbelt applications are also being accepted by local DNR offices. The WHIP will offer a continuous signup. However, Iowa's signup period will be concentrated in the month of March. All applications received in March will be ranked on April 1, with landowners notified of their participation status by April 15. Throughout the rest of the year, applications will be periodically ranked and funding approved until all funds have been obligated.

CELEBRATING SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP



"Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children,
and their children another generation."

—Joel 1:3

NACD
Soil and Water Stewardship
Advisory Committee

David Allen, Chair, Hartsville, South Carolina

Lee Bunting, Illinois

John Oglesby, Mississippi

Brother David Andrews, Catholic Rural Life Conference

Shantilal Bhagat, Church of the Brethren

Dr. Gary E. Farley, Southern Baptist Convention

Rev. O.M. Gunderson, Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America

Diana Stephen, Presbyterian Church Rural Ministry

Dennis Testerman, North American Coalition
on Christianity and Ecology

Margaret Edgar, NACD Auxiliary Representative

Laurie Burgar, State Association Representative

Clyde Gottschalk, State Agency Representative

Gerald M. Heistand, District Employee Representative

Larry Holmes, NRCS Representative

R. Neil Sampson, Consultant and Writer

Ronald G. Francis, Staff Advisor

Brenda Weiser, Staff Advisor

Inspirational Program

NACD 53rd Annual Meeting
Town & Country Hotel, San Diego, California
7:30 p.m., Sunday, January 31, 1999

Slide Presentation . . "America's National Wildlife Refuges"

Welcome David Allen, Chair

Invocation Rev. Daniel O. Parker

Community Singing LaDonna Gatlin

In Memoriam Rev. O.M. Gunderson

Presentation of NACD/NACD Auxiliary

National Poster Contest Winners

. Sally Sawyer, NACD Auxiliary President

Musical Presentation LaDonna Gatlin

Introduction of Stewardship Theme,

"In the Children's Hands" David Allen

Message and Music LaDonna Gatlin

Reading of Litany Margaret Edgar



Litany

Leader: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth:
People: All praise be to God.

Leader: Into the hands of children God has entrusted the Kingdom:

People: For whomever shall not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child fails to enter it.

Leader: In the soil and water resources of this land we experience the creation of God:

People: For whomever shall not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child fails to enter it.

Leader: In all the living species of this land we share the wonders of God:

People: For God has hidden these things from the wise understanding and revealed them to babes.

Leader: In all science and technology for this world, God has shown knowledge:

People: For God has hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes.

Leader: In sustaining our world God has provided for today and tomorrow's needs:

People: For God tells us to train up a child in the way one shall go for one will not depart from it in later years.

Leader: In the institutions of community, freedom and government, God has revealed the way:

People: For God tells us to train up a child in the way one shall go for one will not depart from it in later years.

Leader: In giving to us and our children the wonders of the Kingdom:

People: All praise be to God. Amen.

National Association of Conservation Districts • 408 East Main, League City, Texas 77573

Recycled Paper



In Memoriam...



Morning Calm



ALABAMA

J.V. Buckner Jackson County SWCD
John L. Cates Shelby County SWCD
Robert W. Gay Chambers County SWCD
Tillman D. Hill Madison County SWCD
J.R. Knouff Lawrence County SWCD
W. Ray Laseter St. Clair County SWCD
J.M. Sibley Lawrence County SWCD
Otto M. Williams Lauderdale County SWCD

ALASKA

None Reported

ARIZONA

Walter Begay, Sr. Kayenta NRCd
John Chapman Willcox-San Simon NRCd
Nimon Hopkins Whitewater Draw NRCd

ARKANSAS

None Reported

CALIFORNIA

None Reported

COLORADO

Kirk Hanna Central Colorado SCD
Gunner Herskind East Adams SCD
F.F. "Cotty" Phelps Turkey Creek SCD
Marvin Salvador Yuma SCD

CONNECTICUT

None Reported

DELAWARE

None Reported

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

None Reported

FLORIDA

None Reported

GEORGIA

Paul Branch
Louis Burnett
W.Y. "Buck" Johnson
Abe T. Minchew, Jr.*

GUAM

None Reported

HAWAII

None Reported

IDAHO

Kriss Blanchard Yellowstone SCD
Grant Winslow Carlson Snake River SWCD
Kent Christensen North Bingham SCD
Ellis Fuller Twin Falls SCD
John F. Grubb Oneida SWCD
Dick Haderlie East Side SWCD
Robert Hull Franklin SWCD
Horten J. Kienlen East Side SWCD
Don Kramer Balanced Rock SCD
Harold Liedke Lewis SCD
Warren O. Ruen* Bonner SCD
Henry Sweep Owyhee SCD
Boyd D. Thornock Gem SWCD
Walter William Gem SWCD

ILLINOIS

Harold Boudeman Tazewell County SWCD
Robert Ellis Ogle County SWCD
Freeman Finley Massac County SWCD
Hermann Gutmann Menard County SWCD
Robert Hocking Wabash County SWCD
Fred Horn Wabash County SWCD
Everette Kinney Kankakee County SWCD
John Lorenzen Edgar County SWCD
Howard Majers Adams County SWCD
Don Manecke Henry County SWCD
Harry Newman Menard County SWCD
Tom Nolan Coles County SWCD
L.E. Shipley Edgar County SWCD

INDIANA

None Reported

IOWA

Fred Anderzhon Fremont SWCD
Cleve Bennett Fayette SWCD
Garland Byrnes Allamakee SWCD
Gilbert Caldwell Jasper SWCD
Arthur Corman Des Moines SWCD
Orlo Erion Chickasaw SWCD
Ralph Fox Howard SWCD
C. Iles Heady Davis SWCD
Verl Myers Story SWCD
Carl Nus Fayette SWCD
Tony Pottebaum Sioux SWCD
Rich Pytel Calhoun SWCD
Thomas R. Utter Louisa SWCD

KANSAS

Judson Barclay, Jr. Gove County CD
Robert Borland Gray County CD
Edward Boyer Meade County CD
George L. Copeland Ness County CD
William Coverdale Jackson County CD
John A. DeLange Crawford County CD
Jim Dixon Rawlins County CD
Thomas W. Frisbie Jefferson County CD
William H. Gudde Wilson County CD
Edwin Habiger Rice County CD
George Harlan Miami County CD
George Harmon Ellsworth County CD
Paul W. Hensleigh Jefferson County CD
John Huber Sheridan County CD
James H. Johnston Clay County CD
Harold J. Kotapish Marshall County CD
Clarence Longabach Shawnee County CD
William E. "Bud" Mercer Cherokee County CD
K.I. Portenier Cloud County CD
Donald G. Rutherford Crawford County CD
Everett Rogg Russell County CD
Eugene Shockley Wilson County CD
William F. Torline Ford County CD
Marvin Turner Johnson County CD
Raymond Vier Lincoln County CD
Alfred A. Wagner Labette County CD
Paul Zerger McPherson County CD

KENTUCKY

C.W. Adams Grant County CD
Marshall Banta Henry County CD
Edgar A. Darrell Nicholas County CD
Asa Hale Menifee County CD

John Heck Bourbon County CD
Elmer Hixson Fulton County CD
Bryan Jordan Marshall County CD
Robert Lee Knox County CD
William Miles Jefferson County CD
Perry Newby Adair County CD
D.H. Noel Taylor County CD
Howard Preece Martin County CD
Eddie Voils Russell County CD

LOUISIANA

George Bagley*+ Tensas-Concordia SWCD

MAINE

None Reported

MARIANA ISLANDS

None Reported

MARYLAND

I. Winterson Prout Anne Arundel SCD

MASSACHUSETTS

None Reported

MICHIGAN

None Reported

MINNESOTA

Herbert "Herb" Beer Itasca SWCD
Russell Birch Wadena SWCD
Walter Enzmann North St. Louis SWCD
Clarence Ettesvold Stevens SWCD
Ferdie Forfang Kittson SWCD
Harry Hanson Pennington SWCD
Glenn Haugrud West Otter Tail SWCD
Wayne Holl Douglas SWCD
Isabel "Issie" Jensen Benton SWCD
Vincent Nelson Norman SWCD
Lincoln Paulson Rice SWCD

MISSISSIPPI

None Reported

MISSOURI

Betty Broemmelsiek St. Charles SWCD
Olin Boyer Scotland SWCD
Harold Cole Scotland SWCD
C.L. Fondoble McDonald SWCD
Bernie Huff Greene SWCD
Roland King McDonald SWCD
Carol Robbins Marion SWCD
Gordon Saunders DeKalb SWCD
Chester Tempel Lafayette SWCD
E.R. Webber Scotland SWCD

MONTANA

None Reported

NEBRASKA

Paul Antes Nemaha NRD
Don Gaeth Lower Platte North NRD
Sieband Ideus Lower Big Blue NRD
Dan Manning Upper Loup NRD
Ernest Meints Lower Big Blue NRD

NEVADA

None Reported

NEW HAMPSHIRE

None Reported

NEW JERSEY

None Reported

NEW MEXICO

None Reported

NEW YORK

None Reported

NORTH CAROLINA

Ralph W. Beane Surry SWCD
James D. Bellamy* Brunswick SWCD
Maurice K. Berry Albemarle SWCD
Dr. William L. Carpenter Gaston SWCD
William Fred Cox, Sr. Caswell SWCD
Joe Silas Davis Haywood SWCD
Jack Landers Madison SWCD
Howard McAlister Scotland SWCD
Calvin R. Mercer, Sr. Duplin SWCD
Robert E. Miller, Jr. Gates SWCD
Carroll Wade Phillips Cherokee SWCD
Dan W. Phillips Catawba SWCD
Ralph W. Spivey Columbus SWCD
Robert Neville Wiggins Swain SWCD
George Luther Winchester, Sr.* Wake SWCD
Abner T. Winslow Martin SWCD
Norman J. Winslow Beaufort SWCD

NORTH DAKOTA

J. Benjamin Thompson Golden Valley SCD
Chris Christmann* Adams County SCD
Kevin Durick Burke County SCD
Jens Glad South McLean County SCD
Ralph Hickie Oliver County SCD
Lyle Hills North McHenry County SCD
Ed Houfek Wild Rice SCD
James Nelson Pembina County SCD
Duane D. Olson Eastern Grand Forks County SCD
James Schneider Logan County SCD

OHIO

Norris Andre Fulton SWCD
Ernest Bishop Vinton SWCD
Don Campbell Athens SWCD
E. Darwyn Edwards Jackson SWCD
William Preston Gibbs Athens SWCD
Charles Grantham Lake SWCD
John W. Graham Muskingum SWCD
Clifford Hoover Crawford SWCD
Chessman Kittredge Geauga SWCD
Roy Kruger Vinton SWCD
Richard Lakin Gallia SWCD
L. Robert Liston, Jr. Pickaway SWCD
Virgil Lough Vinton SWCD
Duane Martin Holmes SWCD
Virgil J. Meyer Putnam SWCD
Rex Moreland Knox SWCD
Worley Perry Athens SWCD
Floyd Phillips Jackson SWCD
Donald Sterett Perry SWCD
Bennett Swingle Muskingum SWCD
Darryl Trigg Vinton SWCD
James E. Waddle Fayette SWCD
William W. Ward Geauga SWCD
Robert "Butch" Wyss Hardin SWCD



OKLAHOMA

Jack Dorman Oklahoma County CD
H.E. Peters Garfield County CD
Ralph Wilson Bryan CD
Walter Woolley Pontotoc County CD

OREGON

None Reported

PENNSYLVANIA

Hollis Morton Warren County CD
Joseph Seem Lehigh County CD
William Stouffer Blair County CD

PUERTO RICO

None Reported

RHODE ISLAND

None Reported

SOUTH CAROLINA

None Reported

SOUTH DAKOTA

Alvin Anderson
Urban John Arbach
Phil Bjordahl
Herb Evans
Ernest Jasmer
Dave Kitterman
Dale Oxner
Pamela Siedschlaw
Art Sieg
Marion Stoley
Eugene Strain
Terrence M. Williams

TENNESSEE

None Reported

TEXAS

Alvey Bryant Midland SWCD
Kenneth Culpepper Atascosa County SWCD
George T. Dicken Hopkins-Rains SWCD
Morris Hunt Moore County SWCD
Joe Montgomery Middle Clear Fork SWCD
Alfred H. Neumann Frio SWCD
Wilbert Seipp Llano County SWCD
Dale Stockton Delta SWCD
Hubert Thompson Hidalgo SWCD
Marvin Waddleton, Jr. Smith County SWCD
Elmo Watson Mills County SWCD

UTAH

None Reported

VERMONT

None Reported

VIRGIN ISLANDS

None Reported

VIRGINIA

None Reported

WASHINGTON

None Reported

WEST VIRGINIA

None Reported

WISCONSIN

None Reported

WYOMING

Dean Fox Sheridan County CD

*Cover Photo by Julie Hagan, Cisco, IL,
1998 NACD Auxiliary/NACD
Photo Contest Entry*



Conservation Farmer Award – Kim & Sandra Hewitt

Kim and Sandra Hewitt own and operate land northwest of Morning Sun. They have installed and maintained waterways, field borders, contour terraces, and several water and sediment control basins. He has

no-tilled the corn and soybean rotation since the early 90's. They also maintain several areas for wildlife habitat. Congratulations and the Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District appreciates the work you have done with good conservation practices.

12/16/99 Wap. Rep

Give Trees for Christmas

Seeking a unique gift idea for someone special this year? Check out the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District annual tree sale. You can order a bundle of trees now to pick up in April, ready for planting. This is the tenth year the LCSWCD is selling tree seedlings to raise money for soil and water conservation in Louisa County.

There are a variety of trees and shrubs for sale. Silver maple, green ash, red oak, Colorado blue spruce and white pine are sold in bundles of 10 for \$12. Also available in bundles of 10 are lilac, red osier dogwood and nanking cherry for \$10. This year the LCSWCD is also offering bareroot persimmon and ginkgo seedlings for \$2 each and potted Chinese chestnut, northern pecan, pinyon pine, and Korean nut pine for \$4 each. Tree shelters and stakes are available at a good price.

All these trees are between a few inches to as few feet tall so call the LCSWCD at 523-6411 for more information or to place your order. The trees will be on sale till February 28.

Landowners need to apply for Cost-share

Landowners have until Feb. 5 to apply for cost-share funds from the United States Department of Agriculture's Environment Quality Incentive Program.

EQIP offers cost-share for installing conservation practices.

The three statewide resource concerns are:

- Livestock manure manage-

ment and grazing lands.

- Soil erosion
- Priority lakes, municipal water supplies, agricultural drainage wells and cold water streams.

For information, call the Farm Service Agency at 523-6381 or the Natural Resources Conservation Service at 523-6411.

2-99 Wap. Rec -

Louisa Co. Soil, Water Conservation takes orders for tree seedlings

WAPELLO - The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District (LCSWCD) is now taking orders for a wide variety of tree seedlings to be delivered in April of 1999. The sale of these young trees helps fund environmental education and soil and water conservation in Louisa County.

For the past nine years the LCSWCD has offered bare root young trees for sale in the spring. The sale of these trees has raised thousands of dollars for environmental education. This spring the LCSWCD will offer the following bare root trees and shrubs: Silver Maple, Green Ash, Red Oak, Black Walnut; Colorado Blue Spruce, Eastern White Pine, Common Lilac, Red Osier Dogwood, and American Plum. These trees are offered in bundles of 10. Each bundle costs between \$10.00 (maple, walnut, shrubs) to \$25.00 (Red Oak). The seedlings are between 18 inches to 5

feet tall.

Also for sale this year are tree shelters at \$2.00 each and potted Chinese Chestnut, Persimmon, Northern Pecan and Black Walnut seedlings for \$4.00 each. Potted trees average 6 inches to 2 feet in height.

For more information on the trees or to place an order call the Natural Resource Conservation Service at 523-6411 before February 28, 1999.

trees helps fund environmental education and soil and water conservation in Louisa County.

For the past nine years the LCSWCD has offered bare root young trees for sale in the spring. The sale of these trees has raised thousands of dollars for environmental education. This spring the LCSWCD will offer the following bare root trees and shrubs: Silver maple, Green Ash, Red Oak, Black Walnut, Colorado Blue Spruce, Eastern White Pine, Common

are between 18 inches to 5 feet tall.

Also for sale this year are tree shelters at \$2.00 each and potted Chinese Chestnut, Persimmon, Northern Pecan and Black Walnut seedlings for \$4.00 each. Potted trees average 6 inches to 2 feet in height.

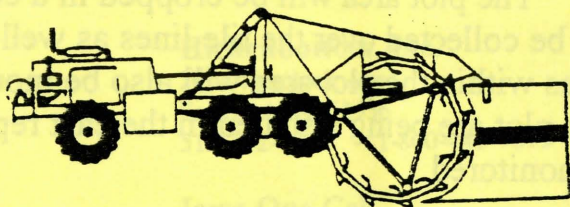
For more information on the trees or to place an order call the Natural Resource Conservation Service at 523-6411 before February 28, 1999.

Regional Tile Installation Field Day

August 25-26, 1999

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*Associated with
tile research through Iowa
State University Extension
and Southeast Iowa
Research & Demonstration
Farm located near
Crawfordsville, Iowa.*



Southeast Iowa Research and Demonstration Farm
Kevin VanDee, Farm Superintendent

Glen Peterson Farm
Glen Peterson, Landowner
Layne Twinam, Operator

SOUTHEAST IOWA TILE PROJECT

The tiling research project is a cooperative effort aimed at tile spacing and is being conducted near the Southeast Iowa Research Farm near Crawfordsville. The location of the project is on private property.

The study is being undertaken to determine an optimum economic tile spacing for the soils and climate in SE Iowa. The tile spacing project area will cover approximately 55 acres.

Five plot treatments replicated four times will include a non-tiled treatment and four tiled treatments. The tiled treatments will include tile lines spaced at 30, 45, 60, and 75 foot intervals.

The plot area will be cropped in a corn - soybean rotation. Yield data will be collected over the tile lines as well as between tile lines. Water tables within the plot area will also be monitored. Individual tile mains to each plot are being installed in the east replication so that drainage rates can be monitored.

This study is expected to be continued for 6 to 10 years.

Building Site	No Tile	30 Ft.	75 Ft.	45 Ft.
	45 Ft.	60 Ft.	45 Ft.	75 Ft.
	75 Ft.	No Tile	30 Ft.	60 Ft.
	30 Ft.	75 Ft.	60 Ft.	No Tile
	60 Ft.	45 Ft.	No Tile	30 Ft.

Individual plots to be 500 ft. long. Total area taken up in the plots is about 45 acres. Each plot is about 1.75-2 acres.

THANK YOU to the following companies for their support of this research project.

Advanced Drainage Systems

Box 809
London, OH 43140
1-888-733-9554

Altorfer Inc.

PO Box 1347, 2600 6th St. SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406
319-365-0551

Bieri Construction

PO Box 165
Buffalo Prairie, IL 61237
309-781-3290

Contractor Machine Inc (Case)

PO Box 1660
Davenport, IA 52809
309-794-5674

Country Energy

2303 285th St.
New London, IA 52645
319-367-5369

Diller Tile Co., Inc.

PO Box 727, 111 E. Pine St.
Chatsworth, IL 60921
515-673-7020

D. A. Drish Drainage

2450 Sockum Ridge Rd
Washington, IA 52353
319-863-8282

Farmers Elevator & Exchange

Mt. Union/Olds/Winfield
106 Hwy 61 N
Wapello, IA 52653-1337
319-523-5351

G & R Miller Construction

120 McCreedy Dr.
Washington, IA 52353
319-653-2553

Hancor

PO Box 550, 38575 60th St. Hwy 3 W
Oelwein, IA 50662
319-293-3324

Hawkeye Tile Inc.

PO Box 527
Jesup, IA 50648
319-827-6428 1-800-728-6428

Hickenbottom, Inc.

2074 Hemlock Ave
Fairfield, IA 52556
515-472-4786 1-800-443-7879

Iowa One Call

320 LeClaire Street, Suite 1
Davenport, IA 52801
319-322-2400

Martin Equipment of IA-IL Inc.

3720 85th Ave. West
Rock Island, IL 61201
309-787-6108

Mid Tech Services

2348 McCloud - Hwy 63 South
New Hampton, IA 50659
888-260-5390

Midwest Drainage Consultants

PO Box 727, 2670 Hwy 63
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
515-673-7020

Northland Trenching Equipment, Inc.

PO Box 406, 100 Industrial Parkway
Arthur, IL 61911
217-543-4000

Port Industries, Inc.

6951 Cty Rd 326
Palmyra, MO 63461
573-769-3338 1-800-562-8713

Prairie Ag Coop

409 West Railroad
Mt. Union, IA 52644
319-865-1450

Precision Intakes

2064 Republic Ave W
Monroe, IA 50170
515-259-2651 1-800-932-7611

Prinsco Inc.

116 S. 5th St.
Thornton, IA 50479
515-998-2529

Quinn Equipment Inc.

Box 293, 400 35th St.
Marion, IA 52302-3816
319-377-6377

Raider Precast Concrete Inc.

205 S. Gear Ave.
West Burlington, IA 52665
319-752-8266

Rexco Equipment, Inc.

PO Box 1528, 1925 Blairsferry Rd. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406
319-393-2820

River Products Co., Inc.

509 Kirkwood Ave.
Iowa City, IA 52240
319-338-1184

Samson Enterprises, Inc.

3338 320th St.
Wellman, IA 52356
319-646-2632

Springfield Plastics, Inc.

7300 W. State Route 104
Auburn, IL 62615
217-438-6167 1-800-252-3361

Springsteen Tiling, Inc.

Box 194
Morning Sun, IA 52640
319-868-4156

T C Tiling & Excavating Inc.

1374 Gabriel Ave
Wayland, IA 52654
319-256-8721

Timewell Tile

RR #1, Box 5A
Timewell, IL 62375
217-773-3357

Wilson Concrete

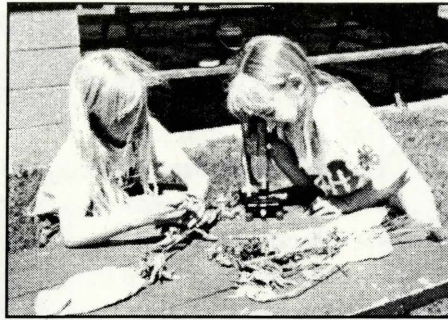
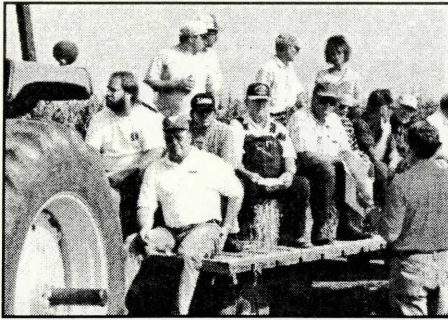
1027 E. 4th
Washington, IA 52353
319-653-5455

Winthrop Welding Works, Inc.

334 W. North St., PO Box 87
Winthrop, IA 50682
319-935-3385

Daniel K. Yoder & Son

Earth Moving & Drainage Contractors
3344 320th St.
Wellman, IA 52356
319-646-6784



Report to the Citizens of Louisa County

Louisa County Extension, in partnership with Iowa State University, provides education and information to help the people of Louisa County become the best. Please contact Louisa County Extension and let us know how we can better serve you.

*Shirlee Werner
Louisa County Extension
Education Director*

*Louisa County Extension
319 Van Buren
Wapello, Iowa 52653
319-523-2371*

**IOWA STATE
UNIVERSITY**
University Extension

Louisa County Extension: Helping Iowans become their best

Louisa County Extension offers programs that support agriculture and natural resources, business and industry, communities, families, 4-H youth development, and extended and continuing education. Louisa County Extension program highlights include:

Five 4-H Clover Kids summer camps held in four towns fostered cooperative learning and provided fun activities for 114 K-3rd grade youth.

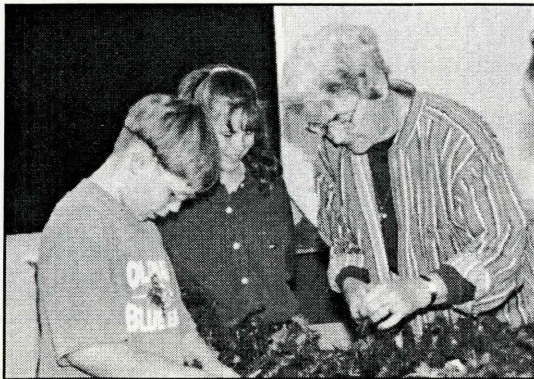
More than 389 farm families receive information on current trends and reports on the latest research in agriculture from the Agriculture Newsletter written by five ISU extension agriculture specialists.

More than 119 farmers and agribusiness people received pesticide applicator training and 15 received manure certification. 32 commercial applicators received certification training via satellite.

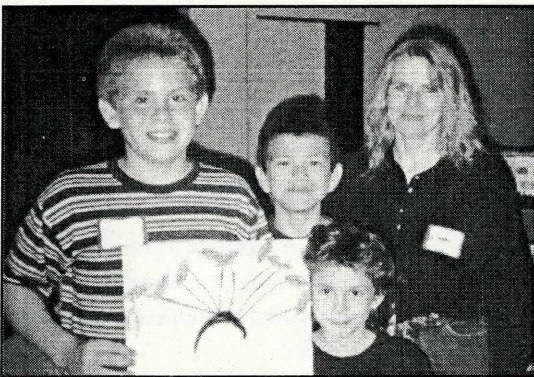
Over 500 youth participated in youth development programs assisted by 128 volunteers.

Over 1400 parents of kindergarten, first, second, third, fourth and sixth grade children learned better parenting skills from Parenting Pipeline and Centsible Parenting newsletter.

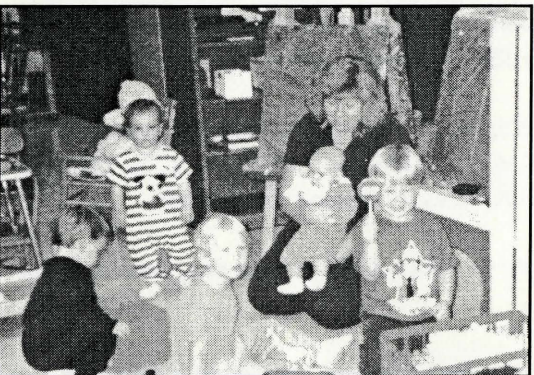
Focus on Family, a newsletter on family life, helped 332 families learn about resource management, nutrition, and parenting.



Jeanette Dotson helping Curtis and Cassie Boyer, BLG 4-H club members, making decorations for Louisa County Historical Society.



Windy Stropes and her children were one of 12 families who participated in Strengthening Families at L-M School.



Child care providers benefit from programs offered by ISU Extension.

Louisa County Extension is involved in issues that matter

4-H Teaches Life Skills

Citizenship is practiced by 4-H'ers in the 13 clubs in Louisa County through community service projects. "Through 4-H I have learned more about doing things for other people not because I have to, but because I want to," said Shane Mairet, Sure Catchers 4-H club member, "My local club has done many different citizenship projects through the past years. We planted flowers and trees in our local towns boulevard, made hundreds of popcorn balls each year for the LCCB Halloween Hike, adopted families at Christmas, did highway clean-up, made baby blankets for local hospitals, and conducted 3 blood drives in Wapello."

Parent Education Programs Strengthen Families

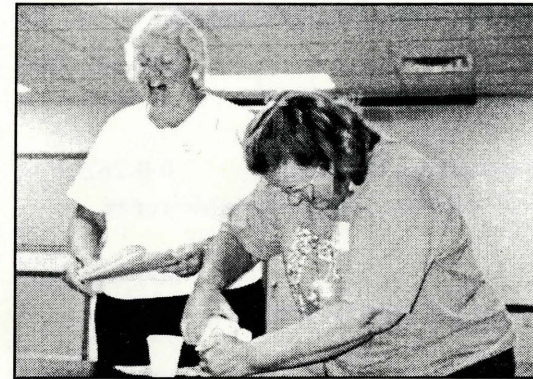
Families from Morning Sun, Columbus Jct., Louisa-Muscatine Schools, Wapello and throughout the county have benefited from ISU Extension parent education programs. Families with teen, pre-teen and early elementary age children have participated in Strengthening Families and Celebrate Families programs. Families enjoy spending time together as they learn communication skills, ways to strengthen family relationships and how to resist peer pressure. Research shows that families who participate in these programs have reduced rates of youth substance abuse and negative behaviors. More sessions are scheduled in several communities.

Family Nutrition Program

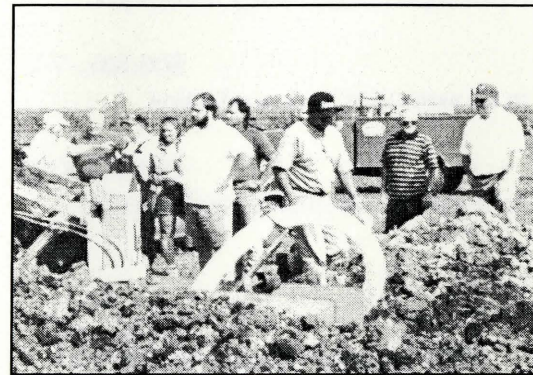
The Family Nutrition Program is an educational program targeting pregnant teens and limited-income families with young children. Over 110 participants learned how to stretch their food dollars and make healthy food choices. Families learn how to strengthen their communication, decision-making, and problem solving skills. Participants report after completing the program that they have better control of their finances, more family mealtimes and they feel that their families are closer and communicate better.

Child Care That Works

Child care providers nurture children and help prepare them for the future. ISU Extension offers many ways for child care providers to receive training and learn how to be better caregivers. A series of checkout video packets, available at the Louisa County Extension Office, allow child care professionals to learn about topics such as guidance and discipline, and child development on a self-study basis. Extension staff help conduct workshops, a daylong early childhood conference and other educational programs for training child care providers.



4-H leaders, Denise Ryan and Trish Mohror participating in 4-H leaders training.



Over 400 producers and contractors witness the start of the ISU tiling drainage research project.

Extension partnerships make things happen

Strengthening Families and Celebrate Families programs are supported by a decategorization grant, the Area Education Agency and other partners who help to provide facilitators, meeting rooms, childcare and meals to make the programs successful.

Over 180 rabbits and poultry were exhibited by 4-H and FFA members at the county fair in a new building constructed by the Louisa County Fair Board. 4-H'ers, leaders, and parent volunteers along with Louisa County Farm Bureau donated new cages and labor.

The Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of Muscatine and Louisa County provides financial support for several prevention programs in Louisa County.

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, Louisa County Council received a state grant to initiate a Nest program for new parents in Louisa County.

4-H Volunteers

The strength of the 4-H program in Louisa County is due to over 76 adult volunteers who give countless hours of time and talent to the program. Janice and Terry Pugh give these reasons why they have been 4-H club leaders for over 40 years "4-H is in our blood. We both were 4-H members. Our children, Troy and Tara were both 10 year members. We still raise 4-H club lambs for kids in the program today. It's great to see the kids start out young, watch them grow and improve their skills in projects and showing livestock. 4-H helps develop their leadership skills by providing them with hands-on experiences. We like having club workshops to help the 4-H members learn new skills in different project areas. Most of all we enjoy getting to know the members' families and having them tell us how much the 4-H program has meant to them."

Tile Drainage Research Project Begins

A 45 acre tract adjacent to the Southeast Iowa Research & Demonstration Farm near Crawfordsville became a tile spacing research project. Four different tile spacings along with undrained check areas were installed. Several features were installed to enable data collection to monitor yields, tile flow rates, and water quality. Donated labor, equipment use and tile was valued at over \$50,000. Data collection will begin with the 2000 growing season and will be collected for at least six years. The knowledge gained from this research will help farmers make better economic decisions.

ISU Publications

ISU Extension has a wide array of publications available at low or no cost. Over 1,100 publications are available to the public on the extension web site. Popular publications available in the Louisa County Extension Office are:

- * Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey
- * Pruning and Training Fruit Trees
- * Altering Recipes for Health
- * Data for Decision Makers
- * Iowa Land Value Survey
- * Sampling Your Drinking Water
- * Understanding Children Parenting Series
- * Iowa Farmland Rental Rates
- * Questions about Composting

Extension Staff

Louisa County Staff

County Extension Director - **Shirlee Werner**
Office Assistant - **Karen Wiley**
4-H Program Assistant - **Sheryle Stephens**
Family Nutrition Assistant - **Jeanette Brockert**
Parent Education Coordinator - **Lori Kuntz**

Specialists serving Louisa County

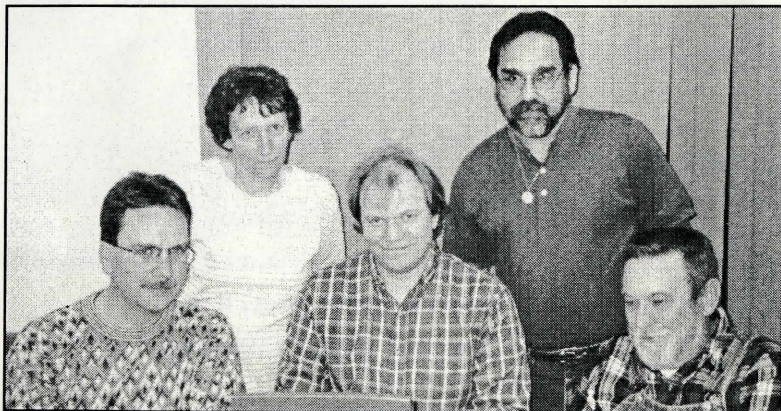
Ag Engineering - **Brad Woerner**
Beef - **Byron Leu**
Communities - **Gayle Olson**
Crops - **Jim Jensen**
Family Life - **Mary Crooks**
Family Resource Mgmt. - **Gail Kerns**
Farm Management - **Harry Tucker**
Nutrition & Health - **Patricia Steiner**
Youth & 4-H - **Gail Kerns**

ISU Extension Web site

Now you can access vast amounts of ISU Extension information without leaving your office or the comfort of your home. Extension's web site has an events calendar and a wide variety of program information. The web site address is: www.extension.iastate.edu

Louisa County Extension Council

The Louisa County Extension Council is responsible for planning, marketing, and delivering educational programs. The council prepares the annual budget, maintains complete financial records for the district, and maintains the county office. Council members are elected in general elections to serve four-year terms. They are: Gary Englert, chairperson; Irv Meier, Vice Chairperson; Brenda Dopler, Treasurer; Scott Rollinger, Secretary; Beth Allen; Tim Minks; Laurie Rudisill; Keith Trafton; and Eladio Webber.



Left to right- Gary Englert, Laurie Rudisill, Scott Rollinger, Eladio Webber and Keith Trafton.

Report to the People of Louisa County _____

Hotline Numbers

Answer Line	800-262-3804
Questions relating to home and family	
Extended & Continuing Education	800-262-0015
Off campus credit courses, non-credit conferences	
Farm-On	800-447-1985
Matches beginning and retiring farmers	
Healthy Families	800-369-2229
Prenatal health care questions and information	
Iowa Concern	800-447-1985
Financial questions, legal issues, family transitions	
Pork Line	800-808-7675
Assist Iowans in all aspects of pork production	
Teen Line	800-443-8336
Personal and health-related information and referral	

Visit Louisa County Extension

319 Van Buren
Wapello, IA 52653
Telephone: 319-523-2371
E-mail: x1werner@exnet.iastate.edu

... and justice for all

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Stanley R. Johnson, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.

**IOWA STATE
UNIVERSITY**
University Extension

Helping Iowans become their best.

Tree varieties being offered

People may buy young trees from the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The district each spring sells trees to raise money for conservation education and practices in the county.

Seedlings for sale this year include silver maple, green ash, red oak, black walnut, Colorado blue spruce, eastern white pine, common lilac, red osier dogwood and American plum.

The bare root trees are offered in bundles of 10, which cost between \$10 and \$25. The seedlings are 18 inches to 5 feet tall.

For information, contact the district's office at (319) 523-6411 before Feb. 28.

2-21-99 Hawkeye

9/ 1997

Wapello man planting trees for evaluation

This Spring, landowners will see that tree crops can be a highly profitable and environmentally sound alternative to corn and soybeans. Tom Wahl, of Wapello is planting and grafting 1,500 trees to evaluate their commercial potential. The project is funded in part by grants from North Central Region of the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (S.A.R.E.) Program and Practical Farmers of Iowa.

Among the tree crops being evaluated are chestnuts, black walnuts, heartnuts, Persian walnuts, hazelnuts, pecans, hickories, pine nuts,

ginkgos, persimmons, and paw paw. Products from these trees will include nuts, fruit, lumber, veneer, fiber, fuel, feed, fodder and medicine. Potential income from these products may range from \$2,000 - \$10,000 per acre. Some environmental benefits of tree crops are less soil erosion, reduced pesticide and chemical fertilizer applications, and less use of fossil fuels.

Wahl will be hosting a field day at his farm on Sunday, September 14 at 2:00 P.M. Participants will be able to examine the plantings and learn more about the potential of tree crops.

Backyard Habitat Program offered

Whether your backyard is small city lot or five acres, you can provide habitat for a variety of animals. Learn how at a "Backyard Habitat" program on February 28, 7:00 pm at the Briggs Civic Center in Wapello.

Through slides, video and handouts, naturalist Julie Ohde will present information on how to provide food, water and shelter to attract different wildlife species. There will also be handouts on backyard conservation topics including ponds, mulching, pest control, tree planting and composting.

The program is cosponsored by the Louisa County Conservation Board and the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District. For more in-

Booklet helps landowners protect natural areas

3/30/00

Protecting Iowa's precious woodlands, wetlands, prairies and wild places just got a little easier. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) has updated *The Landowner's Options*, a free guide to voluntary land protection in Iowa.

The booklet features scenarios and explanations of 18 legal methods of land protection. Landowners who want to permanently protect their natural areas — whether they wish to retain ownership, pass it on to others or create a public area — will find suitable methods of protection. Options range from conservation easements to reserved life estates and are

explained in simple language. Many options provide landowners with compensation and/or tax benefits. In addition to the print version, an online edition of the booklet may be found at the INHF website at www.inhf.org

"Many Iowa landowners have natural or restored areas on their property; special places they have protected in the past and want to know are protected for the future," Mark Ackelson, INHF president said. "Most readers are surprised and amazed at the options available.

Since it was first published in 1982, more than 15,000 copies

of the booklet have been distributed to landowners and the professionals who advise them. *The Landowner's Options* was partially funded by The Sand County Foundation's Bradley Fund for the Environment and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Other co-sponsors of the booklet include farm managers, conservation organizations and other private funds.

For a free copy of *The Landowner's Options*, contact INHF by mail at 505 Fifth Avenue, Suite #444, Des Moines, IA 50309, by phone at 515/288-1846 or by email at info@inhf.org



Julie Ohde and Wapello library director Llewann Bryant with new books about household hazardous waste donated to area libraries.

Books donated to local libraries

Louisa County public and school libraries have added a total of 42 books to their collections, thanks to a Household Hazardous Materials grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Library patrons can use the books to find information on reducing the dangers of the many chemicals used in homes.

According to Louisa County Conservation Board naturalist Julie Ohde, most people aren't aware of the problems caused by the improper use and disposal of Household Hazardous Materials

(HHM's). Common products like drain cleaner, paint, antifreeze and household cleaners can become pollutants if they end up in the water supply.

"We often think of things like industries and farm chemicals as polluting our waters. In reality, we dump pollutants down our drains and throw them into our garbage where they end up in landfills. We're all a part of the problem and we all need to be part of the solution," said Ohde.

The new HHM reference books offer advice on many

subjects from safer household cleaners to organic gardening.

There are also several children's titles in the collection. While each library's selection is different, some of the titles include: "The Green Kitchen Handbook," "The Chemical Free Lawn," "One Less Fish," "Living Healthy in a Toxic World" and "Home Safe Home".

Local cost share for the books also came from the libraries and The Monsanto Fund. The reference library project was coordinated by the Louisa County Conservation Board.

2-9-00

County receives FEMA funds

Louisa County has been awarded federal funds under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program.

Louisa County has been chosen to receive \$2000 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

The selection was made by a national board that is chaired by the FEMA and consists of representatives from the Salvation Army, American Red Cross, United Jewish Communities, Catholic Charities, USA, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S. A and United Way of America, which will provide the administration staff and function as fiscal agent. The board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help ex-

pand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

A local board made up of various entities will determine how the funds awarded to Louisa County are to be distributed under the terms of the grant from the national board, local organizations chosen to receive funds must 1) Be a private nonprofit, 2) Have an accounting system, 3) Practice nondiscrimination, 4) Have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 5) Must have a voluntary board.

Louisa County has distributed emergency food and shelter funds previously through community action.

AGRIBUSINESS

Cutting pollution will cost billions in taxes

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Cleaning up the nation's lakes and rivers won't come cheap. Getting farmers to cut back on their fertilizer use, a major source of water pollution, could cost taxpayers nearly \$3 billion a year, the government says.

The \$3 billion represents the annual cost of "green payments" to compensate farmers for income losses they would incur in reducing their use of nitrogen fertilizer 20 percent, according to a study being published in May by the Agriculture Department's Economic Research Service.

The study comes as the Clinton administration is taking steps aimed at curbing farm runoff into waterways.

Nitrogen releases from Midwest farms are

blamed by government scientists for creating a "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico as big as New Jersey. A recent White House study concluded the best ways to repair the damage are reducing fertilizer use by 20 percent and restoring 5 million acres of wetlands to trap runoff.

The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed rules that would require states to submit plans within 15 years to clean up every waterway that fails to meet water quality standards. The EPA estimates there are more than 20,000 streams and lakes that don't meet water-quality standards, including long sections of the Mississippi and Colorado rivers.

"If they are going to change our practices dramatically ..., there has to be some thought

given to what you do to the economic well-being of agriculture," said Dick Newpher, executive director of the American Farm Bureau Federation's Washington office. "That could lead to the need to have some kind of payment authority."

The Agriculture Department's study considered several ways of getting farmers to reduce their use of fertilizers:

■ The green payments, which would compensate growers for the lower crop yields they would get. The payments would have to be worth 2½ times the cost of fertilizer to make it worthwhile for farmers, the study said.

■ A 75 percent tax on fertilizer, which would raise an estimated \$3.3 billion a year, or regulations limiting fertilizer use. Neither

idea is considered politically feasible, given the impact on growers.

■ A land-retirement program. Farmers would be paid \$1.6 billion a year to take land out of production and to plant strips of grass and trees along waterways to prevent chemicals from running into streams.

Idling land would increase commodity prices more than any of the other options, the study said. That, in turn, would drive up feed costs for livestock producers about 2 percent and raise the cost of food to consumers by 0.7 percent.

"No one policy will satisfy all stakeholders," the study said.

The idea of using government subsidies to encourage growers to take conservation measures isn't new.

Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, has introduced legislation that would set up a system of "conservation security" payments to farmers for doing such things as testing their soil to see how much fertilizer they actually need. Farmers who don't do testing sometimes apply too much nitrogen. USDA already has requested \$600 million from Congress for such a payment program.

"That concept of having incentives that support stewardship of the land, water and air ... is coming and it's coming fairly soon," said Ferd Hoeffner of the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition.

The White House study said the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico has more than doubled since the 1993 Midwest floods, to 7,728 square miles last summer.



Wapello Republican Section B

Thursday, April 6, 2000

F.A.R.M. Library, housed at Keck Memorial Library, receives donation of 31 books



Janet Williams, left, representing the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Kathy Dice, of Farms Forever, are pictured with some 31 books recently purchased for the F.A.R.M. library, and with a \$200 check provided from the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District, to be used by the F.A.R.M. library.

Farms Forever, a local Shared Visions group, recently purchased 31 books with a cost of over \$800, for the Farming Alternative Resources Materials (F.A.R.M.) Library.

Shared Visions is a collaborative effort of Practical Farmers of Iowa, ISU Extension, and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Funding for Shared Visions came from a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Members of Farms Forever include Detra Dettman-Easler, Kathy Dice (both are also assistant soil commissioners), Jack Reif, Tom Wahl, Shawn Dettman, Bryan and Jill Hoben, Bob Barnes, John and Lois Wanfalt, Gayle and Jeff Olson and Stan Tate.

The purpose of the F.A.R.M. library is to provide information on non-conventional farming

The F.A.R.M. library is housed at Wapello's Keck Memorial Library, but its resources (now 43 books, videos and cassette tapes) are available throughout the state.

practices to promote farming diversity and sustainable agriculture in Iowa.

Originally established in 1997, the F.A.R.M. library has been enhanced with a recent grant from Rural Development through Forestry, administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

The grant was provided to the Langwood Institute for Forestry Economics, with part of the funds used for this recent book purchase.

Yearly financial support is also provided by the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Grant to aid Long Creek Watershed

The Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District (LSWCD) has received a grant from the State of Iowa to develop a water quality project based in the Long Creek watershed. This watershed is located in the western part of Louisa County and drains into the Iowa River, which flows into the Mississippi River. The concerns within the Long Creek watershed are water quality, erosion control, flood control, wildlife conservation and related nutrient, pest and manure management. These issues impact the water quality and are of concern to Long Creek, Iowa River and Mississippi River watersheds.

The funds from this grant will be used for the collection of background information which is vital to the development of support documentation for a water quality project, if it is to receive any future funding. The Louisa Conservation District has hired Ed Allworth as acting coordinator to oversee the project. Allworth has lived in Wapello all his life and has been in agribusiness for nearly 20 years. He has a CCA License (Certified Crop Advisor) which has required him to have extensive knowledge of soil and water management. With Allworth, other re-

Watershed

cont. pg. 9

Watershed from pg. 1

lated agencies and area landowners, LSWCD is confident that the project will be a success.

In order to support this joint venture, the NRCS has provided services and technical support from the District Conservationist, Connie Ramirez, and Soil Conservationist, Deb Hunt, to assist Allworth.

This project is to be completed by June of 2000. To gather appropriate information and develop this watershed project a series of meetings will be held. Personnel will also conduct water quality testing within the watershed and make personal contacts with interested landowners within the watershed.

Landowners or operators within the Long Creek watershed area who would like more information regarding the project are invited to attend a Superbowl Kickoff Meeting at the C.J. Diner in Columbus Junction on Thursday, February 3, at 9:00 a.m. The DuPont Chemical Company will provide coffee and rolls.

Hayes, Allworth honored for volunteer work



Nate Hayes (right) and Sean Allworth, members of the Earth Team Volunteer Program, are pictured with Ed Allworth, organizer, receiving their polo shirts for the volunteer work with NRCS.

The Earth Team is an organized and recognized part of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) operations.

NRCS employees utilize volunteers for a wide variety of activities. Volunteering has always been a cornerstone of America's soil and water conservation movement.

Nate Hayes and Sean Allworth have volunteered over sixty hours each in recent months. The boys have per-

formed several different tasks, and have been a big help in reducing the workload of other NRCS employees.

Nate and Sean used their volunteer efforts in many ways, such as water sampling, laying out filter strips, installing contour buffers and working on the computer.

For their hard work, Nate and Sean were presented with an Earth Team polo shirt from the NRCS.

7/27/00 Wap. Rep.

WAS OLDEST WEEKLY NEWSPAPER. EST. 1851

Wapello Republican

ISSUE 14 50¢ per copy

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2000

Official Newspaper. Serving all of Louisa County. Box 306, Wapello, Iowa 52653

Improving the environment is councilman's priority



Wapello City Councilman Kevin Karr explained EarthYear2000 goals at a kick off meeting last Wednesday.

By Connie Street

WAPELLO—Cleaning up the environment is too important to give up on, says Kevin Karr, Wapello's EarthYear2000 ambassador.

"I believe in this," he said. "I want to generate some interest. We need to improve the quality of life and we can do it right here in this town."

At a kick off meeting for a Wapello EarthYear2000 steering committee last Wednesday night, Mayor Roger Noble read a proclamation declaring 2000 as

the "Year of the Environment."

Noble encouraged residents to help shape their environmental future by being a part of Iowa EarthYear2000 activities.

While some cities are planning major projects, Karr said anything that will improve the environment would be a good project, no matter how small.

Karr said the committee goals are to identify issues, develop projects and set time lines and action plans for anything that is environmentally sound.

"My goal is to do something

sustainable that will continue through the years," Karr said.

Bill Ohde suggested working with the Izaak Walton League, a group that plans to plant trees. The school is also having a cleanup project under the title Hometown Day.

"We're not trying to get credit for what other people are doing," Karr said. "We want to gain strength from the people doing those projects."

He suggested developing a program to get junk out of town and keeping it out.

"There may be elderly people out there who aren't able to do it by themselves," he said.

Recycling education was another suggestion.

Ohde also suggested teaching people about composting.

"It's fairly simple," Ohde said. "We could hold an education day on composting."

Ohde also suggested an educational program on burning prairie grass.

Karr hopes schools, civic organizations, and individuals will get involved.

"By the end of the year, we should be able to see that we've done something," he said

Anyone interested in improving the environment is urged to join the group. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 11, at Wapello City Hall.

Grants are available for individuals and organization.

For more information, look at the EarthYear2000 WebPages: www.earthyear2000.com

Mayoral Proclamation

Whereas, the quality of life in The City of Wapello is significantly enhanced by the use, enjoyment and understanding of our environment and its natural resources; and

Whereas, a high quality environment will entice more and younger citizens to be lifelong residents of this community; and

Whereas, the future of The City of Wapello's natural resources lies in the hands of our citizens who understand, care and wish to be involved in the conservation of those resources; and

Whereas, there are countless opportunities for residents to participate in environmental improvement projects in their homes, neighborhoods, work and school; and

Whereas, I encourage all residents of The City of Wapello to participate in environmental improvement projects in our community; and

Whereas, April 22, 2000, is the 30th anniversary of Earth Day, a day set aside to recognize the importance of our environment by thinking globally and acting locally;

Now therefore, I, Roger Noble, mayor of The City of Wapello, do hereby declare the Year 2000 as the Year of the Environment in The City of Wapello and encourage all residents to help shape their environmental future by being part of Iowa Earth Year 2000 activities. Let each of us, whether at home, school or work, embrace our duty to learn about and care for our community's natural resources, and do our part to make the earth a clean, healthy and vibrant planet.

Issued: This 29th day of March 2000.

Roger Noble

Roger Noble, Mayor

Wap. Rep. 2-10-00

Long Creek

Watershed

Project now underway

On February 3rd the Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District held its first meeting concerning the water quality program in the Long Creek watershed. Those attending the meeting represented landowners and operators within the watershed; Iowa DNR officer Larry Dessner, and Amy Allworth of the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Watershed Coordinator Ed Allworth, along with technical assistants Connie Ramirez, District Conservationist, and Deb Hunt, Soil Conservationist, presented the program. Several topics of discussion, along with a survey that was completed, lead to valuable information and ideas for the study.

Concerns within the watershed based on the surveys are water quality, erosion control, flood control, loss of nutrients, and pesticides. Allworth will be testing for 12 contaminants and conditions along with pesticides once a month in the watershed. Along with the extensive water testing program he will be in contact with interested landowners and operators to address their concerns over the next few months.

He said it will be vital to gather all the appropriate information so he can support a document back to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship if this project is to receive any further funding.

Louisa Soil & Water Conservation District plans another informational meeting about the Long Creek watershed project sometime in late March. Anyone interested in this project should stop by the NRCS Office, 514 Isett St., Wapello, or call 523-6411.

2-16-00 Gazette

Long Creek Watershed Project underway

On February 3, the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District held its first meeting, concerning the water quality program in the Long Creek watershed. People attending the meeting represented landowners and operators within the watershed, state DNR officer Larry Dessner and Amy Allworth of the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Watershed Coordinator Ed Allworth, along with technical assistants Connie Ramirez, District Conservationist, and Deb Hunt, Soil Conservationist, presented the program. Several topics of discussion, along with a survey that was filled out, led to valuable information and ideas for the study.

Concerns within the watershed from the surveys are: water quality, erosion control, flood control, loss of nutrients, and pesticides. Allworth will be testing once a month for 12 contaminants and conditions along with pesticides in the watershed. Along with the extensive water testing program Allworth will be in contact with interested landowners and operators OVER the next few months to address their concerns. It is going to be vital to gather all the appro-

prate information to assist Allworth in supporting a document back to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship if this project is to receive any further funding.

Louisa Soil & Water Conservation District plans another informa-

tional meeting about the Long Creek watershed project sometime in late March. Persons interested in the project may stop at the NRCS Office at 514 Isett in Wapello or call 319-523-6411.

Long Creek Watershed Update

The first part of this study has been focusing on establishing base line water quality data. This data eventually will become our measuring stick, so in the future we can measure our progress. So far, all the water sampling has been taken at low flow, non-run off affected conditions due to the mild winter we have had. Sampling under these conditions can yield extremely low nutrient levels, creating low reference stream values. To be consistent with other stream data, sampling should reflect a variety of stream flows, both run-off conditions. Hopefully, when the April rains come the stream should allow us a chance to test in run-off

conditions with high flow.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is developing water quality criteria, which should be completed in the near future. Iowa will then be required to adopt EPA criteria. Right now there are no national standards on monitoring water quality, so test results in the Long Creek Watershed are only guidelines established by EPA. At this time the stream does not appear to be exceeding any high limits of pesticides, nutrients or other conditions. However during this low flow condition, where nutrients are going to test low,

Watershed

cont. pg. 9

Louisa County Pheasants Forever holds banquet

By RICHARD W. PETERSON

A big crowd, good food, and plenty of prizes highlighted the Louisa County Chapter of Pheasants Forever fund raising banquet on Saturday, February 5, 2000. The function, held at the American Legion building in Columbus Junction, saw one of the biggest crowds ever, in attendance.

Many prizes were available on the raffle table, and a very successful auction was conducted on outdoor prints and items that were donated or provided by the local Pheasants Forever Chapter. The auctioneers, who provided the free service, were Bill and Eric Small and Jeff Story, and they really learned how it used to be in auctioneering when the P. A. went on the blink during the sale. The old auctioneering term "I'll cry for you" was very evident when they had to use their own "throat-power" for a time.

There was plenty of pork loin provided by IBP, and prepared by CJ Diner, La Reynas, of Columbus Junction, PF members, and members of IBP management and staff. C.J. Diner also prepared the side dishes and served the meal.

Pheasants Forever, a non-profit organization, has participated in a number of projects during 1999 using money raised at the Louisa County banquet. Winter cover areas consisting of 4 projects over 33 acres with a total of 21,275 trees and shrubs being planted were completed at the cost of \$2600.00. Nesting cover areas consisted of 8 projects using 600 pounds of seed at a cost of \$5400.00. Seed was also donated for 50 acres of food plots. In addition, \$1000.00 was donated to Washington County PF for the purchase of Clemens Creek Wildlife area.

The Louisa County chapter also donated \$1000.00 to Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District. Through partnerships, PF is forming with SWCD and Natural Resource Conservation Service through matching funds to create a total of \$4500.00 to promote the continuous CRP programs.

Louisa PF has also donated some of its funds to Louisa County schools to develop outdoor

classrooms for the continued education of the youth in the county.

A big thank you goes to all the people in the county, and surrounding counties, who donated merchandise and money, or attended the banquet to help make the night a big success.

There were more than 70 individuals who donated merchandise, service and cash, along with a big number of committee members who donated a lot of time. Special thanks are in order for those who provided "Sponsorships" by donating a minimum of \$250.00 in cash or merchandise for the event. The 14 business or individuals who donated these were: Louisa Veterinary Clinic, Tri-Oak Foods, Terri Marinier, Dick Grimm-Wyffels Hybrids, O'Toole, Inc., Dan and Sue Vogeler, River Products/Tony Crawford, Dr. Frier, IBP, Wagner Family Limited Partnership, Ted's Boat-A-Rama (Rock Island, IL), Skubal Electric, Mincer Ford, Inc., L&G Forestry-Greg Wagner & Jackie Johnson.

Also, thanks to IBP who won the Browning Gold shotgun in the sponsors raffle and then donated it back to be used for another raffle.

For information on habitat projects, contact Habitat Chairman Greg Wagner, 25824 178th St. Columbus Junction, IA. 52738 or phone 319-728-7420. Free seed corn and sorghum for food plots will also be available by contacting Bill Ohde (319-523-8319) or by stopping by the DNR office in Wapello to set up a time and location to pick up either of these.

The quote of PF "let's create even more habitat in 2000," was greatly helped on the way by all those who participated in the banquet for 2000 and hope for even more in 2001.



The Ringneck Pheasant, along with other wildlife, benefited from those who sponsored and attended the PF Banquet on February 5, 2000. Money raised at the banquet will be spent on habitat projects throughout the county during the coming year. If habitat for wildlife and conservation of farmland is becoming a problem, be part of the solution by supporting organizations such as Pheasants Forever.

RICHARD PETERSON PHOTO



A puppy like this one got a new home at the PF Banquet held Saturday at the American Legion Building in Columbus Junction.

GREG WAGNER PHOTO

2-9-00 Col. Gazette

2-17-00
Wap. Rep.

One million tree and shrub seedlings available

With the spring 2000 planting season approaching, the State Forest Nursery has a million tree and shrub seedlings available. Landowners can still purchase seedlings for wildlife shrub plantings, riparian buffers, shelterbelts and other conservation plantings.

The inventory includes large numbers of Dogwood shrubs for wildlife area; Silver Maple, Willow and Poplar along streams, and Spruces and Scotch Pines for shelterbelts. These species can be used for several Conservation Reserve practices including wildlife shrubs (CP4D) and riparian buffers (CP22). Supplies of some upland hardwood tree species like walnut and oak are limited.

For landowners interested in planting smaller areas, songbird packets of 20 plants and wildlife packets of 200 plants are available.

Landowners can easily order by calling the toll free number (800) 865-2477. Stock prices range from \$20 to \$40 per hundred depending on species and size. There is a minimum order of 500 plants except for songbird (\$20) and wildlife packets (\$65). Help restore some of Iowa's wildlife habitat and forests by planting trees and shrubs.

Future Farmers of America Week is February 19-26

Saluting Our Louisa County FFA

Wapello FFA....A Year in Review

by Jenna Hawk
and Chris Newton

Louisa-Muscatine, and Columbus chapters hosted annual Southeast Cattle Preview Show at Columbus. There was 40 Breeding Beef and 44 Market Beef.

June 1999:

*Nursery and Landscape team was Summer McGill, Jenna Hawk, Mason Matthews and Chad Ball. They placed 2nd (gold) as a team at state. Individually they placed with Summer McGill, 2nd; Chad Ball, 9th; Jenna Hawk, 14th; and Mason Matthews, 22nd.

*Chapter held second regional FFA sheep and cattle show. Also an open sheep show was held in Wapello County in Eldon.

July 1999:

*Wapello and Mediapolis FFA Chapters sponsored the annual rodeo during the Chief Wapello Days.

*Carrie Townsley and Julie Beenblossom showed livestock at the county fair. Carrie Townsley's steer was named Reserve Champion Market Beef.

*Jason Delzell attended the Washington Leadership Conference Program.

*Members helped with the Indian Slough/Cairo Woods and Chinkpin Bluffs farm projects.

August 1999:

*Meats team who was Marshall Holtkamp and Chris Newton received a participation award. Marshall placed 4th individually.

September 1999:

*Jenna Hawk, Bryan Kuntz, Summer McGill, and Valerie Vineyard participated in Dairy Products at State. They placed 7th as a team out of 23 teams.

*Members attended the Farm Progress Show in Amana.

*Devon Timmerman, Chris Schneider, Jenny Ball, Bridgett Bays, and Elicia Wintermeyer went to the Guttenburg Livestock Judging Contest. Devon Timmerman placed 1st in the the Freshman Class.

October 1999:

*Tyler McCulloch, Scott Strawhacker, Jason Delzell, and Liz Vineyard all competed in the SE District Soils Contest. They were alternates to state. Jason Delzell was 2nd.

*Valerie Vineyard and Liz Vineyard were elected into Sub-district officers.

*Freshman Jenny Ball, Tiffany Ball, Sammy Fletcher, Tyler Hank, Daniel Beeding, Megan Foor, Mindy Sink, Bridgett Bays, and Elicia Wintermeyer went to Greenhand Fire-up to find out what FFA was about. Marshall Holtkamp and Chris Newton retired as sub-district officers.

*Mindy Sink, Elicia Wintermeyer, Mason Matthews, and Bridgett Bays went to Kirkwood Horse Judging

Contest.

November 1999:

*14 members went to the 72nd National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. They were Summer McGill, Chris Newton, Liz Vineyard, Jenna Hawk, Bryan Kuntz, Marc Carlson, Jessica Heater, Tyler McCulloch, Julie Beenblossom, Drew Gieselman, Elicia Wintermeyer, Jenny Ball, Megan Foor, and Valerie Vineyard.

*Chapter members began their annual fruit sales.

December 1999:

*Members start preparing for Sub-District Speaking Contests.

January 2000:

*Chapter shows appreciation to teachers and staff by serving

them breakfast. The officers prepared everything.

*Chapter finishes up the fruit sales with Julie Beenblossom being the top seller.

*Josh Fletcher, Drew Gieselman, Megan Foor, Dan Lanz, Tiffany Ball, Jenny Ball, Chris Schneider, Chad Hinkle, and Val Vineyard are competing in the Conduct of the Meetings.

*Parliamentary Procedure team include Josh Hoeg, Chris Newton, Joe Bowman, Willie Souer, Travis Eversmeyer and Bryan Kuntz.

*Experience the Action is getting ready with Carrie Townsley, Jenna Hawk, Jessica Heater, Luke Molle and Tyler McCulloch for the team.

*Marshall Holtkamp is preparing for the District Public Speaking Contest.



The Wapello FFA Parliamentary Procedure team includes the following members. Front row, left to right, Travis Eversmeyer, Bryan Kuntz, and Chris Newton. Back row, left to right, Joe Bowman, Josh Hoeg, and Willie Souer.



Current Wapello FFA officers include, front row, left to right, Jessica Heater, secretary; Julie Beenblossom, reporter; Willie Souer, sentinel. Back row, left to right, Josh Hoeg, vice-president; Jenna Hawk, treasurer; Chris Newton, reporter.



The Wapello FFA Conduct of Meetings team consists of, front row, left to right, Tiffany Ball (Reporter), Megan Foor (Secretary), Valerie Vineyard (Advisor), and Jennifer Ball (Treasurer). Second row, left to right, Drew Gieselman (Vice-President), Chad Hinkle (Sentinel), Josh Fletcher (President), and Chris Schneider (Alternate). Not pictured is Dan Lanz, Alternate.

We're proud of the efforts of our local
FFA students

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

ISB Iowa State Bank
Wapello - Morning Sun - Mt. Union
Member FDIC

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

CJ SB Columbus Junction State Bank
Member FDIC Columbus Junction 319-728-2436

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

CB COMMUNITY BANK
PEOPLES OFFICE
Columbus Junction, IA 728-2226

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

EARNEST INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE
Wapello, Iowa
523-4231

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

Morning Sun
Mutual Telephone Co.
319-868-7636

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

Plank Implement
Columbus City, Iowa
319-728-2424

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

Farmers Elevator and Exchange
Hwy 61, Wapello

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

1st National Bank
of Muscatine
Student checking available
319-263-4221

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

MIDWEST FEDERAL SAVINGS
Building for the Future...because we're for you
Member FDIC Hwy 61, Wapello 523-8314

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

Farmer Owned
Morning Sun Farm Implement Inc.
Morning Sun, Iowa 319-868-7586

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

Farmers and Merchants Bank and Trust
Oakville 766-4151
Member FDIC

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

Aorak Insurance, Inc.
COLUMBUS JUNCTION
213 Main St., P.O. Box 192
Columbus Junction, Iowa 52738
319-728-2414

Future Farmers of America Week is February 19-26

Saluting Our Louisa County FFA

Louisa-Muscatine FFA

Start of a Great Year



L-M FFA District Soils Judging



L-M FFA at the Farm Progress show '99



National FFA Convention

Amy Jones
L-M Chapter Report
1999-00

The Louisa-Muscatine again had a very great start to the year. In seven months the FFA chapter has accomplished many things and has received many awards. This year FFA started even before school started. In late August many FFA members participated in the State Fair in competitions. Matt Carroll, Beau Bieri and Caleb Dieckman attended the competition. Matt Carroll showed his breeding cattle. Beau Bieri showed his cattle. Caleb Dieckman showed his horses. They all did great at the State Fair. A few others helped out at the Fair. Megan Danner helped as an usher at free concerts. Laura Clark helped out as a Campground assistant.

The members during the month of August all worked to find new FFA members. They recruited many members. Most of the members have showed a lot of interest in FFA. They look like they have a promising future in FFA and will be a key in the present and future of the FFA chapter.

In October four members participated in the State Dairy Foods Contest. The participants were Megan Danner, Jennifer Quinn, Elizabeth Dieckman and Laura Clark. The State Fair Foods Team received a bronze rating. They all had a great time being there.

The Soil Judging Team also had contests in October. The team consisted of Amanda Bartenhagen, Elizabeth Dieckman, Isaac Hollingsworth and Mariah Swietzer. The members did a great job. They came in at 12th place out of 28 teams. Mariah Swietzer came in 5th in individual soil judging.

National Convention took place in October. Ten people from the chapter had the privilege of going to the convention. At Convention members went to all types of tours. Some of the tours they attended were the Louisville Slugger Museum and the Science Museum. All the tours were very fun and all were very educational at the same time. They also went to meetings and sessions. The meetings were fun. They had celebrities such as Darryl Glover speak at the meetings. The sessions were educational. They taught things that will be used all during life. The convention is something that the members will probably never forget.

In November members sold

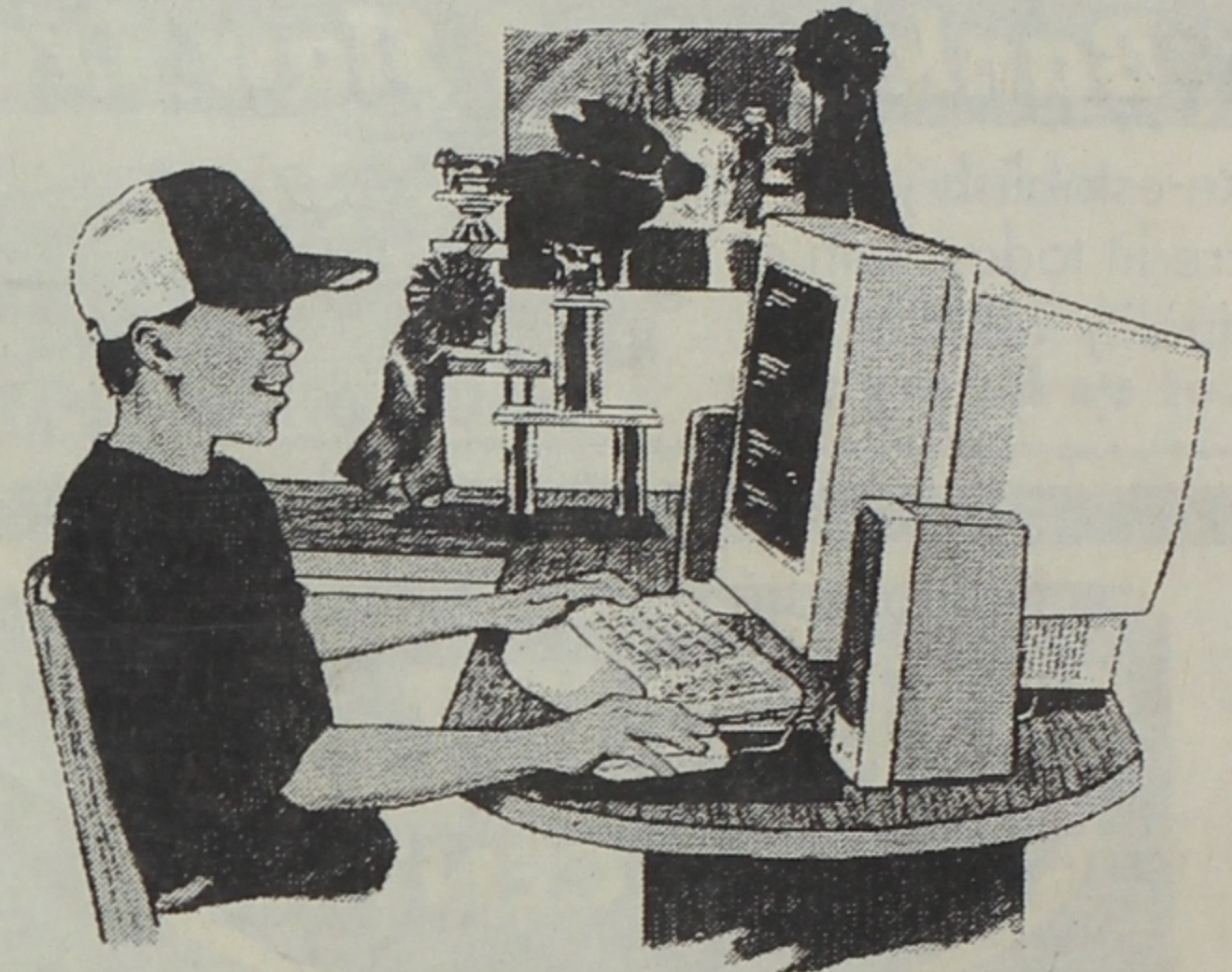
fruit, cheese, meat and candy. They made a profit of \$3,500. The top sellers were Nick Bieri with a profit of \$913. Staci Bieri made the second most, approximately \$849. Matt Carroll sold the third most with \$886. The members were all congratulated with their great work at selling the items. The profit of the items will be used on many FFA activities. We thank everyone for purchasing the items.

In December FFA members got to have a pizza party at Pizza-Hut. They also got to go out bowling. The members enjoyed this activity. They are likely to do it next year too.

In February FFA held its annual Toy Show. The Toy Show was a huge success. The chapter made approximately \$700. They hope to make more money next year.

Sub-District Leadership Contests are coming up. Members have been working very hard preparing for the contests. They look to be very competitive this year. The contests will be held Feb. 21 in Mediapolis. Good luck to the contestants.

National FFA Week is February 19 to 26. Members have planned many activities for the week. They also planned many surprises for the teachers. The Louisa-Muscatine FFA Chapter has had a great year so far. It looks like it will only get better. Thanks to everyone who has helped the chapter.



Columbus Community FFA Chapter information was not received by the Wapello Republican for inclusion in this salute to our Louisa County FFA Chapters.

L-M Toy Show a Huge Success

by Amy Jones, L-M FFA Chapter Reporter

The Louisa-Muscatine held its annual Toy Show Feb. 13, 2000 at the Louisa-Muscatine high school gym. There were about 240 spectators who attended the show. FFA members were responsible for setting up the show, giving out door prizes, and cleaning up. This Toy Show is one of the Chapter Alumni Committee activities. We made approximately \$700 off this event, which will be used to help pay for expenses for our Annual FFA Banquet. The L-M FFA Chapter would like to thank all of the sponsors who helped make this year a success. The toy-show sponsors were: NAPA of Muscatine, Orscheln Farm and Home, Bieri Trucking, John Deere Implement of Muscatine, Toy Farmer Magazine, New York Life, Sombro, AJ-Farm Toys. Thanks to everyone for coming to the toy Show. We hope to see you next year.

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

RIVER PRODUCTS COMPANY
IOWA CITY, IOWA

Serving the agricultural markets for over 80 years

LIMESTONE QUARRIES
Columbus Junction
319-728-2628
SAND PLANT
Fredonia 319-728-2773
SAND PLANT & STONE YARD
Riverside 319-648-5930

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

PRAIRIE AG COOP

FEED, FUEL, FERTILIZER,
SEED, TIRES, GRAIN

Prairie Ag Cooperative

MAIN OFFICE 409 W. Railroad St., Box 57, Mt. Union, IA 52644
Ph. 319-865-1450 Fax: 319-865-1452

WINFIELD
112 E. Ash St./319-257-7740

OLD S
101 N. Main St./319-254-2114

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

tri-state envelope corporation

Industrial Park, Wapello, Iowa

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

MINCER

319-728-2249
HIGHWAY 92 WEST • COLUMBUS JUNCTION, IA
•Dave Parsons 523-8289 • Ralph Oak 728-2840
•Larry Mincer 728-2171

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

ibp Inc.

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE
AUTO HOME BUSINESS HEALTH LIFE
Madison, Wisconsin, 53783

Jeff Vierling

2201 Houser Street, Muscatine, Ia 319-288-2448

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

Lowe Insurance Agency, Inc

C.J. Plaza
Columbus Junction, Ia 5273
Ph. 728-3313

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

State Bank of Wapello

Member FDIC 523-211

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

Benjamin
APOTHECARY AND FLORALS

Complete prescription service
Downtown Wapello 523-3784

FFFA
Future Farmers of America Week
February 19-26

Miller Harrison & Beckey
John N. Beckey

INSURANCE • BENEFITS • CONSULTING
100 West Second Street 319-263-6044 (Bus.)
P.O. Box 469, Muscatine, IA 52761 319-263-6667

Soil, Water Commissioners set meeting

WAPELLO – The Louisa Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners will meet at 4 p.m. Aug. 3, at the NRCS Office, 514 Isett.

7/27/00

SWCD offers scholarship

1-5-2000

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has a scholarship available to Louisa County high school seniors who will be continuing their education at the college level. The recipient of the \$350 local award will also be entered into competition for scholarships at the state level in the amounts of \$800, \$400, and \$200.

Applications are available through high school guidance counselors and are due in the Louisa Count SWCD office by March 1. The local scholarship is made possible through the SWCD's environmental education program which is funded by tree sales to the public.

For more information contact Janet Williams at 523-6411 or Julie Ohde at 523-8381.

Columbus Jet

1-6-2000

Wapello
Republican

The Wapello Repu

Soil and Water Conservation District scholarship available

WAPELLO – The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has a scholarship available to Louisa County high school seniors who will be continuing their education at the college level. The recipient of the \$350 local award will also be entered into competition for scholarships at the state level in the amounts of \$800, \$400 and \$200.

Applications are available through high school guidance counselors and are due in the Louisa County SWCD office by March 1. The local scholarship is made possible through the SWCD's environmental education program which is funded by tree sales to the public.

For more information contact Janet Williams at 523-6411 or Julie Ohde at 523-8381.



Dear Scholarship Committee-

Thank you for awarding me the Soil Conservation Scholarship. I plan on attending Iowa State University in the fall and major in Animal Science. The money will help greatly while I am at Iowa State. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank You -

Alexandra Braun

APR 13 2000

APR 10 2000

Keck Memorial Library

Librarian

119 N. 2nd St.

Wapello, IA 52651

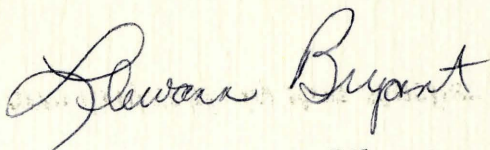
Our Library Board wishes to thank you for the new book

Making Your Small Farm Profitable by Ron Macher

purchased for our library in memory of

Leroy Corey

A record is kept in our Memorial Book and a book plate is placed in each donated book, showing the donor and the person to be remembered.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stewart Bryant". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

Librarian

Keck Memorial Library

119 N. 2nd St.

Wapello, IA 52653

Water quality grant received

WAPELLO - The Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District received a grant from the State of Iowa to develop a water quality project based in the Long Creek watershed located in the western part of Louisa County and drains into the Iowa River, which flows into the Mississippi River.

The concerns within the Long Creek watershed are water quality, erosion control, flood control, wildlife conservation and related nutrient, pest and manure management. These issues impact the water quality and are of concern to Long Creek, Iowa River and Mississippi River watersheds.

The funds from the grant will be used for the collection of background information which is vital to the development of support documentation for a water quality project, if it is to receive any future funding.

The Louisa Conservation District hired Ed Allworth as acting coordinator to oversee the project. Allworth has lived in Wapello all his life and has been

in agribusiness for nearly 20 years. He has a Certified Crop Advisor license, which requires him to have extensive knowledge of soil and water management. In order to support this joint venture, the NRCS has provided services and technical support from the District Conservationist Connie Ramirez, and Soil Conservationist Deb Hunt, to assist Allworth.

This project is to be completed by June 2000. To gather appropriate information and develop this watershed project, there will be a series of meetings, conduct water quality testing within the watershed and personal contacts with interested landowners within the watershed.

Landowners or operators within the Long Creek watershed area who would like more information about the project, should attend the SUPER-BOWL KICKOFF MEETING at the CJ Diner in Columbus Junction at 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 3. The DuPont Chemical Company is sponsoring free coffee and rolls.

2/00 Wg. Rep

Col. Gazette
3/29/00

Watershed update from pg. 1
the nitrate levels are testing a little bit high and bacteria is present. With additional nitrogen fertilizers being applied to farm ground this spring; nitrate levels could increase, especially during a run-off condition. A good nutrient management plan is critical to help control nitrates and phosphates, but may not be enough to meet EPA standards in the future. Additional conservation practices such as no-till farming, building terraces, installing sediment basins, adding buffer zones or filter strips may be needed to help soil erosion and filter water.

The next important phase of the project will be individual contacts with landowners and operators in the watershed, along with continuous water monitoring during the months of April and May. These contacts will allow concerned individuals to comment on

water quality issues and see if anyone has conservation proposals for their land that will help curb erosion and protect the watershed from pesticide and nutrient run-off.

Right now the project is on schedule for final documentation back to the state in June of this year. The watershed coordinator, Ed Allworth feels this project could bring an opportunity for Louisa County landowners to receive incentives to be environmentally responsible and at the same time protect our natural resources. The watershed committee will have another informational meeting later in April. Anyone interested in water quality is encouraged to come and share his or her thoughts and ideas. Also, you are welcome to stop by the Natural Resources Conservation Office in Wapello.

2-23-00 Wap. Rep.

Workshop will teach how to create a backyard habitat for wildlife

WAPELLO – Whether your backyard is a small city lot or five acres, you can provide habitat for a variety of animals. Learn how at a “Backyard Habitat” program at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 28, at the Briggs Civic Center in Wapello.

Through slides, video and handouts, naturalist Julie Ohde will present information on how to provide food, water and shelter to attract different wildlife

species. There will also be handouts on backyard conservation topics including ponds, mulching, pest control, tree planting and composting.

The program is cosponsored by the Louisa County Conservation Board and the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District. For more information contact the conservation board at 523-8381.

LCCB prepares to offer local wilderness leadership program

WAPELLO – Katie Dalton of the Louisa County Conservation Board will attend a wilderness leadership program July 15-22. This program will begin with two days at the 4-H camp near Ames, followed by five days of canoeing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) of Northern Minnesota. The wilderness leadership program will certify Dalton as a leader for similar youth trips in the future.

The trip will involve everything from battling mosquitoes, canoeing and portaging, to learning about the natural history of the land and the plants and animals that live there. It will emphasize minimum impact outdoor skills and how to be a good leader.

Dalton plans to offer a similar trip for youth from Louisa County and surrounding areas in 2001.

Area briefs

will be held in March.

Players may obtain registration forms from AmericInn or sign up at the door.

SWCD taking orders for trees and shrubs

WAPELLO — The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District is taking orders for a variety of tree seedlings for delivery in April.

The district will take orders for the following bare root trees and shrubs: silver maple, red oak, pin oak, shellbark hickory, blue spruce, white pine, red cedar, lilac, redosier

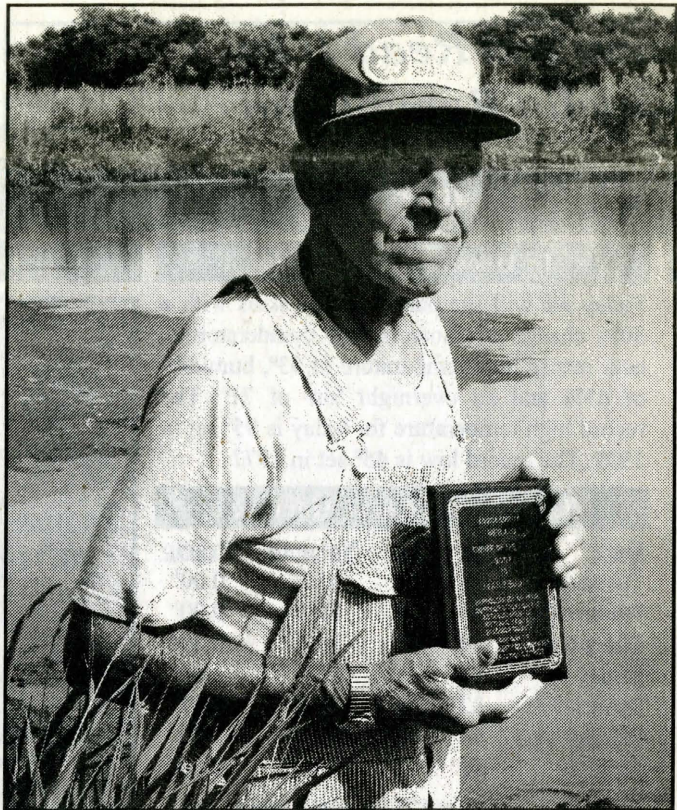
dogwood, chokecherry, Nanking cherry and American plum.

The trees are offered in bundles of 10.

Each bundle costs between \$10 for shrubs and \$13 for red oak and hickory. The seedlings are between 8 inches and three feet tall.

The district also is offering potted persimmon, northern pecan and paw paw seedlings for sale this year. The seedlings will sell for \$5 to \$6 each, with each potted tree averaging six to eight inches.

For more information or to place an order, call the Natural Resource Conservation Service at (319) 523-6411 before Feb. 28.



Wetland Award - Ivan Keller

Ivan's farm is located approx. 5 miles NE of Wapello. In 2003 Ivan talked to the NRCS office staff about installing a wetland on his farm. He had an area that continued to drown out on most wet years. The NRCS office staff and US Fish and Wildlife Service worked with Ivan to

come up with a plan for his wetland. He enrolled his wetland into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2002 and the wetland construction was completed that fall. It is common to see ducks, geese, herons, shorebirds, and many other wildlife species on and around the wetland area.

Louisa County Conservation District announces 2007 award winners

Wildlife Habitat Award -

Jim & Betsy Evans

Jim and Betsy's farm is located approx. 2 miles south of Cotter. They own approx. 120 acres. Their farm is mostly timber. They are constantly working to improve wildlife habitat on their property. Some of the wildlife conservation practices they have installed on their property include: 2 farm ponds, native grass and wildflower plantings, timber stand improvement, and wildlife food plots. They also have put up nesting boxes for wood ducks and other species. Thanks for all your hard work. Congratulations!

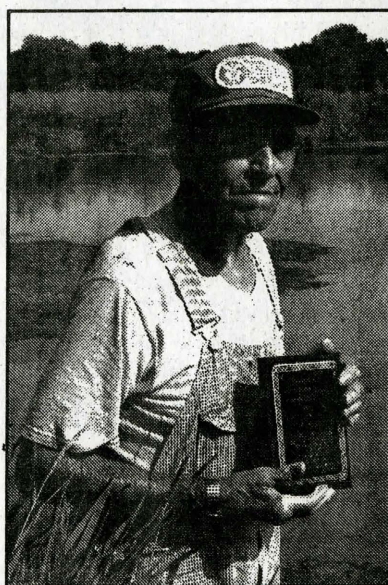


Jim and Betsy Evans

Wetland Award -

Ivan Keller

Ivan's farm is located approx. 5 miles NE of Wapello. In 2003 Ivan talked to the NRCS office staff about installing a wetland on his farm. He had an area that continued to drown out on most wet years. The NRCS office staff and US Fish and Wildlife Service worked with Ivan to come up with a plan for his wetland. He enrolled his wetland into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2002 and the wetland construction was completed that fall. It is common to see ducks, geese, herons, shorebirds, and many other wildlife species on and around the wetland area. Congratulations!



Ivan Keller



Exxa Harris

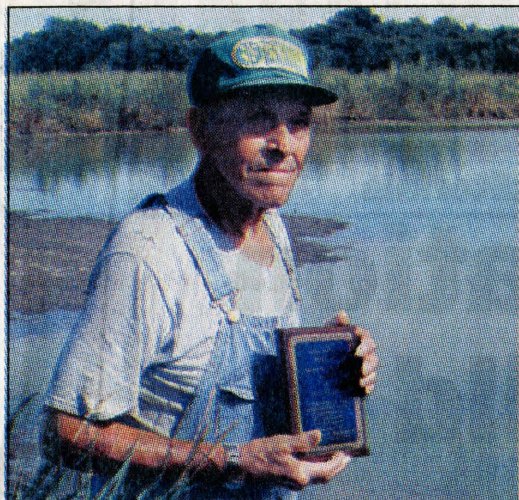
Conservation Farmer Award

- Kim & Sandra Hewitt

Kim and Sandra Hewitt own and operate land northwest of Morning Sun. They have installed and maintained waterways, field borders, contour terraces, and several water and sediment control basins. He has no-tilled the corn and soybean rotation since the early 90's. They also maintain several areas for wildlife habitat. Congratulations and the Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District appreciates the work you have done with good conservation practices.



Windbreak/Shelterbelt Award - Exxa Harris



Ivan Keller



Betsy and Jim Evans



Exxa Harris



From left: Commissioner Mary Boysen, Kim and Sandra Hewitt and commissioner Lee Harris

Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation names award winners

COLUMBUS JUNCTION, Iowa — The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation Commission presented awards to county residents for their conservation practices during the Louisa County Fair, which was held July 23-28.

The following awards were presented:

■ **Wetland Award** — Ivan Keller

Keller's farm is located about 5 miles northeast of Wapello. Keller worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to install a wetland on his farm where an area continued to drown out on most wet years. Keller enrolled his wetland into the Conservation Reserve Program in 2002 and the wetland construction was completed

that fall. It is common to see ducks, geese, herons, shorebirds, and many other wildlife species on and around the wetland area.

■ **Wildlife Habitat Award** — Jim and Betsy Evans

The Evans farm is located about 2 miles south of Cotter. The couple owns about 120 acres, which is mostly timber. Some of the wildlife conservation practices they have installed

on their property includes two farm ponds, native grass and wildflower plantings, timber stand improvement, and wildlife food plots. They also have put up nesting boxes for wood ducks and other species.

■ **Windbreak/Shelterbelt Award** — Exxa Harris

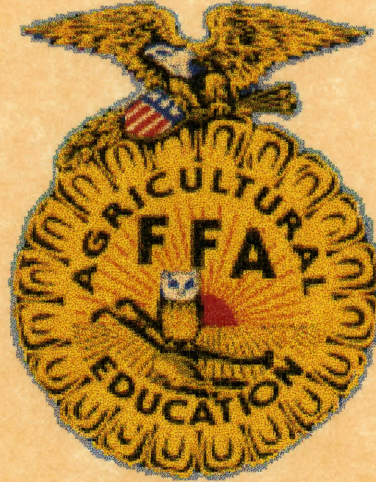
The Harris farm is located near Morning Sun. A windbreak was planted from volunteer trees

from two other windbreaks on her farm. These windbreaks were planted by her husband's father. Lee Harris, a current district commissioner and Exxa's son, helped gather the history on the older windbreak, which is white cedar or arborvitae trees. It was planted by Lee's brother, Max Harris, in the early to mid 1950s.

■ **Conservation Farmer**

Award — Kim and Sandra Hewitt
Kim and Sandra Hewitt own and operate land northwest of Morning Sun. They have installed and maintained waterways, field borders, contour terraces, and several water and sediment control basins. Kim Hewitt has notilled the corn and soybean rotation since the early 1990s. They also maintain several areas for wildlife habitat.

Wapello



Chapter

Certificate of Appreciation

This certificate is presented to **Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District** as a token of appreciation for help rendered the chapter and its members. We especially want to thank you for **sponsoring the first Louisa County Soil Contest.**

Nick A. McCully
President

Len. Meier
Advisor

EVENING PASTURE WALK

Farms Forever will have its last Evening Entree informational session for persons interested in alternative agriculture at the farms of Roger and Marrienne Hunt and Tom and Janet Utter on August 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. Topics will include rotational grazing and crafts from the farm.

A free ribeye steak dinner will follow the sessions to help celebrate the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District's 50th anniversary. Childcare will be provided free for the evening.

Events will begin at the Hunt farm located 5 miles east of Columbus Jct., and 1 mile north of Hwy 92 on "O" Ave. (Watch for signs).

For more information please call Kathy Dice at 729-5905.

Exxa Harris wins Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Award



Windbreak/Shelterbelt Award – Exxa Harris

Exxa's farm is located near Morning Sun, Exxa Harris's windbreak was planted from volunteer trees from two other windbreaks on her farm. These windbreaks were planted by her husbands's father. Lee Harris, a current district commissioner

and Exxa's son helped gather the history on this windbreak. It is white cedar or arborvitae trees. They estimated it was planted by Max Harris, a son of Exxa in the early to mid 50's. Congratulations and we appreciate the many years you have kept your windbreak going.

Riverbank improvement nearly completed at Wapello

by Jan Rees
Gazette Staff

Mike Hart of Hart-Frederick brought the Wapello city council up to date on the riverbank project east of the Briggs Center, at Thursday evening's council meeting. Installation of guard rails and seeding remain to be finished. Those items will be completed this spring and Hart foresees the project being closed in May. "We had a good contractor," Hart said, "He did a good job."

Hart encouraged the council to take another city survey to determine population, income of residents and to obtain other information which would be needed for the city when applying for future grants. Residents are not required to identify themselves in any way on the survey, but the information could be very helpful. Although the city conducted a survey about five years ago, Hart said most grants request statistics which are no more than three years old.

The deadline is early spring for some grants in which the city might be interested, so it will be advantageous for the council to make a decision on the survey in the very near future.

Hart discussed two possible projects which the city might consider in the near future. The first was the shallow drain for sanitary service in the south end of town near Oak Street. Estimates to replace the existing system is \$300,000.

The parking lot at the school was the second targeted area for possible improvement. The gravel base lot has "terrible drainage" according to Hart. It is estimated that the cost would be \$61,812 to bring a storm sewer to the parking lot.

The school board has consulted with Hart regarding the advantages and costs of various surfaces for the lot. The city council and Hart agreed that it would be better to take care of the drainage problem prior to the school board putting down a new parking surface. However, no decision has been made by either governing board, leaving the students with a wet, soggy parking lot on many days.

Councilman Jack Dotson presented a list of needs for the Briggs Center.

After checking the balance remaining in the city account for the center, Dotson said most of the \$6000, which remains will be needed for heat and cleaning. This would make it necessary to wait until the new budget period begins to start improvements.

Jim Moore admitted that "I blew the budget with the air conditioner.", which was installed last summer. He suggested that the budget could be amended to shift funds to the Briggs Center if needed.

Nancy Cardwell reported that the personnel committee had met and was recommending a 15¢ per hour increase for city employees who are paid on an hourly basis. At the Jan. 6 council meeting, sick pay for these employees was reduced from 8 hours per month to 4 hours per month. The committee felt that the hourly increase would help offset the reduction in paid sick leave compensation.

The council voted to reduce life insurance coverage for city employees from \$25,000 to \$20,000 because the city's insurance carrier does not guarantee coverage above \$20,000, unless additional paperwork is completed.

Jim Moore pointed out that city employees also receive \$10,000. life insurance coverage from IPERS.

The council voted 6-1 to approve the change. Fisher was the lone Nay vote.

Jim Keldgord informed the council that Bev Stevens has been appointed to the Pool Committee. He listed several improvements which the committee would like to have made at the pool, including new benches, a refrigerator to replace the present one which isn't very reliable, and possibly a new bike rack. Paint on the sides and bottom of the pool also needs attention. Mike Delzell suggested that it is probably time to sandblast the entire pool to get rid of the layers of paint which have been put on over time. This was a discussion item only, with no decision being made.

Steve Earnest presented the city with an insurance dividend check for \$1664.

Thank You

A note of thanks to conservation-minded farmers across Iowa

The environmental, conservation and sporting groups listed below would like to thank you and thousands of other Iowa farmers like you for your efforts in caring for land, water, wildlife and other natural resources.

We realize that it is private caretakers of the land like you who are the key to natural resource care in this state. The improvements over the past few years in soil conservation and wildlife habitat, in particular, are dramatic.

Please know that we support your efforts, and are sincerely appreciative of your conservation accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Ducks Unlimited, Iowa Chapters
Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards
Iowa Society of American Foresters
Iowa Trappers Association
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Izaak Walton League of America
Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture
Pheasants Forever, Iowa Chapters
Soil and Water Conservation Society, Iowa Chapter
The Wild Turkey Federation

*Thank you
for taking care
of Iowa's land
and water.*

These organizations support the conservation efforts across the state and have made monetary contributions to show appreciation to Iowa's conservation farmers. They are keenly aware of the dedication of farm families who improve Iowa's countryside.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ *Gold level* ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

DuPont Agricultural Products
John Deere Company
Zeneca Ag Products
Land O'Lakes, Inc.
McDonalds

◆ ◆ ◆ *Silver level* ◆ ◆ ◆

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
National Pork Producers Council
Iowa Farm Bureau Federation
Monsanto Agricultural Group
Iowa Soybean Association

◆ *Bronze level* ◆

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa
Iowa Corn Growers Association
Iowa Jzaak Walton League
Dekalb Genetics Corp.
Northrup King Co.
DowElanco

*I*owans recognize the efforts you have made in soil conservation and improving water quality in the state of Iowa.

Nearly all Iowa farmers have made progress in improving the environment, but you have been selected as a farm family who has gone the extra step.



In appreciation of your conservation ethic, please accept this specially designed pewter ornament.

The committee which established the Conservation Farmer Appreciation Program in Iowa extends their appreciation to you and thousands of other Iowa farmers for your conservation and environmental accomplishments.

Conservation Farmer Appreciation Committee:

Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners

USDA Soil Conservation Service

Iowa Corn Growers Association

Iowa Farm Bureau Federation

Iowa Soybean Association

Iowa State University Extension

*Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship,
Division of Soil Conservation*

USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

The committee would also like to acknowledge the support of the many businesses and media, as well as other conservation organizations, including Region 7 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Tree seedlings make good Christmas gift

Seeking a unique gift idea for someone special this year? Check out the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District annual tree sale. You can order a bundle of 10 trees now to be picked up in April, ready for planting. This is the tenth year the LCSWCD is selling tree seedlings to raise money for soil and water conservation in Louisa County.

There are a variety of trees and shrubs for sale. Silver maple, green ash, red oak, Colorado blue spruce and white pine are sold in bundles of 10 for \$12.00. Also available in bundles of 10 are lilac, red osier dogwood and nanking cherry for \$10.00. This year the LCSWCD is also offering bareroot persimmon and ginkgo seedlings for \$2.00 each and potted Chinese chestnut, northern pecan, pinyon pine, and Korean nut pine for \$4.00 each. Tree shelters and stakes are available at a good price.

All these trees are between a few inches to a few feet tall, so call the LCSWCD at 523-6411 for more information or to place your order. The trees will be on sale till February 28.