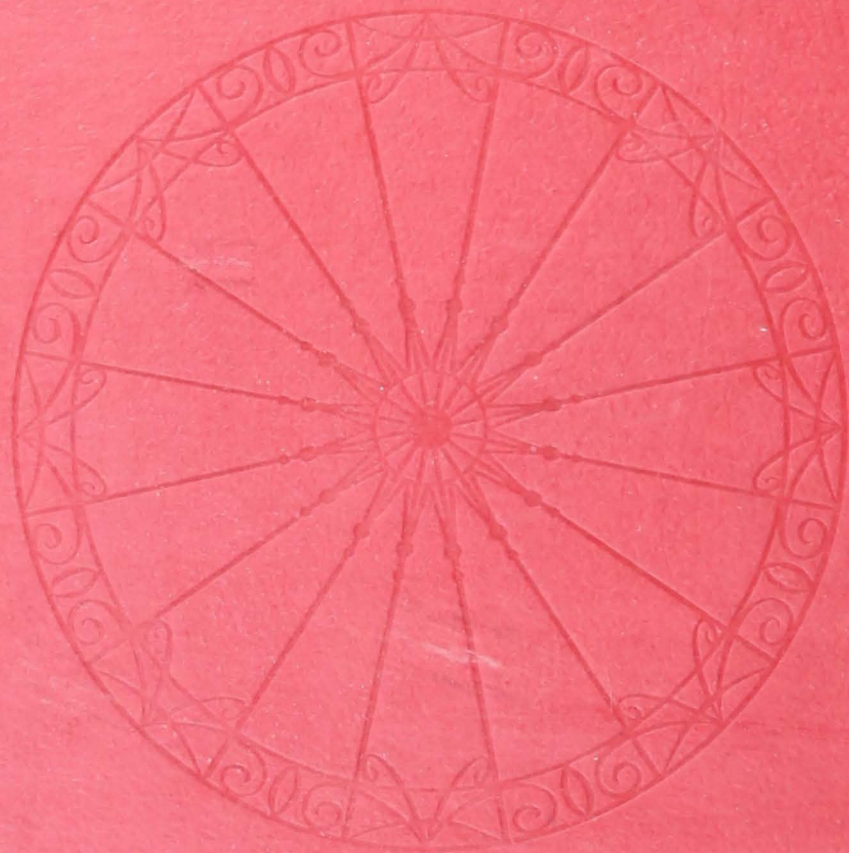




SCRAP BOOK

SCS Is Seeking Baker Successor

John T. Baker, for the past four years, work unit conservation in the Soil Conservation Service of Des Moines County, has taken a position as internal auditor with the Office of the Inspector General.

Baker, 38, will specialize in management inspection of U.S. Department of Agriculture offices in six midwest states, with headquarters at Chicago. They are Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Kentucky.

A native of Spirit Lake, Baker is a 1958 graduate of Iowa State University. He has a B.S. degree in agriculture with a minor in agronomy. Baker came here in March of 1965 from an SCS post at Williamsburg. He also had done conservation work at Fairfield in Jefferson county.

Baker and his wife, the former Naomi Gunderson of Estherville, have a daughter, Robin Lee, 11, and John Thomas Baker IV, 9. The



John T. Baker

family plans to move to Hanover Park, a Chicago suburb, on Friday.

The commissioners of the SCS office here will meet Monday night to consider a successor to Baker.

Soil Stewardship Week

The office of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District has distributed 56 copies of the booklet, *Confronting the Issues*, to clergymen of all faiths in Burlington and the county.

The booklet is designed to assist ministers in leading their congregations in appropriate observance of the Soil Stewardship Week, May 11-18.

Chairman Harold Yohe commented: "As we move toward the 1970's, we continue to act, insofar as the land is concerned, as though we were living in the 1870's."

"The waste, present and prospective, is appalling. Our



profligate course falls far short of responsible stewardship."

Lack Policy, Ethic

Yohe added, "Today we have neither an established land

policy nor an accepted land ethic in the United States. We need both. Among the resource issues of our time, the development and use of a land policy and a land ethic must be regarded as urgent."

Evan and Helen Wilson report they have an excellent stand of pasture grasses on 32 acres that were seeded with an airplane a year ago.

After filling and leveling some ditches they found most of the pasture too steep to seed with a tractor and regular farm equipment.

Robert Sherer who runs a air dusting and spraying service from his farm east of Mediapolis was willing to try the seeding from the air.

Using some of the equipment used to spread dry fertilizer he sowed first the oats and orchard grass mixed together. The next time over it was the birdsfoot trefoil and alfalfa. This mixture made a good start last season and is now thick, lush and green on the Wilson farm north of Mediapolis.

LAWRENCE WHIPPLE, Mediapolis earth moving contractor, has been building some terraces on the Clyde McElhinney farm south of Morning Sun. Some tiling and tile inlets have been installed to drain surface water through the tile.

RUSSELL ELLERHOFF and John Latty have a joint project underway on an adjoining fence line between their farms southeast of Sperry.

They have cleared a hedge

fence row. At a point where the fence crossed a drainage way, perhaps some 20 feet deep, John is now building an earthen dam that will impound perhaps an acre of water with the surplus to go under the dam in an overflow pipe. The fence between the two men will now be built on the top of the dam. No trouble with a water gap and damage from heavy rains. A pipe is being installed so the livestock can be watered below the dam. Al Heckenberg of New London is doing the earth moving.

ART ANDRIES whose farm is southeast of Mediapolis says he always plans to leave a little feed, often some grain sorghum, unharvested in a fence corner on the farm so that the deer may have some readily available feed, when heavy winter snows may make foraging even for a deer rather difficult.

THE PLOWING is being done on the contour on the Roger Cling and Robert Crew farms east of Mediapolis on some sloping fields.

To the north Melvin Nelson has not only done the plowing on the contour but used terraces as guide lines for his plowing. The terraces are additional soil saving practices on quite sloping fields.

Soil Stewardship Week

Soil Stewardship Week, a nationwide observance which places emphasis on man's obligation to God as stewards of the soil, water and other related resources, has been set for May 11-18 this year, according to Ervin J. J. Koos, Shelby, president, Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

This year's observance with the theme *Confronting the Issues*, underscores the responsibility that each citizen has in dealing forthrightly with current issues involving stewardship of renewable natural resources.

The 100 Soil Conservation Districts of Iowa, and some 2,900 companion districts throughout the nation, are sponsoring the event for the 15th consecutive year.

Koos points out the necessity for man to look beyond today's horizons so that through judgment and wisdom he will be able to adequately fulfill his multiplying responsibilities as stewards of the soil, water and related resources.

Koos reminds us that when the first Soil Conservation Districts were formed in the 1940's, the principal objective was to encourage farmers to apply conservation measures which would hold soil in place.

Today, he added, we are confronted with issues involved in modern resource conservation,

including the planning and treatment of complete watersheds as resource units.

The job, in addition to conserving the soil, is to coordinate the management of cropland, pasture and woodland in order to minimize the damage of floods and sediment; to improve the quality and regularity of water supplies for domestic, industrial and recreational uses; and to provide for wildlife habitat.

Koos further added, soil and water management contributes to the rate of national economic growth, stimulates the economy of local communities and contributes basically to the development of both rural and urban areas.

Today we are concerned with the competition for the use of land. Urban development, highways and many other uses take more than a million acres of agricultural land out of production in the United States each year.

Land use decisions, Koos said, must be made with all resource information available. These decisions must consider the entire physical, economic and social environment of the community.

As we progress from the 1960's to the 1970's, we still look to the land as our chief source of food and fiber, but new dimensions must be added to our stewardship responsibilities.

MAY 7

APRIL 30

MAY 7

MAY 21

Federal SCS Pollution Fighter Is

By BOB SOGARD

There's something about the people of Washington, D.C. that agrees with a midwestern country boy like me. They are a different breed of cat than the usual big-city eastern dude.

The answer to this situation is simple when you get to know some of the Washington crowd. Likely as not they come from the midwest. In the agriculture department, for instance, it seems that every third or fourth man you meet graduated from Iowa State University.

So it was with a comfortable feeling that I met Norman A. Berg in his office in the big USDA complex a couple weeks ago. He's not an Iowa State grad, but he surely knows the midwest, because that's where he hails from. He has an uncle, Paul O. Berg, who is an ISU engineering graduate, now with a firm at Ft. Wayne, Ind.

In fact, he calls Burlington "home," although he hasn't lived here since he was six years old. He has two aunts here, Mrs. Carl Schoell, Agency road, and Mrs. E.H. (Pete) Gerdom, 2045 Highland.

Berg's mother, the former Mary Rholeder, is 78 years old now and lives with his family. She was born in Burlington hospital and so was his eldest

daughter, while the family was visiting in Burlington. Now she is Mrs. Susan Morgan of Beltsville, Md.

In addition to Mrs. Morgan, the Bergs have three other daughters, Jane, 21, a nurse at the University of Delaware; Pamela, 18, in school at Lynchburg, Va., and Rebecca, 14, at home.

SCS Associate Administrator

Berg, 51, just this year was named associate administrator of the Soil Conservation Service. He has been with the SCS for 26 years, with three years out for World War II service in the marines.

In his present position he has overall administrative authority on SCS operations. Over the past several years, he has served as agency liaison with Congress and also directed the Great Plains conservation program from 1960 to the middle of 1965, when he became deputy administrator for field service.

"My specialty has always been the Great Plains, west of the Mississippi and east of the Rockies, but naturally I know Iowa and the neighboring states best," he said. He was born here on Mar. 14, 1918, the son of Alf Frederick and Mary Rholeder Berg. They moved to

Minnesota where he grew up on a farm.

He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1941, with a B.S. in science and agriculture, and married Ruth Askegaard of Morehead, Minn. He taught vocational agriculture at Floodwater, Minn., before going to Idaho as conservation aid with the SCS. Subsequently, he was work unit conservationist and area conservationist at Pocatello, before going into service.

Degree from Harvard

After his hitch in the marines, he went to South Dakota. In 1956 he received his master's degree in public administration from Harvard University and for the next four years was assistant state conservationist for watersheds in South Dakota.

He was appointed as assistant to the administrator of SCS in Washington in 1960 and in 1965 became deputy administrator for field Services. This year's promotion was his latest.

He has written many articles for professional journals and has chaired or served on several conservation and natural resources task forces. Berg has received several commendations for excellence in performance of his responsibilities. He's a member of the faculty of the USDA

Graduate School for Management and Supervision.

Some major problems of the SCS include trying to save urban and suburban development areas from the chaos of erosion and pollution by sedimentation, the SCS official said.

"We have to interest the major metropolitan areas in conservation problems, for instance, in opening up rural lands for development by increment, with engineering resources and advice on vegetative cover. This calls for a plan and starts with soil survey information.

"The best way is to open up and cover up quickly, and often to build debris basins to settle out debris so it won't leave the land and wash down a gulley," he added.

Sediment Worst Pollutant

Berg points in one of his papers that sediment is the nation's number-one pollutant. "A billion and a half cubic yards of sediment is deposited each year in our major reservoirs, reducing the nation's water supply capacity by enough to serve a city of 5½ million people for a year," he noted.

An example is at Burlington's doorstep where the pool behind



Norman A. Berg

the Keokuk dam becomes shallower each year. Another is the harbor at Cleveland, Ohio, which is dredged every year and each time about 800,000 cubic yards of sediment is removed at a cost of more than 50 cents a cubic yard.

Getting back to his native state, Berg said Iowa is the

shining example in conservation work held up to other parts of the nation. Fully applied basic conservation plans cover nearly one-tenth of the state's 33.8 million acres.

In fiscal 1968, there were 89,664 cooperators enrolled and 65,076 had basic plans covering

Keeps in Touch
Berg said he keeps in touch with Iowa and this part of the state by attending Iowa section functions at national SCS conventions.
Cong. Fred Schwengel of Iowa's first district is a "solid supporter" of conservation, including several watershed projects in the district and work on improving resources of the region, Berg stated.

The decision of the Nixon administration to eliminate ACP funds in the new budget must be supported by USDA officials, of course. However, Berg gave statistics such as the fact that 1,000 man-years of SCS technical help would be eliminated if the budget recommendation is adopted. This would be 500 man-years in fiscal '70, because of the

12 million acres. Approximately 36.5 per cent of the needed soil and water conservation work on the land in the state has been completed and the remainder of the needed work is being completed at the rate of 2.5 per cent annually.

Since 1960, there have been 189 new industries or businesses employing 378 located in local conservation districts as a result of soil and water conservation work.

calendar year setup of SCS. There were 350,000 referrals handled last year. The current ACP budget is \$186 million.

Berg said even if the budget cut stands, he doesn't anticipate a drastic reduction in conservation practices. "I think most operators have found that conservation pays, so instead of paying half of the cost they would pay all of it," he added.

The discussion undoubtedly is academic, though. Congressmen have indicated that the popular conservation funding will continue, regardless of Nixon's recommendations.

Berg said some county conservation plans have been developed, including two near Washington. These are Montgomery, in Maryland, and Fairfax Va., where all land and water use is controlled by the plan.

One outstanding multi-county planning unit that has worked out a complete regional plan is the 7-county area governed by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Kurt W. Bauer, executive director. The counties are Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha.

May 14, 1969

Burlington Native



Terrace Work

Lawrence Whipple of Mediapolis puts the finishing touch on a seeded backslope terrace on Doctor Ronald Lofgrens farm in Pleasant Grove Township. This is the second year in a row Dr. Lofgren has installed terraces on his farm. He takes great pride in trying to conserve and improve his farm. Paul Heater, tenant, co-operates by helping install and maintain these installations. Other soil conserving practices applied on the farm besides the terraces are: 2 ponds; 4 erosion control dams and about 7 acres of grassed waterways.

June 26



Employment Program

The Burlington Office of the Soil Conservation Service is taking part in the 1969 Federal Summer Employment Program for youths 16 thru 21 years of age, who meet specific economic restrictions. Edward Wright, 18 years old, graduated from Parma School, Portageville, Missouri, May 18, 1969. Ed worked his way thru High School under the NYC Program doing janitor and maintenance work. His mother, 2 sisters and 3 brothers live at Parma, Missouri and one brother in Burlington. He will be assisting the Burlington Work Unit in surveying and engineering work.



Edward Wright

Works For SCS

The Burlington office of the NYC program, doing janitor Soil Conservation Service is and maintenance work. He took taking part in the 1969 federal part in vocational agriculture summer employment program classes in school. His mother, for youths 16 through 21 years, two sisters and three brothers who meet specific economic live at Parma and one brother, restrictions. Sydney Gaines, in Burlington.

Edward Wright, 18, who graduated from Parma school at Portageville, Mo., last month, is assisting the Burlington work unit in surveying and engineering work.

The youth worked his way through high school under the

Ed and his brother, Dave, came here to visit Sydney and Ed was hired by the SCS through the employment office. He has been working in the field with Harry Bryant, conservation technician, and will be with the Burlington office until the end of September.

July 2

Attend Conservation For One Month

Linda Kester, Burlington, and Patty Wolfe, Sperry, students at Southeast Iowa college, are currently attending for one month the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp at Springbrook State Park near Guthrie Center.

Both girls are sponsored by the Longcreek Conservation club and will receive college credit for attending three-week camp.

The camp is sponsored jointly by the State Conservation Commission, the University of Northern Iowa, and the State Department of Public Instruction.

July 9

Conservationist Retained Here

Monday morning Ralph Dewey will take over as district conservationist with the Soil Department of Agriculture offices in six midwest states with headquarters in Chicago.



Ralph
Dewey

Conservation Service of Des Moines county.

Dewey has held this position in Sac City for the past 16 years and was previously at Greenfield.

John Baker, who was district conservationist here for four years, has taken a position as internal auditor with the Office of the Inspector General.

Dewey sees the work of the Soil Conservation as migrating in the direction of Resource Conservation and Development of the entire community with a goal of total of environmental development and planning.

"Work with farmers in erosion control, he says, is a vital part of the program and will certainly not be neglected as we move to give our services to other land users as well."

He also said, "I am pleased to know that land terracing in the modern manner is under way in Des Moines county."

Worked in Forestry

Dewey, a native of Dubuque, worked briefly in the forest products industry following his graduation from Iowa State University, Ames.

Dewey and his wife, Dorothy, have four children: Renee, 21, a senior nursing student at South Dakota State University; John, 17, a senior in high school; James, 13, in eighth grade, and Dolly, 8, in third grade.

Dewey said one of his favorite community activities is Kiwanis club in which he served as lieutenant governor a few years ago. He's a Mason and the family is active in the Presbyterian church.

The conservation expert said his diversions include musical activities and art, some golf and fishing.

Region 9

DAVIS—(1) Elmer Weibrenner, Bloomfield; (11) Lee Barnett, Ottumwa; Roscoe Brown, Bloomfield, operator.

DES MOINES—(1) O. D. White, Burlington; (11) R. E. Lofgren, Mediapolis; owner, Paul Heater, Danville; operator, (11) Lee Orth, Burlington.

JEFFERSON—(1) Mrs. Bertha Kelter, Richland; owner, Robert Kister, Richland; operator, Teacher, Mrs. Herman Harder, Brighton (Pleasant Plain School, Pleasant Plain).

VAN BUREN—(1) Elaine DeHart, Knoxville.

WAYNE—(1) C. L. Shriver, Chiles; (11) William W. Cribb, Corydon.

Aug. 3



SEEDED BACKSLOPE terrace gets the finishing touches at the hands of bulldozer operator Lawrence Whipple of Mediapolis. The work is being done on the farm of Dr. Ronald Lofgren, in Pleasant Grove township. Lofgren also installed terraces on his farm last year. Paul Heater, tenant on the farm, helps install and maintain the improvements. Other soil conserving practices applied on the farm: two ponds, four erosion control dams and about seven acres of grassed waterways.

New District Conservationist



RALPH E. DEWEY

Ralph E. Dewey is the newly appointed District Conservationist for this area. He replaces John Baker who was transferred to internal auditing at Chicago. Mr. Dewey has been in the conservation service for 20 years and has spent 16 years in Sac Co. stationed at Sac City, Iowa. He took over his new duties on Monday, July 14, and he and his family are living in West Burlington.

July 17

Conservation Winners White, Lofgren, Orth

Three Des Moines county farm owners and operators have been named winners in the annual Iowa Soil Conservation Awards contest by the Des Moines County Soil Conservation district.

In the owner-operator division, the O. D. White farm, north of Burlington, was named first place winner.

The 1969 winner for the best tenant-operated farm is R. E. Lofgren of Mediapolis for his farm which is operated by Paul Heater of Danville.

In the third division, new cooperators, Leo Orth of Burlington took first place honors for his farm.

The farms will be judged in regional competition in a 13-

county area of southeast Iowa. If one of the farms wins in the regional event, it will go on to state competition.

The district commissioners said that the winning farms are above average in completion of the conservation work planned for their farms.

Good Erosion Control

They are, however, typical of the "high grade of erosion control being established in the Des Moines county district," according to the district chairman, Harold Yohe of Mediapolis.

This is the 17th year of the contest which is sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune and Iowa Farm and Home Register, cooperating with soil conservation districts.

Aug. 6

SCS Office Here Cited

State Conservationist Wilson T. Moon, of Des Moines announced that a certificate of Merit has been awarded to the Burlington Work Unit of the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

The award was presented by Area Conservationist John Eckes of Fairfield in recognition of sustained above average performance for the fiscal years 1968 and 1969.

During this period the Soil Conservation staff in Burlington made great advances in establishing tile outlet terrace systems in Des Moines county.

The staff was headed by John T. Baker, who has recently left the area to take on other duties with USDA. Conservation Technician Harry Bryant and Mrs. Mildred Kleinkopf, State clerk, the other staff members.

Baker and Bryant also received cash incentive awards for their performance during this period.

July 28



IMPROVING PASTURE on his farm north of Danville in Pleasant Grove township is Leo Bohlen. This field was covered with scrub brush. Bohlen, who has a large dairy herd, applied to the ASCS office for assistance in clearing and reseeding and fertilizing of the pasture. A large pond will be built this summer in this pasture to provide livestock water and control a large erosive ditch. Waterways will be shaped and seeded to facilitate mowing of the pasture to control weeds and brush. Bohlen recently completed 3,400 feet of parallel inlet terraces on his farm.

May 28

WHILE FARMERS have been busy planting crops, they have also kept most earth-moving contractors busy with putting in soil saving practices. On the Schrock farms east of Mediapolis Lawrence Whipple is using a giant disc to root out brush so the pasture may be reseeded. The Schrocks have done much pasture improvement in the past and are still interested in getting a maximum stand of grass for their Angus cow herd, reported to be one of the larger cow herds in the state.

CHARLES RIGGINS in Tama Township just a few miles north of Burlington has Contractor Frank Woodall busy with brush clearing in preparation for pasture improvement.

A PIPE DROP INLET erosion dam has been completed on the Arthur Strawhacker farm south east of Mediapolis. Tile is being installed on the Clarence Kuntz farm south of Oakville for the setting up of a terrace system. Rex Mackey is the tiler.

KENNETH SPRINGSTEIN has been installing tile on the Holly Wagner farm near Danville, Earl Edwards and John Hanks farms east of New London and for Curtis Darbyshire north of Yarmouth.

May 28

HARRY BRYANT, an assistant in the soil conservation office, is filling in while the county is without a county planner since John Baker resigned a few weeks ago. In the meantime the soil district commissioners are looking for a replacement for Baker.

June 4

TERRACING and contouring for soil-saving were showing up real well on the Earnest Ludeman and Henry Dockendorff farms south and west of Danville as the tour drove by their fields. Both men have made extensive efforts to put soil-saving practices into use. Henry is a commissioner of the Des Moines County Soils District.

June 8

Students See Iowa Farming

Several students from Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, Tenn., have been visiting the area this weekend to study Iowa Farming practices.

All 18 students are members of the Agronomy club at TTU and are making the first of what is hoped to be an annual spring tour.

One of the students, Lloyd Covington, is a nephew of Will Stucker, Danville, where the group spent the night Friday and Saturday.

Saturday the men looked at terrace construction on the Leo Bohlen farm north of Danville and studied drainage on the Henry Dockendorff and Francis Cook farms west of Danville.

Today four of the five car loads will travel farther north into Wisconsin and Michigan before returning to Tennessee.

May 14

THE SOIL CONSERVATION service reports that John Creswell, IAAP Plant Agronomist and Harry Bryant, technician for the Soil Conservation Service have been laying out the first tile inlet terrace system to be installed on IAAP farm land.

WALTER SENN in Benton township is building a large recreation and erosion control pond on his farm. Dude (Walter) Duvall and Darwin Campbell have been doing the earth moving.

DR. TED MAZUR and Leif Lomo are building a large recreation and erosion control pond on their farm north of Burlington in Flint River township.

Chuck Allgood of Winfield is doing the construction work.

NICHOLSON BROS. have installed some 6,000 feet of tile on the Max Dockendorff farm west of Danville.

MARLAND LAUGHLIN reports almost a perfect control job of weeds in his soybeans from the pre-emergence application of a herbicide on his Henry county farm southeast of New London.

June 18

The HAWK-EYE 13
Burlington, Iowa
Wednesday June 4, 1969

Conservation Work Done On Wilson Farm

MEDIAPOLIS — Evan Wilson is installing an overflow pipe for an erosion control pond on his farm north of Mediapolis.

The pond will cover a large erosive gully and will impound about 1.5 acres of water. The 6 inch overflow pipe lets excess water safely through the dam so it does not wash out. The two larger objects on the pipe are 5x5 anti-seep collars to keep the water from following down the outside of the pipe.

The farm gound above the pond will be tile inlet terraced just as soon as the pond is completed.

This watershed on the Wilson farm will be completely treated to control erosion when these two practices are finished.

employment service

SCS takes part in

The Burlington office of the Soil Conservation Service is taking part in the 1969 federal summer employment program.



EDWARD WRIGHT

employment program for youths 16 through 21 years of age, who meet specific economic restrictions.

Edward Wright, 18 years old, graduated from Parma School, Portageville, Mo., on May 18. Ed worked his way through high school under the NYC program doing janitor and maintenance work.

His mother, two sisters and three brothers live at Parma, Mo. and one brother in Burlington.

He will be assisting the Burlington Work Unit in surveying and engineering work.

June 28

Next week, June 15 to 22, is Soil and Water Conservation Week by proclamation of Governor Robert D. Ray. Many soil and water conserving practices have been put into practice in the county, some of which we have noted in past columns.

A new dam for a pond has just been completed on the Evan Wilson farm north of Mediapolis.

Lawrence Whipple is building parallel terraces that will empty into the pond through drop inlets and tile. As soon as the clover hay has been harvested, another field will be terraced and surplus water diverted to the pond through tile drains.

Wilson, with an assist from George Johnson and son-in-law Richard Steffner, who live on the farm, has fertilized some permanent pasture in addition to the pasture seeded from the air last year. He says he plans to carry out about so much soil saving work each year to add to his overall plan.

Above the Wilson farm, S.S. Barton has terraced and tiled most of 80 acres to control soil losses and slow down water runoff.

In Pleasant Grove township north of Danville, Frank Woodall is building a pond for Leo Bohlen. Bohlen is one of the county's dairymen owning a nice Holstein herd.

Clarence Miller, owner of the Miller Fruit Farm, has employed Carl Van Tiger, another earth moving contractor, to terrace some of his fields in Union Township.

Southeast of Mediapolis, both Charles Tucker and Charles Hutchcroft have used both terraces and contouring to hold the soil in place in their corn fields.

June 11

ORTTIE ROCKE, southeast of Oakville, has had good success planting soybeans on cornstalk ground that was only disced and not plowed.

A herbicide was used to control weeds. The stalks on the surface of the ground are a bit troublesome at the first cultivation but no great problem.

June 25



TERRACING is done by scraping earth from the high side of a field and filling in the waterways on the low side. Frank Woodall is running this earth mover for Leigh Raetz.

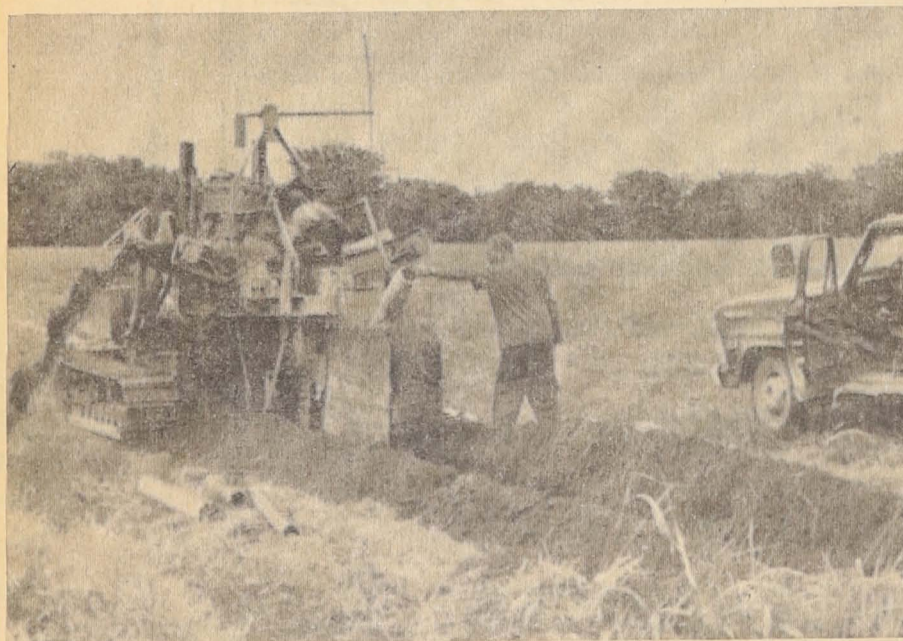
LEONARD LANE says terraces on a tract of rolling land owned by his father, Walter Lane, in the vicinity of Roscoe northwest of Mediapolis, have prevented soil losses in the field although there have been some very heavy rains this season. Any soil that has moved has been stopped at the terraces which slow the running water down to a walk.

July 2

HENRY MEHMKEN, who lives west of Mediapolis, says he sighted a coyote recently in one of the grassed waterways on his farm. Seems the long grass makes good habitat for wild animals and birds and good hunting for predators.

July 2

Try New Land-Terracing Method At IAAP



TILING is being laid at a grade to allow silt to settle out of the run-off before it leaves the field. Ray Leitch and Sons, New London, are tiling at IAAP for Leigh Raetz.

June 22

Story and Photos

By DAVID HAWORTH

A relatively new type of farm land terracing is being undertaken at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant.

Leigh Raetz, manager of Middletown Mills, is footing the bill for parallel cut-and-fill terracing on about 180 acres of IAAP ground he is leasing at the northwest corner of the plant.

Parallel cut-and-fill terracing, according to Des Moines County Soil Conservation officer Harry Bryant, is formed by borrowing dirt from the higher ground in the field and using it to dam up, or terrace, the waterways on the low side of the field.

In this way, Bryant explains, the water run-off is collected in a pocket and tilled off slowly so that the silt settles out of the run-off and the soil stays in the field.

Raetz is pioneering the parallel cut-and-fill land terracing at IAAP. John Creswell, head agronomist at the plant, said that there will be more of the terracing done this fall.

There are several advantages to this type of terracing, Bryant said. Erosion is controlled. The soil moved by run-off from the higher ground to the pocket formed by terracing will form a table in a matter of years but most of the soil will remain on the field and not be washed away.

On a large scale this type of terracing will save tax money by reducing the need for dredging rivers and streams clogged by soil erosion, and reduce the chances of flooding by holding water in the field and allowing it to run off more slowly.

A field terraced in this way can be planted east and west in straight rows without the necessity of following the land's contour.

Not only can a farmer have straight rows but it eliminates the need to waste land in grass waterways.

There are now approximately 400,000 feet of parallel cut-and-fill terracing in Des Moines county, Bryant said.

Offer Industry Aid

Members of the District Technical Action Panel (TAP) have been alerted to help that is available through the center for Industrial Research and Service, a function of the Co-operative Extension Service.

Representatives of seven southeast Iowa counties met at Wapello last week where Robert A. Lyon of Davenport explained the CIRAS program.

CIRAS offers its service to all of Iowa's industry no matter how large or small. This concept of research service for industry grew out of the thinking of many Iowans who felt the need for technological aid to get the economy moving.

Lyon pointed out several areas where this service has aided industries through market analysis and assistance to find the best technical advice.

"One of our fastest growing fields is assisting inventors and innovators," Lyon states. "Our service can help an inventor to avoid patent problems and can, through market analysis, save him from producing a product which may not be salable."

Help Is Free

Help from CIRAS for problems in production, management, marketing and quality control are offered to Iowa industry at no cost.

Jack Cowan, district TAP chairman, representing Farmers Home Administration at Mt. Pleasant, viewed the information on CIRAS as vital to Technical Action Panels of the Area. As TAP members become more aware of what other agencies have to offer, they can help each other be more effective in serving the public.

Future plans for District TAP include cataloging the many

public and private agencies who offer help in solving social and economic problems. The TAP district involves state and federal agencies in Lee, Des Moines, Henry, Washington, Louisa, Muscatine and Scott counties.

July 30

Soil Conservation Winners In Area

Three prize winning Des Moines County farms have been named winners in the annual Iowa Soil Conservation Awards contest by the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District, according to District Chairman, Harold Yohe of Mediapolis.

Entries were made in three divisions. The owner-operator division award was made to O. D. White farming north of Burlington. From the highway, the White farm appears level. However, the owner has applied more than a mile of terracing, a livestock water pond, four miles of tile drainage, six acres of tree planting and six acres of renovated pasture on this quarter section farm.

The second division is for tenant operated farms. The 1969 winner for this county is R. E. Lofgren of Mediapolis for his farm operated by Paul Heater of Danville. The Lofgren farm boasts a mile of terrace, two livestock ponds, two miles of tile-drainage, and over six acres of grassed waterways.

Division three of the contest is for new cooperators, and the winner here is Leo Orth of Burlington. Although he has been applying soil and water conservation work for only about a year, Orth has managed to install a half mile of terrace, a farm pond, ten acres of renovated pasture and 14 acres of permanent vegetation.

The District Commissioners point out that these farms are

above average in completion of the conservation work planned for their farms. They are, however, typical of the high grade of erosion control being established in Des Moines County District.

The three farms will go on to regional competition in a thir-

teen county area of southeast Iowa with a hope for additional award and state recognition. The annual contest is sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune and Iowa Farm and Home Register cooperating with soil conservation districts.

Aug. 7

Movement Of County Soil Cited

The need for more soil and water conservation practices on rural and urban land in Des Moines county has been very evident, because of the heavy rains which have fallen the last few months, according to Harry Bryant, acting district conservationist.

New construction sites for homes, buildings and roads, where bare soils have been exposed to the weather, have had excessive soil losses.

This soil movement has plugged sewers and culverts, filled ditches and polluted the streams and rivers causing problems and expense to the taxpayer.

Could Avoid Problems

Many of the problems and expenses could be avoided by making temporary seeding and constructing small de-silting dams around these areas, Bryant stated.

The soil loss on farms has been the heaviest in several years in Des Moines county.

Farmers should take a long hard look at their fields and determine whether they are using the latest technology in conserving their soil. The modern tile inlet terrace will keep 95 per cent of the soil on the farm.

Wet weather has slowed construction, but in spite of this there has been 36,000 feet of terrace, eight erosion control dams, two ponds and 50,060 feet of tile installed this year in Des Moines county.

The Soil Conservation Service located in the Federal Building in Burlington is interested in helping any individual or group, rural or urban with their soil and water conservation problems, Bryant reported.

Aug. 24

SCS awarded certificate of merit

State Conservationist Wilson T. Moon of Des Moines announced this week that a certificate of merit has been awarded to the Burlington Work Unit of the USDA Soil Conservation Service. The award was presented Thursday by Area Conservationist John Eckes of Fairfield in recognition of sustained above average performance for the fiscal years 1968 and 1969.

During this period, the Soil Conservation staff in Burlington made

great advances in established tile outlet terrace systems in Des Moines county. The staff was headed by John T. Baker who has recently left the area to take on other duties with USDA.

Conservation Technician Harry Bryant and State Clerk Mrs. Mildred Kleinkopf are the other staff members.

Baker and Bryant also received cash incentive awards for their performance during this period.

Aug. 2

URGE MORE CONSERVATION PRACTICES

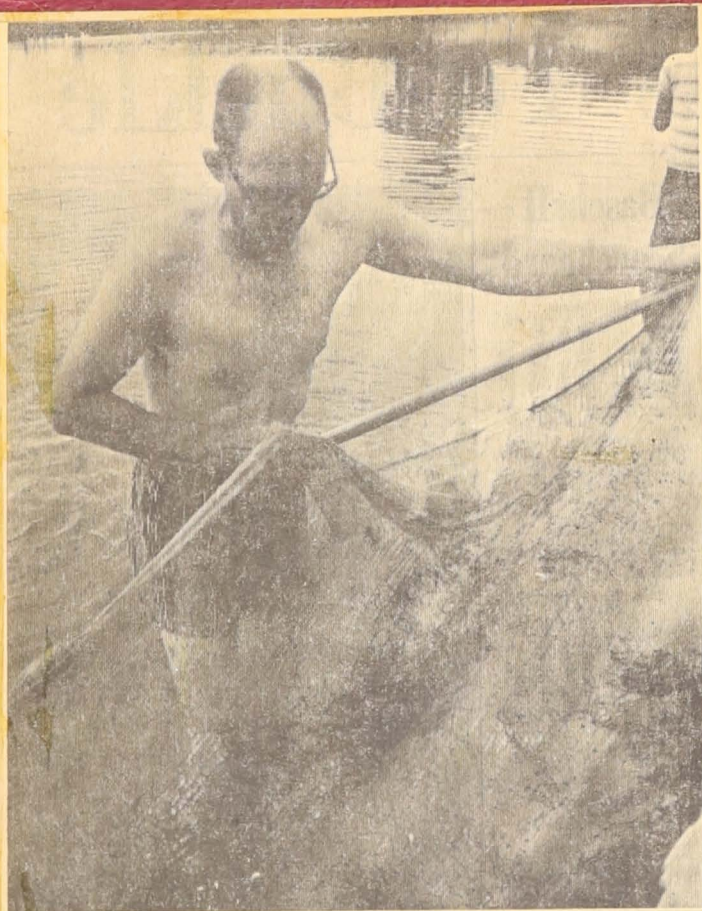
The need for more Soil and Water Conservation Practices on rural and urban land in Des Moines County has been very evident, because of the heavy rains which have fallen the last few months.

New construction sites for homes, buildings, and roads, where bare soils have been exposed to the weather, have had excessive soil losses. This soil movement has plugged sewers and culverts, filled ditches and polluted the streams and rivers causing problems and expense to the taxpayer. Many of the problems and expenses could be avoided by making temporary seeding and constructing small de-silting dams around these areas.

The soil loss on farms has been the heaviest in several years in Des Moines County. Farmers should take a long hard look at their fields and determine whether they are using the latest technology in conserving their soil. The modern tile inlet terrace will retain ninety-five per cent of the soil moved from leaving the farm.

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Aug. 14



Robert Moorman—Bluegills a Problem.

Moorman Explains Pond Management

By GEORGE L. MARZECK

Subjects ranging from algae control to balanced fish populations were discussed by Professor Robert Moorman, extension director of Iowa State University, Ames, at the pond on the William Gerdes farm three miles north of Burlington on Irish Ridge Road.

Chairman of the joint program by the Soil Conservation District Commission and the Extension Service was Jim Hodges, Des Moines County extension director. Assisting were Ralph Dewey, district conservationist, and Harry Bryant, assistant district conservationist, both from the Soil Conservation Service. Also on hand was Dick Schneider, Des Moines County Conservation Board, who spoke briefly on the work his group is doing.

Regarding good fish populations, Moorman went on to say that the thinking has changed somewhat in the species favored for farm ponds. At one time, bass and bluegill were available for stocking purposes from both State and Federal agencies. Although the State was the first to do so, today neither will provide free bluegills. Bass can be acquired in most amounts deemed suitable to the need and on occasion channel catfish can be had in limited quantities.

Unless the pond is reasonably large — perhaps 10 surface acres — and has steep shorelines with few weeds, bullheads, green sunfish, crappie, bluegills and even goldfish can soon become a problem. All are extremely prolific and will spawn repeatedly under conditions

clean, untreated water will restore them in most instances.

One of the highlights of the program came about when Professor Moorman stripped down to his swim trunks and, with the aid of a volunteer from the audience, seined through a small patch of weeds. Most onlookers were surprised to see the number of small bluegills of various sizes brought up. The size differential was not great, but still noticeable. Moorman explained that originally the thought was that the bluegills were spawning more than once a season. Now it is generally accepted that different ones spawn at different times

Well over 125 men, women and children were in attendance as Professor Moorman explained the significance of the farm pond as a "close-to-home" recreational facility, although they are not generally established as such originally.

Weed control seemed to be of primary importance to the audience and Moorman pointed out that this nuisance of excessive weeds and filamentous algae (scum) gets most of its start from the organic and inorganic fertilizers carried by run-off.

The most common method for eliminating filamentous algae is the use of copper sulfate and is approved for treating water at the rate of 1.4 pounds per acre foot. Moorman explained that tests have shown that this is not only the most economical method but also provides the best results with negligible toxicity.

Other control measures are used for ridding a pond of rooted weeds — both submersed and emergent. Where the weed patches are small, the simplest method is to pull them up by the roots and remove them completely from the water. In larger areas, Diquat or Aquathol are recommended. Two other chemicals, sodium arsenite and 2-4-D, have Federal approval but are not acceptable by ISU. Unless extreme caution is used, the former can cause arsenic poisoning while the latter can impart a very undesirable taste to fish for periods as long as 30 days.

Even so, a 10-day waiting period is recommended after using Diquat and a 3-day waiting period is advised after using Aquathol before swimming or allowing livestock to water.

Suffocation Problem

Moorman cautioned against creating a too-heavy oxygen depletion. This can happen in heavily weed-infested ponds when too many weeds are killed at one time. No more than one-third of them should be treated at a time otherwise the decaying organic matter will not allow the oxygen a chance to build up again and any desirable fish can be literally suffocated.

which bass might find intolerable. Everything possible should be done to favor the sensitivity of the bass or the pond will soon be overpopulated with stunted panfish.

Start Over

Most recommended way to restore a pond that has gone out of balance is to apply sufficient rotenone to completely eradicate the fish population and then start all over again. Unfortunately, rotenone does not work too well on bullheads, however. Nothing yet has been discovered that will do a sure-fire job on bullheads. They're hard to kill in or out of the water. Unless a pond-owner has a special preference for bullheads, it is advisable not to introduce them.

The use of seines for eliminating undesirable fish has been ruled out except in rare cases. Tests have shown that the seines simply do not get down far enough. The same can be said for the shocking method.

A commonly overlooked fact was brought to everyone's attention in regard to the taking of fish by any other method except hook and line. Moorman explained that Iowa law makes no provisions for other than hook and line in the taking of game fish. This is so even in farm ponds on private land. To do otherwise would be illegal.

On the other hand, in the case of renovating a pond, the owner needs only to apply for permission from the local conservation officer. Under most circumstances, the officer will investigate the situation and generally grant permission. In many cases, he will even assist the pond owner.

Besides working within the law, the pond owner may derive additional benefits from having a knowledgeable conservation officer working with him. There may be some large bass in the pond that can be saved if handled properly before the rotenone takes full effect. Dipping the bass from the pond as soon as they surface and quickly transferring them to

Pool Table Is Sought

Productions, Inc., Burlington's sheltered workshop, could make good use of a pool table.

The Des Moines county technical action panel (TAP) toured the facility at Fifth and Valley recently and learned of the need.

Ralph Dewey, TAP chairman, said if there is someone who has a used pool table he no longer needs, the committee can arrange to have it moved to the Blunt building to provide some recreation for employees there. Dewey is the district conservationist in the Soil Conservation Service office in the federal building.

Burlington Hawkeye
August 25, 1969

WE NOTICED the pond on the John Latty farm southeast of Sperry is well filled with water. Looked from the road like it might be full. The pond was created by a dam which John and Russell Ellerhoff built across a gully on line fence between them. The fence now goes along the top of the dam.

LAWRENCE STRAWHACKER, southeast of Mediapolis, is doing some pasture improvement after having Lawrence Whipple do the bulldozing and clearing.

Aug. 27

OCTOBER 7 is the date set for the Southeast Iowa Soil judging contest to be sponsored in Louisa county this year.

Arnold Winegar, county conservationist for the Louisa County Soil District is in charge of the affair. Students enrolled in the vocational agricultural classes in the four counties, Lee, Louisa, Henry and Des Moines, will take part.

OUR REMARK that there were a lot of good neighbors on the nation's highways is supported by the incident of two beach mats blowing off a camper coming out of Geode State Park the other evening.

Ralph Dewey, the new county conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service, relates that he chased the camper for a mile before he could flag them down to tell them the mats had blown off. By the time they had returned to where the mats had been dropped someone else had picked them up. These people were still on the spot trying to decide where to turn them in so the owners could find them, when they drove up.

Sept. 3

Farm Bureau member among winners in annual soil conservation awards

Three prize winning Des Moines county farms have been named winners in the annual Iowa Soil Conservation Awards contest by the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District, according to the district chairman, Harold Yohe of Mediapolis.

Entries were made in three divisions. The owner-operator division award was made to O. D. White, of Franklin township, farming north of Burlington. From the highway, the White farm appears level. However, the owner has applied more than a mile of terracing, a livestock water pond, 4 miles of tile drainage, 6 acres of tree planting and 6 acres of renovated pasture on this quarter section farm.

The second division is for tenant operated farms. The 1969 winner for this county is R. E. Lofgren of Yellow Spring township, Mediapolis, for his farm operated by Paul Heater of Pleasant Grove township, Danville. The Lofgren farm boasts a mile of terrace, two livestock ponds, 2 miles of tile drainage and over 6 acres of grassed waterways.

Division 3 of the contest is for new cooperators, and the winner here is Leo Orth of Flint River

township, Burlington. Although he has been applying soil and water conservation work for only about a year, Orth has managed to install a half mile of terrace, a farm pond, 10 acres of renovated pasture and 14 acres of permanent vegetation.

The district commissioners point out that these farms are above average in completion of the conservation work planned for their farms. They are, however, typical of the high grade of erosion control being established in the Des Moines county district.

The three farms will go on to regional competition in a 13 county area of southeast Iowa with a hope for additional awards and state recognition. The annual contest is sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune and the Iowa Farm and Home Register cooperating with soil conservation districts.

Aug. 9

Merit Award To Burlington

STATE CONSERVATIONIST, WILSON T. MOON, of Des Moines announced this week that a Certificate of Merit has been awarded to the Burlington Work Unit of the USDA Soil Conser-

vation Service. The award was presented Thursday by Area Conservationist, John Eckes of Fairfield in recognition of sustained above average performance for the fiscal years 1968 and 1969.

During this period the Soil Conservation staff in Burlington made great advances in establishing tile outlet terrace systems in Des Moines County. The

staff was headed by John T. Baker, who has recently left the area to take on other duties with USDA. Conservation Technician, Harry Bryant and State Clerk, Mrs. Mildred Kleinkopf are the other staff members.

Baker and Bryant also received cash incentive awards for their performance during this period.

Aug.

Trees Profitable On Some Farms

Forestry can be a profitable enterprise for farmers on hilly lands in southeast Iowa, according to District Conservationist Ralph Dewey of Burlington.

Soil Conservation Service technicians gathered at Shimek State Forest near Farmington earlier in the month to discuss ways of using forest land more profitably.

Timber areas, planted by CCC Camps in the late 1930's were observed by the group under the guidance of area forester C. R. Witmer, of Farmington. Witmer pointed out areas which have been well managed as well as areas poorly managed.

Trees, Posts, Pay

A periodic crop of Christmas trees, fence posts and utility poles can pay for the costs of management on a well run timber stand, the forester claims. "On the other hand, the unmanaged stand is beginning

to do downhill, and may as well be clear cut to start over."

The coming of the pulp and paper industry to the area has made a good outlet for hardwood timber which otherwise had little market value. Any logs or cuttings over five inches in diameter are usable to the paper industry.

"With an increasing market available, small timber areas on rough parts of the farm will become more profitable under good management," Dewey claims. "Some of our soils are ideally suited to tree production rather than cropland."

"Each acre should be planned according to its best land use," the conservationist concludes. "Helping farmers make such land use decisions is the work of Soil Conservation Service."

Oct. 15

Dry Weather Helps Speed Conservation Work Here

The past few dry weeks have made way for an early start on fall soil conservation work in Des Moines county, according to Ralph Dewey, district conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service in Burlington.

"Recent work has included completion of nearly two miles of tile outlet terraces and a couple of farm ponds," the conservationist said.

"In the drainage line, Leon Luttenegger of Kingston has finished a surface drain system which completes the job started in Huron Township.

New Cooperator

Luttenegger is listed as a new cooperator with the district, along with Ernest Gerst of Franklin township, Vine Gehring, south of Burlington, Fred Vantiger of Yarmouth, Russell Stanturf of Sperry and Ray Petersen of Morning Sun.

Soil district commissioners also recently approved construction of a group terracing project on the Verner Amenell and Hazel Blake farms which completes the job started in Huron Township.

Sept. 3

THE MEDIA POLIS NEW ERA NEW CONSERVATION PROJECTS REPORTED

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"In the drainage line, Leon Luttenegger of Kingston has finished a surface drain system which completes the job started by building a drainage outlet ditch ten years ago."

Luttenegger is listed as a new cooperator with the Soil Conservation District, along with Ernest Gerst of Franklin Township, Vine Gehring, south of Burlington, Fred Vantiger of Yarmouth, Russell Stanturf of Sperry and Ray Petersen of Morning Sun.

Soil District Commissioners also recently approved construction of a group terracing project on the Verner Amenell and Hazel Blake farms in Huron Township.

Sept. 4



POOL PLAYING employees of Productions, Inc., can now practice their skill during breaktime. Ronnie Weiler, 131 S. Fifth, takes aim as other

employees look on during a morning break at the sheltered workshop. The table is one of two donated to the workshop by private citizens.

Double Answer

By KEVIN MCCORMALLY

Breaktime is now pool time at Productions, Inc. in Burlington.

The sheltered workshop at 419 Valley now has a pool table set up in the building for the employees to use during their free time. The table is one of two donated to the workshop by private citizens.

Ken Rutherford, Madison Rd., and Mrs. Antoinette Eggleston, 110 Fleming Ct., answered a call put out by the Technical Action Panel (TAP) for the tables.

TAP, an advisory group made up of state and federal agencies officials with offices in each county, took a tour of Productions, Inc. about a month ago. "During our conversations, someone told us that they needed a pool table," Ralph Dewey, a member of TAP, said.

"After the tour we had a meeting and decided to ask the Hawk-Eye to get the word out that we were looking for pool tables for Productions, Inc.," he added. "Before I read the paper that night, I started getting calls."

The tables were delivered to Productions, Inc. much to the surprise of Ken Tiemeyer, director of the workshop. "We had no idea that we were going to get them," he said. "We were on vacation when the story was in the paper."

Iowa leads in corn, beans.

A new Iowa commercial harvest of catfish from farm ponds?

It might be a profitable enterprise, a local Technical Action Panel (TAP) meeting was told here Friday afternoon.

A preliminary report indicated that a catfish crop from farm ponds could be profitable if it's done on a volume basis.

Next step, according to Ralph Dewey, district conservationist, is to turn the project over to the local Extension Service office for pilot studies.

Agriculturalists, in discussing the possible new rural money-maker, said they felt that running water or aerated ponds

would be needed to make the commercial growing of catfish profitable.

Twelve TAP members were at Friday's meeting at the Conservation Service office in the federal building. The national TAP is made of Department of Agriculture representatives in county agencies. Purpose of

state TAP is to facilitate and assist private and state and local government efforts to promote rapid, widespread rural area development.

CIRAS Research

Research on the feasibility of a commercial catfish harvest was done by the Center for In-

--- CATFISH?

dustrial Research and Service (CIRAS) of Iowa state university's department of science and technology.

Robert A. Lyon, industrial specialist from Davenport, discussed the aims of CIRAS with TAP members.

"CIRAS tries to help small industry in the reaching of maxi-

mum production," Lyon explained.

"Ideas rather than answers are searched out by CIRAS," he added.

Lyon illustrated his talk with colored slides of Burlington and West Burlington small industries, emphasizing the specialized capabilities of firms here.

TAP Holds Up Meeting

The Des Moines county Technical Action Panel meeting has been postponed for a week because of conflicting obligations of members.

The October meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31, in the Soil Conservation Service office, on the second floor of the federal building.

Ralph E. Dewey, TAP chairman, said he has asked members to help assemble a list of resource groups and individuals in the area who may be of help to TAP programs.

These would be in addition to the government agencies with which members already are concerned, and would include YMCA, YWCA, conservation clubs, Izaak Walton League, and FISH.

Oct. 22

DES MOINES COUNTY



FB members are among those with an early start on soil conservation

Conservation Projects Done

Contractors in the past week have completed work on a couple of erosion control projects in Des Moines county, it was reported by Ralph E. Dewey, SCS district conservationist.

In Benton township, Glenn Petersen has built an erosion control dam which is doing several jobs at once. It is built along a line fence, making maintenance of the boundary fence line easier for the farmer and his neighbor. The dam checks the runoff water from about 15 acres of land, eliminating flooding hazards below.

An excellent wildlife area has been created with prospects of a fine fish pond, water and shelter for wild game. And an emergency water supply is now available near the farmstead as a safety factor against fire, Dewey said.

Earlier this summer, Dale Heater of Mt. Union built a pond on a steep area of his farm near Morning Sun. This week he completed the erosion control project by constructing a diversion terrace above a low lying field. The purpose of this practice is to keep hillside water from running off to damage lower cropland areas.

These practices were all designed and construction supervised by technicians of the Soil Conservation Service assisting the Des Moines county soil conservation district. The service is available to anyone having land use problems.

Sept. 17

The past few dry weeks have made way for an early start on fall soil conservation work in Des Moines county, according to Ralph Dewey, district conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service in Burlington.

"Recent work has included completion of nearly 2 miles of tile outlet terraces and a couple of farm ponds," the conservationist points out.

"In the drainage line, Leon Luttenegger of Kingston has finished a surface drain system which completes the job started by building a drainage outlet ditch 10 years ago."

Luttenegger is listed as a new cooperater with the Soil Conservation district, along with Ernest Gerst of Franklin township; Vine Gehring, south of Burlington; Fred Vantiger, Yarmouth; Russell Stanturf, Sperry; and Ray Petersen, Morning Sun.

Soil district commissioners also recently approved construction of a group terracing project on the Verner Amenell and Hazel Blake farms in Huron township.

Fall Plowing Can Lead To Erosion

District Conservationist Ralph Dewey of the Soil Conservation Service in Burlington lists a number of problems that farmers will be creating if they continue fall plowing soybean stubble as in the past.

"It will soon be the season for decision — whether to plow or not to plow —" the conservationist states, "And our

wind erosion hazards of next spring will rest upon our actions now."

Among the problems created by wind erosion:

1. A true loss of a natural resource — our productive soil — the place we need for planting our crops.
2. Loss of fertility — the fine particles of available plant food are usually the first to be blown away.

3. Air pollution is created, bothering rural and urban areas alike.
4. Soil, moved by the wind, seems to lose for a time its ability to make things grow — a sort of temporary sterility.

"Wind erosion is a particular problem on the loess, or windblown soils of our uplands and on the silty soils along the bottomland," Dewey continued.

"Over 15 years of experiment and experience have shown us ways to maintain high crop production with minimum tillage of our soil.

"The simplest minimum tillage practice, and the one which will do the most to prevent wind erosion, is simply to avoid fall plowing of soybean stubble," he declares. "Now is the time to make that decision — keep the plow in the shed."

Oct. 1

Farm Silt Major Pollution Source

Silt from agricultural land is still the number one problem of pollution to the Mississippi river, according to Dr. Jack Gakstatter who recently completed studies of pollution in the Burlington area.

"Unless the waste of siltation can be curbed, we are in danger of the river becoming strictly a barge canal with no place for fish or wildlife to survive," the scientist claimed before the meeting of the Iowa Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America at Ames last weekend.

Gakstatter, who works with the state hygienic laboratory, told the conservationists that

most of the waste pollution from industry along the river was confined to a relatively narrow band for a few miles below the spot of injection into the stream. After that, the materials are well enough diluted to reduce contamination.

In response to questions about river pollution, Gakstatter stated that there is little evidence to prove that flood times have a tendency to clean up streams. He expressed a hope that controls will be made on pollution before this scenic stream is ruined for recreation.

Attending the meeting from the Burlington area were Ralph Dewey, district conservationist, and Harry Bryant, conservation technician.

Oct. 22

Conservation Session Held

Representatives of Des Moines county Soil Conservation District attended a statewide meeting of district commissioners at Des Moines last week.

Highlighting the annual conference were talks by Kenneth Crant, federal administrator of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service; John C. Gillou, chief waterway engineer for Illinois, and Sam Studebaker, head of the National Association of Conservation Districts.

The speakers combined to challenge the Soil Conservation Districts to update their programs to meet the demands of the 1970's.

Their plea was echoed by Gov. Robert D. Ray, who emphasized that the need for action is non-negotiable. It must be accomplished.

District Chairman Harold Yohe of Mediapolis and District Conservationist Ralph Dewey of Burlington represented Des Moines county district at the conference. Mrs. Mildred Kleinkopf, district clerk, attended a meeting of conservation clerks held in conjunction with the commissioners session.

WE WANT TO AGAIN call to attention Ralph Dewey's warning about care in plowing soybean fields that would be subject to erosion from the winter winds.

Many a road ditch is filled each winter with wind-blown soil from a plowed field. It is the most fertile organic soil particles that blow first. Ralph is district conservationist with the Des Moines County Soils District.

Oct. 1

Catfish Farming To Be Discussed

A special meeting on Catfish farming will be presented by two Iowa State University representatives at Tuesday's Technical Action Panel meeting.

Bob Moorman and Bob Lyons will present the program at 1:30 p.m. at the Soil Conservation Service office in the Federal building in Burlington.

Nov. 16

In The Hawk-Eye Spotlight

A move to undo man's undoing

By LES PECK

"Man himself is the greatest threat to his environment. . . we have now successfully begun to contaminate what we have not yet destroyed."

So spoke J. George Harrar of the Rockefeller Foundation about pollution.

Like Harrar, there are people in Des Moines county beginning to face up to the fact that Man is covering his Earth with a deadly blanket of polluted air and is turning his once-magnificent rivers into sewers.

But unlike some other people, there are Des Moines county citizens who aren't just concerned about the pollution crisis but are willing to commit themselves to doing something about it.

★ ★ ★

IT APPEARS this county will soon have a group of citizens—call them a committee, commission, agency or control board—that is going to hunt down pollution and attempt to get it halted. If the voluntary approach fails, the citizens will turn to the county health board to enforce state and local laws to eliminate the pollution.

"In effect, what we would be is a public relations arm for the county health board," Robert Holstein said. Holstein, an insurance agent, is acting as a spokesman until the group takes definite shape. The idea was first proposed through a special projects committee of the Kiwanis club of which Holstein is chairman.

A meeting will be called probably within the next two weeks with at least representatives from Kiwanis, Rotary, and Lions, to form a nucleus of the pollution control body.

AS HOLSTEIN EXPLAINS it, this is how the system would work:

—Individuals or firms causing pollution would be told of the dangers they are creating to the public health and asked to comply voluntarily in eliminating the pollution.

—If the violators refuse, the offense will be referred to the health board and its enforcement officers to issue orders for compliance under state and county laws and regulations.

—If compliance has still not occurred, the health board has the power to prosecute violators in court.

★ ★ ★

HOLSTEIN HAS FAITH in his fellow county residents that the majority will comply voluntarily with the pollution crackdown. He is joined in that feeling by Dr. R. J. Cowles, health board chairman.

"Both as an individual and chairman of the health board I am delighted and pleased that there are citizens interested in this very great, world-wide problem that is most acute in highly-industrialized countries.

"We hope that this citizens group will be able to solve most or all of the problems. We like to feel that the citizens of Des Moines county are community-minded so when nuisances are brought to their attention they will act to eliminate them voluntarily in the spirit of good citizenship," Cowles said.

Holstein and Cowles both pointed out that such a citizens group can also mean savings to county taxpayers.

"We would work on a gratis basis rather than add expense to tax bills," Holstein said. "This will be much more economical for the county," Cowles said. "When legal action is necessary, at least part of the cost is borne by the the general county tax fund."

★ ★ ★

IN CASE anyone thinks the

Volunteers . . .

(Continued on Page 3.)

9-21

NEW TERRACES COMPLETED

Nearly ten miles of modern, tile outlet terraces have been built this fall by farmers in Des Moines County to bring complete erosion control to 500 acres of cropland, the soil conservation district announces. And there are still several terracing projects to be completed.

One of the outstanding terrace projects is at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant along the south side of the Geode blacktop, where lessees Beck and Wagner have

installed 2800 feet of terraces on land to be cropped.

This project involved laying several thousand feet of tile in preparing outlets for the system. All the terrace run east and west, so the farmers will have no difficulty in cropping and no point rows to battle. The average height of the terrace ridges is about a foot and a half, presenting very little problem for conventional farming.

The terrace channels will intercept any runoff from the area above and will allow the silt to settle on the field, while carrying excess water off through a tile system. Such a system makes it possible to crop the land more intensively without the worry of soil loss.

This practice is vitally important in the Geode Watershed where silting of the lake is being prevented. Here, farmers Russell Seymour, Carl Shumaker and Mrs. Harlan Blakeway have con-

trolled their farms with terracing.

In other parts of the county these modern structures have been built by Wayne Kester and Ernest Gerst north of Burlington, Dale Hazen near Yarmouth and Kenneth Groe north of Danville in recent weeks.

NEARLY 10 MILES of modern tile outlet terraces have been built in Des Moines county this fall, according to the soil conservation district.

This will bring complete erosion control to some 500 acres of cropland.

One of the outstanding projects is some 2,800 feet of terraces along the Geode blacktop west of Middletown on IAAP land under lease to Beck and Wagner. The terraces run east and west and are parallel, leaving no point rows. Several hundred feet of tile have been laid to drain off the surplus water underground. The average height of the terrace ridges is only about 18 inches and creates very little problem for the operation of large modern machinery.

THIS WORK is a vital part of the erosion control program in the Geode Lake watershed. Others who have brought their farms under this control program are Russell Seymour, Carl Shumaker and Mrs. Harlan Blakeway. Their farms are south and southwest of Danville.

Parallel terraces have also been built on the Wayne Kester and Ernest Gerst farms north of Burlington and by Dale Hazen, southwest of Yarmouth, and Kenneth Groe north of Danville.

Dr. R.E. Lofgren, Mediapolis, dentist and owner of a farm north of Danville, was quite pleased to be selected as the landlord who received this year's county award for conservation work on his farm.

In The Hawk-Eye Spotlight

(Continued from Page 1.)

Volunteers Welcome

pollution control body would be nothing but a group of do-gooders with only good intentions and little knowledge, the citizens group will include technically-minded people with experience in analyzing pollutants and what to do to control them.

For instance, a group of chemists and engineers at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant have volunteered their services in the pollution fight. They can analyze water and air samples, supplementing the facilities of the health department.

The Soil Conservation Service,

primarily concerned with agricultural pollution, is ready to offer its proven advice in proper land management and soil control.

Other public-minded groups, not only in Burlington but in West Burlington, Danville and Mediapolis as well, are invited by Holstein to join in a coordinated anti-pollution campaign.

AN IMMEDIATE goal will be to support a set of proposed rules and regulations to control nuisances in the area of the county not in the city limits

of Burlington. The regulations will give the health board more teeth in combating pollution.

Experts tell us in this country alone is pouring 143 million tons of pollutants into the air in a single year. World population, expected to double to seven billion by the year 2000, will create a critical demand on our limited water supply.

Many feel the time has passed for action against pollution. Some Des Moines county citizens hope not as they start their campaign to clean up the poison that threatens Man's existence.

Nov. 1969

Nov. 1969

Conservation Expert Talks To Realtors

Community progress and how the Soil Conservation Service can help promote it were discussed here this weekend by Ralph E. Dewey, SCS district conservationist.



Ralph Dewey

Speaking to the Burlington Board of Realtors, Dewey pointed out how a complete standard soil survey can benefit the real estate business as well as the entire county.

"Des Moines county is losing its place in line because others in the state are willing to spend to get the job done," Dewey said.

He spoke at the Friday afternoon meeting at Hotel Burlington.

Some values of the survey, conducted by soil scientists and technicians, include finding suitable places for industrial and residential development. "It can be mighty expensive to try to build on unstable soils," he pointed out.

Help Available

The SCS, a state-federal office under the Department of Agriculture, can help in providing a community with attractive residential areas, instead of running around gulleys; well-run recreation areas, instead of polluted streams; convenient schools and shopping centers, instead of junk yards and eyesores; roads and public transportation to keep up with the demand, instead of bringing up the rear, Dewey said.

He said the fact that Iowa and this part of the state haven't been a part of the "exploding" urban land use that other communities over the nation have experienced.

"This is fortunate, because now we can build on the basis of sound progress — the way we want to — in land, water, air and people development," he said.

Roger Poppen of Osage, state president of the Jaycees, was a guest of the board. Poppen, here for a state Jaycee board meeting, also is a real estate man.

Catfish 'Farming' Interest Grows

A catfish harvest from Des Moines County farm ponds may become a profitable enterprise.

Jim Hodges, county extension director, told Technical Action Panel (TAP) members Friday that 115 "yes" responses came from 140 inquiries to county farmers regarding interest in the commercial raising of catfish.

Twelve county businesses, including local restaurants, hotels, said they are interested in being an outlet market for Iowa's farm pond catfish," Hodges said.

A preliminary report at the group's September meeting indicated that a catfish crop from farm ponds could be profitable if done on a volume basis.

Second step was investigation of local interest.

"Since there is interest," Hodges said, "immediate future steps will entail the securing of expert advice."

Sources recognized as "experts" include Iowa State university's department of science and technology, Ames, and an established catfish research station in Arkansas.

Catfish harvesting in the area is known to be taking place at Burnside, Ill., TAP members were told.

Ralph Dewey, district conservationist who heads TAP, motioned that panel members go on record as supporting the Full-Day Care Center being established in Burlington as an extension of the Head Start program.

Because the center is to be financed only in part by federal funds, the TAP group discussed methods of helping to secure toys and other necessities for the center.

Other business at the meeting included a consideration of rules and regulations controlling nuisances having public health significance, a study of pollution practices, a rural area numbering system such as that

in use in Henry county and a regional planning approach for the best use of county services.

The local TAP is part of a national group made up of Department of Agriculture

representatives in county agencies.

Purpose of TAP is to facilitate and assist private and state and local government efforts in the promotion of wide-spread rural development.

Soil Conservation Awards Given



Loifgren, Mediapolis, owner; Paul Heater, Danville Rt. 2, tenant; Leo Orth, Rt. 3, new cooperator. Not present was O. D. White, Rt. 3, owner-operator division winner.

IOWA'S BOUNTY, represented by the table decorations at the soil awards banquet held at Danville Wednesday night, are inspected by awards winners. From left are R. E.

and water in which they grow, their workings, and the realization that man is but a cog in also able to assume our responsibility to human beings. Nature's balance wheel, brings ability to promote harmony between man and the land."

DANVILLE — "Man is but a cog in Nature's balance wheel," by the Soil Conservation Service. Speaking was Sylvan Runkel, vice.

and was quoting the late Aldo Leopold, a native of Burlington recognized as the "father of wildlife management." Runkel, biology specialist with the state conservation commission, gave an illustrated talk on woodlands conservation at the annual banquet of the Des Moines county conservation district, held at the Danville Community Center.

The biologist used color slides to show the life cycle of prairie and woodlands of Iowa, including views of Crapo Park and the Goode trail that stretches from Crapo to Goode state park, a trek he took last year.

Winners of the 1969 awards given at the banquet were: O. D. White, Rt. 3, in the owner-operator division. R. E. Loifgren, Mediapolis, owner, and Paul Heater, Danville Rt. 2, in the landlord-tenant division.

Leo Orth, Rt. 2, in the new cooperator division. WHITE has constructed an erosion dam and diversion terrace, two farm ponds, a shaped waterway and two miles of parallel terraces with drop inlets. He has done tree planting and in general has completed to each other and to the soil.

"It is futile to try to improve our land without first improving ourselves. There lies our opportunity for today — our hope for tomorrow."

"We can, as our first step, gain knowledge of the world of plants and animals, their habits and behavior, their relationship and in general has completed to each other and to the soil."

and water in which they grow, their workings, and the realization that man is but a cog in also able to assume our responsibility to human beings. Nature's balance wheel, brings ability to promote harmony between man and the land."

Nov. 2

NOV. 13

Pollution Control Council Formed Here

Pollution control — which will undoubtedly be one of the biggest domestic issues in the United States in the 70's — is taking root here.

ITS FORM: The Pollution and Environmental Control Council, a non-profit corporation formed Tuesday night.

ITS GOAL: Education to develop anti-pollution practices and enforcement of anti-pollution laws.

ITS BOUNDARY: None. "Pollution knows no boundaries, and we decided to put no boundaries on our name," Tom Martin, IAAP chemist and corporation secretary, said Wednesday.

Pollution Council officers are Robert Holstein, insurance agent, chairman; Dal Johnston, Montgomery Ward, vice chairman; Milt Paule, National Research Bureau, treasurer; and Martin, secretary.

"We will cover all forms of pollution," Martin said. "Mainly it will be air, water, and land pollution, but we will also include thermal pollution and noise abatement. Pollution complaints can be phoned to city hall and will be referred to the proper city or county authorities or this committee."

Martin said a public meeting is tentatively planned the

first week of April to explain the Pollution Council's plans and to recruit more members.

The Council expects to receive a total of \$100 from the Lions, Kiwanis, and Rotary clubs to pay for initial expenses, primarily mailing costs.

Three committees have been

formed, Martin said. Sherman Smith is chairman of a by-laws committee with members Dick Riepe and Floyd Franklin. Ralph Dewey and Ken Rubin are on the educational committee, and Martin, Riepe, and Bruce Werden are handling public relations.

The pollution committee grew out of concern expressed by

Holstein and Smith representing the Kiwanis at a city council meeting last August.

Major worry cited then was Mississippi river pollution, but the council quickly expanded its scope to embrace all forms of environmental pollution, whether caused by a public body, an industry, or private citizen.

The council has no enforcement power of its own; that rests primarily with the county health board.

The council intends to use education and personal persuasion to eliminate pollution. If voluntary methods fail, the council will press for legal action through the health department.

Farm Family Award

The county office at Mt. Pleasant has named Mr. and Mrs. Rex H. Troute and their family as its Farmers Home Administration Farm Family of the Year.

They live one mile southwest of Burlington.

Mr. and Mrs. Troute, after one year's experience operating a farm, applied for their first FHA loan in January, 1959. This was for an operating loan of \$2,600.00 to purchase a tractor, plow, disc, spreader, 4-row planter, hydraulic cylinder, and sprayer.

Since this first loan, the Troutes have obtained twelve subsequent loans the last of

which was to trade for a 2-row combine.

When the Troutes started farming in 1958, they were renting 178 acres with 105 crop acres on a livestock-share basis from Rex's mother, Dorothy A. Troute. At present, the Troutes farm 400 acres with approximately 300 crop acres, part of which is cash rented and the balance is on a crop-share basis.

They are presently feeding 120 head of calves and are increasing their hog operation.

They have four children: Rex L., Diana, Carla and Todd, who attend school in Burlington.

All family members are active in the community. Troute serves as a County Soil Commissioner and Township ASCS Committeeman. They have three children in 4-H and their son, Rex L., is a club president.

They attend the First Methodist. They have cooperated with the FHA, Extension, ASCS, and SCS in using the latest crop production and soil and water conservation practices.

The family will be considered for District "FHA Farm Family of the Year."

The State "FHA Farm Family of the Year" will be named in April.

Conservation Honors Given On Nov. 12

The Des Moines county Soil Conservation District will hold its annual banquet at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 12 in the Danville Community hall, to honor outstanding conservation farmers in the district.

Awards will go to the outstanding new cooperator, landlord-tenant farm and owner-operator. The banquet is sponsored by local banks.

The program will include a presentation by Sylvan Runkel, well-known conservation biologist. He will give a film talk about forest communities.

Runkel is a biology specialist with the state conservation department. He is a forestry graduate from Iowa State University.



FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR. Mr. and Mrs. Rex Troute and their four children were named Farm Family of the Year by the local Farmers Home Administration office Thursday. One of 48 families named in Iowa, they will be eligible for district

and state Family of the Year. Troute, who moved to the country as an adult, said, "We thoroughly enjoy what we are doing but I doubt we would be farming today if it were not for FHA."

WE NOTICE even though the ground has been fairly well covered with snow the winds

of a week ago started to blow soil off the plowed fields. It could get a lot worse before the winter is over. Looks like Conservationist Ralph Dewey's warning of a few weeks ago about this danger was very timely.

Jan. 1970

Nov. 1969

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE OF IOWA — NOTICE OF ELECTION OF COMMISSIONER FOR THE DES MOINES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT, EMBRACING LANDS LYING IN THE COUNTY OF DES MOINES IN THE STATE OF IOWA:

To all owners and/or operators of lands lying within the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District, comprising the territory described as follows:

All land lying within the boundaries of Des Moines County, Iowa, exclusive of incorporated cities and towns.

Notice is hereby given that on the 12th day of February, 1970, between the hours of 11:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M., an election will be held for the election of commissioners for the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District.

All owners and/or operators of lands lying within the above mentioned territory are eligible to vote.

polling places for the election are as follows:

Municipal Auditorium, Burlington, Iowa.

Eligible voters residing within the district shall cast their ballots at one of the polling places. Eligible voters not residing within the district, or who will be absent from the district on the day of election, may apply in person or in writing to the County Auditor at Burlington, Iowa, for "absentee ballots." Each applicant for an absentee ballot shall state his name, residence, location, and acreage of land owned or possessed, and interest therein.

State Soil Conservation Committee
By: Wayne Casey
Chairman

Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 1970-21.

SCS Votes On Feb. 12

The biennial election for Des Moines county soil conservation district commissioners will be held at Memorial auditorium in Burlington Feb. 12.

There will be three commissioners elected this year because of changes authorized by the 1969 legislature, ex-

panding the board from three to five members. "The larger board will allow broader representation across the district," commented Henry Dockendorff of Danville, a member of the commissioners.

Candidates for the three openings are S. S. Barton of Mediapolis, Clyde Scherer of Burlington, Albert Schultz of Flint River township, Darrell Tucker of Pleasant Grove township, and William Vierling of Huron township.

The candidate gaining the most votes will serve a 6-year term, second-high the 4-year term and the third place vote-getter will be on a 2-year term.

All landowners or operators in the county are eligible to vote, Dockendorff said.

Harold Yohe of Mediapolis, district chairman, will be retiring from the board after a 6-year term. Rex Troute of Burlington is a holdover member.

Three New Men On Soil Board

New commissioners on the newly-expanded Des Moines County Soil Conservation district board will be Albert Schulz, Flint River township; S.S. Barton, Yellow Springs twp.; and William Vierling, Huron twp.

Those winners were announced Thursday night after elections to replace outgoing Commissioner Harold Yohe, Mediapolis, and to expand from three to five the number of seats on the board as authorized by the Iowa legislature last year.

Schulz, top vote-getter with 62 ballots, takes over Yohe's 6-year full term, while Barton

(59 votes) will start a 4-year term and Vierling (51 votes) begins a 2-year term when the new board holds its organizational meeting Monday night.

Also on the agenda for the conservation district's session Monday is a discussion with Boy Scout leaders on the prospects of starting a conservation-oriented Explorers post in the county.

Carry-over members are Henry Dockendorff, Danville, and Rex Troute, Burlington.

The election was held in coordination with the annual Farm Services meeting at Memorial auditorium here.

Soil District Election Feb. 12

Soil Conservation District Commissioner, Henry Dockendorff of Danville announced that the biennial election for district commissioners will be held at the Farm Service Company meeting on February 12, 1970.

According to the district spokesman, three commissioners will be elected this year. "Because of changes authorized by the last legislature, we are shifting from a three man to a five man board," Dockendorff states. "This will allow broader representative across the district."

Candidates for the three openings include, S. S. Barton of Mediapolis, Clyde Scherer of Burlington, Albert Schultz of Flint River Township, Darrell Tucker of Pleasant Grove Township and William Vierling of Huron Township.

The candidate gaining the most votes will automatically be elected to the six year term, according to Dockendorff. Second high receives the four year term and third will be on a two year term.

All land owners or operators on the Soil Conservation District are eligible to vote.

Harold Yohe of Mediapolis, present district chairman, will be retiring from the board after a six year term. Rex Troute of Burlington will remain on the board.

Feb. 1970

S. S. Barton, Yellow Spring township; Clyde Scherer, Union township; Albert Schulz, Flint River township; Darrell Tucker, Pleasant Grove township and William Vierling, Huron township, are candidates for three vacancies on the Des Moines County Soil District Board of Commissioners who will stand for election Thursday.

The polls will be open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Burlington Memorial Auditorium. The board is being expanded from three to five members.

Harold Yohe, Mediapolis, Henry Dockendorff, Danville, and Rex Troute of Burlington are the present commissioners. Landowners and farm operators will vote in the election.

SOIL CONSERVATION ELECTIONS HELD

An election for soil conservation district commissioners was held Thursday, Feb. 12, at Burlington to choose three new officers for the Des Moines County District. Balloting was held at the Municipal Auditorium in connection with the annual Farm Services meeting, and those elected were Albert Schulz from Flint River Township, S.S. Barton from Yellow Springs Township and William Vierling of Huron Township.

Albert Schulz, having received

the highest number of votes with 62, will assume the six year term being vacated by present commissioner Harold Yohe of Mediapolis. S. S. Barton with 59 votes takes on a four year term and William Vierling, with 51 votes takes the two year term. Henry Dockendorff of Danville and Rex Troute of Burlington are carry-over members making up the new five man board of commissioners.

An organizational meeting of the new board is planned for Monday, Feb. 16, at which time, the commissioners will meet with Boy Scout representatives to discuss prospects of organizing a conservation oriented explorer post in the area.

HENRY DOCKENDORFF, Danville, was elected chairman of the Des Moines County Soil district commissioners and Rex Troute, Rt. 1, vice president, at the board meeting held since the election of three new members on Feb. 12.

Harold Linder, Sperry, was reelected secretary and Horace Sutton, Burlington, was reelected treasurer. Linder and Sutton are not members of the board of commissioners.

Other commissioners are S. S. Barton, Mediapolis; Albert Schulz, Rt. 3, and William Vierling, Mediapolis; all elected on the 12th to expand the board from three to five members.

Harold Yohe, also of Mediapolis, completed a six-year term on the board of commissioners.



Walt's
words

By Walter Eyre
career underwriter

Congratulations to Harold Yohe, Yellow Spring township farmer, who has just completed a 6 year term as Des Moines county soil district commissioner. Harold did not run for reelection. A big thank you for a job well done, Harold. We know you will keep on boosting soil saving as you have on your own farm.

March 1970

WHILE WEATHER has not been conducive to field work or earth-moving, the earth-

movers, like the farmers have been able to do some work.

Work has been started on three erosion control dams in the Des Moines County Park Area in Franklin Township.

IT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE to do some tile work getting a start on early spring work or rather some winter work in before spring. Herbert Scheining, Franklin township, has been able to install nearly a mile of plastic tile the past few weeks. Kenneth Baird, north of Mediapolis, has drained a large area with nearly two miles of tile.

IN THE WESTERN part of Yellow Spring township, south of Morning Sun, Talmage Mehaffy has joined with Rachel Marshall in installing a 10-inch tile outlet across the Marshall farm. This will make possible the drainage of a small watershed including the establishment of tile intake terraces.

ON THE SCHROCK Farms, in Huron township, some tile have been placed to supplement a tile drainage system established some 70 years ago.

Looks like the flu epidemic has about run its course. George Roberts and Velma Orr of the Mediapolis Farm Service Elevator are back at work with the full staff on the job in the office. Mrs. Mildred Klimhopf of the soil conservation office is back again. The flu took her off the job the week she came back from a long illness.

Harry Bryant, area conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service, will start college work at Western Illinois Community. He will continue to work about 2 days per week.

The Des Moines County Soil Conservation District report has been mailed to most farmers in the county. If you did not receive a copy, call the SCS office in the Federal Building.

Ask Church Aid In Soil Stewardship

Resources and Renewal will be the main theme of national Soil Stewardship Week May 3-10.

Henry Dockendorff of Danville, district chairman of the Des Moines county Soil Conservation district, said a brochure spotlighting this theme has been mailed to all pastors in the county "urging celebration of this important week in area churches."

"We hope this booklet will

be widely used in Des Moines county during Soil Stewardship week," Dockendorff said. He explained that the brochure "brings out that although soil stewardship is a major responsibility in rural areas, the future of cities also depends upon our care of the land."

Soil Stewardship involves accepting the responsibility to renew the resources which are being drained from the land, Dockendorff said.

Large Amount Of Conservation

The last year of the decade of the 1960's showed a continued interest of Des Moines County farmers to conserve their remaining soil, according to figures presented by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in Burlington, District Conservationist Ralph E. Dewey points out that despite a tight money situation, local farmers still see the value of investing in sound erosion control.

Topping the list of accomplishments is nearly 25 miles of tile outlet terracing, the third biggest year in the history of Des Moines County Soil Conservation District. The forty-six erosion control dams constructed in 1969 nearly doubles any previous work in any year.

"During the past ten years, construction of waterways has fallen off to some extent," Dewey claims. "A big factor in this trend is the use of tile outlet terracing, which eliminates the need for leaving grass waterways on much of the fields."

"Tile drainage is essential to the success of our terracing program," the conservationist continues. "Over a quarter of a million feet of tile was installed in 1969 - most of it in connection with terrace outlets."

Other accomplishments in erosion control during the year included 982 acres of pasture improvement, six farm ponds, 28 acres of grass waterways, 17 acres of tree planting, four miles of open drains and conversion of 3170 acres of rough land to wildlife areas.

Tillage Systems Cut Costs

Farmers can cut corn and bean production costs by \$5 to \$10 an acre, according to the experience of farmers who have been using reduced tillage and mulch tillage systems.

A recent field study in Washington county by soil conservationists and extension service agronomists points up the values of these new approaches to cropping.

Des Moines County District Conservationist Ralph E. Dewey, attending the conference, said reduced tillage practices are spreading to southeast Iowa from western counties.

"Western Iowa felt the need for mulch tillage earlier in order to conserve their limited soil moisture," Dewey states. "Progressive farmers in eastern Iowa see the value of reduced tillage in terms of savings in time and money."

Four Systems

Four major systems have proven successful in cutting soil and water losses without cutting crop yields. With certain modifications, one of these methods should be suited to any farm situation.

CHISEL PLOWING has some advantages of being able to apply anhydrous fertilizer with the chisel. This incorporates about one-fourth of the trash into topsoil, leaving the remainder as a mulch to protect the soil. A simple disking ahead of planting will take care of last minute weed control.

ROTARY TILLAGE involves a flail type tiller, and is most effective when used in a narrow band. A 10 to 15-inch band is rotary tilled ahead of the planter. Then the tillage area is changed to cultivate the area between rows. This leaves a good natural mulch on the surface until the corn plant can leaf out to protect the ground.

RIDGE PLANTING has an advantage on cool, wet soils, in that the ridge is left several inches high and will dry out and warm up earlier in spring. In this method crops are planted right in the old ridge without plowing or disking. Cultivation is done by bringing trash up from between the rows.

THE NO TILL method uses a special fluted coulters to open up and prepare a narrow (2-inch) band for planting. Herbicides are used for weed control and the soil between rows is untouched. This system can be used even in old pastures by killing the grass ahead of planting.

"Farmers visited in the Washington county tour have used many combinations of these basic systems to fit the particular farm problems," Dewey points out. "Many areas of Des Moines county could benefit from mulch tillage," he continues, "particularly the level soils of the levee district where wind erosion could be halted by the mulch cover."

Farmers interested in reduced tillage systems should contact the soil conservation service or extension service offices in Burlington.

5-27-70

City Dweller Also Has Stake In Conservation

Both the farmer and the city dweller have a stake in cutting soil erosion and silt problems, Ralph Dewey, district conservationist, told the Kiwanis club Thursday.



Ralph Dewey

cases, steep banks on sides of roads led to erosion.

Soil and Water Conservation Week starts Sunday. While "pollution" has recently become a popular word, the Des Moines County Soil Conservation district has been fighting pollution for 25 years, he asserted.

The local soil conservation district has been in operation since 1965, and, in 1967, silt was officially recognized as a pollutant, he said.

Farmers, caught in the price-cost squeeze, he said turn to the Soil Conservation Service, a federal agency, for help. This help includes a soil survey, evaluation of conditions, development and application of a plan to cut silting and erosion.

The Soil Conservation Service, he said, aids individuals and groups as well as governmental units such as Burlington and West Burlington.

Proper conservation practices, such as terracing and dams, on a 40-acre tract could hold back as much as two million gallons of water and, in a year's time, keep 500 tons of silt from moving into lakes and ponds, he said.

Conservation, he pointed out, applies to rural clutter as well as urban litter.

The first Des Moines County Soil Conservation district board was made up of Noah Schrock, John Blaul and Edward Cling. Other men who have been board members are Howard Gieselman, Kenneth Redfern, Hugh Jamison, Homer Woodward, Walter Eyre, Jack Pilling, Theodore Berning, Eugene Schulte, Art Corman, Harold Yohe and present board members Henry Dockendorff, chairman; Rex Trout, William Vierling, S. S. Barton and Albert Schulz.

June 1970

The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein. Psalms 24-1.

Stewardship of the soil is an emotional thing — a moral standard for most farmers, but it's an economic thing as well.

The benefits have been demonstrated by Des Moines county farmers who have reclaimed eroded gulleys, renewed pastureland, improved fertility and "nailed down" the soil through terracing and contouring.

Faced with the threatened payments, a local conservationist was unperturbed. "The farmers know that land improvement pays. They will go ahead with the practices that add to the value of their land, many of which give immediate returns on their investment."

The government's share of the Agriculture Conservation Program in Des Moines county the past 10 years was \$699,906. It is estimated that farmers themselves have spent an additional \$1 million in soil and water conservation practices during this period.

During 1969 there were 400 participating farms, nearly 40 per cent of the total in the county, sharing in the \$65,000 in federal funds under the ACP program.

Topping the list of accomplishments in the county last year is nearly 25 miles of tile outlet terracing, the third biggest listed in the history of the soil conservation district.

In addition, there were 5,711 acres of pasture improvement in the past decade, 479 acres of waterways installed, 171 farm ponds built, 230 erosion control dams, 222,000 feet of open drains, 437 acres of tree planting and 2,300 acres of wildlife areas provided.

Ralph Dewey, district conservationist, said 1969 saw 46 erosion control dams constructed, nearly doubling any previous work in a single year.

"During the past 10 years, construction of waterways has fallen off to some extent," he said. "A big factor in this trend is the use of tile outlet terracing, which eliminates the need for leaving grass waterways on much of the fields."

"Tile drainage is essential to the success of our terracing program," Dewey said. "Over a quarter of a million feet of tile was installed in 1969 — most of it in connection with terrace outlets."



Ralph E. Dewey

Dewey estimated that 5,000 acres have complete control of erosion through terrace systems installed in the past 10 years, 4,000 acres controlled by the 230 dams, and approximately 3,000 acres controlled by the 171 farm ponds. "This amounts to about 20 complete sections of land under permanent erosion control," he noted.

Commissioners

Farmers who have served as district commissioners in the 1960s were C.E. Pilling, Mediapolis; Theodore Berning, Mediapolis; Walter Eyre, Burlington; Eugene Schulte, Burlington; Arthur Corman, Sperry; Henry Dockendorff, Danville; Harold Yohe, Mediapolis, and Rex Troute, Burlington. The last three listed are the present commissioners.

In addition, Horace Sutton of Burlington has served as district treasurer and Harold Linder of Sperry as district secretary.

A total of 10 teachers were given scholarships helping them to attend the Teachers Conservation Camp at Springbrook state park.

Serving as district conservationists were Ray H. Audsley who retired in 1965, John H. Baker, who transferred to the Office of Inspector General in 1969, and Dewey, who came in last July. Jack Jacobs, who resigned in 1966 after 12 years, and Harry N. Bryant have been conservation technicians and Mildred Kleinkopf is district clerk.

Other accomplishments in erosion control during the year included 982 acres of pasture improvement, six farm ponds, 23 acres of grass waterways, 23 acres of tree planting, four miles of open drains, and conversion of 1,370 acres of rough land to wildlife areas. Improvements in the past 10 years have included:

JUNE 14-20 has been designated for the observance of Soil and Water Conservation Week by Iowa Gov. Robert D. Ray.

We have noticed many streams that have flowed clear, and without the usual load of silt from fields. Our reasons for this situation we have stated above. Which leads us to the observation that progress is being made against the causes of soil erosion. Much work remains to be done but we are making progress. Of that we are sure.

The major soil-saving project of Keith Renner, west of Danville, is the building of diversion terraces on the former Wes Ewinger farm south of Geode Park, to protect crop land from hillside runoff.

Some brushy timberland is being cleared and control practices established. His diversions will protect some 30 acres of cropland.

Keith is also building an erosion control dam and protecting it with a tile outlet terrace near an old building site. This terrace will enable him to join two fields that were separated by a ditch. His future plans include terracing and drainage control to fit in with some terracing on the Robert Fahlgren farm, above him, which had been previously terraced.

HERBERT SCHNICKER, Huron township, has recently completed a terracing project on his farm.

This work includes about three-fourths mile of earth-moving and about the same length of tile drainage outlets. The terrace controls drainage of about 15 acres of cropland that would have been impractical to farm on the contour. Seven tile intakes have broken up the drainage pattern into small section for control.

This work has made a far more practical farming setup than before the terraces were built. Any erosion from the field is almost completely checked.

Hawk-Eyetems

Welcome To The Battle By The Pros!

(In the following letter to The Hawk-Eye, Ralph Dewey, district conservationist for Des Moines county, expresses the feelings of many "pros" who have labored long in the battle to save our environment.—Ed.)

At first I had a feeling of desolation—sort of like being left off the team—as I saw the journalistic culmination of the local efforts of "Earth Day—April 22".

After 22 years of effort on my own part and literally thousands of man years of service and devotion to the cause of soil and water conservation by conservationists in Iowa, to see the Soil Conservation District program completely ignored as a "Friend of Environment" was a little hard to swallow.

Sober reflection, however, has shown me that I am indeed thankful that a large segment of the populace is at last becoming concerned enough to join the battle that a large number of rural-oriented Iowans have carried on for the last 20 to 30 years.

The Soil Conservation district program, begun in Iowa in the early 1940's, started in Des Moines county in February of 1946. A dozen or more devoted local farm men have served with no salary to direct the district as commissioners since then. They have done everything within their power to encourage their neighbors to join them in making better use of their land.

Des Moines County Soil Conservation District is primarily a land-use agency. It is operated from the "grass-roots". Its cooperators voluntarily follow conservation plans to "use" their land while halting runoff from the land.

Granted, progress has been slow. Working with a total of nearly 1,200 land-users in 25 years, we have probably brought under control of erosion no more than one-third of the area of the county. Still, the district has been here, quietly helping people to do this job on a voluntary basis.



Dewey

Agricultural land is now being recognized as the greatest source of pollution to our streams. Agreed. It likely always has been this. But people, guiding their efforts at the local level, through soil conservation districts, have been doing something about the problem. Consider, if you will, the condition our streams might be in had these rural people not gone to the trouble of controlling one-third of the problem.

Soil Conservation districts have been hamstrung for a generation because they have not been able to get the public stirred up about erosion of our natural resources. Without public concern, too little support has been forthcoming in either state or national legislative bodies to provide a large enough program to "Get the job done".

We are grateful to the press for the thousands of inches of publicity, freely given, over the years. We are grateful to the many educators who have shown concern for the need of conservation education.

But, obviously, the public has tuned out our warnings through the press without finding a cause for concern. And educators have found conservation not popular enough to integrate into their curricula.

Suddenly, we are the guys wearing the white hats. Conservation of the environment is BIG. It is EXCITING. It is POPULAR.

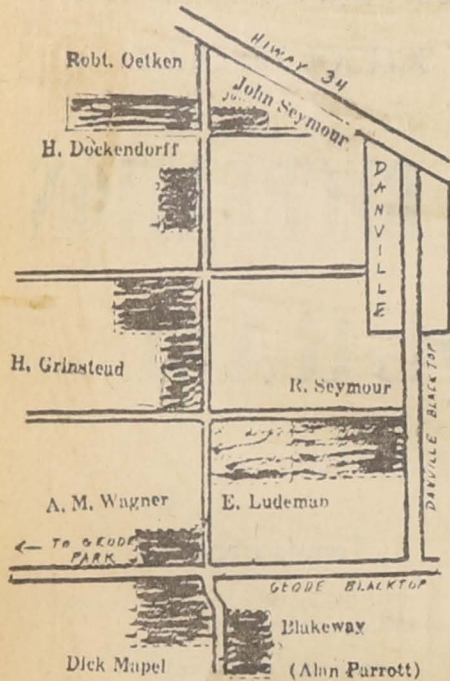
We professional and non-professional conservationists may feel like saying, "We told you so!" But, rather, we are so relieved to have this groundswell of public opinion backing up what we have been promoting, that we can only say, "Thanks, friends, and welcome to the battle."

"May we offer our expertise to yours to get our environment back in order!"

Year	Other accomplishments in erosion control during the year	Tile Terraces (lin. ft.) (lin. ft.)	Totals
1960	238,000	8,000	246,000
1961	270,000	15,000	285,000
1962	280,000	5,000	285,000
1963	345,000	8,000	353,000
1964	197,000	3,000	200,000
1965	169,000	64,000	233,000
1966	231,000	125,000	356,000
1967	278,000	138,000	416,000
1968	223,000	118,000	341,000
1969	2,403,000	57,000	2,460,000

tion Week

Soil Erosion Tour Marks Soil, Water Conserva



COMPACT TOUR arrangement allows visitors to travel at most 2½ miles from Danville to see as many as nine farms improved by construction of parallel tile-outlet terraces. Farms on the Soil Conservation Week tour are: Blakeway, farmed by Alan Parrott, Dick Mapel, A. M. Wagner, Harold Grinstead, Henry Dockendorff, Robert Oetken, John Seymour, Robert Seymour and Ernest Ludeman.

This is Soil and Water Conservation Week in Iowa. June 14-21 has been designated by Gov. Robert E. Ray for this event as local soil conservation districts prepare for the 33rd celebration of the week.

Des Moines County Soil Conservation District chairman Henry Dockendorff of Danville, has announced a self-conducted tour of erosion control work in the Geode Watershed area west

of Danville as the focal point of local activity for Conservation Week.

The accompanying sketch map shows points of interest for those wishing to have a look at what our farmers are doing to prevent erosion.

"Tile outlet terraces have been widely accepted in Des Moines county," Dockendorff said. "With cost share from the Agricultural Con-

servation Program of ASCS, as well as financial help from the State Conservation Commission, farmers have been encouraged to use this valuable practice."

The principles of tile outlet terracing are explained by District Conservationist Ralph Dewey of the Soil Conservation Service:

1. Erosion is controlled by placing terrace ridges at regular intervals across the

slopes to be farmed. In this way, runoff water is halted before it gathers force to erode.

2. Excess water held behind the terrace ridges is diverted into underground tile lines through slotted pipe intakes. These are the corrugated metal pipes you will see sticking out of the ground in the low spots of terraced fields. By removing the excess water through tile systems, crops can make their best growth.

3. Terrace channels are graded to take surface water away from low or flat areas, where it is inclined to stand and drown out crops.

4. Many small waterways are eliminated, so there is no problem of trying to keep them sodded and protected from chemical damage.

5. Row arrangement is generally in straight lines. Terraces are parallel, which does away with point row problems.

Dewey points out that the development of tile outlet terraces to conform with straight row farming has led to greater farmer acceptance of this type of erosion control.

Dockendorff stated that every 40-acre field using tile outlet terraces in the Geode watershed can control as much as two million gallons

of runoff water in a heavy rain. Also, the field will retain up to 500 tons of silt each year, which would have moved toward Geode Lake.

"Our district cooperators listed on the map will be happy to tell you of their experiences with terracing," the chairman said. "Most of them have terraced one field, then returned to us for more help.

"This proves to us that modern terracing is indeed the best erosion control practice yet developed," he concludes. "We hope that many taxpaying citizens will take this tour to see what is being done to protect our natural resources and to reduce pollution."

Cost-Sharing Increase In Tile Outlet Terrace Work

Tile outlet terraces have gained great favor among farmers over the past four years, according to reports from Des Moines county offices of the Soil Conservation Service and Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service.

V. Deane Thornton, ASCS office manager, points to the gradual increase each year in cost sharing funds used by local farmers for terracing.

"These funds have been spent on about 80 farms in Des Moines county," Thornton said. "And the farmers have spent at least that amount and more of their own money to get the job done.

"The ACP cost sharing program has been moving toward long-term practices such as terracing over the years," the ASCS official continued. "The county committee has had a big job of allocating cost-share funds fairly, with an eye toward the greatest benefit to the public.

"We feel that this practice, terracing, has become one of the outstanding ways to prevent erosion and to secure a lasting farm income."

"Costs of earthmoving and tile drainage are the greatest deterrent to terrace building," according to district conservationist Ralph E. Dewey, of the Soil Conservation Service. "Without the cost sharing of ACP, there would be little encouragement for a farmer to help himself to the practice.

"To gain complete control of erosion through tile outlet terracing may cost a farmer as much as 25 to 50 dollars per acre," the conservationist states.

"Des Moines county farmers are pioneers in use of this type of complete erosion control, and are to be commended for their soil stewardship activities."

Year	No. of Farms	Cost Sharing	Pct. of Total Acres
1966	22	\$17,658	22
1967	26	22,037	30
1968	28	24,650	33
1969	30	20,551	33
1970*	35	30,000	40

*(Estimated)

Conservation Awards Told

Three outstanding conservation farmers have been named this week as local winners in the annual Iowa Conservation Achievement Awards Contest, according to Henry Dockendorff of Danville, chairman of the Des Moines county soil conservation district.

They are: Harold Yohle, of Metropolis; Mrs. Frances Cook owner—John Seymour, operator, Danville; and A. M. Wagner & Sons — Richard Mapel operator, Danville.

"All three farms have shown excellent progress in completing their conservation farm plans," Dockendorff said. "They have all installed the needed tile outlet terracing to control erosion, and have checked erosion nearly 100 per cent."

The purpose of the contest is to recognize those farmers who have made a great effort over the years to protect the land they farm. "In a way this is recognition for 'good stewardship of land,'" the chairman stated. "All the conservation farmers, who have done their best to preserve their precious land, have been winners, whether they are tops in the contest or not."

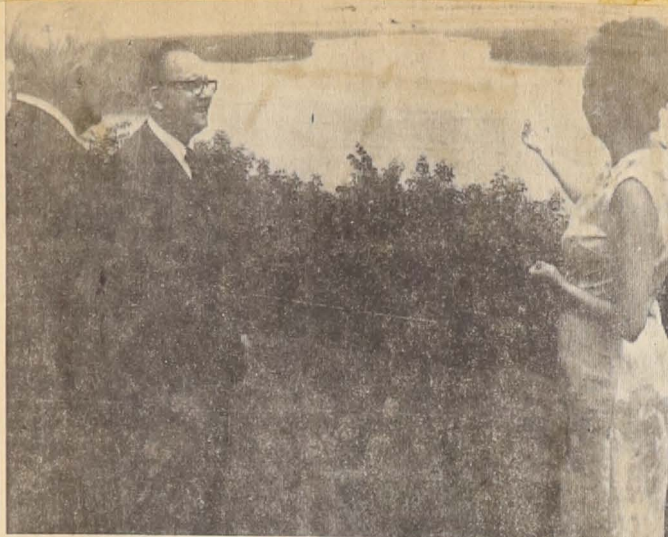
Further Competition

The three top conservation farmers in Des Moines county will join in competition with winning farmers in 11 other southeast Iowa counties, and if successful they may be in further competition for state awards.

The contest is co-sponsored by soil conservation districts and the Des Moines Register and Tribune farm department.

RALPH DEWEY, Des Moines county conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service, confirms our observation that this has been a spring when streams have carried but a very little silt and have for the most part flowed clear.

The white man is not as yet doing as well as the red men who kept the land in grass and trees but some of the damage has been repaired. Which is a good place to put in a reminder that Soil and Water Conservation week is to be observed June 14-20.



NATURE'S ART as seen from Mosquito Park in Burlington is pointed out to Mississippi River Parkway Commission National Pilot Ray Eckstein, Cassville, Wis., and Richard Norpel, Bellevue, chairman of the Iowa parkway commission by Mrs.

Helen Colby Schulte of Ft. Madison. Mrs. Schulte is a past winner of the commission's Great River Road art contest. This year's contest closes July 3, with awards to be made July 12 at Dubuque. The Iowa commission met in Burlington Saturday.

Parkway Group In Look At Boat Days

The Mississippi River Parkway Commission met here Saturday, got a Steamboat Days look at Burlington as an attraction on the Great River Road, and discussed the road's future in Des Moines county.

The 10-member Iowa commission — one from each county along the river border of the state, was joined here by four Missouri commissioners.

National Pilot (chairman)

Ray Eckstein, Cassville, Wis., Richard Norpel, Bellevue, Iowa Commission chairman, and F. W. Robinson, Missouri chairman, rode in the Steamboat Days parade in acknowledgement of the importance of the annual celebration to Mississippi river tourism.

At a luncheon in Hotel Burlington, the interstate group was joined by Des Moines County spokesmen who dis-

cussed problems of pollution and zoning along the road.

They included County Supervisor Wallace Rayer, County Engineer Ken Smith, County Soil Conservationist Ralph Dewey, County Extension Agent James Hodges and Chamber of Commerce Tourism chairman Bob Geren.

Also attending was Donald Johnson, Mt. Pleasant, State Soil Conservation Service, and Derby Thompson, chairman of the Iowa Highway Commission. Thompson gave the group information highly valuable in report on road developments in Lee and Scott counties.

The Great River Road in Des Moines county follows Hwy. 99 from the north county line to Burlington, Main Street to Crapo Park, Madison Road, old 61 and US 61 to the Lee county line.

Other Iowa parkway commissioners attending were John McCormally, Burlington vice chairman; and George Aschom, Lansing; Stephen Delaney, Clinton; Gary Engebretson, Decorah; Mrs. Carl Majors, Keokuk; Ivan Dull, secretary, Dubuque; Harry McKee, Muscatine; A. Fred Berger, Pleasant Valley, and Charles B. Millham, Guttenberg. Wives of most of the commissioners attended the luncheon.

Guests of honor at the luncheon were Mrs. Clarence Moody, widow of the late chairman of the commission, and Mrs. Helen Colby Schulte, Ft. Madison, winner of the 1968 Great River Road art contest.



DES MOINES COUNTY officials review the values of a standard soil survey with state soil scientists. From left are Jim Hodges, county extension director; Albert Schulz, soil district commissioner (seated); Les Hamilton, supervisors chairman; Wilson T. Moon, state conservationist; Dr. Tom Fenton, Iowa Experiment Station, and County Assessor Paul Rynell.

Soil Survey Discussed

State officials in soil conservation discussed the values of a standard soil survey for Des Moines County with county and local representatives last week at the Federal Building.

The meeting, sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District, was attended by 30 persons representing the county government, city of Burlington and rural communities.

State Conservationist Wilson T. Moon of Des Moines explained how the work in soil survey has built up in Iowa during the past few years mainly due to the demand by county government for the information.

"Both county and city assessors are finding soil survey information highly valuable in setting equitable evaluations on

agricultural land," the conservationist stated. "Therefore, many assessors are setting aside funds to hurry up the completion of the survey in their areas."

County assessor Paul Rynell emphasized how valuable soil survey will be for his appraisal work. City planner Craig Eaton pointed out the use of the soil inventory for sound planning and zoning and better land use.

Dr. Tom Fenton, agronomist with the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, told the group how much better the new survey will be than the original survey of 1921. "The original surveyor mapped as much as 4,000 acres per day, using the limited knowledge of that time," he stated.

"The 1970 soil surveyor will map from 500 to 600 acres per day, using modern techniques and the knowledge gained over the past 50 years."

The soil scientist went on to explain that the original report merely showed the location of a limited number of soil types and a brief description of them. The modern survey includes information about chemical content, physical properties, and many recommendations for engineering, agricultural and other uses.

Moon Answers Queries

After describing the way in which county, state and federal funds are used in this project, Moon fielded many questions from the group.

IN PLEASANT GROVE

township, east of New London. Dwight Stucker is completing two projects designed to prevent pollution from his feedlots.

The latest project involves diverting water from the slope above the lot to a dry dam in an adjoining gully. An intake into a tile system running under the feedlot carries the water safely away from the area. In the event of a two-inch rain, this arrangement will keep a million and a half gallons of water from running across the feed lot; a big help in preventing pollution of streams.

ERVIN BOHLEN has just completed a set of tile outlet terraces on his diverted acres just west of the Des Moines county farm.

In constructing about a mile of terraces, he is controlling runoff from about 40 acres of sloping land.

In addition, this project is providing Bohlen an improved tile drainage system for the wet land on his farm. The clearing and straightening of an old creek bed has added much to the appearance and value of the farm.

LEIF LOMO and Dr. Ted Mazur, owners of another Flint River township farm have completed another erosion control dam in the gullied section of the farm.

This is to be protected by installing tile outlet terraces above the pond. These structures will make cropping easier on these fields and afford an excellent water supply for many uses.

ROBERT OETKEN and A. M.

Wagner have completed terracing projects in the Geode Lake watershed near Danville. These projects are cost-shared with state and federal funds to encourage the prevention of silt runoff and reduce silting in the lake. These two farms have controlled runoff from more than 200 acres of cropland. Farmers in the Geode watershed now have about half the land under sound conservation practices, according to Ralph Dewey, soil district conservationist.

HAROLD YOHE, northwest of Mediapolis, will soon complete terraces on the lower slopes of his fields. He will then have parallel rows across the slope.

7-1-70

June
14, 1970

April 2, 1970



Contractors Frank Woodall and Jack Thomas push fill dirt into dam that will keep 40 acres of runoff water from bringing silt into Des Moines County Lake in Franklin township. Three such dams are under construction now.

WORK ON THREE DAMS STARTED

Southwest of Mediapolis in Franklin Township, bulldozers began breaking ground last week for a different sort of erosion control project. The Des Moines County Conservation Board started work on three small dams on the property line of the park to provide a place for a permanent

fence and to keep silt from the lake area.

Although work on the late itself is not planned by the Des Moines County Conservation Board until 1971, director John Welter is trying to correct erosion problems ahead of time. Realizing that silt from surrounding cropland will be the greatest pollution hazard, the board is using these small dams to eliminate the problem before it starts.

Design help was supplied by the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District to insure proper erosion control. Plans were made for one pond of about an acre in size and two small dry dams. A solid property line fence will be built on the top of the dams, and the board feels that over a period of time the project will nearly pay for itself in the saving of maintenance of fences through ditches.

Bidding for the contract on this work was held on March 4, and the successful bidder, Frank Woodall of West Burlington is moving earth with help from Jack Thomas of New London. Woodall was surprised at the ease of moving soil so early in the season. "Ordinarily we are fight-

ing frost and mud on the early jobs," the contractor claims. Side benefits of this project will be the pond on a neighboring farm, and a more accessible trail around the lake.

The sixteen foot wide top on the structures will make trail maintenance easier for the conservation board. A nature and bridle trail is also planned.

The dams control silting from about 40 acres of the watershed above the proposed 100 acre lake. Welter indicates that the board is investigating other areas where such good erosion control can be gained before the lake construction begins.

"We hope that many farmers in the contributing watershed will be putting in erosion control work to keep from silting in their lake," Welter concluded.

'Soil Stewardship Week' May 3-10

"Resources and Renewal" will be the main theme of national soil Stewardship Week, May 3-10, according to the Right Reverend John Geo. Weber, speaking for the sponsoring National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Locally, the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District is urging celebration of this important week in area churches.

District Chairman, Henry Dockendorff of Danville points out that a sixteen page brochure spotlighting this theme has been mailed to all pastors in Des Moines County. "We are hoping this booklet will be widely used in Des Moines County during the week of May 3-10," Dockendorff states.

The brochure brings out the fact that although soil stewardship is a major responsibility in rural areas, the future of cities as well depends upon our care of the land.

Rev. Weber and his committee point to Psalm 104 as their theme in 1970 Soil Stewardship Week. "You give breath, fresh life begins, you keep renewing the world..."

Everyone is caught up in renewal. New methods in farm-

ing, use of herbicides, insecticides and giant machines and fertilizers have created many new problems and hazards. Soil Stewardship involves accepting the responsibility to use these tools to renew the resources we are using.

"It calls on the diligent steward to discover nature's laws and cooperate with them... It calls for ever greater ranks of stewards with a new vision and a new spirit to walk in a new kind of existence because THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S," Rev. Weber concludes.

Soil Conservation Programs Pushed



Ralph E. Dewey

The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein. Psalms 24-1.

Stewardship of the soil is an emotional thing — a moral standard for most farmers, but it's an economic thing as well.

The benefits have been demonstrated by Des Moines county farmers who have reclaimed eroded gulleys, renewed pastureland, improved fertility and "nailed down" the soil through terracing and contouring.

Faced with the threatened payments, a local conservationist was unperturbed. "The farmers know that land improvement pays. They will go ahead with the practices that add to the value of their land, many of which give immediate returns on their investment."

The government's share of the Agriculture Conservation Program in Des Moines county the past 10 years was \$699,906. It is estimated that farmers themselves have spent an additional \$1 million in soil and water conservation practices during this period.

During 1969 there were 400 participating farms, nearly 40 per cent of the total in the county, sharing in the \$65,000 in federal funds under the ACP program.

Topping the list of accomplishments in the county last year is nearly 25 miles of tile outlet terracing, the third biggest year in the history of the soil conservation district.

In addition, there were 5,711 acres of pasture improvement in the past decade, 479 acres of waterways installed, 171 farm ponds built, 230 erosion control dams, 222,000 feet of open drains, 437 acres of tree planting and 2,300 acres of wildlife areas provided.

Ralph Dewey, district conservationist, said 1969 saw 46 erosion control dams constructed, nearly doubling any previous work in a single year.

"During the past 10 years, construction of waterways has fallen off to some extent," he said. "A big factor in this trend is the use of tile outlet terracing, which eliminates the need for leaving grass waterways on much of the fields."

"Tile drainage is essential to the success of our terracing program," Dewey said. "Over a quarter of a million feet of tile was installed in 1969 — most of it in connection with terrace outlets."

Other accomplishments in erosion control during the year included 982 acres of pasture improvement, six farm ponds, 28 acres of grass waterways, 17 acres of tree planting, four miles of open drains and conversion of 1,370 acres of rough land to wildlife areas.

Improvements in the past 10 years have included:

Year	Tile (lin. ft.)	Terraces (lin. ft.)
1960	208,000	8,000
1961	270,000	16,000
1962	345,000	5,000
1963	286,000	8,000
1964	197,000	3,000
1965	146,000	64,000
1966	169,000	62,000
1967	281,000	125,000
1968	278,000	138,000
1969	223,000	118,000
Totals	2,403,000	547,000

Dewey estimated that 5,000 acres have complete control of erosion through terrace systems installed in the past 10 years, 4,000 acres controlled by the 230 dams, and approximately 3,000 acres controlled by the 171 farm ponds. "This amounts to about 20 complete sections of land under permanent erosion control," he noted.

Commissioners

Farmers who have served as district commissioners in the 1960s were C.E. Pilling, Mediapolis; Theodore Berning, Mediapolis; Walter Eyre, Burlington; Eugene Schulte, Burlington; Arthur Corman, Sperry; Henry Dockendorff, Danville; Harold Yohe, Mediapolis, and Rex Trout, Burlington. The last three listed are the present commissioners.

In addition, Horace Sutton of Burlington has served as district treasurer and Harold Linder of Sperry as district secretary.

A total of 10 teachers were given scholarships helping them to attend the Teachers Conservation Camp at Springbrook state park.

Serving as district conservationists were Ray H. Audsley who retired in 1965, John H. Baker, who transferred to the Office of Inspector General in 1969, and Dewey, who came in last July. Jack Jacobs, who resigned in 1966 after 12 years, and Harry N. Bryant have been conservation technicians and Mildred Kleinkopf is district clerk.

Mediapolis Vo-Ag Teacher Chosen As 'Outstanding'

MEDIAPOLIS — James Howell, vocational agriculture teacher at Mediapolis high school, has been named outstanding conservation teacher of the year by the Des Moines county Soil Conservation district.

William Vierling of Mediapolis, district commissioner, said, "Howell has continually done an excellent job of making soil conservation important to the young people he teaches. In addition, Jim has been the mainstay in developing the FFA Soil Judging contest for Southeast Iowa."

Howell teaches vocational agriculture to freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors at the school. He said he expects a total of 68 in his classes next year.

Of the honor, Howell said, "It is a pleasure to be recog-

nized for effort put out. I don't know that I've done that much more than other teachers."

In praising Howell's teaching, District Conservationist Ralph Dewey said, "Howell stresses man's relationship to soil with his agriculture students from the time they are sophomores. Field trips, where youngsters can look at various soil types and learn to judge their values, help make soil science a valued learning experience."

State Contest

Howell will be entered in a state contest to choose the outstanding conservation teacher in Iowa.

Vierling said, "The enthusiasm of the youthful teacher toward improving our environment through soil and water conservation is greatly appre-

ciated by the soil district. We are sure that his entry as our representative in statewide competition will bring him further honors."



James Howell

July 26, 1970

Disputes Critic of Conservation Service

To the Editor:

The article by Irston R. Barnes of the Washington Post on channel work of watershed projects ... ["SCS at War With Nature on Streams," Aug. 14] appears ... to condemn all watershed projects where channel work was a part of the flood and erosion control measures planned and included in the construction of the project.

A watershed is divided into three components, including the drainage or land area, the major structures or dams and the downstream improvements below the impoundments or structures. The maximum size of a watershed is 250,000 acres.

In all watersheds, landowners are first assisted in developing conservation plans that will control erosion within practical limits. The plans provide for wildlife plantings where appropriate, tree planting, seeding down of eroded areas that are best suited for grazing, and contouring, terracing, and other practices needed on land that is used for cropping of corn, soybeans, etc.

One of the requirements for upland conservation is that at least 75 per cent of the drainage area above a proposed structure or dam must be adequately treated for erosion control before they can be installed. This insures that conservation on the land is not neglected. After the land treatment is complete

the raindrop is captured where it falls insofar as this is feasible and possible.

The second stage involves building structures to impound water and slow up the speed of the water runoff that occurs after rains that would normally produce flooding.

The third step involves the channel between the last upstream structure in the watershed and the stable outlet. Each watershed is treated according to the condition and needs. In some cases the existing channel may be adequate, but in other cases it may be eroding seriously or there may be continuing flood damage which needs to be corrected. When the land in the floodplain suffers severe damage and yet is best suited to crop production, the corrective measures may include channel improvement as the most effective, efficient and least expensive control.

It should also be recognized that channel improvement is only one phase of watershed projects. In any event, all watershed projects should not be stopped just because, in my opinion and from observations and experience, there is a lack of understanding of the place, need and function of channel work as one phase of watershed projects on the part of those who are objecting. —

Frank H. Mendell, former State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, Morton Ave., Des Moines.

MR. AND MRS. S. S. BARTON and Mr. and Mrs. William Vierling of Mediapolis, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schulz Rt. 3, and Mrs. Mildred Kleinkopf, Burlington, state clerk in the local soil conservation office, attended the state conference of soil district commissioners in Waterloo last week.

Barton, Vierling and Schulz are commissioners of the Des Moines County Soil District.

All three were elected last February when the board was increased from three to five members.

Windbreak Plans Needed

Prepare now for springtime windbreak plantings, advises District Conservationist Ralph Dewey of Burlington.

"A great many of our older farmsteads are suffering from 'Gay Nineties' windbreaks," Dewey claims, "and the best time to plan replacements is the autumn before planting season."

"A good deal of thought should be a part of a windbreak plan," the conservationist continued. Some older shelterbelts were located well 50 years ago, but do not fit modern farming.

A big factor in a modern windbreak is protection of the living area and the livestock. Care should be taken to avoid placing trees where they may cause drifting on roads and travel areas.

"The inside edge of a windbreak should be somewhere between 50 and 100 feet from the area to be protected," Dewey goes on. "In Iowa, prevailing winter winds are north and west. These, then, are the logical directions for planting the shelter area."

Many farmers may find their buildings too close to a road for best windbreak planning, the planner states. "Each planting set-up will need individual planning. The soil conservation service provides such technical help on request, so that co-operators may plant the right kind of trees on the proper soil in the proper way."

"One other factor is cost and supply of planting stock," Dewey concludes. Fall planning for spring planting can assure you of a better choice of plant material, with a prospect for early order savings.

Cite Soil Week importance

Stewardship of the soil is rapidly becoming an accepted responsibility of rural and urban people alike.

"Earth Week and the environmental activities of the past year have proven the

absolute need for better care of our land," commented Chairman Henry Dockendorff of Des Moines County Soil Conservation District.

He was announcing the beginning of national Soil Stewardship Week, May 16-23.

For a quarter of a century, conservationists have concentrated on convincing the thousands of farmers, who use over 90 per cent of our land, of their need to care for the soil," Dockendorff continued.

"We are now concerned with the many thousands who control the use of the remaining land. They, too, have a responsibility to the Creator of the land as well as to their fellow citizens for good land use."

Urban Assistance

"In Des Moines county our district has worked with dozens

of individual land owners with erosion or pollution problems not related to farming," the chairman went on. "We are also providing inventories and evaluations of land use problems for governmental units who may not own the land but have jurisdiction over its use," Dockendorff added.

"Soil Stewardship Week is a time when we can all take stock of the blessings our soil resource has provided. It has furnished us food and fiber up to now and is our great continuing hope for life in the future."

"The spotlight of history is on land users now as they determine how they will treat this rapidly diminishing resource — soil — in the face of a rapidly increasing population. Truly stewardship of the soil has become everyone's concern. There will be little chance of life without it," Dockendorff concluded.

Soil-Water Week Observance

More than 71,000 farmers in Iowa have been working positively toward a better environment over the past thirty-four years, conservation officials report as Iowa celebrates Soil and Water Conservation Week, June 20-27.

Accomplishments over the years are staggering to the imagination when tallied together. Small farm ponds have created more than 35,000 acres of water surface in the state to provide livestock water for several million head of livestock. In addition, thousands of hours of recreation are provided by many of these ponds in the form of fishing, boating or just plain relaxation.

Wilson T. Moon, State Conservationist of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service reports that over 1000 such ponds were constructed in the past year along with enough terracing to stretch from Iowa to the Gulf of Mexico.

"This represents a tremendous investment by our cooperating farmers as well as an abiding interest in preserving our great natural resource — the Soil," states district conservationist, Ralph E. Dewey of Burlington. "In this county, conservation farmers have more than done their share to maintain erosion control."

"During the past year the soil conservation district has assisted nearly 500 farmers in the county as well as giving help to many urban requests for erosion control," Dewey continued. "Our services are now available for any land user who has a problem in resource conservation."

The soil Survey program is basic to all soil and water conservation activity. Over 28 million acres of Iowa have already been surveyed by specialists of the soil conservation service and Iowa agricultural experiment station. The Iowa legislature has made available \$100,000 annually to hasten this program to completion since 1967. In a cooperative effort, many counties, including Des Moines County, have approved matching funds to complete the standard soil survey locally. This county is scheduled for active surveying starting in 1974. Upon completion the full survey will be available to all people for their information.

"With all the achievements over the past years, we are still losing soil at a terrifying rate," Dewey concludes, "So, the job of the conservationist has not diminished, but is constantly expanding."

Catfish sales lagging

Catfish longer than 15 inches taken from the Mississippi in the Burlington-Keokuk area may contain dangerous levels of the pesticide dieldrin.

This information, released in a state survey, has alarmed fish fanciers and cut sales of catfish in stores along the river.

Gov. Robert Ray said last week a survey conducted by the State Hygienic Laboratory for the Iowa Conservation Commission revealed dieldrin "has built up in the tissues of fish above acceptable levels."

A dieldrin level of 300 parts per billion is the limit set by the federal Food and Drug administration. Catfish and bullheads caught at Burlington had as high as 435 ppb of the insecticide and as high as 380 ppb at Keokuk.

Ralph E. Dewey, district conservationist, U. S. Soil Conservation Service, explained the situation as follows:

"Dieldrin is an insecticide which farmers spray on the surface to control leaf-eating insects. It washes down into the rivers and streams, soon settles on the bottom, and catfish and bullheads, who feed on the bottoms, accumulate it."

"The pan fish — bass, bluegills, crappies — who feed off the surface of the water, don't accumulate much poison."

Dewey said that conservationists are attempting to induce

farmers to take water run-off measures.

"Quite a few farmers are going into catfish farming — raising the fish in ponds on their farms," Dewey stated.

"These ponds can be contaminated, too."

Dewey said that catfish 15 inches and longer are the ones in which the state investigators found dangerous levels of dieldrin.

"They're the older fish and have been eating the contaminated food longer," he explained.

While the levels of the poison in fish taken locally is above safe limits, other areas in the state have even higher readings.

At the Coralville Reservoir on the Iowa river near Iowa City some fish have been taken with dieldrin levels as high as 1,440 ppb.

On the Nishnabotna near Hamburg levels as high as 1,600 have been reported in bottom-feeding fish. Fishermen in both of these areas were warned this summer about the dangerous pesticide levels in the fish.

The warnings are having a noticeable effect on fish sales.

John Haigh, proprietor of Haigh fish market in Niota, Ill., said catfish sales have dropped 50 per cent since news stories a few days ago indicated poisonous dieldrin had been found in catfish.

No Word from State

Haigh and his upriver

counterpart, Dallas City's Thomas Welker, both said they had received no official information regarding dangerous concentrations of dieldrin in Mississippi river fish.

Both reported that Illinois officials ran tests in the Dallas City-Niota vicinity "three or four months ago," but didn't inform the fishmongers of their findings.

All I know is what I get from the news," Haigh asserted. "I wish the state conservation departments would give us some information about this."

SOIL CONSERVATION

leaders in the state are calling newly passed legislation the most comprehensive and beneficial since the law establishing soil conservation districts. The governor has signed the act and it will go into effect within a month. One of the provisions makes it mandatory that a landowner establish soil saving practices on his farm if the supervising authorities deem such practices necessary and in the public interest. Three-fourths of the cost must be available from public funds before the regulations to establish these practices become mandatory.

Does pollution control pay?

Pesticides, soil get into streams

By DAVE COLLOGAN

"If they can see a way to make it economically feasible they'd do it but otherwise they are going to be a little slow at it."

Ralph Dewey's statement neatly sums up one major problem in combatting the mounting pollution of the Mississippi — people won't do anything about it if it is going to cost them money.

Dewey, district conservationist for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, was referring specifically to farmers who fail to use erosion prevention techniques on their farms, thereby allowing much good topsoil and tons of pesticides to wash into the river. While soil erosion has long been recognized as a problem, only recently have the dangers of pesticide-runoff been identified.

A number of chemicals have been found in fish samples here, particularly dieldrin. Dieldrin is sometimes the primary pesticide used, but much of that found in the river apparently is a result of the break-down of aldrin, another pesticide.

Levels of 435 parts per billion of dieldrin were found in fish at Burlington and 380 ppb at Keokuk in tests conducted during the summer. Federal Food and Drug Administration officials say that fish with levels higher than 300 ppb should not be consumed. At least one commercial fisherman has gone out of business and others are considering that prospect, but little has been done about cleaning up the river.

Something Can Be Done

Dewey maintains that there are things which can be done, one of them being soil erosion prevention.

"Ninety per cent of the runoff can be controlled," Dewey said. He said terracing has long been recognized as a way to stop runoff but it had proven too expensive for large farm operations. Dewey said there is a newer technique which can be used on larger farms, but people still don't seem interested in putting in the necessary work and money.

"They've seen the value of adding fertilizer and chemicals to get a better crop."

Dewey said, "but they haven't seen the value of keeping the soil they're using from going down the stream."

Another man interested in the question of water purity is Tom Martin, a chemist who works at the IAAP. Martin said only recently have devices been assembled which can measure such pesticides in water.

"When you're speaking of amounts like several parts per billion, it's like trying to find a bucketful in a stadium — it takes a lot of looking," said Martin.

Martin's lab will be doing an extensive study of water going into and leaving the plant using atomic absorption methods. This equipment, however, is very complicated and expensive.

Martin said there are other pesticides, organo-phosphates, which can be used in place of the chlorinated-hydrocarbons like dieldrin. He said these can be just as effective in killing pests and have a short half life so there won't be the problem of residues cropping up in fish and other organisms.

However, economics plays a part here too. Martin said the organo-phosphates are a little more expensive than the other pesticides and their use has not been wide-spread in this area.

Shouldn't Point Fingers

Although the "villain" in the pesticide problem might appear to be the farmer, Dewey said people should avoid pointing fingers. He said everyone must realize "it is an economic fact of life and death" that by allowing large amounts of chemicals into the water supply the entire environment is slowly being poisoned. Time shouldn't be wasted worrying about who is doing the most damage, Dewey said. The effort should be toward cleaning it up and preventing it in the future.

A man who might be expected to downgrade the warnings of the environmentalists is Bert Brayton, president of Brayton Chemicals. Brayton's firm supplies dieldrin and aldrin to other establishments who in turn sell them to farmers. Brayton, however, agrees that something must be done.

"We must do the things

which are necessary to curb the abuse and we must realize it will cost extra," said Brayton.

Brayton agreed with Martin that the organo-phosphates may provide a partial answer to the problem, but he said even these must be chosen carefully with a cautious eye on the effects they may produce. He said he believes the crux of the problem is the abuse of chemicals, not their use.

People have to be educated, Brayton said, about what the chemicals can do and how they should be used. He said much of the present problems stems from needlessly heavy amounts of the pesticides being dumped on the land.

This "abuse" as he termed it is not practiced by the farmer

alone, he said. Many homeowners use the chemicals to excess on their lawns. Rain washes them into the sewer system and eventually into the river where they enter the food chain.

"We must do the things that are necessary to curb the abuse and we might have to give up some of our freedom to use

chemicals," Brayton said.

He feels it may be necessary to license those who sell chemicals, much the same way pharmacists are licensed. While this might prove costly, he said proper control and education is the only way to combat the problem.

ERNEST LUDEMANN, Danville, is a real advocate of soil-saving and the use of tile outlet terraces.

He is using them on his farm which is included in those on the self conducted tour of nine Danville farms in the Geode Lake watershed that may be seen as part of the soil and water conservation week. Map and location of the farms was in Sunday's Hawk-Eye.

DALE BREUER has planted a windbreak to the north and west of his farmstead south of Mediapolis. Two varieties of evergreens and a row of honeysuckle were used.

*Burlington Hawk-eye
6-17-70*

THE EYE *IAAP Paper 4/19/70*
Ralph Dewey, D.C.



On June 3, 21 members of the Iowa Chapter of Society of American Foresters, toured the Plant and inspected the Woodland Management Practices.

Of particular interest was the 50-acre reforestation of the cottonwood and black walnut species in Yard G.

Pictured above to the far left is John Creswell, Plant Agronomist. To the immediate right of John is Carl Anderson, a former Plant Agronomist. The Wildlife Refuge is named after Carl Anderson who was employed with Mason & Hanger for 16 years.

City Dweller Also Has Stake In Conservation

Both the farmer and the city dweller have a stake in cutting soil erosion and silt problems, Ralph Dewey, district conservationist, told the Kiwanis club Thursday.



Ralph Dewey

On farms, "not only does the land become more productive for the farmer, but it becomes more valuable and adds to the tax total," he explained.

And proper land use, he pointed out, can conserve and preserve public land.

He cited two cases where both the city and county have erred at a cost to taxpayers. In both

cases, steep banks on sides of roads led to erosion.

Soil and Water Conservation Week starts Sunday. While "pollution" has recently become a popular word, the Des Moines County Soil Conservation district has been fighting pollution for 25 years, he asserted.

The local soil conservation district has been in operation since 1965, and, in 1967, silt was officially recognized as a pollutant, he said.

Farmers, caught in the price-cost squeeze, he said turn to the Soil Conservation Service, a federal agency, for help. This help includes a soil survey, evaluation of conditions, development and application of a plan to cut silting and erosion.

The Soil Conservation Service, he said, aids individuals and groups as well as governmental units such as Burlington and West Burlington.

Proper conservation practices, such as terracing and dams, on a 40-acre tract could hold back as much as two million gallons of water and, in a year's time, keep 500 tons of silt from moving into lakes and ponds, he said.

Conservation, he pointed out, applies to rural clutter as well as urban litter.

The first Des Moines County Soil Conservation district board was made up of Noah Schrock, John Blaul and Edward Cling. Other men who have been board members are Howard Gieselman, Kenneth Redfern, Hugh Jamison, Homer Woodward, Walter Eyre, Jack Pilling, Theodore Berning, Eugene Schulte, Art Corman, Harold Yohe and present board members Henry Dockendorff, chairman; Rex Trout, William Vierling, S. S. Barton and Albert Schulz.

Burlington Hawk Eye 6-12-70

Sorry about that, Fido. Holiday visitors to areas under the jurisdiction of the Des Moines County Conservation Board are being asked by the board to keep pets on an eight-foot leash.

Board President Richard Schneider stated that the board anticipates crowds at all areas and that for this reason the pets should be leashed.

At its Wednesday evening meeting, the board:

Announced that in preparation for the Independence day influx, Tama beach has been improved and is now open for boats.

Reported that the Soil Conservation Service will make a study of the watershed at the Franklin Township lakesite.

Authorized McFadzean-Every & Associates of Winnetka, Ill., to proceed with construction drawings for an earthen dam and spillway at Franklin Township lakesite estimated costs of which will be available this fall.

The Burlington Hawk Eye July 1970

Burlington Hawk Eye

6-14-70



NATURE'S ART as seen from Mosquito Park in Burlington is pointed out to Mississippi River Parkway Commission National Pilot Ray Eckstein, Cassville, Wis., and Richard Norpel, Bellevue, chairman of the Iowa parkway commission by Mrs.

Helen Colby Schulte of Ft. Madison. Mrs. Schulte is a past winner of the commission's Great River Road art contest. This year's contest closes July 3, with awards to be made July 12 at Dubuque. The Iowa commission met in Burlington Saturday.

Parkway Group In Look At Boat Days

The Mississippi River Parkway Commission met here Saturday, got a Steamboat Days look at Burlington as an attraction on the Great River Road, and discussed the road's future in Des Moines county.

The 10-member Iowa commission — one from each county along the river border of the state, was joined here by four Missouri commissioners.

National Pilot (chairman)

Ray Eckstein, Cassville, Wis., Richard Norpel, Bellevue, Iowa Commission chairman, and F. W. Robinson, Missouri chairman, rode in the Steamboat Days parade in acknowledgement of the importance of the annual celebration to Mississippi river tourism.

At a luncheon in Hotel Burlington, the interstate group was joined by Des Moines County spokesmen who dis-

cussed problems of pollution and zoning along the road.

They included County Supervisor Wallace Rayer, County Engineer Ken Smith, County Soil Conservationist Ralph Dewey, County Extension Agent James Hodges and Chamber of Commerce Tourism chairman Bob Geren.

Also attending was Donald Johnson, Mt. Pleasant, State Soil Conservation Service, and Derby Thompson, chairman of the Iowa Highway Commission. Thompson gave the group a report on road developments in Lee and Scott counties.

The Great River Road in Des Moines county follows Hwy. 99 from the north county line to Burlington, Main Street to Crapo Park, Madison Road, old 61 and US 61 to the Lee county line.

Other Iowa parkway commissioners attending were John McCormally, Burlington vice chairman; and George Aschom, Lansing; Stephen Delaney, Clinton; Gary Engebretson,

Cont. on p. 4.

Decorah; Mrs. Carl Majors, Keokuk; Ivan Dull, secretary, Dubuque; Harry McKee, Muscatine; A. Fred Berger, Pleasant Valley, and Charles B. Millham, Guttenberg. Wives of most of the commissioners attended the luncheon.

Guests of honor at the luncheon were Mrs. Clarence Moody, widow of the late chairman of the commission, and Mrs. Helen Colby Schulte, Ft. Madison, winner of the 1968 Great River Road art contest.

NAMED OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION TEACHER

Longtime vocational agriculture teacher, James R. Howell, of Mediapolis has been judged the outstanding conservation teacher of the year by the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District.

A nine year veteran of the teaching profession, Howell has continually done an excellent job of making soil conservation important to the young people he teaches," states District Commissioner William Vierling of Mediapolis. "In addition, Jim has been the mainstay in developing the FFA Soil Judging Contest for Southeast Iowa."

Howell stresses man's relationship to soil with his agriculture students from the time they

are sophomores. Field trips, where the youngsters can look at various soil types and learn to judge their values, help make soil science a valued learning experience.

Recently the honored instructor led the Earth Day activities in his town of Mediapolis. He involved leaders of the community on a field trip to observe and discuss methods of better waste disposal. With his students he emphasized how each of them shared responsibility in controlling pollution on their own farms.

Howell has represented the soil district at the annual conservation education workshop at Madrid. Information obtained at this meeting was shared with other teachers.

"The enthusiasm of the youthful teacher toward improving our environment through soil and water conservation is greatly appreciated by the soil district," Vierling continued. "We are sure



JAMES R. HOWELL

that his entry as our representative in statewide competition will bring him further honors."

This Conservation Awards contest is sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District and Des Moines Register and Tribune - Teacher division.

Burlington Hawkeye
7-22-70

LEON LUTTENEGGER and Ray Creelman, neighbors north of Kingston, have done some earth moving on the bluffs on the west side of Iowa 99 that would make the work of the Indians who once built mounds on some of the neighboring bluffs look like children with a shovel and a sand bucket.

A mutual erosion control dam on the fence line checks the runoff in a gullied area and makes a permanent place for their dividing fence. It also furnishes a lane to the other side of the ditch.

Farther down the slope, Luttenegger has built a farm pond for a water supply. Much of the brush has been cleared so that grass will grow for a good pasture where only the brush grew before.

FARM PONDS have been completed on the Carl Beckman and Harry Dickey farms northwest of Burlington and on the John Henry farm north along US 61. Donald Davis, east of Yarmouth, has shaped a meandering gully into a grassed waterway just above his feedlot. He has constructed a low dike to divert the runoff into a tile system without carrying pollution from his feedlot.

Hugh Logan, south of Hillsboro in Lee county, has recently shaped some drainage ways. This has been done in good time to get a fall seeding started to prevent erosion of the freshly moved earth.

Burlington Hawkeye
7-1-70

IN PLEASANT GROVE township, east of New London, Dwight Stucker is completing two projects designed to prevent pollution from his feedlots.

The latest project involves diverting water from the slope above the lot to a dry dam in an adjoining gully. An intake into a tile system running under the feedlot carries the water safely away from the area. In the event of a two-inch rain, this arrangement will keep a million and a half gallons of water from running across the feed lot; a big help in preventing pollution of streams.

ERVIN BOHLEN has just completed a set of tile outlet terraces on his diverted acres just west of the Des Moines county farm.

In constructing about a mile of terraces, he is controlling runoff from about 40 acres of sloping land.

In addition, this project is providing Bohlen an improved tile drainage system for the wet land on his farm. The clearing and straightening of an old creek bed has added much to the appearance and value of the farm.

LEIF LOMO and Dr. Ted Mazur, owners of another Flint River township farm have completed another erosion control dam in the gullied section of the farm.

This is to be protected by installing tile outlet terraces above the pond. These structures will make cropping easier on these fields and afford an excellent water supply for many uses.

ROBERT OETKEN and A. M. Wagner have completed terracing projects in the Geode Lake watershed near Danville. These projects are cost-shared with state and federal funds to encourage the prevention of silt runoff and reduce silting in the lake. These two farms have controlled runoff from more than 200 acres of cropland. Farmers in the Geode watershed now have about half the land under sound conservation practices, according to Ralph Dewey, soil district conservationist.

HAROLD YOHE, northwest of Mediapolis, will soon complete terraces on the lower slopes of his fields. He will then have parallel rows across the slope.

Burlington Hawkeye
7-1-70

Conservation Awards Told

Three outstanding conservation farmers have been named this week as local winners in the annual Iowa Conservation Achievement Awards Contest, according to Henry Dockendorff of Danville, chairman of the Des Moines county soil conservation district.

They are: Harold Yohe, of Mediapolis; Mrs. Frances Cook owner—John Seymour, operator, Danville, and A. M. Wagner & Sons — Richard Mapel operator, Danville.

"All three farms have shown excellent progress in completing their conservation farm plans," Dockendorff said. "They have all installed the needed tile outlet terracing to control erosion, and have checked erosion nearly 100 per cent."

The purpose of the contest is to recognize those farmers who have made a great effort over the years to protect the land they farm. "In a way this is recognition for good stewardship of land," the chairman stated. "All the conservation farmers, who have done their best to preserve their precious land, have been winners, whether they are tops in the contest or not."

Further Competition

The three top conservation farmers in Des Moines county will join in competition with winning farmers in 11 other southeast Iowa counties, and if successful they may be in further competition for state awards.

The contest is co-sponsored by soil conservation districts and the Des Moines Register and Tribune farm department.



DES MOINES COUNTY officials review the values of a standard soil survey with state soil scientists. From left are Jim Hodges, county extension director; Albert Schulz, soil district commissioner (seated); Les Hamilton, supervisors chairman; Wilson T. Moon, state conservationist; Dr. Tom Fenton, Iowa Experiment Station, and County Assessor Paul Rynell.

Soil Survey Discussed

State officials in soil conservation discussed the values of a standard soil survey for Des Moines County with county and local representatives last week at the Federal Building.

The meeting, sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District, was attended by 30 persons representing the county government, city of Burlington and rural communities.

State Conservationist Wilson T. Moon of Des Moines explained how the work in soil survey has built up in Iowa during the past few years mainly due to the demand by county government for the information.

"Both county and city assessors are finding soil survey information highly valuable in setting equitable evaluations on

agricultural land," the conservationist stated. "Therefore, many assessors are setting aside funds to hurry up the completion of the survey in their areas."

County assessor Paul Rynell emphasized how valuable soil survey will be for his appraisal work. City planner Craig Eaton pointed out the use of the soil inventory for sound planning and zoning and better land use.

Dr. Tom Fenton, agronomist with the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, told the group how much better the new survey will be than the original survey of 1921. "The original surveyor mapped as much as 4,000 acres per day, using the limited knowledge of that time," he stated.

"The 1970 soil surveyor will map from 500 to 600 acres per day, using modern techniques and the knowledge gained over the past 50 years."

The soil scientist went on to explain that the original report merely showed the location of a limited number of soil types and a brief description of them. The modern survey includes information about chemical content, physical properties, and many recommendations for engineering, agricultural and other uses.

Continued at left.



DOUBLE STOPPER. Two Dept. of Agriculture trucks parked in the Federal Building lot near Washington and Front stopped a runaway truck shortly after noon Friday. Brakes apparently failed on a New London Farmers Coop grain truck of soybeans, driven by Steven Hunter, 21, New London, police said. The eastbound truck crossed the

Main-Washington intersection, missed a service station and other parked cars, and went over a 2-foot dropoff before striking the parked vehicles. Hunter, who was reported "shaken up," was treated and dismissed from Memorial hospital. No one else was injured.

Burlington Hawkeye 7-3-70

Burlington Hawkeye 8-3-70

A TERRACE and an erosion control dam have been completed by Linton Murphy on the Ed Murphy farm north of Burlington on the Stony Hollow Road as part of the erosion control work on the farm.

Earlier in the spring tile had

been installed to provide outlets for these and future terraces.

CFCL BURKEY has rearranged the landscape on his Pleasant Grove township farm east of New London.

He has bulldozed the stumps out on a 40-acre tract that had the trees cut for barrel staves a few years back. It is now ready to re-seed into a good pasture crop. Needing water, he had the soil conservation service design a farm pond. The water from the pond has been piped to supply the water where he needs it for livestock and farm use.

B.M. Register 8-30-70

Region 9 (Southwest)

APPANOOSE—(1) William and Katherine Vinzant, Mystic; (3) C. K. Stradley, Centerville.
DAVIS—(1) Gerald Forsythe, Drakesville; (Teacher) Mrs. Isabel Boatman, Bloomfield; Davis County Community School, Bloomfield.
DES MOINES—(1) Harold Yohe, Mediapolis; (2) Frances Cook, Hays, Kan., owner; John Seymour, Danville, operator; (3) A. M. Wagner & Sons, Danville, owner; Dick Wapel, Danville, operator; (Teacher) James R. Howell, Mediapolis; (Mediapolis Community School).
JEFFERSON—(Teacher) Keith Weils, Fairfield (Fairfield High School).
LEE—(1) Walter Kravter, Dobnell.
MAHASKA—(Teacher) Mrs. Harriet C. M. Ingers, Oskaloosa (Whittier School, Oskaloosa).
MONROE—(1) William Hughes, Edgelyville; (Teacher) Mrs. Jessie H. Howells, Albia (Albia Community School).
VAN BUREN—(1) Stanley Woodruff, Milton; (Teacher) Mrs. Maxine Miller, Birmingham; (Van Buren Community School, Birmingham).

Moon Answers Queries

After describing the way in which county, state and federal funds are used in this project, Moon fielded many questions from the group.

Further action from Des Moines County is pending, until the county conference board meets to decide on entering the program.

Supervisor Merle Kelly said this week: "The board discussed the soil survey; that's about as far as it went. The cost is the big thing."

Burlington Hawkeye 7-2-70

KENNETH WEHAGE, Huron township, is building terraces on the south 80 of his farm which he purchased last year from Mrs. Theodore Blake.

He will have nearly 40 acres of terraces when completed. They will control erosion on about 40 acres of cropland. General direction of the terraces will be north and south, allowing machine operations to be carried out the long way of the 80.

A different feature of this terrace system will be that one terrace will be installed crosswise to the farming direction. An area of the field slopes to the south and rows will tend to carry runoff down hill for a distance. To control this hazard, the terrace will be installed but the rows and field

operations will continue right over the terrace.

Ralph E. Dewey, district conservationist, says it is hoped this construction of a terrace will do a good job of breaking up the runoff and erosion on the field. Any soil movement above the terrace will be caught in the channel. Some extra maintenance will be necessary to keep this arrangement effective. The arrangement is of an experimental nature and it will be interesting to watch its effectiveness. Prior to terracing Wehage installed several thousand feet of tile outlets for the system.

Burlington Hawkeye 7-2-70

Resource Study Starts In Area

Des Moines county will be included in a natural resource study that will be taken by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

The purpose of the study that began this month is to make the overall environment better in eastern Iowa.

The area to be studied will extend from north of Austin, Minn., southeasterly to Burlington. About two-thirds of Des Moines county will be included in the study.

According to District Conservationist Ralph E. Dewey, the areas here to be studied include Flint river, Yellow Spring creek, Hawkeye-Dolbee drainage channel and Dry Branch watersheds.

Federal Coordination

The U. S. Soil Conservation Service will coordinate the long range study with the sponsors and other local and state

agencies that are concerned.

Improved recreation, fish and wildlife resources, better water supply and quality are the expected outcome of this investigation. The study will also include needs for flood prevention, drainage and irrigation of farmland.

Assisting the Soil Conservation Service in this project will be technical people from the Economic Research Service and U.S. Forest Service.

Burlington Hawkeye 9-2-70

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Burlington Hawkeye 9-3-70



Eroded freeway area off High east of Third

Erosion Is City Problem As Evidenced By US 534

Soil erosion can be a city problem as well as a rural one, District Conservationist, Ralph E. Dewey, pointed out Thursday.

A case in point is the Wednesday night rain and its effect on the US 534 freeway area, the US Soil Conservation Service expert said today.

Citing a silt deposit at Columbia and Main, Dewey said that "although the deposit of washed in soil was slight at this point, it was obvious that the source of the debris was the construction site of the freeway north of the hospital, more than four blocks away.

"Bright yellow clay and silt could be seen all the way from the freeway to the corner of Main and Washington where the stream of silt disappeared into the city sewer."

Drivers on North Third during the storm could see the soil washing rapidly from the construction site, as floodlike waters rushed across the street nearly six inches deep at times.

Dewey estimated that losses from the site probably would amount to at least a half a day's hauling by dump trucks.

"This is an unusual demonstration of erosion," Dewey said, "but it serves to point out that conserving our soils can affect everyone. Open construction areas such as this need to be protected as much as possible to keep such destruction from happening."

Milwaukee New Era 9-17-70

Conservation Work on Lucas Farm

Cut and fill, straight, parallel, tile inlet, terraces are being constructed now on the Harry Lucas farm.

You are invited to stop and see this terrace design. These terraces eliminate 80 to 95% of all point rows. Waterways are eliminated. Loss of top soil, lime, fertilizer and organic matter is nearly 100% controlled.

This farm is located in section 4 of Franklin township.

Burlington Hawkeye
10-7-74

Burlington Hawkeye 11/3/70

MR. AND MRS. S. S. BARTON and Mr. and Mrs. William Vierling of Mediapolis, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schulz Rt. 3, and Mrs. Mildred Kleinkopf, Burlington, state clerk in the local soil conservation office, attended the state conference of soil district commissioners in Waterloo last week.

Barton, Vierling and Schulz are commissioners of the Des Moines County Soil District.

All three were elected last February when the board was increased from three to five members.

SPEAKING OF soils, Ralph Dewey of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation Service, tells us some progress is now being made in the building of terraces and other erosion control structures now there have been some days without rain.

William Parrott west of

Danville has been able to complete his terraces. his motors stopped operations until a new one was located.

On a nearby farm just over the Henry county line, the Stephen Williams farm was the scene last week of the soil judging contest sponsored by vocational agriculture departments of high schools and the Soil Conservation Service.

The Winfield vocational team placed first and Mediapolis second. Wayne Corriell is the Winfield instructor and James Howell instructor at Mediapolis.

Ervin Bohlen, Flint River township farmer thought the terraces he built were too high but found they took the rains without the runoff water going over the top. Water accumulated up to the ears of corn in the deepest spots as the surplus water drained away with very little soil being moved.

Clarence Kuntz in Huron township has built some four miles of terraces to prevent erosion and slow water runoff on the former Gates farm he now owns. The farm is on the bluff to the west of where he lives on Highway 99.

The annual Soil District banquet at which awards are made is being planned for November, according to Henry Dockendorff, chairman, of Danville.

The Frances Cook farm on which John Seymour is tenant and A. M. Wagner, with Dick Mapel as tenant, are in the running for area and state awards.

We hear that the format of the annual affair may be stepped up slightly if one or both farms should receive further recognition.

Terracing is starting on the Robert Baird farm south of Morning Sun.

Tom Elanl is doing some tiling on his farm east of Mediapolis. With the cooperation of Lyman Howe, his neighbor to the east, surplus water is drained through a main tile across the neighboring farm.

Rex Mackey, contractor doing the tiling, was all set to put on a demonstration for the Mediapolis vocational agriculture class the first of last week when a condenser on one of

WILLIAM VIERLING, east of

Mediapolis, built a bracket that fit over the back axle of his combine that enables him to have the machine pushed through the wet spots by a tractor with a blade attached in front. This worked well, he said, for a few rods but where there was a long wet spot he still had trouble.

THE SEASON'S wet weather has stimulated interest in field drainage, according to Ralph Dewey, county planner with the Soil Conservation Service. Surface drainage is being used in level bottom fields and tile for the most part in upland fields.

WESLEY EWINGER and Glenn Berterman, in Jackson township, are planning surface drainage to carry off surplus surface water. The Ewinger project will involve the moving of some 15,000 cubic yards of earth. The job is being spread over two years.

IN HURON Township the drainage ditches serving the Bernice Scarber farm have been cleaned out and deepened. A series of shallow surface ditches are being constructed every 300 feet to carry off

surface water. They are being constructed with flat sides so operation of farm machines will not be hampered. William Janssen is tenant on this farm.

CLYDE MEEKER, in the south-east part of Huron township, is installing an intensive tile system with mains and laterals that will carry excess water into the drainage ditches.

Sam Stonoff to the south of the Meeker farm is putting in some tile to carry water from a low spot. It was necessary to cut through a high spot so the tile could be emptied into a drainage ditch. Surplus dirt is being used to fill in the low spot.

Leon Luttenegger, operator of the Stonoff farm, has helped as he has been using surface drainage on fields that he owns.

DALE HAZEN, in Washington township, and Walter Fritz, in Union township, have had some problems with seep spots in their fields. These spots, Ralph Dewey tells us are caused on hillsides where the water drains down to a less impervious clay layer and then moves out to the surface where the clay is exposed. Plans are being made

to install tile in the next few months that will intercept surplus water above these spots.



Don Muhm

Soil Awards Wednesday

MEDIAPOLIS — The spotlight will be on soil conservation here Wednesday evening, Nov. 4, at Immanuel Lutheran church, where Don Muhm will help the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District present awards to outstanding conservation farmers.

Muhm is the farm editor of the Des Moines Register and Tribune, co-sponsor of the annual conservation awards program with soil districts.

His program will feature his views in words and pictures of his tour of European agriculture last winter. Muhm is president of the Newspaper Farm Editors of America.

District Chairman Henry Dockendorff of Danville said these awards will be presented at the meeting:

Outstanding Conservation Teacher of 1970—James Howell, vocational agriculture instructor at Mediapolis Community high school.

Owner-tenant award — to Mrs. Frances Cook, Hays, Kan., and John Seymour, Danville.

New cooperator award — A. M. Wagner & Sons and Dick Mapel of Danville.

Owner-operator award — Harold Yohe of Mediapolis.

The annual award banquet is sponsored locally by Burlington, Danville and Mediapolis banks.

Burlington Hawkeye
11-18-70

Burlington Hawkeye
11-12-70



ACCEPTING AWARDS at the annual Des Moines County Soil Conservation District banquet were, from left, James Howell, vocational agriculture instructor at Mediapolis Community high school; John Seymour, Danville, tenant winner; Harold

Yohe, owner-operator winner, and Dwight Stucker, representing A. M. Wagner & Sons, to receive the new cooperators award for the Wagners and Dick Mapel, tenant on the Wagner farm near Danville.

Soil Awards Given

By BOB SOGARD

MEDIAPOLIS — The silver anniversary of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation Service was observed here Wednesday night, along with the annual recognition of outstanding friends of the soil.

The SCS banquet at Immanuel Lutheran church was the occasion to honor outstanding farm owners and tenants and an agriculture instructor as well as the past district committeemen.

Past members of the district committee on hand for the banquet were Edwin Cling, a member of the first committee formed in 1945; Hugh Jamison; Homer Woodward; Walter Eyre; C. E. Pilling; Theodore Berning; Eugene Schulte; Harold Yohe.

Other past soil commissioners were Noah Schrock, John Blaul, Howard Gieselman, Kenneth Redfern, and Art Corman.

Awards presented and the accomplishments cited:

Owner-operator — Harold Yohe, Mediapolis. Installed were tile outlet terraces, open drainage, tile drains and erosion control dams.

Tenant-landlord — Mrs. Frances Cook, Hays, Kan., owner, and John Seymour, Danville, tenant. Completed on this 80-acre farm in the Geode watershed is a complete erosion control plan including outlet terraces, tile drains, grassed waterways and an erosion control outlet for the entire system.

chairman, said the tenant-landlord and new cooperator winning entries were judged best in their divisions in the 12-county southeast Iowa region. Also, the cooperator who edged out Yohe was regional sweepstakes winner.

The awards were given out by district board members Rex Troute, Albert Schultz and S. S. Barton, who was master of ceremonies for the banquet. Others on the board are William Vierling, Harold Linder, secretary, and Horace Sutton, treasurer.

Guests at the banquet, sponsored by banks of Des Moines

county, included Fred Higginbottom, Des Moines, assistant director of the Soil Conservation Service; Dewey Bondurant, Des Moines, state SCS engineer, and John Eckes, Fairfield, area construction engineer.

Don Muhm, farm editor of the Register and Tribune newspapers, represented the R&T, cosponsor of the awards with the district.

Muhm gave a colored slide presentation of his trip to Europe this year as a guest of the West German government. He is president of the Newspaper Farm Editors of America.

New cooperator — A. M. Wagner & Sons, owner, and Dick Mapel, operator, Danville. Completed is a complete system of soil control with terraces and tile drains. This system also controls the runoff into Lake Geode.

Henry Dockendorff, district

Windbreak Plans Needed

Prepare now for springtime windbreak plantings, advises District Conservationist Ralph Dewey of Burlington.

"A great many of our older farmsteads are suffering from 'Gay Nineties' windbreaks," Dewey claims, "and the best time to plan replacements is the autumn before planting season."

"A good deal of thought should be a part of a windbreak plan," the conservationist continued. Some older shelterbelts were located well 50 years ago, but do not fit modern farming.

A big factor in a modern windbreak is protection of the living area and the livestock. Care should be taken to avoid placing trees where they may cause drifting on roads and travel areas.

"The inside edge of a windbreak should be somewhere between 50 and 100 feet from the area to be protected," Dewey goes on. "In Iowa, prevailing winter winds are north and west. These, then, are the logical directions for planting the shelter area."

Many farmers may find their buildings too close to a road for best windbreak planning, the planner states. "Each planting set-up will need individual planning. The soil conservation service provides such technical help on request, so that co-operators may plant the right kind of trees on the proper soil in the proper way."

"One other factor is cost and supply of planting stock," Dewey concludes. Fall planning for spring planting can assure you of a better choice of plant material, with a prospect for early order savings.

Among the recognitions and observances at the annual Des Moines County Soils District dinner at the Lutheran church in Mediapolis, tribute was paid to the men who have served as commissioners of the district during the 25 years since it was organized.

Those present for the Wednesday evening dinner sponsored by Des Moines county banks were: Edwin Cling, Mediapolis, a member of the original board of three commissioners elected early in 1946; Hugh Jamison, Mediapolis; Homer Woodward and Walter Eyre of Burlington; C. L. "Jack" Pilling and Theodore Berning of Mediapolis, Eugene Schulte, Burlington Rt. 3, and Harold Yohe, Mediapolis.

Other commissioners who have served are Noah Schrock, now of Burlington and the late John Blaul, who lived at Yarmouth; Howard Gieselman then of Burlington, now living west of Wapello; the late Kenneth Redfern, of Yarmouth, and Art Corman of Sperry.

The district has been served by three county planners of the Soil Conservation Service, Ray Audsley, retired and living in Burlington, John Baker now living in the east, and Ralph Dewey the present planner.

THE DISTRICT was authorized by landowners in the county at a special election after petitions had been filed requesting the vote. Schrock, Blaul and Cling were elected as the commissioners and took office in February of 1946.

The board was expanded to five in 1969 with Henry Dockendorff, Danville; Rex Troute, Burlington; Albert Schulz, Rt. 3; S. S. Barton, and William Vierling of Mediapolis, now serving as commissioners.

The commissioners are the governing body of the Soil District and work with the Soil Conservation Service to establish soil saving practices on farms in the county.

Burlington Hawkeye
11-18-70

Burlington Hawkeye
11-11-70

Burlington Hawkeye
11-5-70

Country Living

Top Farmer A City Boy

By Don Muhm
(The Register's Farm Editor)

BURLINGTON, IA. — If he can't get the right kind of seed corn, Rex Troute, 36, of Burlington, is going to raise more soybeans.

Troute planted seven different corn hybrids this year. Only three were resistant to the corn blight.

The difference in bushel output of blight-resistant corn and susceptible corn? It figures out to nearly half a corn crop, from the poorest to the best yields he's harvested this fall.

"I found a terrible variation in yields," Troute confided.

"My poorest fields, the ones hit by the blight the worst, yielded about 70 to 75 bushels per acre. And some of that corn isn't the best quality."

"On the other hand, my best corn — the resistant types — will hit 150 bushels per acre the way things look now."

Yield Contests

Troute knows something about shooting for top corn yields. He competes in corn yield contests and scored an official 168 bushels per acre in one major contest in 1969.

This year, Troute planted half of the 400 acres he farms to corn. He has farmed on his own for 11 years, overcoming the "handicap" of being raised in town — in Carthage, Ill. His wife, Darlene, was born on a farm near Burnside, Ill.

A testimony to Troute's success as a farmer, despite

COUNTRY —

Please turn to Page Five



BULK OF CROP WAS RESISTANT

COUNTRY —

Continued from Page One

his background, is the fact that in 1967 he was named an outstanding young farmer by the Burlington Jaycees and the fact that this year he and his family were named regional winners in the Iowa farm family contest sponsored by the Farmers Home Administration.

He credits part of his success to his wife's help. "Darlene can do anything — from chores to plowing or running the combine. She really pitches in."

Leaf Blight

Like a good many farmers this year, Troute encountered southern corn leaf blight in his fields for the first time. This blight spread out of southern cornfields and invaded fields across much of the Corn Belt, including this crop-rich area of southeast Iowa.

Most susceptible was corn containing the Texas male sterile cytoplasm, corn that does not require detasseling as seed. The corn market in August reacted wildly to news of the spread of the blight. None of the crop observers, including farmers, could predict what damage the fungus disease might cause.

"I had no indication that the corn blight was coming," Troute says.

His cornfields lie in the 11-county area believed to be the most heavily infested in Iowa.

Planting Schedule

Although four of the seven different hybrids he planted were susceptible to the corn blight, Troute rationalizes that the bulk of his acres had been planted to resistant corn hybrids.

About his 1971 corn plans, Troute confides: "If I can get the 'normal' seed corn, the kind that resists the blight, I will stick with my same corn planting schedule."

"If I can't, then I'm moving to more soybeans."

He feeds out about 100 head of cattle, about 400 hogs and has a herd of 20 stock cows. His extra-curricular activities include serving as vice-chairman of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District. He has been a commissioner



From City to Farm

Rex Troute, 36, of Burlington, is a city boy who married the farmer's daughter and turned to farming. The Troutes have earned recognition for their achievements during their 11 years of farming in Des Moines County.

with this soil district for three years.

At his farm there are ponds, forestry plantings, grassed waterways, and pasture improvement (for his small herd of beef cows) — all signs of his interest in conserving soil.

The Troutes have four children: Rex L., 14; Diana, 12; Carla, 10; and Todd, 8.

Does pollution control pay?

Pesticides, soil get into streams

By DAVE COLLOGAN

"If they can see a way to make it economically feasible they'd do it but otherwise they are going to be a little slow at it."

Ralph Dewey's statement neatly sums up the major problem in combatting the mounting pollution of the Mississippi — people won't do anything about it if it is going to cost them money.

Dewey, district conservationist for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, was referring specifically to farmers who fail to use erosion prevention techniques on their farms, thereby allowing much good topsoil and tons of pesticides to wash into the river. While soil erosion has long been recognized as a problem, only recently have the dangers of pesticide-runoff been identified.

A number of chemicals have been found in fish samples here, particularly dieldrin. Dieldrin is sometimes the primary pesticide used, but much of that found in the river apparently is a result of the break-down of aldrin, another pesticide.

Levels of 435 parts per billion of dieldrin were found in fish at Burlington and 380 ppb at Keokuk in tests conducted during the summer. Federal Food and Drug Administration officials say that fish with levels higher than 300 ppb should not be consumed. At least one commercial fisherman has gone out of business and others are considering that prospect, but little has been done about cleaning up the river.

Something Can Be Done

Dewey maintains that there are things which can be done, one of them being soil erosion prevention.

"Ninety per cent of the runoff can be controlled," Dewey said. He said terracing has long been recognized as a way to stop runoff but it had proven too expensive for large farm operations. Dewey said there is a newer technique which can be used on larger farms, but people still don't seem interested in putting in the necessary work and money.

"They've seen the value of adding fertilizer and chemicals to get a better crop,"

Dewey said, "but they haven't seen the value of keeping the soil they're using from going down the stream."

Another man interested in the question of water purity is Tom Martin, a chemist who works at the IAAP. Martin said only recently have devices been assembled which can measure such pesticides in water.

"When you're speaking of amounts like several parts per billion, it's like trying to find a bucketful in a stadium — it takes a lot of looking," said Martin.

Martin's lab will be doing an extensive study of water going into and leaving the plant using atomic absorption methods. This equipment, however, is very complicated and expensive.

Martin said there are other pesticides, organo-phosphates, which can be used in place of the chlorinated-hydrocarbons like dieldrin. He said these can be just as effective in killing pests and have a short half life so there won't be the problem of residues cropping up in fish and other organisms.

However, economics plays a part here too. Martin said the organo-phosphates are a little more expensive than the other pesticides and their use has not been wide-spread in this area.

Shouldn't Point Fingers

Although the "villain" in the pesticide problem might appear to be the farmer, Dewey said people should avoid pointing fingers. He said everyone must realize "it is an economic fact of life and death" that by allowing large amounts of chemicals into the water supply the entire environment is slowly being poisoned. Time shouldn't be wasted worrying about who is doing the most damage. Dewey said. The effort should be toward cleaning it up and preventing it in the future.

A man who might be expected to downgrade the warnings of the environmentalists is Bert Brayton, president of Brayton Chemicals. Brayton's firm supplies dieldrin and aldrin to other establishments who in turn sell them to farmers. Brayton, however, agrees that something must be done.

"We must do the things

which are necessary to curb the abuse and we must realize it will cost extra," said Brayton.

Brayton agreed with Martin that the organo-phosphates may provide a partial answer to the problem, but he said even these must be chosen carefully with a cautious eye on the effects they may produce. He said he believes the crux of the problem is the abuse of chemicals, not their use.

People have to be educated, Brayton said, about what the chemicals can do and how they should be used. He said much of the present problems stems from needlessly heavy amounts of the pesticides being dumped on the land.

This "abuse" as he termed it is not practiced by the farmer

alone, he said. Many homeowners use the chemicals to excess on their lawns. Rain washes them into the sewer system and eventually into the river where they enter the food chain.

"We must do the things that are necessary to curb the abuse and we might have to give up some of our freedom to use

chemicals," Brayton said.

He feels it may be necessary to license those who sell chemicals, much the same way pharmacists are licensed. While this might prove costly, he said proper control and education is the only way to combat the problem.

Burlington Hawkeye 12-16-70

Catfish sales lagging

Catfish longer than 15 inches taken from the Mississippi in the Burlington-Keokuk area may contain dangerous levels of the pesticide dieldrin.

This information, released in a state survey, has alarmed fish fanciers and cut sales of catfish in stores along the river.

Gov. Robert Ray said last week a survey conducted by the State Hygienic Laboratory for the Iowa Conservation Commission revealed dieldrin "has built up in the tissues of fish above acceptable levels."

A dieldrin level of 300 parts per billion is the limit set by the federal Food and Drug administration. Catfish and bullheads caught at Burlington had as high as 435 ppb of the insecticide and as high as 380 ppb at Keokuk.

Ralph E. Dewey, district conservationist, U. S. Soil Conservation Service, explained the situation as follows:

"Dieldrin is an insecticide which farmers spray on the surface to control leaf-eating insects. It washes down into the rivers and streams, soon settles on the bottom, and catfish and bullheads, who feed on the bottoms, accumulate it."

"The pan fish — bass, bluegills, crappies — who feed off the surface of the water, don't accumulate much poison."

Dewey said that conservationists are attempting to induce

farmers to take water run-off measures.

"Quite a few farmers are going into catfish farming — raising the fish in ponds on their farms," Dewey stated.

"These ponds can be contaminated, too."

Dewey said that catfish 15 inches and longer are the ones in which the state investigators found "dangerous" levels of dieldrin.

"They're the older fish and have been eating the contaminated food longer," he explained.

While the levels of the poison in fish taken locally is above safe limits, other areas in the state have even higher readings.

At the Coralville Reservoir on the Iowa river near Iowa City some fish have been taken with dieldrin levels as high as 1,440 ppb.

On the Nishnabotna near Hamburg levels as high as 1,600 have been reported in bottom-feeding fish. Fishermen in both of these areas were warned this summer about the dangerous pesticide levels in the fish.

The warnings are having a noticeable effect on fish sales.

John Haigh, proprietor of Haigh fish market in Niota, Ill., said catfish sales have dropped 50 per cent since news stories a few days ago indicated poisonous dieldrin had been found in catfish.

No Word from State
Haigh and his upriver

counterpart, Dallas City's Thomas Welker, both said they had received no official information regarding dangerous concentrations of dieldrin in Mississippi river fish.

Both reported that Illinois officials ran tests in the Dallas City-Niota vicinity "three or four months ago," but didn't inform the fishmongers of their findings.

All I know is what I get from the news," Haigh asserted. "I wish the state conservation departments would give us some information about this."

*Burlington Hawkeye
11-30-70*



OFF THE COB

BY WALTER B. EYRE

Cool damp weather slowed the remaining corn and soybean harvest.

Robert Dowling, Lee county extension director, estimated 80 per cent of the soybeans and 50 per cent of the corn has been harvested.

Curt Eisenmayer, of the Henderson county extension office, estimated 80 per cent of the corn and 95 per cent of the beans had been taken out of the field.

Gaylord Elliott, Louisa County extension director, estimated only 20 per cent of both corn and soybeans have not been harvested.

THE RAINS, amounting to more than an inch the first week of this month, made field work more difficult. It was too wet to plow in many fields. Combines were getting stuck in many cases where an effort was being made to continue harvesting.

Fall spreading of fertilizer is also being hampered by wet fields. Only a small percentage of the plowing that would normally be finished by this time has been done.

WILLIAM VIERLING, east of

Mediapolis, built a bracket that fit over the back axle of his combine that enables him to have the machine pushed through the wet spots by a tractor with a blade attached in front. This worked well, he said, for a few rods but where there was a long wet spot he still had trouble.

THE SEASON'S wet weather has stimulated interest in field drainage, according to Ralph Dewey, county planner with the Soil Conservation Service. Surface drainage is being used in level bottom fields and tile for the most part in upland fields.

WESLEY EWINGER and Glenn Berterman, in Jackson township, are planning surface drainage to carry off surplus surface water. The Ewinger project will involve the moving of some 15,000 cubic yards of earth. The job is being spread over two years.

IN HURON Township the drainage ditches serving the Bernice Scarber farm have been cleaned out and deepened. A series of shallow surface ditches are being constructed every 300 feet to carry off

surface water. They are being constructed with flat sides so operation of farm machines will not be hampered. William Janssen is tenant on this farm.

CLYDE MEEKER, in the south-east part of Huron township, is installing an intensive tile system with mains and laterals that will carry excess water into the drainage ditches. Sam Stonoff to the south of the Meeker farm is putting in some tile to carry water from a low spot. It was necessary to cut through a high spot so the tile could be emptied into a drainage ditch. Surplus dirt is being used to fill in the low spot.

Leon Luttenegger, operator of the Stonoff farm, has helped as he has been using surface drainage on fields that he owns.

DALE HAZEN, in Washington township, and Walter Fritz, in Union township, have had some problems with seep spots in their fields. These spots, Ralph Dewey tells us are caused on hillsides where the water drains down to a less impervious clay layer and then moves out to the surface where the clay is exposed. Plans are being made

to install tile in the next few months that will intercept surplus water above these spots.

JOHN BROKAW, Stronghurst, who is in the Illinois Beef Performance Testing program, has had 140 head of calves weighed and graded.

The records are kept so the fastest-gaining animals may be selected and the cows that produce the calves with the fastest gain and the highest quality meat may be kept in the herd.

The weighing and grading was done under the supervision of Curt Eisenmayer, extension adviser in agriculture, and Joe Peasley, Bob Dillon and Rich Fink.

BILL ROSS, Gladstone, has been elected chairman; Mrs. Garland Lesler, vice-chairman; Mrs. Jerry Malcolm, Carman, secretary and James Corzatt, Raritan, treasurer, of the Henderson county Extension committee. They will serve as the executive committee.

A NEW HOME ECONOMICS 4-H club was organized at Oquawka on Friday the 13th. Mrs. Larry Chandler is the leader.

OVER \$2,000 was paid out in 4-H premiums to Henderson County members at Achievement Night on the 14th.

AS A MATTER of interest, Bob Davilla who lives just east of Burlington on US 34, seeded a field of wheat on Nov. 7. That is a bit late in the season, but with a break in the weather and as there is plenty of mois-

ture in the ground, it will take only a few warm days to sprout and get it above the ground.

KEVIN LOTZ, son of Mrs. and Mrs. Phil Lotz of Morning Sun, did so well with his pig project this past summer he has purchased two baby beves to feed, in addition to a litter of pigs for his 4-H projects this year.

JOE GRANT, an agriculture education student from the Muscatine area college, is working and training at the Oakville Feed and Grain in Oakville. Joe is from Pulaski in Davis county where he was a future farmer. He will work in Oakville through November then return to classes at Muscatine.

MRS. MAYME GERST has moved from her Huron township farm to Burlington. Her son, Dwight Strassheim, has moved to the farm which he will operate.

RICHARD KLENK, Burlington, receives our Good Citizen award for this week.

One evening as he was driving out of Burlington, he noticed a leaf fire running along the curb on North Ninth street. He stopped his car and stomped out the fire which could easily have caused a damaging fire if left unchecked.

THE LOUISA COUNTY 4-H club awards banquet has been set for Jan. 2, at the Wapello elementary school.

Bill Small, Wapello, is 4-H president and Jack Gipple, of Columbus Junction, county committee chairman.



Eroded freeway area off High east of Third

Erosion Is City Problem As Evidenced By US 534

Soil erosion can be a city problem as well as a rural one, District Conservationist Ralph E. Dewey, pointed out Thursday.

A case in point is the Wednesday night rain and its effect on the US 534 freeway area, the US Soil Conservation Service expert said today.

"Bright yellow clay and silt could be seen all the way from the freeway to the corner of Main and Washington where the stream of silt disappeared into the city sewer."

Drivers on North Third during the storm could see the soil washing rapidly from the construction site, as floodlike waters rushed across the street nearly six inches deep at times.

Dewey estimated that losses from the site probably would amount to at least a half a day's hauling by dump trucks.

"This is an unusual demonstration of erosion," Dewey said, "but it serves to point out that conserving our soils can affect everyone. Open construction areas such as this need to be protected as much as possible to keep such destruction from happening."

Hawk Eye
9-3-70

Soil Surveys: A Rural Tool With Urban Values

By Arlo Jacobson

ARURAL HOUSING development was built near Cedar Rapids on ground that was once a slough where ducks made their home. When the water and the ducks came back, property values plummeted.

WILSON In Warren
MOON county a hous-
ing develop-
ment that would have de-
pended on septic tanks was
forestalled when county offi-
cials learned the land was
not suitable for septic tanks
and required lot sizes that

WILSON
MOON

would have made the land development prohibitive.

The two situations have a common link: Soil surveys to classify soil into types and give the characteristics and makeup of each. The soil survey program in Iowa is considered to be the most aggressive among the 50 states.

The soil surveys are conducted under auspices of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and hence are considered by many to be agriculturally oriented.

That they are but the information developed in the expensive and time-consuming process of a soil survey is of value not only to agriculturalists, but to housing developers, county road engineers, regional planners and

county assessors, who use the surveys to help set land values for tax purposes.

The task of scientifically surveying every acre of Iowa soil, which limped along slowly for years with U.S. Department of Agriculture funds, has been speeded up considerably with state and county funds the last few years and the job should be completed in the foreseeable future.

That was the consensus of a progress conference conducted recently at the Grimes State Office Building by state and federal soil conservation officials and Iowa State University representatives.

AS SHOWN in the accompanying map, 30 Iowa counties have been completed

and the project is advancing at the rate of three and a half counties per year. An additional 19 counties will have their surveys completed by July 1, 1971, and 14 other counties have made firm offers of sharing the cost.

Wilson T. Moon, state conservationist, said that on top of this, 14 other counties have indicated an interest in making a financial contribution for initiation of a soil survey and informational meetings have been held to discuss the program.

"Counties continue to show a real interest and have indicated by their offers of contributions that they are willing to support the program at a level that will permit continuation of field-mapping in 19 counties each year, providing other funding for this purpose is sufficient to meet the costs," Moon said.

Why a soil survey?

"A soil survey provides detailed information concerning the location and characteristics of each kind of soil in a county," said Lacy I. Harmon, state soil scientist for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

"In nature, a kind of soil can be thought of as having unique properties as does each kind of flower, tree or animal. Like flowers and trees, each kind of soil has a name and characteristics all its own."

The work of classifying soils, of which 150 different kinds may be found in a county, is so intricate that it takes a survey party of three men four years to complete a county.

The survey includes com-

pilation of basic soil facts, including a map showing the location of each kind of soil, and a precise description of the properties of each.

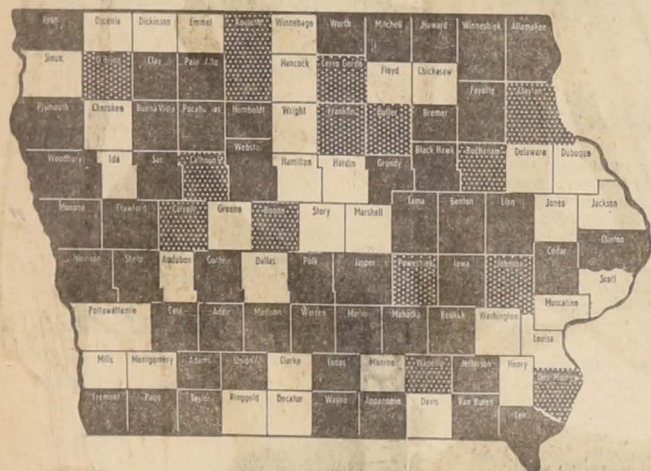
The survey also provides specific information and suggestions concerning the management, use, and limitations

of each soil for crops, pasture, woodland and wildlife.

Also included are various engineering applications such as construction and maintenance of commercial, industrial and residential build-

SURVEY—

Please turn to Page Two



Counties in black on the above map are those in which soil survey mapping has been completed or is now in progress. Crosshatched counties are those in which firm agreements have been reached for initiation of soil surveys.



Soil Scientist Lacy Harmon with Core Sample

Des Moines Register

1-3-71

Lists Limits on Soil Usage

SURVEY—

Continued from Page One

ings, streets and highways, bridges, flood retarding and control structures, drainage and irrigation systems, plus solid and liquid waste disposal systems.

This information is used for such purposes as avoiding the use of improper fill for a roadbed, not allowing housing developments in unsuitable areas, prohibiting use of septic tanks in certain types of soils where they would not function properly, and a host of others.

Agricultural purposes would include land-use capability grouping and management suggestions; fertilizer and lime requirements, relative productivity and estimate of attainable crop yields for a given soil type.

THE SURVEY would also list restrictions and limitations of soils, hazards associated with each soil and suggestions for overcoming or minimizing these obstacles.

William G. Harrington of Cedar Rapids, Linn County Engineer, commented at the meeting that his county's share of the soil survey would be less than the cost of building a modest home in an improper location, or replacing washed-out fill in a roadbed.

"We had a housing development built near Cedar Rapids on a marsh where ducks used to rest. After the development was built, the water

came back and so did the ducks," Harrington said.

Robert W. Mickle, director of the Central Iowa Regional Planning Commission, discussed the importance of soils and topographic infor-

mation in determining criteria for regional and local land use, zoning, water and sewer regulations and building and road standards.

He cited a specific instance in Warren county in which

soil survey information was used to prevent development of a housing area that would have used septic tanks.

A survey consists of taking samples of each kind of soil to a depth of 40 to 50 inches — with a few sites observed to greater depths. Detailed observations are made of soil cores taken from each horizon or layer within those depths.

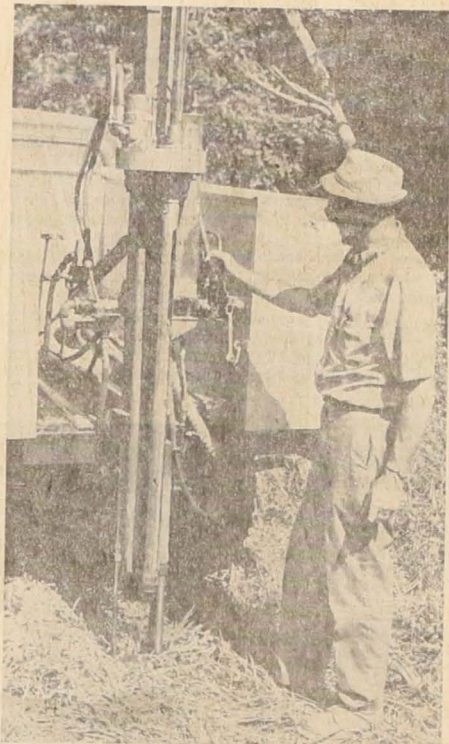
The number of detailed observations varies from 50 to 100 per section depending on the number of different kinds of soils which exist within the area.

Classification of soils on the basis of engineering criteria is done in accordance with a system approved by the American Association of State Highway Officials with the unified system developed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

This includes the water permeability of each soil and its water-holding capacity; the shrink and swell characteristics of each soil; degree of acidity; and suitability as a source of topsoil, sand, gravel, road fill and impermeable material.

The survey lists the properties of each soil that affect its suitability for a highway location, recreation area, reservoir, dams, embankments, drainage, irrigation, terraces and diversions, settling basin and waterways, and residential and commercial development.

General information is also included such as physiography, geology, water supply, climate, agriculture, history and trends.



John Highland, soil scientist from Ames, uses a hydraulic probe mounted on a truck to take soil core samples three inches in diameter. The machine can probe as deep as 15 to 20 feet.

Soil District Silver Ann.

The 25th annual report of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District will be out soon and it will be dedicated to the men who have served as commissioners during the past quarter century since it was first organized in February, 1946.

Noah Schrock, Burlington, was the first chairman serving with Edwin Cline, Mediapolis and the late John Blaul of Yarmouth as members of the original board. Others were Howard Gieselman,

Wapello, the late Kenneth Redfern of Yarmouth; Hugh Jamison, Mediapolis; Homer Woodward of Burlington; Walter Eyre, Burlington; C. E. (Jack) Pilling, Mediapolis; Theodore Berning, Mediapolis; Eugene Schulte, Burlington Rt. 3; Arthur Corman, Sperry; and Harold Yohe, Mediapolis.

Originally it was a board of 3 members but has been expanded to five in recent years. These positions are now being filled by Henry Dockendorff, Danville; Rex Trout, Rt. 1, Burlington; S. S. Barton and William Vierling, Mediapolis; and Albert Schulz, Rt. 3, Burlington.

Mediapolis News-Eve 2-18-71

S. S. BARTON of Mediapolis, a soil district commissioner, attended the commissioners short course in Ames last week.

Says he got an education on soil subject matter equal to six months of study. A law is being introduced in the present legislature that will make unnecessary soil losses a nuisance and provide means of enforcing the use of soil-saving practices. Surrell says that control of soil losses must start at the top of the hill.

Hawk Eye 2-3-71

Nature holds lesson for man

Man is in trouble with his environment, but if he will learn from nature, he still has a good chance of staying on this old planet.

This was the heart of the message delivered to the



Sylvan
Runkel

Kiwanis club at a noontime dinner meeting at Hotel Burlington.

The messenger was Sylvan T. Runkel, Des Moines, field biologist with the Soil Conservation Service. He was the guest of Ralph Dewey, district conservationist of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

Runkel, an Iowa State university forestry graduate, presented his message through slides, mostly taken by himself, and commentary.

He told the Kiwanians that there are three all-important lessons to be learned from nature:

No species of animal has ever increased without limit — "Does man think he is the exception?"

"Extreme high population does violence to the dignity of the individual," causing great poverty and loss of privacy.

"The higher the population of any species, the less freedom than animal has. Put two crows in a 40-acre field and they won't bump into each other; put 500 in the same field and you have warfare."

Runkel said that man must realize that "he is a part of nature — not above nature — something special in nature, but not above it."

"Man is as close to nature as the next breath he takes," and for this reason he must learn to control air pollution and other forms of pollution.

Most Goals Reached By Soil Conservation

Most of the goals for the 1971 Fiscal Year have already been reached by the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District according to the report of District Conservationist, Ralph E. Dewey of Burlington.

"Planning goals have generally been exceeded well before the end of the fiscal period," Dewey stated. "Our only discouraging area has been construction of tile outlet terraces. Terracing has been a large part of our workload for the past five years," the conservationist continued. "We have averaged nearly twenty miles a year for several seasons, but we will likely end up with only about 15 miles this year."

ASC-SCS Meeting At Local School Monday

Your farming decision for 1971 will be affected by the new government feed grain program whether or not you participate.

To receive assistance in this management decision, plan to

attend the next Adult Farmer class sponsored by the Mediapolis Vocational Agriculture department.

Monday, February 8, Deane Thornton, County ASC office manager, will discuss the feed grain program and Ralph Dewey, SCS Work Unit Conservationist, will discuss conservation payments.

All interested persons are invited to attend the 7:30 p.m. meeting in the Ag. classroom, Mediapolis High School.

HAROLD YOHE, a former Soil District Commissioner whose farm is northwest of Mediapolis, confesses he ran over one of the surface inlet pipes he installed last year to take the water underground and through tile from his parallel terraces. Says he was able to straighten out the perforated pipe with little harm done.

Snake Eye 5-12-71

THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1971 -- PAGE 3

gar has been with the Louisa County office since 1946.

Bryant began work in the Wapello SCS office in June and will move his family to the area as soon as suitable housing is found.

He is a graduate of Seymour high school, attended Iowa State University at Ames for two years and received his degree in agronomy from Western Illinois University at Macomb, Ill. this month. He worked in the Corydon office before going to Des Moines County.

His wife, Janice, is a Home Economics teacher at Danville and formerly taught in the Morning Sun schools.

They have five children who will

be attending Wapello Community schools this fall: Dean, a sophomore, Bruce, a freshman, Beth, 8th grade, Blair, 6th and Steven, 5th.



Named Soil Conservationist

Harry Bryant, soil conservation technician for Des Moines County since 1966, has been appointed Louisa County Soil Conservationist. Bryant will be replacing Arnold Winegar who will retire in September. Wine-

Conservationists win service awards

District Conservationists Ralph E. Dewey of Burlington and Frank H. Mullen of Donnellson were among soil conservationists honored for length of service at a recent gathering of the Soil Conservation Service employees in 19 southeast Iowa counties at Lake Darling.

Area Conservationist John Eckes of Fairfield presented the awards for 30 years of service to Mullen and to Dewey for 25 years.

In addition, the Burlington conservation office was cited for having performed 20 years without accident and 15 years without lost-time injury.

Also attending the meeting from Lee county were Conservation Technician Burdette Stamps and Soil Scientist Charles Kiepe. From the Des Moines county staff were Soil Conservationist Winston Cooper and retired conservationist Ray Audsley.

*Mediapolis New Era
6-3-71*

Soil conservation need still grows

WASHINGTON (UPI) — In 63 per cent of all the inventoried land needs some kind of conservation treatment. This includes 64 per cent of the cropland, 71 per cent of the pasture-

That summary emerges from a newly updated national inventory of soil and water conservation needs as of 1967 just published in Washington by the Agriculture Department's Soil Conservation Service. The inventory was the first since 1959.

SCS technicians said the inventory covers all privately owned rural land, plus land owned by state and local governments, in 3,087 counties in the 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The 1.438 billion acres of land covered represents 63 per cent of all land in the nation, including 7 per cent of all land in the 41 mainland states, 90 per cent of the lead in Hawaii and less than 1 per cent of the land in Alaska.

44 Per Cent Cultivable

The report showed that 44 per cent of the inventory land — about 631 million acres — is classed as suitable for cultivation. This is more than twice the amount of land currently being used for crops.

However, the report added,

good condition, 4 per cent fair and 1 per cent poor.

The state pathologist reports southern corn leaf blight has now been identified in 40 Iowa counties, but the infection is light and the number of spores trapped remains low.

The soybean crop was reported mostly in good to excellent condition, with 28 per cent of the crop in.

ARNOLD WINEGAR, who has been soil conservationist in Louisa county since 1946, will retire in September and be replaced by Harry Bryant who has been a member of the Des Moines County SCS staff since 1966.

Bryant has just completed his work for a degree in agronomy from Western Illinois university at Macomb this month.

The Bryants and their five children will move from their home in Flint River township to Louisa county where the children will attend the Wapello Community schools. Mrs. Bryant has been a home economics teacher in the Danville schools.

The greatest of success to Harry in his new position and a big thanks to Arnold for his years of work in controlling erosion and saving Louisa county soils.

Hand Eye 6-23-71



Winston Cooper



Dennis Stucker

Work for SCS

Two youths have joined the office of the US Soil Conservation Service, as trainees.

Winston Cooper, 21, Emerson, Ark., is a graduate of Agricul-

ture, Mechanical and Normal college of Pine Bluff, Ark.

He expects to work out of the local office for a year, fitting himself for a position as district soils conservationist.

Dennis Stucker, 18, is the son of the Dwight Stuckers of New London Rt. 2, and a 1971 Danville high school graduate.

Stucker will work under Dist. Conservationist Ralph Dewey and Conservation Technician Oren Champ this summer, under a new work-study program co-ordinated by Iowa State university.

A COMPLETE CONSERVATION plan is being put into operation on the Francis Cook farm in Pleasant Grove township on which Darrell Tucker is the tenant.

Tile outlets have been completed and the terraces to complete the plan will be installed after the crop is out of the fields in the fall.

FRANK DENNEY of Pleasant Grove Township has constructed terraces to protect a dam and prevent soil losses.

LEON MARSHALL, north of

Sperry, has installed straight terraces to replace old curving terraces which do not lend themselves to the operation of modern large field equipment. These terraces are not only controlling erosion but also are draining water off upland fields. Three tile lines will carry off the water. The terraces and tile are planned to solve a severe seepage problem that has made farming these fields very difficult for several years.

KEITH RENNER, Danville, has built nearly a mile of ter-

race on a farm near Geode park that will improve both his cropland and pasture. The straight tile outlet terraces are checking silt runoff above his farm pond and are also diverting some additional water into the pond.

KENNETH WEHAGE, northeast of Mediapolis in Huron township, will build his terrace system north of his buildings starting next month.

These terraces will divert runoff water away from the buildings and his feedlot. They

will also hold soil and fertilizer on the fields.

Hand Eye 6-30-71

Hey! The grass needs cutting

By GEORGE MARZECK
Hawk-Eye Outdoors Writer

It seems not too long ago that winter-weary folks were looking forward to the first good burst of springtime and the green, green grass of home.

Now, many of us are hauling out the clippers and mowers, wondering why in heck the grass needs cutting again; or else we're waging an all-out war on crabgrass.

Ever wonder about grass? About the entire family of this plant, that is? Grass is known to grow in almost every part of the world, varying in height from 2-inch buffalo-grass to bamboo that scales to 100 feet or more.

It can be made into milk and beefsteak. Tropical homes are built from grass. Sexy skirts have been woven from it long before the mini-skirt came on the scene. One variety of grass makes an efficient waste filter. In the form of grain — such as rice, wheat, corn and barley — grass is the basic diet of almost every single human being on earth. And in its spare time, when properly cared for, grass has a way of standing there looking pretty.

Prevents Erosion

According to grass expert Wilmer Steiner of the USDA soil conservation service, grass also keeps soil from washing or blowing away by absorbing the pelting force of rain and by

tying the earth down with a network of roots.

Developing the proper grass for certain conditions takes a good bit of know-how. Something that may prevent soil erosion in suburbia might simply blow away on a sandy beach.

A STAND OF BEACHGRASS holds sand in place much as other grasses retard erosion here in Hawk-

Eyeland. Such plantings result from years of Department of Agriculture research.



Iowa cattle may grow fat on a gourmet-type grass that won't grow at all in the South..

Steiner, who supervises the work of 20 SCS plant materials centers around the country, says that work is being done to develop fire-resistant plants

for southern California, acid-tolerant grasses and legumes for old strip-mine areas and quick-growing grasses for construction sites.

This year the SCS hopes to release a number of new grasses to commercial nurseries through local soil

conservation districts or state crop improvement associations.

Currently, a concerted effort is being made to find a grass that will thrive under high applications of feedlot wastes, and still provide quality feed for livestock.

Also needed — very much so — is an honest-to-goodness "real" grass (not plastic) that will withstand an almost constant tramp of busy feet in both sunny and shady locations, providing good cover for recreation and other heavily-used areas.

It is pointed out that even our lawn grasses actually do more than just stand around looking pretty.

In addition to controlling erosion and lessening flood damage (with the added benefit of keeping muddy footprints off the freshly-scrubbed kitchen floor), grass is a natural outdoor air conditioner.

For example, through evaporation and transpiration, one acre of grass will release about 2,400 gallons of water on a single summer's day. This is the equivalent of the cooling effect provided by a 70-ton air conditioner, and is the reason grass feels so cool and good while you could fry your breakfast on the sizzling, sun-baked pavement.

Shouldn't all this make us feel a bit more kindly towards grass, particularly the next time we have to go out to cut it?

Conservationists win service awards

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In addition, the Burlington conservation office was cited for having performed 20 years without accident and 15 years without lost-time injury.

Also attending the meeting from Lee county were Conservation Technician Burdette Stamps and Soil Scientist Charles Kiepe. From the Des Moines county staff were Soil Conservationist Winston Cooper and retired conservationist Ray Audsley.

Hawk Eye 7-4-74

The HAWK-EYE, Burlington, Iowa, Wednesday, September 1, 1971 3

Lack of rain brings 'borderline' drought

"I suppose this could be considered a borderline drought," district soil conservationist Ralph Dewey said Wednesday about the lack of rain here in August.

"It seems it rains here every other month and last month it didn't," Dewey said. But added the crops are still in "pretty good shape."

Only .58 of an inch precipitation was recorded in August, the third lowest total on record for that month.

Only May and July this summer produced normal rainfall.

April and June were the driest on record. Since Jan. 1, total rainfall is about 11 inches below the normal of 25 inches; and since April 1, rainfall is 12 inches below normal.

Dewey said the sandy-soil areas are suffering, but the clay soil has "managed to hold out pretty well."

Dewey pointed out the biggest factor saving the crops is the present depth of the corn roots.

"I think in May and June when the corn was making great growth, the roots were working down deeper than in wet years," he said. "This is probably saving the crops

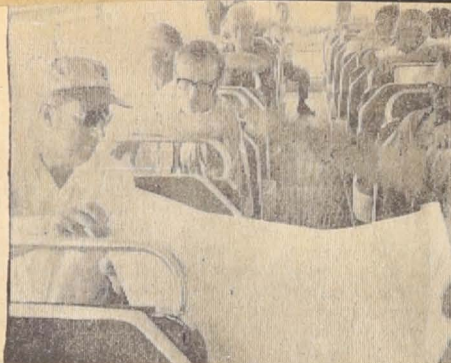
in heavier soils where they are getting what moisture there is."

Another saving factor often overlooked is the dew, Dewey said, which is heavier along the river than in the western part of the state.

"Even that doesn't help sand, however," Dewey said.

Although record crop yields have been projected for some areas, Dewey said the total production "will probably be hurt if we don't get some rain pretty quick."

His suggestion: "Pray for rain."



Conservation bus tour

Erosion problem at Franklin lake

The proposed recreation area of Franklin township poses erosion problems, according to district conservationist Ralph E. Dewey of Burlington.

At a recent tour of the site, several groups and agencies involved in the area's development met to discuss the watershed above the future lake.

Dewey pointed out that more than 4,400 acres of land, relatively unprotected, drains toward the lake.

An inventory and evaluation of this watershed has been prepared for the Des Moines County Conservation Board in a preliminary effort to protect the lake from siltation.

Board Chairman Richard Snyder, said, "We are hoping to avoid the silt problems that have deteriorated the state-owned lakes such as Geode and Lake Darling to the point where they have lost much of their recreation value.

"Our hope is to plan for erosion control of the watershed along with construction, so that we may be sure of a longer life for the lake."

Dewey pointed out that under existing silt hazards, the useful life of the lake may well be only 20 to 30 years.

He also noted the extreme costs of dredging silt from some of the Iowa lakes that have become damaged. In one instance, more than \$1 million has been spent over a 10-year period, and the lake is still not in very good shape.

Conservation board director John Welter told the group about erosion control work already completed around the edges of the proposed 120-acre lake.

50,000 Prospective Users
"We have at least 50,000 prospective users of this area

in Des Moines county alone," Welter indicated.

"In the surrounding area there would be half a million, and we feel that these people deserve an area that is protected from damage as much as possible," he said.

"The expected life of the lake can be extended indefinitely by application of a complete erosion control plan to the watershed," Dewey went on.

\$400,000 Cost

"Cost of such control is estimated at less than \$400,000, much of which would be eligible for federal cost sharing assistance."

Present at the meeting at the invitation of the Des Moines county soil conservation district were: the county conservation board, board of supervisors, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service committee, and the district forester.

The HAWKEYE 10
Burlington, Iowa
Wednesday, June 30, 1971

Attending Conservation Camp

Dennis Walker of RR3, Burlington, a graduate of Mediapolis high school is currently attending the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp at Springbrook State Park near Guthrie Center.

The camp is sponsored jointly by the State Conservation Commission, University of Northern Iowa and the State Department of Public Instruction. This program provides the opportunity for Iowa teachers to learn conservation by taking field trips led by experts in the field of forestry, geology, soils, botany, fish and game management and natural resource conservation in general.

He and approximately 100 other teachers from all parts of the state receive college credits for their participation in this outdoor school, now in its 22nd summer.

The teachers are staying at the new Conservation Education Center adjoining Springbrook where part of their study takes place. However, during the 3 week sessions the participants will be traveling 1000 miles to study at various areas of interest particular to the topic of study for the day. Dennis will be at the camp from June 27 to July 17.

He will be a high school teacher at Madrid, Ia. school. Mr. Walker is being sponsored at the camp by the Longcreek Conservation Club.

Mediapolis News Era
7-15-74

Terraces and soil conservation

Technicians at the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District office have been busy installing terraces and farm ponds on the land the past several weeks. In some cases, their work has spilled over to the neighboring counties.

Milford Hays has applied nearly a mile of terraces to his 80 acre farm just over the border in Louisa county, where the new terrace system controls runoff from all his cropland. More than a dozen inlets into new tile systems on the farm, provide a way for excess water to get off the field without taking silt with it.

South of Danville, the Nealey Brothers are now farming a recently purchased place and found a need for protecting a ditch as well as providing water for a pasture.

They shaped and seeded a waterway for several hundred feet below a county road and built a farm pond at the edge of the pasture. A water pipe running through the dam to a tank below the dam will provide a fine supply of livestock water when the pond fills.

Mel Raid purchased the old Joe Kuntz place just off Highway 61 south of Burlington last year and proceeded to make some changes. He is surrounding his pasture area with a most attractive board fence and has also built a pond for a good water supply to the grass area.

Since the pond is alongside the barnlot, he has had to build a diversion terrace to carry runoff from the lots away from the pond to avoid pollution. The diversion takes excess water several hundred feet east of the pond where it is dumped through an erosion control structure into an open ditch.

Among others building terraces recently are John Henry, north of Burlington and Leon Marshall east of Sperry. Henry's terraces are keeping soil from washing off cropland into a wooded area. The Marshall terraces protect a fairly steep side hill from eroding and with tile outlets are providing relief from a large sidehill seep area that once nearly prohibited farming the field.

A little different sort of pond has been built by Earl Mansfield on an acreage near Sperry. Mansfield believes the country is the place to live and found a scenic spot in the Yellow Springs watershed.

His pond has been designed to give him a water supply for his house and lot. A well bit will be constructed alongside the pond, from which he can put the pond water through a treat-

ment system making it very suitable for family use. In addition, the pond will provide an excellent setting for the home and recreation as well.

Leroy Rauhaus is another Des Moines county farmer with land in Louisa county. He recently completed digging an open outlet ditch through some of the low area of his farm to provide a better condition to raise crops. He has additional plans for similar surface drainage on his land on the bottoms near Huron.

The Nelson Brothers North of Mediapolis, have installed several erosion control dams during the summer and they are looking forward to doing some erosion and pollution control work in conjunction with their feedlot operation.

Some of the older erosion control work in Des Moines county has deteriorated through the years and needs reconstruction. North of Danville, Ellsworth Dodds has found that an old farm pond was filling with silt from nearby cropped fields. To correct this, he has rebuilt the pond to make it deeper and will soon be constructing a tile outlet terrace on the cropland to keep silt from getting into the new structure.

The reconstructed pond will provide good livestock water for his pasture as well as a spot for recreation.

Earl Beckman near Prairie Grove does a good deal of his own earthmoving with his crawler tractor. Last year he started building an erosion dam which will hold several feet of water and check erosion from several acres of cropland.

This dam was completed this summer along with a tile outlet diversion to check erosion from a field above a tree area.

Wayne Corman completed a pasture water supply near Sperry. This is in a gully next to one in which he built an erosion control dam a year ago. Little by little he is controlling a very rolling farm.

The Wayne Corman were chosen as representative family for the Farmers Home Administration earlier this year for their continuing work in building up their farms.

Albert Schultz, as commissioner with the DMC-SCD, built some more terraces east of his buildings during the summer. The tile outlet structure box in his cropland, carries runoff safely through tile systems to pastureland below.

Spokesman - Grundy Center
10-2-71

Watershed Project Planned

The White Breast Creek Watershed Protection Project has been approved for planning assistance from the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, State Conservationist Wilson T. Moon announced.

The drainage area of the project includes 56,800 acres in Clarke County and 7600 acres in Lucas County. "Water from the area is draining into the Red Rock Reservoir," Moon says, "and the installation of conservation measures above the reservoir will help reduce the amount of sediment going into it."

While sediment going into the reservoir will be reduced, the major problem in the area is flooding, according to Moon. "About 6000 acres of cropland and pasture are flooded each year," Moon says. The city of Osceola is also interested in a municipal water supply.

Local sponsors of the project are the Clarke County Soil Conservation District, Clarke County Board of Supervisors, Clarke County Conservation Board, Lucas County Soil Conservation District and the Lucas County Board of Supervisors.

The Soil Conservation Service Watershed Planning Party will begin working with the sponsors and other local representatives immediately to develop a land treatment plan.

The White Breast Watershed Project is the 50th project in Iowa approved for planning.

Medapolis New Era
9-2-71

Win Conservation Teacher Awards

Mrs. Ruth Mertens and Sherman Lundy, teachers in the Burlington School system, have been chosen outstanding conservation teachers in Southeast Iowa in an awards program co-sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District.

District Chairman, Henry Dockendorf of Danville in making the announcement stated, "We are proud of the excellent work of these teachers in promoting the cause of soil and water conservation to the young people in the area."

"Both these teachers are active members of the Environment Conservation Education Council which is sponsored by the district," the chairman continued. "Through the council

they have been urging all schools of the county to teach more about the environment."

Both Mrs. Mertens and Mr. Lundy have attended the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp at Springbrook Park, where college level courses are offered to help teachers to teach conservation. Both have also attended the annual Fall Workshop at Luther, Iowa sponsored by the Iowa Conservation Education Council.

Mrs. Mertens, an elementary teacher at Middletown has long been active in the Long Creek Conservation Club and the Iowa Wildlife Federation. She is a strong believer in using the outdoors as a classroom to help youngsters understand their environment.

As a high school science teacher, Lundy has extended his interests to support the Ecology Club and in many scouting activities.

As winners in the regional competition, representing elementary and secondary teaching divisions, Mrs. Mertens and Lundy are now competing against outstanding teachers from eight other regions for statewide awards. Announcement of final awards will be made by the other co-sponsor, the Des Moines Farm & Home Register.

Medapolis New Era
9-29-71

Altrusa learns of pollution

Ralph Dewey and Richard Riepe of the Environmental Pollution Control Commission were special guests at the dinner-meeting of Burlington Altrusa club Tuesday night, Sept. 21, at Hotel Burlington.

The men presented a film and narration program on "Pollution in the Burlington Area." Mrs. Dorella Robinson and her Community Service committee were in charge of the evening's program.

In keeping with the Altrusa International theme, "Turn

Concern into Action," two members will represent the local club on the Environmental Pollution Control Commission. They are Laura Wehmann and Mrs. Mary Buettner.

Altrusa club will also continue its 1970-71 community service project, "From Sacks to

The HAWK-EYE
Burlington, Iowa
Friday, September 24, 1971

Racks," in which members sort, size and repair children's clothing obtained in the Burlington School Clothing Drive.



Barton Dewey

Des Moines county SCS 25 years old

Des Moines County Soil Conservation District was among 19 recognized for 25 years of service at the 25th Annual Conference of soil district commissioners in Des Moines.

Accepting the award for the local district was S. S. Barton of Mediapolis, a board member.

The citation on the award shows that Des Moines County Soil Conservation district was chartered Feb. 28, 1946.

The original district commissioners were Noah Schrock, Oakville; John I. Blaul, Yarmouth, and Edwin Cling, Mediapolis. Influential in organization of the district was Walter B. Eyre of Burlington who was extension director at that time. Eyre later was elected as a district commissioner.

"The Soil Conservation District has helped over 1,000 farm owners and operators with erosion control and land use problems in the past quarter century," Barton stated. "We are now helping all types of rural and urban land users to protect and improve our environment."

Also attending the Des Moines Conference were Commissioner Rex Trout, District Clerk Mrs. Mildred Kleinkopf and District Conservationist Ralph Dewey, all of Burlington.

Hawk Eye
9-22-71

Science Day In Burlington

On September 30 the Mediapolis School system will have an Environmental Science Day at Hunts Woods at the southwest edge of Burlington.

It will begin for the students at approximately 9:30 a.m.

The instructors will be: Stan Tate, Area Forester who will teach Forestry; Sylvan Runkel, SCS Biologist, who will teach woodland ecology; Ralph Dewey, SCS District Conservationist, who will teach soils; and Robert B. Moorman, Extension Wildlife Conservationist, who will teach wildlife.

There will be a lunch break at noon with each student bringing a sack lunch.

Huron, Sperry and Yarmouth sixth graders will attend this Environmental Science Day.

Medapolis New Era

Des Moines Register 9/19/71

18 Teachers Win Regional Soil Awards

By Charlie Nettles

(Editor of Iowa Farm Register)

EIGHTEEN Iowa teachers were named Saturday as regional winners in the conservation teacher contest of the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program.

The winners, who will now compete for the state title, were announced by the contest co-chairman — Wilson T. Moon, state conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service, and William H. Greiner, director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

Selection was based on the teachers' effectiveness in conservation education; organizing field trips; creating an awareness of conservation problems at the local, state and national levels; and motivating students to promote conservation of natural resources.

The program is sponsored by The Des Moines Register and Tribune and the Iowa Farm Register, in co-operation with conservation and educational agencies.

This year for the first time the teacher section consisted of two divisions — (1) kindergarten through eighth grade, and (2) ninth through twelfth.

Following are the award winners listed by the nine contest regions and the schools they represent:

Region 1

(Northwest)

Division 1.—Miss Mary Ellen Keegan, Le Mars, Le Mars Community School.

Division 2.—Frederick A. Van Loh, Sheldon, Sheldon Community School.

Region 2

(North-central, west)

Division 1.—Mrs. Helen Gray, Estherville, Roosevelt School.

Division 2.—Dale Mallory, Laurens, Laurens Community School.

Region 3

(North-central, east)

Division 1.—LeRoy Cakerice, Grundy Center, Grundy Center Elementary School.

Division 2.—David J. Flint, Hampton, Hampton Community School.

Region 4

(Northeast)

Division 1.—Mrs. Helen Phillip, Arlington, Arlington Attendance Center of Star-mont.

Division 2.—Stanley Whelchel, Cedar Falls, Orange High School, Waterloo.

Region 5

(West-central)

Division 1.—Mrs. Mary Kunze, Oakland, Oakland Community High School.

Division 2.—Sister Caroline Wingert, Carroll, Kuemper High School.

Region 6

(Central)

Division 1.—Mrs. Naomi Smith, Nevada, Nevada Community School.

Division 2.—Gerald E. Sutton, Indianola, Indianola Community School.

Region 7

(East-central)

Division 1.—Mrs. Arlene Ford, Brooklyn, Hartwick Elementary School, Hartwick.

Division 2.—Francis L. Abel, West Branch, West Branch Community School.

Region 8

(Southwest)

Division 1.—Miss Euarda Huntsman, Red Oak, Red Oak Junior High School.

Division 2.—R. E. Hauptman, Mount Ayr, Mount Ayr Community School.

Region 9

(Southeast)

Division 1.—Mrs. Ruth Mertens, Burlington, Burlington Community School (Middletown).

Division 2.—Sherman P. Lundy, Burlington, Burlington Community High School.



MRS. RUTH
MERTENS



SHERMAN P.
LUNDY



MRS. ARLENE
FORD



FRANCIS L.
ABEL



EUARDA
HUNTSMAN



R. E.
HAUPTMAN



MRS. MARY
KUNZE



SISTER CAROLINE
WINGERT



MRS. NAOMI
SMITH



GERALD E.
SUTTON



LEROY
CAKERICE



DAVID J.
FLINT



MRS. HELEN
PHILLIP



STANLEY
WHELCH



MARY ELLEN
KEEGAN



FREDERICK A.
VAN LOH



MRS. HELEN
GRAY



DALE
MALLORY



AWARD WINNERS at the Des Moines county soil awards banquet here Wednesday night, were, paired from left: Mrs. Ruth Mertens and Sherman Lundy, teachers; Mr. and

Mrs. Kenneth Wehage, new cooperators; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Matsch, owners of tenant farm, and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Shumaker, owner-operators.

Soil conservation efforts recognized

By BOB SOGARD

Farmers who for years have been doing something about soil conservation while others talk about it were honored here Wednesday night.

Also cited at the annual awards banquet of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District were two educators who have been active in teaching about and working for conservation of natural resources.

Farmer winners recognized at the meeting in First Congregational church:

Owner-operators, or family-type farm — Carl Shumaker, Danville. Shumaker is using all of his 160 acres under a conservation plan. In the past 12 years he has brought a worn-down old pasture farm into "excellent" crop production.

Nearly 1½ miles of terracing controls erosion on about 60 acres. There are 12 acres of waterways, a farm pond and three erosion control dams.

Tenant-owner farm — Matsch Bros. place, owned by Charles and Robert Matsch and operated by Roland Fritz, southwest of Burlington.

A fairly new farm in the program has half a mile of terrace, a farm pond and erosion control dam. Rougher fields are being developed for better pasture.

New cooperator — Kenneth Wehage, a 160-acre farm north-east of Mediapolis that was purchased two years ago.

More than a mile of terraces has been built and another mile is planned. Wehage has two farm ponds and an erosion control dam.



Dr. Minoru Amemiya

teachers honored were:

Mrs. Ruth Mertens, third grade teacher at Middletown school, and Sherman Lundy, Burlington high school science teacher.

Mrs. Mertens, who has been cited previously by the district, attended the conservation camp at Springbrook Park for two summer sessions and has been active in the Iowa Conservation Education council. She is a director of the Iowa Wildlife Federation and a member of the Long Creek Conservation club.

Lundy is a specialist in geology and has such varied interests as religion, human rights and government. He organized the Burlington Ecology club for youth. Both he and Mrs. Mertens were rated as outstanding in Region 9 of southeast Iowa and have been entered for statewide Register and Tribune-sponsored awards.

Speaker was Dr. Minoru

(Min) Amemiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State university.

Amemiya cited the accomplishments of the Des Moines county district in the past quarter of a century, including more than four million feet of drainage tile installed, 600,000 feet of terraces, 90,000 diversion structure and 50,000 acres of other conservation programs.

Urges Participation

"This is great, but it's only about one-third of the job that needs to be done," he stated. He urged farm owners and operators to take advantage of federal programs, without apology.

"After all, there are tax write-offs and other subsidies for business. We need to co-operate at the local level or conservation will be enforced from the top."

Handwritten note:
Homer Eye
11-11-71



ACCEPTING AWARDS at the annual Des Moines County Soil Conservation District banquet were, from left, James Howell, vocational agriculture instructor at Mediapolis Community high school; John Seymour, Danville, tenant winner; Harold

Yohe, owner-operator winner, and Dwight Stucker, representing A. M. Wagner & Sons, to receive the new cooperator award for the Wagners and Dick Mapel, tenant on the Wagner farm near Danville.

Soil Awards Given

By BOB SOGARD

MEDIAPOLIS — The silver anniversary of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation Service was observed here Wednesday night, along with the annual recognition of outstanding friends of the soil.

The SCS banquet at Immanuel Lutheran church was the occasion to honor outstanding farm owners and tenants and an agriculture instructor as well as the past district committeemen.

Past members of the district committee on hand for the banquet were Edwin Cling, a member of the first committee formed in 1945; Hugh Jamison; Homer Woodward; Walter Eyre; C. E. Pilling; Theodore Berning; Eugene Schulte; Harold Yohe.

Other past soil commissioners were Noah Schrock, John Blaul, Howard Gieselman, Kenneth Redfern, and Art Corman.

Awards presented and the accomplishments cited:

Owner-operator — Harold Yohe, Mediapolis. Installed were tile outlet terraces, open drainage, tile drains and erosion control dams.

Tenant-landlord — Mrs. Frances Cook, Hays, Kan., owner, and John Seymour, Danville, tenant. Completed on this 80-acre farm in the Geode watershed is a complete erosion control plan including outlet terraces, tile drains, grassed waterways and an erosion control outlet for the entire system.

New cooperator — A. M. Wagner & Sons, owner, and Dick Mapel, operator, Danville. Completed is a complete system of soil control with terraces and tile drains. This system also controls the runoff into Lake Geode.

Henry Dockendorff, district

chairman, said the tenant-landlord and new cooperator winning entries were judged best in their divisions in the 12-county southeast Iowa region. Also, the cooperator who edged out Yohe was regional sweepstakes winner.

The awards were given out by district board members Rex Troute, Albert Schultz and S. S. Barton, who was master of ceremonies for the banquet. Others on the board are William Vierling, Harold Linder, secretary, and Horace Sutton, treasurer.

Guests at the banquet, sponsored by banks of Des Moines

county, included Fred Higginbottom, Des Moines, assistant director of the Soil Conservation Service; Dewey Bondurant, Des Moines, state SCS engineer, and John Eckes, Fairfield, area construction engineer.

Don Muhm, farm editor of the Register and Tribune newspapers, represented the R&T, cosponsor of the awards with the district.

Muhm gave a colored slide presentation of his trip to Europe this year as a guest of the West German government. He is president of the Newspaper Farm Editors of America.

Conservationists To Be Honored

Outstanding soil conservationists will be honored November 10, 1971, as the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District holds its Annual Awards Banquet at First Congregational Church in Burlington.

Highlighting the event as guest speaker will be Minora Amemlya, extension agronomist of Iowa

Teachers Honored

Third grade teacher, Mrs. Ruth Mertens of Middletown, and BHS biology teacher, Sherman Lundy, were recognized as outstanding conservation teachers in a twelve county southeast Iowa region. Presentation of awards was made at the Annual Workshop of the Iowa Conservation Education Council at Luther, Iowa this month.

In the presentation of these awards, Mrs. Mertens was cited for her continuing, enthusiastic effort to expand the role of conservation education in the schools of Burlington and Des Moines County. She has helped in preparing teacher materials that are helpful to other instructors and had encouraged many to attend the Conservation Teachers Camp at Springbrook State Park.

Lundy has served the past year as chairman of the Environmental Conservation Education Council of Des Moines County and has been the spearhead of efforts for environmental studies in Burlington schools. His research has helped prepare new and better approaches to teaching Ecology in the schools. As counselor to the BHS Ecology Club, Lundy has ignited youth of the community to action benefitting the environment. His activities with youth also extend to the scouting program where he has been greatly active.

Both Mrs. Mertens and Mr. Lundy have been entered in state-wide competition representing the southeast Iowa area with their achievements. They will be further honored November 10 at the annual soil district banquet.

State University, who specializes in conservation land use and resource development.

Dr. Amemlya has served in agricultural positions in Ohio, Colorado, California and Texas before coming to Iowa in 1960. He is affiliated with several scientific societies and has been named a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

He has recently been elected president of the Iowa Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America for the 1972 year.

To be recognized for exceptional conservation efforts in 1971 are Carl Shumaker of Danville, Kenneth Wehage of Oakville and the Matsch Bros. farm operated by Rolland Fritz, south of Burlington.

Two local teachers, Sherman Lundy, high school biology teacher and Mrs. Ruth Mertens, Middletown grade teacher, will receive awards as outstanding educators in the southeast Iowa region.

WINNING AWARDS at the Des Moines County Soil District on Wednesday of last week went to:

Carl Schumaker, Danville, owner-operator.

Rolland Fritz, tenant, and Robert and Charles Matsch, owners, tenant-landlord classification.

Kenneth Wehage, Mediapolis, new cooperator.

Mrs. Ruth Mertens, Middletown and Sherman Lundy, Burlington, won the awards for teaching of conservation in their classrooms.

Bill Vierling, Mediapolis, one of the district commissioners, was master of ceremonies.

Reports indicated that only one-third of the conservation work has been done to properly preserve the soil and the water in the county.

Burlington Hawk Eye
11-17-71

Presented Soil Awards Wednesday

Farmers who for years have been doing something about soil conservation while others only talk about it were honored in Burlington last Wednesday night.

Farmer winners recognized at the meeting in First Congregational church, Burlington were: Owner-operators or family type farm: Carl Shumaker, Danville. Shumaker is using all of his 160 acres under a conservation plan. In the past 12 years he has brought a worn-down old pasture farm into "excellent" crop production.

Mediapolis New Era
11-4-71

There are nearly 1 1/2 miles of terracing controlling erosion on about 60 acres. There are 12 acres of waterways, a farm pond and three erosion control dams.

Tenant-owner farm - Matsch Bros. place, owned by Charles and Robert Matsch and operated by Rolland Fritz, southwest of Burlington.

A fairly new farm in the program has half a mile of terrace, a farm pond and erosion control dam. Rougher fields are being developed for better pasture. New cooperator - Kenneth Wehage, a 160 acre farm from northeast of Mediapolis that was purchased two years ago.

More than a mile of terraces has been built and another mile is planned. Wehage has two farm ponds and an erosion control dam.

Two teachers were also honored: Mrs. Ruth Mertens, third grade teacher at Middletown school and Sherman Lundy, Burlington high school science teacher for their contributions to the field of conservation and ecology.

Speaker for the evening was Dr. Minora Amemlya, extension agronomist at Iowa State University.

Tour Hunt Woods

Ralph Dewey, soil conservation officer, conducted Cadette troop 203, West Burlington, on a guided tour of Hunt Woods. He answered questions on conservation badge work.

Girls attending were Jo Chubb, Janet Cooke, Kim Allender, Joyce Cutsnaw, Ann Mesler, Tammy Crafton, Shari Parrish, Brenda Tracy, Shelli Scranton, Kim Miller, Valerie Holmes, Pam Crawford, Sue Hockett and Teri Elliott.

Mrs. Arnold Tracy, Mrs. William Scranton, Todd and Brock Scranton and Paul Cooke accompanied the troop.

Burlington Hawk Eye
11-1-71



Sherman Lundy



Ruth Mertens

Conservation awards set

Outstanding soil conservationists will be honored Nov. 10, when the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District holds its annual awards banquet at First Congregational church in Burlington.

Guest speaker will be Minora Amemiga, extension agronomist of Iowa State university, who specializes in conservation, land use and resource development.

Dr. Amemiga has served in agricultural positions in Ohio, Colorado, California and Texas before coming to Iowa in 1960. He is affiliated with several scientific societies and has been named a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

He has recently been elected president of the Iowa Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America for the 1972 year.

To be recognized for exceptional conservation efforts in 1971 are Carl Shumaker of Danville, Kenneth Wehage of Oakville and the Matsch Bros. farm, operated by Roland Fritz, south of Burlington.

Two local teachers, Sherman Lundy, high school biology teacher, and Mrs. Ruth Mertens, Middletown grade teacher, will receive awards as outstanding educators in the southeast Iowa Region.

The Burlington system teachers were recognized earlier as outstanding conservation teachers in a 12-county southeast Iowa region.

Presentation of awards was made at the annual workshop of the Iowa Conservation Education Council at Luther.

In the presentation of these awards, Mrs. Mertens was cited for her "continuing, enthusiastic effort" to expand the role of conservation education in the schools of Burlington and Des Moines county.

She has helped in preparing teacher materials that are helpful to other instructors and had encouraged many to attend the Conservation Teachers camp at Springbrook State Park.

Lundy has served the past year as chairman of the Environmental Conservation Education Council of Des Moines county and has spearheaded efforts for environmental studies in Burlington schools.

His research has helped prepare new and better approaches to teaching and ecology in the schools.

As counselor to the BHS Ecology Club, Lundy has spurred youth of the community to action benefiting the environment. His activities with youth also extend to the Scouting program where he has been active.

Both Mrs. Mertens and Lundy have been entered in statewide competition representing the southeast Iowa area with their achievements.

Hawk-Eyetems

Dig these savings!

Why should the taxpayer shell out to help farmers put in terraces? Isn't the farmer the one who really benefits?

Ralph E. Dewey, Des Moines county district conservationist, says one set of figures shows that each acre of terraced land saves the taxpayer as much as \$320 over a 20-year period.

Between 300 and 350 miles of terraces protect up to 10,000 acres of land in Des Moines county, practically all of it under cultivation. This indicates actual or potential savings to the taxpayer of \$3 million, just in Des Moines county.

See Dewey's analysis on Page 2.

Farm terracing valuable

By RALPH E. DEWEY
District Conservationist

Of what value is farm terracing to the public? One set of figures shows that each acre of terraced farm land saves the taxpayer as much as \$320 over a 20-year period.

Those who have criticized the government cost-sharing programs which have helped farmers install thousands of miles of terracing in Iowa over the years, should be aware of the benefits they have gained.

Sound Investment

The taxpayer cost-share has really been one of his soundest investments. Where else could he receive more than five dollars of benefits from each dollar spent?

Nearly 10,000 acres of Des Moines county farmland is

protected by terraces, indicating savings of \$3 million for taxpayers.

To realize how much terracing has saved, one has but to observe the tremendous cost

More farm news on Pages 7 and 10.

of removing the millions of cubic yards of silt from our streams and lakes. A rather firm figure for dredging costs is \$1.60 per ton.

A modern tile outlet terrace system, on gently sloping land, will easily save as much as 10 tons of soil loss per year. This soil no longer will have a chance to plug up the streams. Over a 20-year

Annual soil awards banquet Wednesday

Owners and operators of three farms, as well as two teachers, will be honored when the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District holds its annual awards banquet Wednesday.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Minoru Amemiga, conservation and agronomy specialist at Iowa State university, for the 6:30 p.m. event at First Congregational church of Burlington.

Awards for exceptional conservation efforts in 1971 will go to Carl Shumaker, Danville; Kenneth Wehage, Oakville, and the Matsch Bros. farm, operated by Roland Fritz, Rt. 1.

Conservation teachers to be honored are Sherman Lundy, Burlington high school biology teacher, and Mrs. Ruth Mertens, Middletown elementary school teacher.



Ralph Dewey

How does he get eight more bushels per acre? He doesn't lose his fertilizer before it goes into the plant. He holds enough more moisture in the soil to produce that much more corn. He avoids having to farm around gullies and needless waterways. And he gets many other fringe benefits of easier farming.

Here along the Mississippi we are always aware of the silt problem. We should also be aware that there is an economically sound answer to erosion control by which everyone can profit — terracing of farm land.

Burlington Hawk Eye 12-29-71

Hawk Eye 11-3-71

Dewey's Diggings

The HAWK-EYE 15
Burlington, Iowa
Thursday, September 9, 1971



Ralph Dewey



Richard Riepe

Pushing ecology balance

A soil conservationist and a businessman have worked up a program on ecology which they are presenting before service clubs and other organizations.

Ralph Dewey, district conservationist, US Soil Conservation Service, and Richard Riepe, secretary-treasurer, R&S Bottling Co., illustrate their program with color slides of pollution in various forms, all in the Burlington vicinity.

The men appear on behalf of the Environmental Pollution Control Council, founded in the fall of 1969 with the support of service clubs.

Points made by the duo include these:

1. The primary goal of the EPCC is to help improve the environment by combating pollution of the air, the water, and the land, and by combating sound pollution and people pollution.

2. The EPCC carries on a continuing program of public education, and to do it has formed a speakers bureau, of which Dewey, Riepe, and Robert Holstein are members.

3. The EPCC works in close cooperation with the Des Moines County Health Center in combating pollution.

4. The EPCC has made "some progress" in its campaigns. For example, one local industry spent \$25,000 to correct a water pollution situation it was unaware of until the EPCC pointed it out, and The Hawk-Eye has maintained a trailer outside its building where people can bring old newspapers.

Also, two community projects — Operation Clean-up, 1970, and Operation Clean-up, 1971, resulted in the clearing away of 900 tons of trash the first year and 700 tons this year.

5. "People cause pollution and people can prevent pollution."

By R. E. DEWEY
Chairman Agriculture-
Conservation Committee

For over half a century, Kiwanis International has been outstanding as a service club engaged in community projects primarily aimed at help to Youth activities. But a major emphasis of Kiwanis has always been upon creating a better environment for everyone.

To help promote this type of activity, a standing committee in all Kiwanis clubs has been the Agriculture and Conservation committee.

Ideas for Community

For the past two years one of the two major emphases of all clubs in the international organization has been called "PROJECT ENVIRONMENT." Literally hundreds of ideas have come forth from the more than a quarter million Kiwanians across America to help their communities become better places in which to live.

Burlington Kiwanians are no exception.

As a club, the members join together almost annually in a tour of conservation work being done in rural areas to help members understand the needs of protecting our vital natural resources.

Within the city, projects have developed through efforts of the Burlington Kiwanians. Financial assistance has been given to beautification projects such as the Snake Alley improvement and the proposed Mosquito Park development. Numerous programs have been brought to the club along agriculture and conservation tremes.

A recent project involving youth and conservation together was the drive to collect labels from certain products in a campaign to get more trees planted in burned over national forests.

Help Plant Trees

The youngsters and adults who joined in this effort will be pleased to know that 2,000 labels were sent in by the people of this city. This means that 2,000 trees will be planted this spring in the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri, because of their effort.

Several local Kiwanis members joined with members of Lions and Rotary a couple of years ago to form the Environmental and Pollution Control Council, one

of the first of its kind in the country.

This group has been highly instrumental in promoting interest in environmental development in the Burlington and Des Moines county area. The club has financed much of the efforts of this group in getting organized.

Looking ahead, Kiwanis wishes to point out to residents of our fine town some of the upcoming events in conservation that will be of interest.

Arbor Day is coming up April 28. Trees are still one of the greatest of our resources. They help fight pollution of the air, as well as screening out noise and sheltering from heat and cold.

Soil Stewardship Week will be celebrated May 7-14 this year. This annual affair is sponsored by soil conservation districts, and supported by Kiwanis. Conservation districts are also vitally concerned with youth in their efforts to provide better conservation education.

Kiwanis intends to remain on the scene in an active way as we move into a future of total environmental development. The agriculture-conservation committee is established to get that job done.

More than 40 miles of tile drain, 10 miles of terraces and four miles of open drains were built on Des Moines county farms under direction of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District, according to the 1971 annual report just released.

Many other conserving practices were put into effect on the farms of the county, including planting of 10 acres of trees and the improvement of 306 acres of wildlife habitat. Service was rendered by the district staff to 488 farms with 230 farms establishing practices.

RALPH E. DEWEY is district conservationist, Winston Champ, soil technician, with Harry Bryant, Dennis Stucker and Richard Brown serving as part-time technicians.

Bryant is now district conservationist for the Louisa district with office at Wapello. Mrs. Mildred Kleinkopf is full-time clerk.

Henry Dockendorff, Danville, served as chairman of the board of commissioners during 1971. Other Commissioners were William Vierling, Melliapolis; Rex H. Trout, Burlington; S.S. Barton, Mediapolis, and Albert Schulz, Burlington Rt. 3.

Harold Linder, Sperry served as secretary; Horace Sutton, Burlington, as treasurer and Sandy Hedges, Oakville, as advertising manager.

Soil judging contest set

FARMINGTON — A vocational agriculture soil judging contest will be held near Harmony high school, Farmington, on Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. This will involve five counties, assisted by the Soil Conservation Service.

The Harmony chapter will have a soil judging team and five other chapters in the southeast sub-district will participate in the contest.

Contest sites will be on the Paul Grossman farm southwest of the Harmony high school.

RC&D goal is better life for rural America

A better life for rural America is the goal of Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) projects under leadership of the Soil Conservation Service.

Ways of working toward this goal were suggested here this week by Howard Hughes, assistant state conservationist for Iowa. He spoke at a meeting of Area XVI (Co-operative Area Manpower Planning System) at city hall. The area consists of the four counties of Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa.

Hughes told how one county, where polluted wells are a big concern, is planning a central water supply with mains running out to the country. There are advantages in multi-county operation and the project

could be extended, Hughes added.

Another example of an RC&D project is in recreation. Hughes said there are four counties bordering Lake Rathbun concerned about development. They are trying to get at least the lake perimeter zoned to protect public use of the lake.

Housing is another area which can get an assist from local, state and federal cooperation, particularly from FHA and HUD.

Provides the 'Mechanism'

Hughes said, "If rural areas are to attract and hold young people, they must provide better educational, employment, cultural and recreational opportunities. An RC&D project can provide the mechanism to accomplish these ends." His

audience included conservationists, county supervisors, mayors and Community Action Program representatives.

Violet Lundquist, executive director of the southeast Iowa CAP, said after the meeting: "It appears chances of setting up a project here in the immediate future might be slim, but it's something to work toward. The Mississippi river, for example, is a natural. This would involve a lot of people and groups — including city, county and Chamber of Commerce."

Projects are set up by committees operating under the county board of supervisors.

Hughes was a guest of Ralph Dewey, Des Moines county conservationist at the SCS office here.

SCS voting here Feb. 10

Two commissioners will be elected to the board of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District on Feb. 10, according to district chairman Henry Dockendorff of Danville.

An official election, sanctioned by the state of Iowa, the polls will be open at Memorial auditorium in Burlington between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Completing their terms of office are Henry Dockendorff, the present chairman, and William Vierling of Mediapolis.

Dockendorff completes a full six-year term, while Vierling was elected to a two-year short term in 1970, when the board of commissioners was expanded to five members.

Four Candidates

Candidates for the two seats on the board include Vierling,

HOWARD SMITH and Kenneth Klenk are building a diversion terrace with a tile inlet to remove the water underground from behind the residence on the Smith farm on Highway 99 north of Kingston.

All four of the candidates are long-time cooperators with the district and have been active in conservation work.

The election will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Des Moines County Farm Service Co.

TWO SOIL district commissioners are to be elected for the Des Moines County Soil Conservation district Feb. 10 at the Memorial auditorium in Burlington.

Terms of Henry Dockendorff, Danville, and William Vierling, Mediapolis, are expiring. Candidates nominated for the two terms of six years are: Vierling, Dwight Stucker, New London, Pleasant Grove township; Carl Shumaker, Danville, Danville township, and Robert Zaiser, Burlington.

Dockendorff is present chairman and, after serving a six-year term, is not a candidate. Vierling, who lives in Huron township, has served only two years, having been elected when the board was increased from three to five members at the 1970 election.



Barton

Dewey

Des Moines county SCS 25 years old

Des Moines County Soil Conservation District was among 19 recognized for 25 years of service at the 25th Annual Conference of soil district commissioners in Des Moines.

Accepting the award for the local district was S. S. Barton of Mediapolis, a board member.

The citation on the award shows that Des Moines County Soil Conservation district was chartered Feb. 28, 1946.

The original district commissioners were Noah Schrock, Oakville; John I. Blaul, Yarmouth, and Edwin Cling, Mediapolis. Influential in organization of the district was Walter B. Eyre of Burlington who was extension director at that time. Eyre later was elected as a district commissioner.

"The Soil Conservation District has helped over 1,000 farm owners and operators with erosion control and land use problems in the past quarter century," Barton stated. "We are now helping all types of rural and urban land users to protect and improve our environment."

Also attending the Des Moines Conference were Commissioner Rex Trout, District Clerk Mrs. Mildred Kleinkopf and District Conservationist Ralph Dewey, all of Burlington.

Don't look up

Tenants of the Burlington Federal building, including the FBI agents headquartered there, are on the lookout for a boy about 15 years old.

The youth is believed responsible for defecating down the main south stairwell of the building. Postmaster Arthur Peterson said the suspect apparently used a second floor stairwell railing and besmeared second and first floor walls.

An office worker also discovered a youth (the stairwell suspect) in the women's restroom and by the time she reported it to her boss in his office, the youth was able to flee, Petersen said.

"We try to maintain good, clean public restrooms in the building, but if violations continue, we'll have to consider locking up the restrooms," Petersen warned.

Federation Board Member Honored



MRS. RUTH MERTENS

Mrs. Ruth Mertens, Iowa Wildlife Federation Board member and teacher at Burlington Community School (Middletown) was one of eighteen teachers to win Regional Soil Awards in the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program.

The regional winners will compete for the state title.

Selection of the winners was based on the teachers effectiveness in conservation education; organizing field trips; creating an awareness of conservation problems on the local, state and national level; and motivating students to promote conservation of natural resources.

The program is sponsored by the Des Moines Register and the Iowa Farm Register in cooperation with conservation and educational agencies.

Mrs. Mertens also serves the Iowa Wildlife Federation on the Executive Committee and is co-chairman of National Wildlife Week in Iowa which is sponsored by the Iowa Federation.

AWARD WINNERS at the Des Moines county soil awards banquet here Wednesday night, were, paired from left: Mrs. Ruth Mertens and Sherman Lundy, teachers; Mr. and

Mrs. Kenneth Wehage, new cooperators; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Matsch, owners of tenant farm, and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Shumaker, owner-operators.

Soil conservation efforts recognized

By BOB SOGARD

Farmers who for years have been doing something about soil conservation while others talk about it were honored here Wednesday night.

Also cited at the annual awards banquet of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District were two educators who have been active in teaching about and working for conservation of natural resources.

Farmer winners recognized at the meeting in First Congregational church.

Owner-operators, or family-type farm — Carl Shumaker, Danville. Shumaker is using all of his 100 acres under a conservation plan. In the past 12 years he has brought a worn-down old pasture farm into "excellent" crop production.

Nearly 1½ miles of terracing controls erosion on about 60 acres. There are 12 acres of waterways, a farm pond and three erosion control dams.

Tenant-owner farm — Matsch Bros. place, owned by Charles and Robert Matsch and operated by Rolland Fritz, south-west of Burlington.

A fairly new farm in the program has half a mile of terrace, a farm pond and erosion control dam. Rougher fields are being developed for better pasture.

New cooperator — Kenneth Wehage, a 163-acre farm north-east of Mediapolis that was purchased two years ago.

More than a mile of terraces has been built and another mile is planned. Wehage has two farm ponds and an erosion control dam.

Elementary and



Dr. Minoru Amemiya

(Min) Amemiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State university.

Amemiya cited the accomplishments of the Des Moines county district in the past quarter of a century, including more than four million feet of drainage tile installed, 600,000 feet of terraces, 90,000 diversion structure and 50,000 acres of other conservation programs.

Urges Participation

"This is great, but it's only about one-third of the job that needs to be done," he stated. He urged farm owners and operators to take advantage of federal programs, without apology.

"After all, there are tax write-offs and other subsidies for business. We need to co-operate at the local level or conservation will be enforced from the top."

Teachers honored were:

Mrs. Ruth Mertens, third grade teacher at Middletown school, and Sherman Lundy, Burlington high school science teacher.

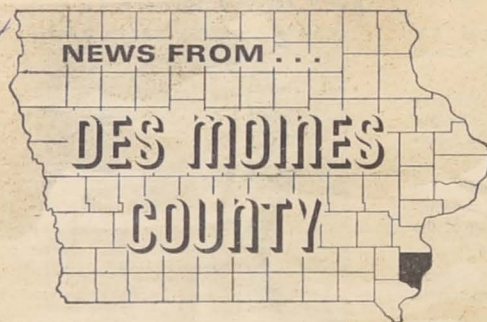
Mrs. Mertens, who has been cited previously by the district, attended the conservation camp at Springbrook Park for two summer sessions and has been active in the Iowa Conservation Education council. She is a director of the Iowa Wildlife Federation and a member of the Long Creek Conservation club.

Lundy is a specialist in geology and has such varied interests as religion, human rights and government. He organized the Burlington Ecology club for youth. Both he and Mrs. Mertens were rated as outstanding in Region 4 of the state-wide Register-sponsored awards.

was Dr. Minoru

Henry Dockendorff joins Des Moines County Farm Service Company Board of Directors

Chairman
of
S.C. District



By Paul J. Kloberdanz
Henry Dockendorff, Danville, was appointed by the Des Moines County Farm Service Company Board of Directors to the board to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Howard Waters.

The appointment was made at the regular monthly board meeting. Dockendorff's term will run until the service company annual meeting in February 1971.

The resignation of Waters was accepted with regret by the board of directors. Waters is the Midwest ASCS area director. His schedule in connection with this position makes it impossible to attend the service company board of directors' meetings.

Dockendorff and his wife Dorothy reside and farm near Danville. He farms 450 acres and feeds Charolais cattle. In addition to his service company and Farm Bureau activities. He is a member of the Danville Bank Board, Danville Telephone Board, the Soil Conservation Board and a member of the Des Moines County Livestock Feeders Association.

Conservation camp set for teachers

There will be an Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp next summer at the Conservation Education Center near Springbrook State Park in Guthrie county, according to Bernard Clausen, of the University of Northern Iowa.

Local teachers are being urged by the Des Moines County Environmental Conservation Educational Council to take advantage of one of the two sessions being offered.

Clausen emphasizes that each of the three-week sessions will provide three hours of college credit to those teachers who take advantage of this training.

First session from June 11 to July 1, is called Biology 105 — Iowa Conservation Problems

II. This course covers rocks, minerals, soil and water along with problems of land use.

Biology 104, Iowa Conservation Problems I, will be offered from July 2, through July 22, and will cover renewable resources, such as forests, fish, wildlife, and the ecological approach to managing our environment.

Training 'Invaluable'

Sherman Lundy, chairman of the local education council, points out that this training is invaluable to teachers who are trying to relate their teaching to what is going on today in the environment.

"We have had many teachers from the Des Moines county area attend these courses over the past 20 years and the effect of their training is showing up in our schools today," Lundy claims. "The great trend toward using outdoor classrooms has been motivated by the people who have been to the Springbrook Camp."

Tuition sponsorship for teachers to attend the training sessions is once again offered by the Long Creek Conservation Club.

Teachers who are interested in attending the camp are advised to contact Mrs. Ruth Mertens of Middletown for details on the courses and scholarships.

Hawk Eye
3-30-72

For Land's sake

Live in the city? Or are you country folks? It really doesn't seem to make any difference anymore. What bothers one of us, sooner or later bothers the other.

BY
RALPH
DEWEY



For about three years now, the whole kit and caboodle of us has been getting increasingly up tight about the environment. We've heard it from Washington. We've heard it from the grass roots. Experts—pseudo-experts— instant experts and downright ignoramuses have told us everything that's wrong with the way we live and use our resources.

The farmer has been criticized and vilified for letting his precious topsoil wash away and foul up our rivers. In turn, the farmer has criticized city

folks for dumping their sewage and poison chemicals into the same streams. Industry has come in for its come-uppance for adding industrial waste, scrap and pollutants to the total.

Suddenly, we awoke to a problem. We are rapidly reaching a critical point of not having enough room left to take care of our wants and our wastes at the same time.

Each one points to another as the guilty party. Fact is, we are all to blame and we know it. And we all seem to have brilliant ideas of how to cure the problem — just so long as it's the other guy that has to do something about it.

How slowly we learn!

Captive Earth

The smallest bit of living organism, bacteria, can show us all what is in store.

A culture dish, with a limited amount of life giving, food and

water for bacteria to survive, symbolizes our captive Earth. This planet is like the culture dish. Except for a limited amount of energy insorbed from the sun, our environment is limited in supply, just like the culture dish for the bacteria.

We reproduce ourselves in rapid numbers — to a point. Then for a while, we are in balance. We have reached a point where our numbers equal the capability of the environment to supply life. Then, quite abruptly, we go downhill. Why?

We can still sustain a good deal of life, but we have crowded ourselves out of a place to live by piling up our waste. Gradually, just like our friend the bacteria, we run out of food, water, air and living space.

This is a simple illustration that some of our high school teachers have used to illustrate "life", LIKE IT IS. Our life can be likened to any

species in existence. We live by the same environmental rules.

We can delay the time when our wastes catch up with us. We can delay the time when our food supply runs low. And we can delay the time, when we overproduce our species.

But, we can't do any of these things, so long as we keep looking for some other person to do the job for us.

Each person has to start with his own life, obeying the discipline necessary to improve his own part of the environment. We cannot expect certain ones to make a complete sacrifice, so that we do not have to.

Everyone will need to sacrifice something of the "good life" in order to make way for more life to come.

IOWA WILL observe Soil Conservation week Oct. 1 to 7 this year rather than the June dates as in the past. The Association of Soil District Commissioners and the State Soil Conservation Committee have changed to a fall observance. Rex. Trout, Rt. 1, is Des Moines county district chairman.

Hawk Eye
5-31-72

Hawk Eye 3-30-72

Off the cob



By Walter Eyre

Danville Community school district voters gave the proposed \$480,000 bond issue a 73.4 per cent majority at the special election. Proceeds of the bonds are to be used to replace the 60-year-old grade school.

THE WEEK of May 7-14 has been designated by Gov. Robert D. Ray as Soil Stewardship week. The event will be observed over the state of Iowa.

During the last year Des Moines county landowners built 74,000 feet of terrace, which figures just over 14 miles. These terraces control 1,660,560,000 gallons of water, according to figures released by Winston C. Cooper of the local soil conservation office.

AMONG THOSE building terraces are: Leon Marshall and Verner Amenell of Huron township; John Henry and Marvin Lange of Flint River; Eugene Moore, Augusta; Clarence Miller Farm, Union; Milford Hays and C. E. Pilling, Yellow Spring; Robert Baylor, Clarence Hanks, Herbert Dodds, Frances Cook, William Denney and Frank Denney of Pleasant Grove; Roy Schmidt and Everett Schmidt, Franklin; Mrs. Marcella Noss, Walter Heckenberg and Albert Heckenberg, Benton; Grover Willson of Washington township. The Iowa Army Ammunition Plant has constructed 23,000 feet of terraces on the farm acreage in the plant area near Middletown.

AMONG THOSE constructing erosion control dams and ponds are: Clarence Miller farm and Melvin Raid, Union township; Wayne Cornman, John Latty and Earl Mansfield, Benton township; Earl Beckman, Flint River; Ellsworth Dodds, Paul Stucker, Dan Anliker and Darrell Tucker, Pleasant Grove; Nelson Bros., Yellow Spring; Nealey Bros., Danville; Howard Reif, Franklin; J. B. Gingrich, Clarence Kuntz, Howard Smith of Huron township. The IAAP built five ponds the past year. Soil saving

accomplishments may be even greater this year.



Bill Koger displays one of the saplings being planted at the Iowa Southern Utilities Burlington Station to encourage wildlife and to protect the environment.

Environmental Improvement

Iowa Southern Utilities Co. has announced plans for making its Burlington Generating Station and an adjoining tract a haven for wildlife.

"An extensive timber cutting and tree-planting project is the heart of the plan," according to Charles Bradley, station superintendent.

"The station's location is ideal for wildlife," Bradley said. "We want to make the area's wildlife at home here and to protect the environment."

The program got under way recently when 375 young autumn olive and 125 black alder trees were planted beside the station's two ash ponds, according to Bradley. Planting is expected to be completed next year.

"The Soil Conservation Service provided us with the trees at no cost and we provide the manpower to get them planted," Bradley says. "We took all of the trees we could get this year.

Those that we need to finish the job will be available in 1973."

To improve the environment of the timber land which the company owns immediately south of the station, Bradley says he has been working on a plan with the forestry section of the Iowa Conservation Commission. "The overall objective here is to maintain and improve the productivity of the woodland. One of the specific objectives is to provide favorable food and cover conditions for game, wildlife and insect eating birds."

The first move Bradley says "will be the cutting and removal of about 100,000 board feet of timber in an area which is a veritable desert under an umbrella of trees. This will allow the undergrowth a chance to properly develop. Later on as environmental land management procedures dictate," Bradley said, "timber will be removed from other selected areas throughout the 600 acre tract."

The trees just planted around the ash ponds at the station will grow to about 15 feet in height, will provide an excellent gathering place for birds and act as a windbreak.

Autumn olive trees produce berries that ripen in the fall, attracting such birds as robins, mallards, common grackle, cardinals, tree swallows and others.

Bradley says bobwhite quail, ruffed grouse, mourning doves, ring-necked pheasants and wild turkeys also like to eat autumn olive fruit. The tree has small, yellow, sweet-scented flowers.

"We're going to do everything attractive to wildlife as possible," Bradley says. "This in-

cludes a plan for beautifying the old ash pond.

"What we want to do is flood the old ash pond with water from the river when it's particularly muddy. We hope the silt will eventually build up a layer of dirt which will sustain plantlife. It's worth a try."

Medapolis News-Era
5-11-72

Walter Eyre
5-10-72

City land still not 'nailed down'

Burlington's in better shape than many cities when it comes to land use and soil conservation, but there's still room for improvement.

That was the basic message Wednesday night when city councilmen, city plan commission members and the Des Moines county soil conservation committee met to discuss the city's soil.

Burlington's in a better position than many cities, because it hasn't experienced the "mushrooming growth" many have. But there are still some problems even now and will be a lot more in the future as more and more industry begins moving into the area, according to Ralph Dewey, district soil

commissioner and meeting chairman.

Dewey told the 20 city and county officials present that Wednesday's meeting was simply an introductory one "to familiarize you with what we have to offer you."

Legislative action several years ago expanded conservation district responsibilities to include urban as well as rural areas.)

Dewey said that plans are already under way here to develop a soil survey map of the entire city. The map

should be completed by 1975, Dewey said.

In the interim, he pointed out, a less detailed and accurate map is already available.

Discussions are also under way for developing a city ordinance for "policing" soil usage.

George Howell, city planning director, said his staff is considering an ordinance which would make soil testing a mandatory part of building and developing within city limits.

Dewey told his audience there is still a great deal of

conservation work to be done in both urban and rural Des Moines county.

Out of the 231,700 acres of land in Des Moines county, he noted, only 52,900 are considered by the U.S. soil conservation department to be adequately treated.

And within the city, he said out of the 5,827 available acres, only 2,777 are considered adequately treated.

"We've got a lot of work to do and it's going to take a lot of cooperation," Dewey said.

Burlington Hawk Eye 6-8-72

Local distributor irked

Neil Edwards, assistant manager, Des Moines County Farm Service, declared flatly that "We don't like this ban at all." He referred to a near-total elimination of DDT in the United States.

Edwards charged that opponents of DDT "don't have much to substantiate their charges that it is highly dangerous."

"It has been a godsend to us, especially in controlling the mosquito and the corn-borer."

"We feel that the advantages of DDT far outweigh the disadvantages."

Charles Wayne of Wayne

Bros. elevator said he doesn't feel qualified to comment on the government's action, as "We don't seal or use DDT in our business and I rarely use it personally."

Ralph Dewey, district soil conservationist, said:

"I don't think the ban will have any great effect on agriculture as it's practiced in Iowa."

"In most cases we've developed other means of control — DDT has been replaced with safer substances."

"Most farmers have gotten away from DDT."

"The DDT situation probably

points up a lesson — that any of the seemingly-good things we have must be used with discretion and caution.

"Maybe we are polluting the environment with fertilizers now being applied to soils, in that when they are washed off as sediment they create problems."

"We can fertilize crops up to the point where crops can make the most use of the fertilizer, but often we add too much and the excess is washed off as sediment. Too much of it goes into ponds, causing growth which creates a scarcity of oxygen."

Burlington Hawk Eye 6-14-72

District conservationist Ralph Dewey and soil conservationist Winston Cooper attended a three-day Iowa workshop with Soil Conservation Service employees in Des Moines last week. The sessions were devoted to study of new SCS long-range policies and guidelines for conservation.

Hawk Eye 7-9-72

Slickers eye soil

In rural areas, soil erosion is a topic that's been thrown around for a long time, but it's a brand new topic for many "city slickers."

The Burlington city council will get an introduction to it at 7:30 tonight in council chambers during a joint meeting of the council, city planning staff and the Des Moines county soil conservation board.

"This is just sort of an introductory meeting so we can show them what information and materials we have to offer them," said Ralph Dewey, district conservationist for the conservation board.

Iowa's legislature made the topic a pertinent one for city councils two years ago when it expanded conservation areas within counties.

MET PLAN COMMISSION

About a month ago the Des Moines county conservationist had his first meeting with city officials—the city plan commission.

At tonight's meeting the council gets its introduction to the services available via a film produced by the soil conservation service titled: "Consider the Soil First."

Dewey says the film and discussion during the meeting will explain the importance of soil erosion work within city limits—such as newly-developed areas.

"City land may not be used for agriculture, but it's still valuable no matter what it's being used for," Dewey said.

Hawk Eye 6-7-72

Soil Policy Sets Goals

District Conservationist Ralph E. Dewey of West Burlington and Soil Conservationist, Winston C. Cooper of Burlington, attended a three day statewide workshop of Soil Conservation Service employees in Des Moines last week.

The main theme of the meeting, which was keynoted by an address by SCS administrator Kenneth Grant, Washington, D.C., was "The Framework Plan-Soil and Water Conservation for a Better America."

The framework plan is an updated statement of Soil Conservation Service policy setting forth guidelines for operational programs of the service in the 1970's and beyond, according to Grant.

The three objectives of the mission of the soil and water conservation program are stated as: Quality in the natural resource base for sustained land use. Quality in the environment to provide attractive, convenient, and satisfying places to live, work and play. Quality in the standard of living based on community improvement and adequate income.

Des Moines Co. News July 1972

Soil loss limits hearing Aug. 16

Recent legislation in Iowa has passed the first real law in the nation that names silt as a nuisance. In order to implement the law, soil conservation districts are establishing legal soil loss limits for each type to be found in each county.

A public hearing will be held at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16, 1972, at Room 211, Federal Building in Burlington, on the question of adoption of soil loss limitations for lands in Des Moines county. District chairman Rex Troute pointed out that all persons who are likely to be affected by the proposed regulations are welcome to attend and will be given opportunity to express their views.

The proposed allowable rates of soil loss by wind and water are expressed in terms of tons per acre per year. Separate categories are set up for (1) agricultural land (2) non-agricultural lands and (3) construction sites.

In the relatively undisturbed farmland soils an allowable loss limit will be set for each soil type. A more arbitrary figure will

be established on lands where original soils have been greatly disturbed and erosion conditions are not natural.

Copies of the proposed regulations are available for examination at the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District office.

The regulations will be used by district commissioners in acting on complaints of excessive silting as the conservancy district law goes into effect. If excessive erosion is found, land owners may be requested to voluntarily correct the problem or may be required to install erosion control measures to bring the losses within safe limits and to comply with the district soil loss limit regulations.

Burlington Hawk Eye
8-2-72

Conservation Week In Iowa

Soil Conservation Week in Iowa this year will be October 1-8, according to William Greiner, director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

In previous years, a week in June was set aside to recognize the importance of soil and water conservation programs in the state. A fall date has been selected because the June date was so close to Soil Stewardship Week, usually observed in May.

Min Amemiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State University, explained that Soil Conservation Week calls attention to the importance of soil and water conservation work in Iowa.

Soil and water conservation, flood prevention, and related natural resources development programs are carried out to meet Iowa's rural and urban needs and to improve the quality of our environment.

"Orderly use and development of Iowa land and water resources through soil and water conservation programs, flood prevention and proper land use are essential to maintain and increase agricultural and urban income; to protect and improve the rural, urban and recreational areas; and to develop their potential for all Iowans," Greiner said.

Iowa Farmers Aid Wildlife

"Iowa - A Place to Grow" has a special meaning for wildlife since Iowa farmers have used conservation measures to help protect our furred, feathered and finny friends.

Probably no single group has done more to give food and shelter to wildlife than the state's conservation farmers. Purposely and inadvertently the conservation practices they use to protect the land also benefits wild birds and animals.

Grasses and field borders are particularly good nesting areas for the millions of songbirds and gamebirds of our state. Nearly half a million acres of strip cropping and thousands of miles of terraces with grass backslashes provide abundant food and shelter for birds. At the same time, these practices control soil runoff and protect fishing areas from silt and pollutants.

Iowa farmers have installed terraces long enough to reach around the world.

Over 75,000 acres of windbreaks and shelterbelts, planted to protect from wind erosion, makes a good home for game birds and small animals.

Small watershed and flood control projects in recent years have created over 1300 new bodies of water. These, along with thousands of individual farm ponds are giving migratory ducks and geese improved places to stop along their flyways. And a lot of top notch fishing is also provided.

Many acres of marginal land have been abandoned as undesirable for cropping as our farming has become more intensified. Farmers are planting 200,000 acres of such land to shrubs, grasses and trees to be managed for wildlife production.

A recent innovation in pasture management is the warm season pasture. In these fields, native grasses are planted, to be grazed in hot weather when ordinary pastures are dormant. By keeping livestock away from these areas early in the season, abundant nesting is provided.

Putting it all together, Iowa farmers are doing a great job of providing food, water and shelter to maintain wildlife for all of us to enjoy for many years ahead.

Midwestern News Era
8-30-72

THE DES MOINES COUNTY N Silt Named As Nuisance

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The proposed allowable rates of soil loss by wind and water are expressed in terms of TONS PER ACRE PER YEAR. Separate categories are set up for (1) agricultural land (2) non-agricultural lands and (3) construction sites.

Copies of the proposed regulations are available for examination at the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District office according to Chairman Troute.

The regulations will be used by district commissioners in acting on complaints of excessive silting as the conservancy district law goes into effect. If excessive erosion is found, land owners may be requested to voluntarily correct the problem or may be required to install erosion control measures to bring the losses within safe limits and to comply with the district soil loss limit regulations.

Des Moines County News
8-3-72

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED SOIL
LOSS LIMIT REGULATIONS
WITHIN DES MOINES COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Under authority set forth in Chapter
467A, Code of Iowa, 1971, as amended,
the commissioners of Des Moines County
Soil Conservation District, with the
approval of the State Soil Conservation
Committee, have formulated soil loss
limit regulations applicable to said District.

A copy of the proposed soil loss limit
regulations may be obtained at the Des
Moines County Soil Conservation District
office, Room 218, Federal Bldg.,
Burlington, Iowa.

Notice is hereby given that a public
hearing will be held at 8:00 p.m., August
16, 1972, at Room 211, Federal Building,
Burlington, Iowa at which time and
place an explanation of the regulations
will be made and opportunity will be
given for any landowner or occupant of
land who would be affected thereby to
be heard for or against the proposed
regulations.

COMMISSIONERS OF DES
MOINES COUNTY SOIL
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
By Rex H. Troute,
Chairman
Aug. 3, 72-11.

Burlington Hawk Eye
8-3-72

Des Moines County News
8-3-72

Cattlemen told of new tag program

A new program is being offered cattle feeders so they will have records of the carcass quality of cattle they ship to market.

Ron Irvin, Extension livestock specialist for the Davenport area, told about 110 feeders and wives of the program during the 27th annual Des Moines county Livestock Feeders Assn. tour Tuesday.

Speaking at the J. D. Stucker farm west of Danville, Irvin emphasized the need for production records by commercial cow-calf men.

To help feeders improve their herds, Irvin recommended that they use orange ear tags that can be placed on their cattle at weaning or at any time before they are sent to market.

The tags remain with the cattle until they are slaughtered, then are transferred to the carcasses before they are graded.

Grading information includes conformation, maturity, degree of marbling,

Ear tag

quality grade, fat thickness, ribeye area, kidney, pelvic, and heart fat, hot carcass weight, and yield grade, Irvin said.

The information will be returned to the feeder for a \$1.50 fee, but only if the cattle have been tagged. Tags are 50 cents each and are available from the Iowa Beef Producers Assn., Irvin said.

Other feeding operations visited on the tour were on the Henry Dockendorff, Leonard Miller, and Wayne and Steve Williams farms.

At Dockendorffs, soil conservationist Ralph Dewey explained a feedlot windbreak of trees and shrubs recently planted by Dockendorff with advice from the Soil Conservation Service.

The tour closed with an evening barbecue at the 40 & 8 park in Burlington.

Hawk Eye, Burlington
8-20-72

Local Soil Conservation Service staffer WINSTON COOPER has completed a week-long basic management training course at the SCS regional training center in Lincoln, Neb. Twice a summer intern at the Des Moines county office, Cooper has been a full-time SCS employee here for a year.

Hawkeye, Burlington
9-3-72

Teachers can still register for conservation workshops

Iowa teachers still have time to register for this year's conservation education workshops, according to Howard Hughes, president of the Iowa Conservation Education Council.

The first workshop, intended primarily

for teachers in the eastern part of the state, will be held at Camp Ewalu near Strawberry Point Oct. 6-7. The second will be at the state 4-H Camp near Luther Oct. 13 and 14.

The Ewalu workshop will include teacher work sessions on environmental field days, classroom demonstrations, school camping and conservation education committees. In an awards dinner Friday night, teachers will be recognized for conservation education efforts.

Joseph Arundale of the U.S. Bureau of Mines will also speak to the group on "Pollution in Perspective."

Saturday's program includes field trips for teacher training. In past years, many soil conservation districts have sponsored teachers to the two-day workshop. Interested teachers in Des Moines County should contact Sherman Lundy of Burlington, chairman of the Environmental Conservation Education Council.

Hawk Eye 9-26-72

Detailed surveys of soils

A promise of much better soil survey information for Des Moines and other Iowa counties was given at the 26th Annual Conference of Soil Conservation District in Des Moines last week.

Dr. Tom E. Fenton, soil scientist and agronomist from Iowa State university, pointed out the differences in the old and modern surveys by making several comparisons.

"Some old surveys show as few as five soil types in a county," Fenton claims. "Many modern surveys will have 50 or more soil types and also show land slopes and erosion factors."

A typical old survey was made by a single surveyor in about 100 man days. The Des Moines county survey, when completed about 1976, will have used about nine man years.

The original soil survey taken over 50 years ago was printed on a single sheet map at a scale of one inch per mile. Modern surveys are drawn on up-to-date aerial photographs at a scale of four inches per mile. Soil areas as small as two acres can be accurately mapped, according to Fenton.

"Actual surveying has been contracted for Des Moines county starting in 1971," the agronomist stated. "A team of soil scientists will spend about three years in the field checking soils."

The main responsibility for soil surveys across the nation lies with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station assists.

Upon completion the new soil information will be of great value to all farmers and land users and will become a truly realistic basis for assessment, local soil officials claim.

Attending the meeting from Des Moines county were District Commissioner S.S. Barton of Mediapolis and District Conservationist E. Dewey, of Burlington.

Hawk Eye 9-18-72

WINSTON COOPER of the Des Moines County soil conservation office announces there have been 100,000 feet of tile outlet terraces built in the county the past eight months. That is almost 19 miles of terrace. Among those who established the erosion control practices are: Raymond Oetken and Everett Oetken of Tama township; Earl Orten, William Parrott, Dr. J. E. Murray and Robert Dodds of Danville township; Rex Trout and Edward C. Breuer of Concordia; Warren Langwith and Grover Willson, Washington; Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, John Hostetter and Marvin Lange, Flint River; William Denney and Darrell Tucker, Pleasant Grove; Kenneth Wehage and Clarence Kuntz, Huron; Dr. Carl Hulen and Gerald Miller, Union and Rodman Baird of Yellow Spring.

Other practices established this season included 16 erosion control dams and ponds in the county. Those applying the practices and their townships included: Vicki Maddox and Dr. Hulen, Union; Lester Dietsch and Kenneth Groe, Pleasant Grove; H. B. Schroeder, Tama; Grover Willson, Washington; Kenneth Wehage, Huron; Ronald Beckman, Danville; John Hostetter, Flint River; Virgil Massner and Orttie Locke, Yellow Spring; Neal Wolfe of Franklin and Iowa Army Ammunition Plant.

Hawk Eye
9-26-72

1974 County Soil Survey

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Attending the meeting from Des Moines County were District Commissioner S.S. Barton of Mediapolis and District Conservationist Ralph E. Dewey, of Burlington.

*Des Moines Co. News
St. Paul 9-28-72*

Regional winners in soil program

Three area farmers have been named regional winners in the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program for doing an outstanding job of conserving soil and water. They are:

Si Hoffman, Jr., Humeston, in Division 1; Ray Pilling, Mediapolis (and owner C.B. Pilling), in Division 2; and Fred Holsteen, West Point, in Division 3.

Division 1 consists of owner-operated (or family-operated farms, Division 2 of landlord-tenant farms, and Division 3 of farms cooperating with the Soil Conservation Service.

These three Region 9 winners will receive barometers at a county banquet and are automatically in sweepstakes competition with 24 other regional winners for a single state award.

The program, in its 20th year, is sponsored by The Des Moines Register, The Iowa Farm Register, and several conservation and education agencies.

Hawk Eye 10-11-72

That fish-producing pond requires planning

By BOB HANSEN
Hawk Eye Sports Writer

That lunker bass or stringer of pan fish pulled from a Des Moines county farm pond may well have started out life as property of the federal or state government.

Area farmers are increasingly taking advantage of government programs and know-how to turn the "old fishing hole" into a recreational dividend.

But, like any dividend, a fish-producing pond requires an investment of careful planning. Most ponds will produce some fish but they will produce more and better fish if they are managed correctly.

One source of information on the correct way to develop a fish pond is Ralph Dewey of the U.S. Soil Conservation office located in the Federal building here. Dewey is also the man to see about getting fish.

His office will be taking applications until Feb. 1 for either bass or catfish fry from the federal fish hatchery near Muscatine.

Those land owners whose applications are approved can plan on picking up their

seed fish next summer. "We will begin delivering bass in June," said Dewey, "and catfish, in late August.

"A truck will be in the area and the farmer should bring along a 20-gallon container of his pond water and we'll see he gets his fish.

"Generally speaking," continued Dewey, "we will not stock a pond under half an acre, for it's too small for a good survival ratio, or larger than five acres, because that is considered a commercial venture."

Dewey explained the state also maintains a program of supplying fish to Iowa farmers.

"Most ponds, though, were stocked a good deal more informally. The farmer just took a pail of fish he caught in a neighbor's pond, dumped it in his own, and hoped for the best," he said.

The soil conservation office also offers a few pointers on which type of fish to stock. If a good bass-producing pond is desired, there shouldn't be any crappies introduced.

Crappies, in a pond with a uniform water level, will quickly overproduce, thus upsetting the balance between more desirable fish and leaving the pond filled with useless one and two-ounce fish.

If catfish are desired, only a small number of bass should be added to control wild fish that may enter the pond. The pond bottom should also have a few drainage tile or tires for catfish nesting spots, Dewey said.

Dewey also offers a few pointers on how to fish a pond.

"A good ratio of usage would be about 500 hours of fishing time per acre. Any less than that and the fish will not grow to best size. Any more than that and the number of fish caught will fall off," he said.

Dewey laid to rest the old story that once a farmer-owner accepts government stocking, he must open his pond up to the public.

"This may have been true at one time," Dewey explained, "but the farmer is under no obligation to let people fish his place if he doesn't want to.

"Naturally, we would like the public to use these ponds and it also provides the correct fishing pressure that the ponds need for best results."

The Soil Conservation office estimates there are 800 ponds in Des Moines county. Using government guidelines, that figures out to a lot of fish and a lot of fishing for area anglers.

Hawk Eye 10-15-72

Soil awards banquet planned for Nov. 16

The annual awards banquet of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District will be held at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 16 at First Christian church, 1221 Park Ave.

The program will feature environmental conservation education in outdoor classrooms, reported Rex H. Trout, chairman of the board of soil commissioners. Several teachers will be guests of the district.

Hawk Eye 11-8-72

Awards banquet

Environmental conservation education will be the theme of the 1972 soil conservation achievement awards banquet to be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at First Christian church, 1221 Park Ave. The banquet is being held by the Des Moines county Soil Conservation District.

Hawk Eye 11-15-72

Waste from feedlot treated

A recently completed waste control project on the Robert Rehmkne farm northwest of Burlington will keep 2,500 tons of barnyard manure and waste from entering Flint River and the Mississippi every year, district conservation officials claim.

In an effort to manage the runoff from his livestock enterprise, Rehmkne has con-

structed a series of terraces, diversions, a holding pond and a lagoon. Planning for the project was a part of the work of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

Rehmkne, a farm manager for a Burlington Bank, purchased the farm about a

year ago. "It looked like a good livestock farm and has several ponds to supply water to pasture areas," he states.

The buildings and lots are located on a fairly narrow ridge with good drainage to move wastes off the lots. "Erosion is bound to be a problem with the steep slopes breaking away from the lots," Rehmkne claims. "This also presented a problem of pollution with rapid runoff to the creek."

Rehmkne contacted the soil conservation service, where district conservationist Ralph Dewey and conservation technician Oren Champ provided technical guidance to develop a sound plan for erosion and waste control. Application for cost-sharing by the Rural Environmental Assistance Program brought forth considerable help in the high cost of such a project. REAP paid half of the more than \$4,000 total cost. "Using federal funds to help pay for pollution control work of this kind is readily justified," Conservationist Dewey points out. "The farmer is providing a way to keep animal wastes from polluting, so the entire public can enjoy clean water."

State health officials also come into the picture on projects like this. Plans for the work had to be approved by the Iowa Water Pollution Control Commission before any earth could be moved.

Taking it from the top, the barns and lots drain about six acres of hilltop land. A diversion terrace wraps around the ridge-top, keeping runoff water from going down the steep slopes. This diversion serves a double purpose. It channels the feedlot runoff to a settling area and it keeps the runoff from getting into a livestock pond.

A short fill, about six feet deep and a hundred feet long, catches the solid and liquid wastes that will come off the lots, and through the diversion. Roof water is mainly taken through eaves troughs into an underground tile and on to the lagoon area.

A slotted pipe inlet to a tile system allows liquids to run to the lagoon at a lower level, while solids settle above the pipe. As the area fills with solid wastes, this material can be hauled out to fertilize cropland fields.

Nearly 3,000 cubic yards of earth had to be moved to build the dam that holds the

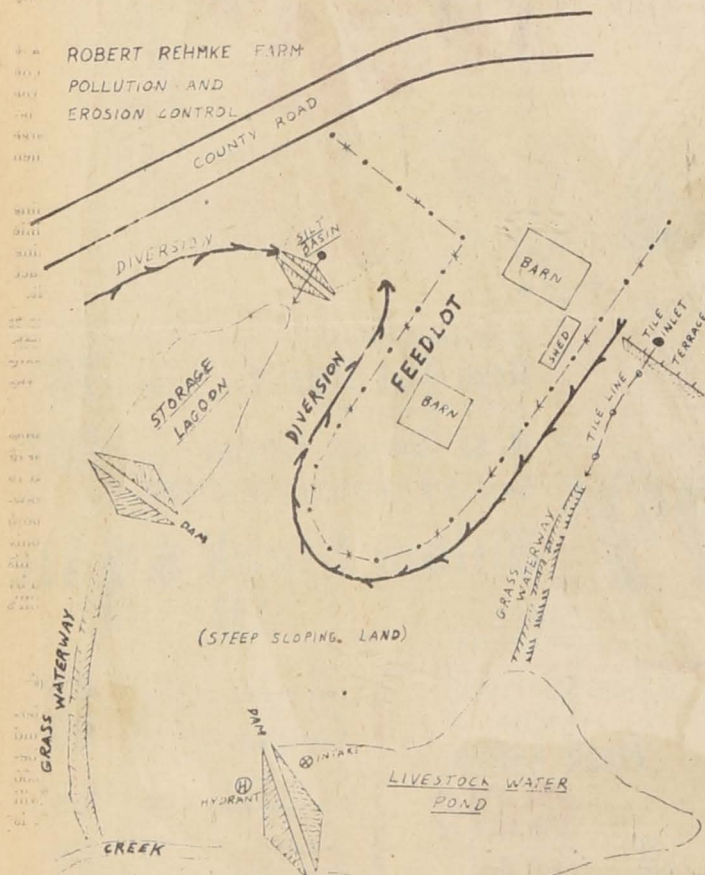
lagoon, according to SCS figures. Ninety feet of six inch metal pipe controls the overflow from the lagoon toward the creek below.

"Water running into the lagoon is naturally polluted," Rehmkne continues, "so the lagoon is the place where pollution is treated."

"The lagoon can store three inches of runoff from the feedlot," he adds. Biological action in the lagoon takes care of pollutants and the overflow to the outlet pipe is nearly pure water. What little waste material may be left will be filtered out in a grass waterway, which is will also help to fertilize.

Rehmkne feels that the investment to build this waste control project is high, but it serves many purposes. Besides pollution control, erosion is prevented and his own stock watering system is no longer contaminated. "Besides there's a certain satisfaction in knowing you have done a bit to help make a better environment," Rehmkne concludes.

*Nank Eye
Burlington, 11-8-72*



POLLUTION CONTROL in feedlot of Robert Rehmkne is achieved by diversion terraces, a silt basin and storage-oxidation lagoon. This layout, on a

10-acre tract, is along county road X-37 in the northwest part of Section 18 of Franklin township. It's on the old Clarence Mehmken farm.

Soil saving efforts recognized

By BOB SOGARD
Hawk Eye Farm Editor

They were preaching to the converted at First Christian church Thursday night.

The occasion was the annual Des Moines county soil conservation awards banquet. The topic was environmental education and the farmers recognized received the "honorary degrees."

Rex Troute, chairman of the Des Moines county Soil Conservation committee, observed that one third of the acres in this county needing soil-saving treatment have been protected with conservation practices in the past 30 years.

"The public won't tolerate 60 years more to get the rest of the land treated," com-

mented Troute. He pointed to new laws that make the Soil Conservation service responsible for all of the land in the county—including yards, parks and airports, as well as farmland. Also, Iowa's new conservancy law restricting soil losses is among the first in the nation.

Sherman Lundy, Burlington teacher and environmentalist, explained the outdoor classroom concept that's getting a firm foothold in the schools here.

"Children need the experience of learning about ecology and protection of our environment where it's happening and that's outdoors," Lundy said. He said teachers, the SCS, parents and the public, as well as youngsters, should be involved in the planning for these studies.

"There's a world of knowledge to be gained from a rotten log. You can even study weeds growing up through cracks in a blacktop playground. There are trees and grasses, ponds and brushpiles that can be invaluable as outdoor classrooms," he added.

Gardening, planting trees, building bird houses and feeding stations, digging a pit to study soil types are just a few of the projects pupils can undertake in their outdoor classrooms, Lundy said.

SCS publications are available to help teachers and all others interested, he concluded.

Achievement awards to outstanding conservation farmers in the county were presented by soil commissioners. Division winners were:

DIVISION I, for owner-operators — Verner Amenell, who farms north of Mediapolis. He has nearly completed a system of terraces, ponds and waterways in the past five years.

DIVISION II, for landlord and tenant — Ray Pilling is the tenant on the farm of his father, C.E. (Jack) Pilling, just northwest of Mediapolis. They also were top winners in their division for the 12-county south-east Iowa region, in the contest co-sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune and the soil districts.

The elder Pilling was a district commissioner for six years. Troute said, "The entire farm has been well treated, first by Jack and then Ray put on the finishing touches.

DIVISION III, new co-operators — Marcell and Dave Noss, whose farm is about three miles west of Kingston, constructed a pond to provide livestock water and erosion control, as well as for recreation. Tile outlet terraces were constructed and plans have been made to complete the work on the farm.

The Rusty Door Four, barbershop quartet, provided entertainment for the 90 persons at the banquet. The members are Jack Stout, Joe Layman, Woody Herman and Ralph Dewey, district conservationist.



ACHIEVERS in the county soil conservation awards competition this year were, back row, from left, Dave Noss, Verner Amenell, C.E. (Jack) Pilling,

and Ray Pilling. Wives, from left, are Mrs. Noss, Mrs. Amenell and Mrs. Jack Pilling.

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Achievers in the Des Moines county soil conservation awards competition in 1972 were, back

row, from left, Dave Noss, Verner Amenell, C. E. (Jack) Pilling and Ray Pilling, all Medi-

apolis rural. Wives, from left, are Mrs. Noss, Mrs. Amenell and Mrs. Jack Pilling.

Area Farmers Get Soil Awards

Achievement awards to outstanding conservation farmers in Des Moines county were presented Thursday night, November 16 at the annual soil conservation awards banquet held at the First Christian church in Burlington. Division winners were:

Division I, for owner - operators - Verner Amenell, who farms north of Mediapolis. He has nearly completed a system of terraces, ponds and waterways in the past five years.

Division II, for landlord and tenant - Ray Pilling is the tenant

on the farm of his father, C.E. (Jack) Pilling, just northwest of Mediapolis. They also were top winners in their division for the 12-county southeast Iowa region, in the contest co-sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune and the soil districts.

The elder Pilling was a district commissioner for six years. Rex Trout, chairman of the county Soil conservation, said: "The entire farm has been well treated, first by Jack and then Ray put on the finishing touches.

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The topic for the evening was environmental education. Chairman Trout emphasized that only one-third of the acres in the county needing soil-saving treatment have been protected with

conservation practices in the past 30 years.

The chairman pointed to new laws that make the Soil Conservation service responsible for all the land in the county, including yards, parks and airports, as well as farm land.

Sherman Lundy, Burlington teacher and environmentalist, explained the outdoor classroom concept that is getting a foothold in the schools in the area.

The Rusty Door Four barbershop quartet provided entertainment at the banquet. Members of the quartet are Jack Stout, Woody Herman, Joe Layman, and Ralph Dewey, district conservationist.

Burt Nealey, who farms north of Danville, disagrees with the blanket statement that making pasture out of land that grows only brush and scrub trees is a conservation minus.

"Grass holds the land, too. I've seen land that isn't taken care of erode from under a tangle of brush that kills out the grass," Burt declared when I talked with him Tuesday.

He pointed to the work done by his sons, Jim and Charles, the past year. Part of the project is illustrated on Page 20 of today's Hawk Eye. They bought a 240-acre farm from the Knutson estate. The place is two miles north of Danville.

Starting with about 35 acres of hilly

brush-infested ground, they bulldozed the brush into piles along the creek that runs through the place. They kept the crawler tractor on the job with a heavy duty disk. There were too many roots to try to plow, but they could take a disk to shape up the ground after the 'dozer left so that corn could be planted on the contour.

They applied a herbicide and didn't cultivate. The process will be repeated this year, then the tract should be in shape for seeding the pasture to be used by a beef herd. The contoured ground looked pretty good when I walked over it and the supersaturated soil appeared to be staying in place. In other words, this ground apparently is fertile enough so that it won't literally go downhill if it is properly pastured.

Min Amemiya, the ISU agronomist, was here last week pointing out that all such pasture making isn't in the interest of public or farmer.

"Woodland clearing can be disastrous," the professor declared. "It can't raise corn and isn't too good for pasture. It might cost \$100 an acre to clean up and \$100 more for chemicals, fertilizer and seed. Then, in a few years, cattle runs start rills, erosion resumes and the \$300 land there isn't worth the \$100 you started with."

Amemiya suggested that pasture renovators seed native prairie grasses — blue stem, switch grass, Indian grass — that come on strong in the hot season while the cool weather grasses brown down. He cautioned against over-grazing, urging that 8-10 inches of stubble be left so the grass can come back.

He pointed out a whole bunch of benefits resulting from terracing. The farmer needs less fertilizer, insecticides and herbicides. Terracing eliminates dodging gullies, allows more efficient use of equipment and reduces ditch cleanup. Also, moisture is retained, the land is more productive and is five to 10 per cent more valuable.

Public benefits include: Cleaner water, cleaner air, sediment control, flood control and ecological balances are maintained.

But terraces are expensive. Now that REAP funds have been axed, enforcement of Iowa's new soil conservancy law shot down. Minoru said alternatives may have to be developed. These include grass or meadow rotation, conservation tillage and other practices that save soil but don't cost so much. Also, the state SCS people are seeking considerably more from the legislature.

Rex Trout, chairman of the soil district commissioners, is practicing what he preaches. He told the crop production meeting participants about a cooperative terracing program he completed with neighbors Ed Breuer and Vine Gehring.

The project, cost-shared with REAP funds, reduced his annual soil loss from eight tons per acre to 1.2 tons. Rex conceded that it's doubtful he would have done his portion of the 55-acre \$4,000 job if REAP funds hadn't been available.

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New pastures crowding wildlife

By BOB HANSEN

In recent years, Iowa wildlife has taken its lumps on everything from highway construction to industrial pollution. Now it appears even rising beef prices are posing a threat to the state's diminishing primitive habitat areas.

Relative higher cattle prices are forcing many Hawk Eye land farmers to convert timbered areas into pasture land. This, in turn, destroys the food and cover that permits many types of wild life to flourish.

Ralph Dewey of the U.S. Soil Conservation Office estimates approximately 200 acres of timber are converted to pasture annually in Des Moines county. More heavily wooded areas — such as those in Van Buren county — lost about 1,000 acres of trees each year.

The long run impact this practice will have on the state's wildlife resources is yet undetermined. However, authorities are becoming increasingly concerned over the more apparent short run aspects of pasture reclamation.

State Supervisor of Wild Life Management Don Cummings reports, "Under certain circumstances we have noted a substantial reduction of deer, rabbit, squirrel and quail where woodland is converted to pasture in any significant amount.

"Fortunately," Cummings said, "the practice is not widespread, but it may well become quite common. If that occurs, we may have a serious problem on our hands.

"In the case of larger animals such as deer, land will carry only so many animals," he said. "We will have to see if it is going to be wildlife or cattle."

Cummings' concern is shared by State Games Biologist At Ferris.

"We're beginning to see the destruction

of many areas of natural habitat for deer and squirrels in south east Iowa.

"In a recent trip through the Burlington-Ottumwa area we saw significant areas of timber being cleared off," Ferris said.

"If this is done in areas where row crops are nearby and some brush is left, the impact on quail is negligible or it may even help out.

"But if no cover is left and if nearby marginal crop land is converted, we are going to start losing many species of wildlife," he warned.

The conversion of wooded areas to pasture has increased in recent years as the rising price of beef, coupled with increasing operating expenses, has forced many farm-

ers to maximize the use of all available land.

However, State District Forester Stanley Tate questions the economic justification used in many instances of pasture reclamation.

"Putting aside esthetics or any other consideration," Tate said, "it is very difficult economically to justify the conversion of much of this timbered land into pasture.

"In many areas, the slope is greater than 18 per cent and it becomes rough for the farmer to bring equipment onto the land to fertilize, mow and maintain the property. After a few years the nutrient value is depleted and the land will no longer produce grass — or much of anything else," Tate continued.

"In Des Moines county, we have some classic cases of steep hills with limited top soil going into pasture. Much of this land has such low fertility it will not regenerate grass or trees.

"Erosion has also taken place with the accompanying siltation problems. The land has lost its value to society.

"Many farmers seem caught in a beef price hysteria. They are sacrificing the long run value of their land for a highly questionable short run profit."

As with any business, farmers work their land for a profit, not to maintain wildlife sanctuaries. However, the only sure thing about the pasture reclamation movement is that, once again, Iowa's natural resources will be the big loser.



RECLAIMED LAND, once a tangle of brush and small trees, is this 35-acre tract in Pleasant Grove township that was cleared by bull-

dozer last year. The land is part of a 240-acre farm purchased by Burton K. Nealey and his sons, James and Charles. The 'dozer also was used to

work the ground with a heavy disk and it was planted in corn, on the contour. After another season of corn, the land will be seeded for pasture. See Ag Info, Page 18.

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Walter B. Eyre

**Off the
cob**



Although wet weather has hampered conservation practices in the county, much progress has been made, according to information received from Ralph Dewey and the other workers at the local soil conservation office.

Robert Baylor, Pleasant Grove township, is continuing his terracing program with the building of 1,000 feet of parallel terraces to control water runoff and soil loss on a six-acre field.

Conservation progress made

This work created more cropland that was being taken over by brush. Row crops may now be grown and will not only make a much higher return to Robert but will also make additional food and forage as well as cover for game birds and animals near their natural habitat.

Bob Dodds, Danville, has a forty at some distance from his other farm land on which he has established a tile outlet system to handle runoff from the proposed terrace system. The work included a new main tile under a county road and to a safe outlet on

his neighbor, Roy Wagner. The terraces will control the runoff from 40 acres of land. Side benefits of the system are a better drainage system on the Wagner farm and provide new outlets for future terracing of the John Seymour farm. Sounds like some neighborhood cooperation that will save a lot of soil and increase crop yields.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER Rex Troute, having had enough of erosion on two of his fields, entered into a mutual agreement with two neighbors south of

Burlington, Ed Breuer and Vine Gehring. They will provide tile drain outlets for Troute's terrace systems. In turn, Gehring and Breuer continued the terraces across their fields. This makes it possible to completely control water runoff and erosion on 75 acres. The fields are easier to farm now that the work has been done.

CARL SHUMAKER, a district commissioner who lives west of Danville, continued terrace building on one of his fields. This work will give him added protection

for a large grass waterway through his farm. Many farmers are finding atrazine has been killing grass in waterways, making them harder to keep seeded. Tile outlets are giving a better answer to the waterway problem.

Many ponds for livestock water and for erosion control have been built. Ponds are providing areas for waterfowl and wildlife to survive.

WILLIAM STAATS, in Benton township north of Burlington, has a pond that controls several acres of runoff and prevents the water from cutting gullies in a steep hillside. Dwight Stucker, Pleasant Grove township, has a new pond for livestock water in a pasture nearly a mile from his farmstead. He is much better able to control use of his pastures with the added water supply. Clair Williams has done much the same thing on a part of his farm just across the county line on a part of his farm west of Danville.

The Shumaker and Dodds tile jobs have been completed in the Geode watershed where both the federal and state governments have joined with the landowners in cost sharing. Charles Buck, also in the Geode watershed, has built an erosion control pond. Keith and Grover Renner in the same neighborhood have a diversion terrace to keep silt from heading for the lake.

DARRELL TUCKER, Pleasant Grove township, Dale Hazen and Clifford Wallman in Washington, Theodore Berning, Yellow Spring, and Harvey Heiniger, near Kingston have been able to complete tiling even though the fall has been quite wet.

Shank Eye 1-3-73

MEDIAPOLIS NEW ERA

with the feed efficiency found in better pasturelands.

In the case of so-called "timber pasture" the problems of slope are compounded by exceedingly poor feed. Grass grown in shade is very low in nutritional value. Stock can actually lose weight while keeping their bellies full. As the shade grown grass is quickly depleted livestock turn to brush (actually young tree seedlings) as a food source. The digestive systems of cattle are not equipped to efficiently digest the woody twigs they are forced to feed on, and the cattle cannot show acceptable weight gains.

I want to be careful not to overplay the economics of this problem, because things are not that simple. Land use ethics is an integral part of the problem. I once knew a man who was so embarrassed that he couldn't face his neighbors, because a small gully had started in his pasture. Yet every year tract after tract of rougher land is succumbing to deforestation, overgrazing and heavy topsoil loss, and yet few seem concerned or even aware.

The topsoil on our hills is usually quite thin (less than 12 inches) and is underlain by a layer of soil very high in clay. Once the topsoil is gone and the clay layer is exposed an area is created on which it is exceedingly difficult to re-establish either grass or trees. Any existing trees lose their vigor and die because they are dependent on the thin, fragile topsoil for their existence. The most profound of tragedies has then occurred; a once beautiful and useful parcel of land has been turned into a sterile and wasted carcass.

We can look to the famed "CEDARS OF LEBANON" for an example from history. Lebanon was once lush with cedar forests, but has now been barren for nearly 2,000 years. The Romans discovered these vast forests and began to harvest them for use in building ships. The forests may have survived the timber cutting had not the cutters brought goats. As the older trees were cut, seedlings grew to replace them; but the goats ate the seedlings and in-

terrupted the cedar's self-renewal cycle. Subsequent soil erosion finished the job. It is hard to believe that such an innocuous creature as a goat could have such a profound effect in such a few years.

Other important factors are also involved. Soil erosion causes downstream siltation and the resultant degradation of rivers and lakes. In addition, the runoff from timberland increases rapidly if it is grazed and even more drastically if it is cleared. The increased runoff causes more erosion and more frequent flooding. The taxpayer ultimately bears the cost of increased dredging and flood control work.

Good land management is not a simple matter, but we all must learn to live in closer harmony with our land. If you have timberland and want information or assistance please contact:

Stan Tate, District Forester
Box 387
Muscatine, Iowa 52761

Unprecedented Timber Clearing

The following news release, dealing with the problems arising out of the "unprecedented level of timber clearing in Southeastern Iowa", comes from Stan Tate, District Forester, of Muscatine.

Rising livestock prices and poor land management are some of the causes of the unprecedented level of timber clearing in Southeastern Iowa. Many landowners are selling or bulldozing standing timber with hopes of gaining inexpensive pasture. Many others are simply allowing their cattle to graze standing timber. If the lure of inexpensive pasture appeals to you, consider these facts before you take action.

Creating new pasture or pasturing existing timber is an investment; but only good investments make money. If your intended pasture is steeper than 15% slope (about a 1 to 6 slope) it may turn out to be a poor investment. If you keep careful records you may find you are losing money.

Potential income from pasture decreases rapidly as the slope of the land increases. On steeper ground the grass is poorer and more expensive to maintain, and the livestock must expend more energy moving up and down the hills to get less feed. It's obvious that steep land cannot compete

Reduced tillage way to slow soil erosion

"In spite of the cutback of federal funds for conservation programs, many farmers are making plans to reduce erosion on their lands in 1973," district conservationist Ralph Dewey declares.

Dewey, representing the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in Des Moines county, said that people are seeking alternatives to expensive terracing for erosion control. "Data from years of experiment show us that reduced tillage practices that leave a stubble mulch on the land can be as effective as terracing to hold the soil," he stated.

"The threat of erosion remains every time the soil is cultivated for crops regardless of any government cost-sharing program," Dewey said, "and sediment continues to be produced for our streams at a rate of 10-20 tons per acre."

Many farmers are turning to minimum

tillage methods to slow erosion. Instead of turning over the soil with a plow after harvesting, a mixing tool, such as a chisel plow, is used. This stirs the crop stubble into the soil, leaving a mulch on top instead of burying the mulch and leaving the soil exposed.

"Simple methods like these can cut soil losses by 50 to 75 per cent. Besides erosion control, there is less compaction, giving the crop a better chance to grow," Dewey added.

Because of wet fall weather, very little fall plowing was done in southeast Iowa. Winter and early spring wind erosion should be much less than normal.

"This situation offers a fine chance to start reduced tillage methods," Dewey concluded. "Terracing is still the best permanent erosion control, but we have a chance to save over a million tons of soil in 1973 by simply not plowing everything underground."

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The Hawk Eye 2-28-73

SCS Still In Business

"We are still in business and more determined than ever to carry out our mission to stop soil erosion." Soil conservation district chairman Rex Troute of Burlington makes this confirmation in response to many questions in recent weeks about the future of the soil conservation program in Des Moines County.

Late in December, agriculture began receiving a series of shock treatments as the U.S. Office of Management and Budget took slashing blows at farm programs. The Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) the cost sharing program to help rural land users apply much needed erosion control practices, was the first to go.

"The REAP program has become one of our more effective tools in establishing the practices that are parts of the long-range conservation plans of land owners in the district," Troute maintains. "Over the years a greater part of REAP funds has been applied to such permanent practices as terracing and erosion control dams."

"BUT, land use planning is the primary job of the district, and we are still very much in business," Chairman Troute declared.

"We realize that without cost sharing, progress may be a little slower," Troute continued, "But the need to conserve natural resources is as great as ever. The challenge of how to do it becomes more complex."

The conservationist pointed out that the planning staff of the Soil Conservation Service is prepared to help land users find alternate, and perhaps less expensive, methods to control their soil losses. It is still the owners decision as to the action he takes.

"Now, more than ever before, a good job of conservation planning is needed to assure the best and most effective use of the land," Troute concludes. "The soil district still provides the best basis for conservation planning, a land use capability inventory and expertise in soils and planning."

Urge Minimum Tillage To Slow Erosion

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"The threat of erosion remains every time the soil is cultivated for crops regardless of any government cost-sharing program," Dewey goes on. "And sediment continues to be produced for our streams at a rate of 10-20 tons per acre."

Many farmers are turning to minimum tillage methods to slow erosion. Instead of turning over the soil with a plow after harvesting, a mixing tool, such as a chisel plow, is used. This stirs the crop stubble into the soil leaving a mulch on top instead of burying the mulch and leaving the soil exposed.

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Ray Pilling Is Soil Commissioner

(In picture: Ray Pilling, left, and Rex Troute, Des Moines County Soil District Board chairman)

Ray Pilling of Mediapolis has been named by the State Soil Conservation Committee as district commissioner for Des Moines County Soil Conservation District. He will complete the remaining year of office left vacant by the recent death of S. S. Barton of Mediapolis.

Pilling comes to the office of soil district commissioner well qualified. A cooperar with the district for more than 20 years, his farming operation reflects much effort in erosion control. Building terraces and erosion control dams helped him to be recognized, along with his father, C. E. Pilling, as outstanding conservationist in Southeast Iowa in 1972.

As a member of the soil district board Pilling will join chairman Rex Troute of Burlington, and members Dwight Stucker of New London, Carl Shumaker of

Danville and William Vierling of Mediapolis in directing soil conservation efforts in Des Moines county.

His father C. E. (Jack) Pilling served as district commissioner from 1956 to 1962.

The Des Moines Coun Teachers Camp Offers Course

Nature trail planning, outdoor laboratory use, field trips, and study of man's management of his resources and environment will be part of the program for this year's Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp.

The 3-week course will be offered June 11-29 at Cedar Falls and again July 9-27 at Burlington. In the past, the course has been held at Springbrook State Park.

"By taking the program closer to the home environment of the participants, we hope to be of more direct help to schools and teachers in developing conservation education programs," says Camp Director Bernard Clausen of Cedar Falls.

The course, open to both elementary and secondary teachers, offers three hours of university credit. It is jointly sponsored by the University of Northern Iowa, Iowa Department of Public Instruction, Iowa Conservation Commission, and Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

For more information, Clausen advises that you write to him at the University of Northern Iowa or contact the Conservation Education Committee of your local Soil Conservation District.

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Mediapolis News Era
3-1-73

Des Moines Co. News
Mar. 1973

Conservation camp offered here in July

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Clausen said more information may be secured by writing to him at the University of Northern Iowa or from the conservation education committee of the local Soil Conservation District.

Hawk Eye 3-1-73

Name Pilling to conservation unit

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Pilling will complete the remaining year of the office left vacant by the recent death of S.S. Barton of Mediapolis.

For the past 20 years, Pilling has been a cooperator with the district. "His farming operation reflects much effort in erosion control," said Chairman Rex Trout.

"Building terraces and erosion control dams helped him to be recognized, along with his father, C.E. Pilling, as outstanding conservationist in southeast Iowa in 1972," Trout added.

Other members of the district board are Dwight Stucker, New London; Carl Shumaker, Danville, and William Vierling, Mediapolis. Pilling's father, "Jack", served as district commissioner from 1956 to 1962.



Ray Pilling

Hawk Eye 3-7-73

Still fight soil losses

"We are still in business and more determined than ever to carry out our mission to stop soil erosion," Soil conservation district chairman Rex Trout of Burlington made this confirmation in response to many questions in recent weeks about the future of the soil conservation program in Des Moines county.

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"The REAP program has become one of our most effective tools in establishing the practices that are part of the long-range conservation plans of land owners in the district," Trout maintained. "Over the years a greater part of REAP funds has been applied to such permanent practices as terracing and erosion control dams.

"BUT — land use planning is the primary job of the district, and we are still very much in business," Chairman Trout declared.

"We realize that without cost sharing, progress may be a little slower," Trout continued, "but the need to conserve natural resources is as great as ever. The challenge of how to do it becomes more complex."

The conservationist pointed out that the planning staff of the Soil Conservation Service is prepared to help land users find alternate, and perhaps less expensive, methods to control their soil losses. It is still the owner's decision as to the action he takes.

"Now, more than ever before, a good job of conservation planning is needed to assure the best and most effective use of the land," Trout concluded.

Hawk Eye 3-7-73

Conservation camp planned for teachers

Plans are well under way for the first "on-the-road" session of Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp to be held on the Burlington high school campus July 9-27.

Sherman Lundy, chairman of the Environmental Conservation Education Council for Des Moines county, stated that area teachers will find this a golden opportunity to sharpen up their teaching of environmental subjects and to learn about "outdoor classrooms."

"Using the outdoors as a laboratory to teach relationships of living things and their environment is the newest and best method," Lundy proclaimed. "Teachers enrolled in this course will be able to develop outdoor classrooms in their own areas after the three week course of training."

Listed as Biology 104g in the University of Northern Iowa catalog, the teachers camp is offered for three hours of graduate or undergraduate credit.

Over the past 23 years over 2,000 Iowa teachers have enjoyed this course while it was offered in the outdoor setting of Springbrook State Park at Guthrie Center.

In order to make this training more available to southeast Iowa teachers, this year's session has been moved to Burlington. There is room for only 40 teachers in the class, so chairman Lundy urges those who are interested to promptly contact Bernard Clausen, Director, Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613 for application and enrollment.

"The Burlington area is indeed fortunate to host this school," Lundy concluded. "Any persons or groups who wish to know more about it are urged to contact the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District in the Federal Building."

Hawk Eye 3-12-73

USDA Soil Conservation Service

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Mediapolis New Era 3-15-73

Teachers Camp

In Burl. Area

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In order to make this training more available to Southeast Iowa teachers, this year's

FFA PARENT-SON BANQUET

The meeting was called to order by Dave Wagenbach, president and the official opening ceremony was used. John Hays, vice president welcomed everyone to the banquet. The officers - Dave Wagenbach, president; John Hays, vice president; Keith Hemphill, secretary; Charles Pilling, reporter; Dave Baker, treasurer and Steve Murphy, sentinel gave their parents a long stem yellow rose for all their help the past year. Mr. Howell, chapter advisor also gave his wife a rose for the work she has given the chapter the past year.

Steve Krieger gave the invocation. The FFA girls prepared and served a very delicious meal. The menu was ham, baked potatoes, buttered peas, jello salad, dinner rolls and apple or cherry pie a la mode. After the meal Dave Wagenbach, toastmaster started the evening's program by introducing Steve Murphy, who recognized the guests that were present. They were: Mr. and Mrs. Nels Christensen, Mr. and Mrs. James Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Ban-

wart, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Cowger, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Brand, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Keltner, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Belknap, Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Thie, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Stover, Mr. and Mrs. William Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Hartzell Hillyard, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Todd, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Howell, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hinz, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dewey, Mr. and Mrs. James Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. James Garrett, Mrs. Naomi Dotson, Mrs. Helen Gustafson, Mrs. James Howell, Daryl Sywassink, Floyd Conners, Mr. Hale, Don Stover, Steve Wilson and Randy Nelson.

Dave Wagenbach then introduced our parliamentary procedure team, Ed Nelson, Doug Cling, Bruce Frank, Joe Gerling and Steve Krieger. They gave a demonstration of five abilities. Jon Luttenegger, creed speaker gave the official FFA Creed, which he gave at contests. Charles Pilling, reporter presented Mallory Moore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Max Moore as FFA Sweetheart. She is a senior and her father is engaged in an agricultural occupation. John Hays was awarded the Pioneer award by Mr. Hale. He kept records on 5 acres of Pioneer corn and entered them in competition. Roger Schulz was given the Pride Company award for his prize winning essay. The title of the essay was "New Tillage and Planting Methods and their Effect on Yield."

Charles Pilling presented a surprise award to Mrs. Naomi Dotson for her help given to our

speech contestants each year. She also assisted in the Pride essay contest and judging contests. The officers then conferred the degree of Honorary Chapter Farmers on two people. First was Mrs. Helen Gustafson, who is very interested in agriculture and has set up a scholarship fund for a senior ag student. Second one was Mr. Ralph Dewey for the help he has given our chapter.

Joe Gerling and Bruce Frank presented the following member awards: Charles Pilling, home improvement; Doug Cling, livestock production - swine; Mike Oberman, livestock production - beef; Roger Schulz, Star Chapter Farmer; Jon Luttenegger, Star Greenhand; Dave Baker, crop production; Steve Murphy, Star agri-business; Keith Hemphill, public speaking and soil and water management.

Mr. Gordon Hinz gave awards to the best record book from each class. Roger Schulz, senior; Doug Cling, junior; Brad Davis, sophomore and Rick Todd, freshman received the awards. The chapter then gave Mr. Hinz an FFA paperweight for giving of his time.

Featured speaker, Daryl Sywassink, state president was introduced by John Hays, who gave a very interesting speech.

In conclusion Jim Pilling and Brad Davis gave a slide presentation of the chapter's Program of Work. Following, there was open house in the school library and agriculture room. Past scrapbooks were on display for the curious lookers.

Charles Pilling, reporter

with just a little assistance from their Den Mother. A menu of hot dogs, chips, marshmallows and Ding Dongs was consumed. The boys then put out the fire and gave it the final safety test by placing their hands upon the wet ashes to be certain it was completely out.

The boys then went indoors to make waterproof matches under Mrs. Little's supervision and instruction. They discussed match and fire safety while they worked.

We have decided on Chautauqua Park as the place for our planned overnight but no date has been set yet.

The meeting was closed with salutes to our American flag, the Living Circle and reciting the Law of the Pack.

Den 6

Cub Scout Den 6 met on April 9 and Jim Abel led the flag ceremony. Danny Schrock furnished the treats. Our Den Mother wrote thank you notes to the police and fire stations for the very interesting tours.

We made gumdrop "Easter Bunnies" and also decorated "Leggs" to look like easter eggs. We discussed plans for our cook-out that we want to have on the 28th of this month and sure hope the weather will be real nice and warm by then.

Next week on Tuesday is the swim again. Brad Schnedler will furnish the treats on April 30. Will the boys who are behind in

GREEN

MIRACLE WATER REFINER

"The Only Miracle You Can Rent or Buy"

Mediapolis, Iowa 394-3850

Des Moines County News
3-8-73

Walter B. Eyre

Off the
cob



MRS. HELEN GUSTAFSON, Mediapolis broke a long-standing precedent when named the first woman to ever receive the honorary farmer of the year award from the Mediapolis Community School FFA at its annual banquet. The Gustafson family had provided an annual award of \$100 to the top FFA senior for college expenses or to start in farming or some other business. The award is made in memory of the late Louis (Luke) Gustafson by Mrs. Gustafson and his children.

Ralph Dewey, Des Moines county soil conservationist, also received honorary recognition for his help in the chapter and student soils projects.

Class awards for the best records went to Rick Todd, freshman; Brad Davis,

Walter B. Eyre 4-11-73



Steve Murphy congratulates Mrs. Louis Gustafson as the officers confer the degree of Honorary Chapter Farmer to Mr. Ralph Dewey and Mrs. Louis Gustafson. (left to right) John Hays, vice-president; Mr. Ralph Dewey, Steve Murphy, Sentinel; Mrs. Louis Gustafson, Dave Baker, Treasurer.

Mediapolis News Era 4-12-73

Mediapolis News Era 4-12-73



By
Bob
Sogard

the Ag bag

The soil conservation people are going to town — literally.

Ralph Dewey says the new role for his department is a complete turnabout and he's delighted.

"We had been told in the old days that our job is with the farmers," said Ralph. "It still is, but we also have something to offer the cities and towns."

Other governmental bodies are using the expertise of the Soil Conservation Service.

Schools benefit from the help of offices here and elsewhere. Biology, ecology, conservation and allied subjects get a boost from SCS men who serve as resource people and who provide materials for outdoor classroom programs.



Ralph Dewey

Teachers and administrators who are friends of conservation reciprocate by making school kids more aware of their environment.

The Des Moines county soil conservation district has an agreement with the IAAP, to provide technical assistance in carrying out the conservation plan for the ordinance plant area.

But the latest association is a memorandum of understanding between the soil district and the city of Burlington that was approved by the plan commission Tuesday.

Fred Stouder, director of planning and development, said the SCS office will be consulted in connection with clearing of a 2-block area of Maple Hills as part of the Neighborhood Development Program.

In the resolution, now subject to city council approval, the council acknowledges that the shifting of land use in the country from agriculture to urban and suburban development has increased silt and sediment problems. It also agrees that soils information and interpretations prepared by the SCS had proved their "value and versatility" in the land use planning process.

Remember the clay slime that was washed off the freeway corridor onto half the downtown streets a couple years ago? Looks like the highway commission should have joined those who have asked for help.

The SCS office here is helping with another new project this year. For the first time since its founding, the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp will be held in southeast Iowa. It will be headquartered at Burlington high school July 9-27, after an identical course June 11-29 on the campus of the University of Northern Iowa at Cedar Falls.

The county's getting into the act, too. The conference board in 1971 gave tenta-

tive approval to a plan to begin a standard soils survey of the county, starting in fiscal 1974. Lee county completed a survey in 1972 that took several years to accomplish. The IAAP and the district contracted for a survey last year.

The 19th century type of survey and the standard survey of today can be compared to opera glasses vs. the 200-inch telescope on Mt. Palomar.

The county unit is reaching out to other soil conservation districts in Iowa Area XVI, too. Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa counties have a new working agreement which provides for action as one body in cooperative activities.

The new board is the first to be estab-

lished in Iowa, Dewey said, although Missouri started its program with the institution of the area college concept in that state.

Jim Hawkins of Argyle, Lee county representative, is chairman of the new coordinating board. "Our districts, under this new agreement, (can) make our serv-

ices more effective in working with regionwide planning and development groups," Hawkins said.

Working with him are these other district commissioners: Rex Trout, Burlington; Dale Waters, Mt. Pleasant; and Virgil Corey of Wapello.

"This board is empowered by the four

districts to work with regional and county planning commissions, and any other area-wide groups concerned with land use and resource planning," Hawkins stated.

Now, if the legislature will do some funding where the federal government copped out, progress might be made in more than a planning outline.

*Hawk Eye
Burlington
5-9-73*

4 Conservation Districts Plan Joint Action

Cooperation in conservation of soil resources in southeast Iowa took a giant step forward Wednesday as four soil conservation districts joined forces to work with planning and development groups in Iowa Area XVI.

District Commissioners from Des Moines, Lee, Henry and Louisa Counties joined in Mt. Pleasant to draw up working agreement to act as one body in future cooperative activities.

"The main desire of our districts, under this new agreement, is to make our services more effective in working with regionwide planning and development groups," stated Jim Hawkins, of Argyle. Hawkins was selected chairman of the new coordinating board comprised of a district commissioner from each of the four counties.

Other representatives include vice-chairman Dale Walters of Mt. Pleasant, secretary Rex Trout of Burlington and Virgil Corey of Wapello.

"This board is empowered by the four districts to work with regional and county planning commissions, and any other areawide groups concerned with land use and resource planning," Hawkins explained. "We feel we can be more effective in conservation by speaking as a unit rather than as four separate agencies."

The action of the districts in this cooperative venture is the first of its kind in Iowa. Until now, the approach to conservation was strictly within county boundaries.

Area conservationist John Eckes of Fairfield, responsible of soil conservation service activities in the four county area, points out that reaching across county boundaries like this will not tend to break down the boundaries. Instead, he claims, the work on both sides of the boundaries will be strengthened.

Hawkins concluded that the action of the district boards is "landmark" in stature and paves the way for a great future of resource development.

*Wapello News Era
5-3-73*

Progress report

Guest columnist this week is Ralph E. Dewey, district conservationist, who has a timely commentary from his committee chairman and also a progress report on erosion control work in Des Moines county.

Soil Stewardship Week, being observed nationwide from May 27 through June 3, points out man's place in creation as a steward of soil water and other natural resources, according to soil district chairman Rex Troute of Burlington.

"The theme this year, Changing Challenges, is particularly timely as both rural and urban land users have battled weather and natural disasters to perform their work," Troute proclaimed. "The damages to the land because of poor stewardship of the soil are really evident now."

Millions of tons of silt from farm fields and urban excavations have moved into our streams. Man is finding repair and rebuilding of land far more costly than protection would have been.

Troute points to the many good soil stewards in rural Des Moines county who have protected their soil resource with soil conserving practices. "These people can point with pride to grassed waterways that have trapped the silt runoff from recent rains or to terraces that have kept the silt from moving to waterways," he said.

"My own farm, and others like it, suffered a lot of erosion," Troute stated, "But my silt is still on my farm — not somewhere between here and the Mississippi delta."

The conservationist went on to point out fields he has seen that will require major earth leveling projects before they can be farmed again. "A look around should make a believer of anyone who has not yet become a good soil steward," he continued.

"And city dwellers suffer as well from poor land use," Troute went on. "Mud slides and gully problems, streets covered with sediment and basements filled with muddy water are signs of stewardship neglect."

During Soil Stewardship Week, a time for "Changing Challenges", everyone has a chance to review his place in the world. He has an opportunity to rededicate himself to take better care of that part of the environment he occupies.

"We are only placed here on Earth for a few years to tend a bit of land provided by the Creator," Troute concludes. "Our constant challenge is to make the best of it without abusing it."

Troute has installed parallel tile inlet terraces on his farm in Concordia township, in cooperation with Vine Gehring, who had to contend with runoff from the Troute place.

At last, erosion control work is progressing in Des Moines County after nearly eight months of wet weather.

West of Danville, Henry Dockendorff is completing a project planned for last autumn as his new tile outlet terraces take shape out of the muddy soils. These new terraces protect about 40 acres of intensively cropped land, and Dockendorff's only regret is the loss of soil

from the field while waiting on the weather.

Providing tile outlets for the terraces meant installing a complete new drainage system across the farm. A 12-inch main extends across the corner of the Cady farm pasture just south of Henry's place and provides for additional tile drainage for both farms.

At the upper end of the watershed, the tile main gives Henry's brother, Alvin (Jim) Dockendorff, a better outlet for tiling his level, wet fields. In all, about 100 acres have been improved by the project,

a ditch has been eliminated and a pasture has been improved.

Also in the Danville area, a good deal of terracing repair has gone on. Newly completed terraces, such as those on the Robert Dodds farm, took the worst beating. But even these required only minor repairs to make them ready to crop.

Carl Shumaker discovered that his older terraces, designed for two inches of runoff from a rain, were not quite up to holding six and eight-inch rainfalls. However, his newer terraces weathered the storm well.

The HAWK EYE

Wednesday, May 30, 1973

Page 21

In general, conservation technicians are pointing to tile outlet terraces as having saved many severe erosion situations this year.

A lot of minor damage was sustained across the county as terraces overtopped. But in most cases, farmers were able to repair breakthroughs with their own loaders and put the fields back in shape. A look around at non-terraced slopes convinced them of the soil saving value of terraces.

In spite of the dropping of the federal cost sharing program for erosion control practices, the local soil conservation service office has had a steady demand for layout of erosion control practices. Even at full cost to themselves, many farmers are feeling it is worth the expense of protecting the land.

Soil Conservation District chairman Rex Troute assures that, "We are still very much in business to help the public with conservation and land use problems."

Erosion Control Work Underway

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John Seymour is completing a small terrace as part of a mutual erosion control system with Bob Dodds and Roy Wagner. The new tile line across the Wagner farm carried much of the runoff water from the terraced land that would have deposited tons of silt, had the terraces not been there.

These projects are all a part of the erosion control effort to protect Geode Lake from further sedimentation. They probably saved a thousand tons of soil from heading to the lake this spring.

Ray Pilling of Mediapolis has added to the terraces on the "Jack" Pilling farm recently. A new set of tile outlet terraces now protects a problem slope

behind his buildings. This brings to near completion the erosion control work on his farm.

On the farm where Roland and Edna Bush live, west of Sperry, farmed by Neal Wolfe, repairs from damages of storms a year ago have recently been completed. An old concrete dam had washed out alongside the farm pond and erosion threatened to wash the pond away. With help from the soil conservation district, a plan was made to divert surface water away from the pond in a grass waterway leading safely to a pasture.

A new pipe outlet was added to the pond to provide added protection, and a mutual tile outlet, helping drain the neighboring Kenneth Cook, Jr. farm will provide a more stable pond water supply.

In general, conservation technicians are pointing to tile outlet terraces as having saved many severe erosion situations this year. District conservationist Ralph Dewey points out that a lot of minor damage was sustained across the county as terraces overtopped. But in most cases, farmers were able to repair breakthroughs with their own loaders and put the fields back in shape. A look around at non-terraced slopes convinced them of the soil saving value of terraces.

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Mediapolis New Era

5-31-73

Berg to receive top USDA award

A native of Burlington, Norman A. Berg, will receive the highest citation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in ceremonies Tuesday morning on the Washington Monument grounds.

Berg, associate administrator of the Soil Conservation Service, is one of eight persons and two units to receive the Distinguished Service Award from Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz at the department's 27th annual honor awards ceremony.



Norman Berg

Gen. Alexander M. Haig, Jr., vice chief of staff, United States Army, will be guest speaker at the ceremony. General Haig is temporarily heading the President's administrative staff at the White House.

Superior Service awards, the USDA's second highest honor, will be presented to 79 employees and 11 departmental units.

The award to be presented to Berg

states: "For eminent leadership and creativity in helping mold cooperative programs to meet a wide variety of environmental needs, resulting in significant improvement in America's land and water resources."

As associate administrator, Berg has helped SCS and USDA to carry out their assignments and has become a leading authority on land use policy, sediment control, and other aspects of environmental improvement.

Berg began his SCS career in Idaho in 1943, rising to area conservationist. In 1956 he became assistant state conservationist in South Dakota. Four years later he was named an assistant to the administrator and directed the Great Plains conservation program along with other assignments.

He became deputy administrator for field services in 1956 and took his present post in 1969.

He received a BS degree in agricultural education from the University of Minnesota and a master's degree in public administration from Harvard university. He served with the U.S. Marine Corps from September of 1943 to May of 1946. He lives in Severna Park, Md.

The Hawk Eye 5-21-73

Stress Soil Stewardship

Soil Stewardship Week, being observed nationwide from May 27 through June 3, points out Man's place in Creation as a steward of soil, water and other natural resources, according to soil district chairman Rex Trouté of Burlington.

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Millions of tons of silt from farm fields and urban excavations have moved into our streams. Man is finding repair and rebuilding of land far more costly than protection would have been.

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Mediapolis News Era
5-31-73

Terraced Land Halts Erosion

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Des Moines Co. News
5-31-73

Hemphill is winner

MEDIAPOLIS — Keith Hemphill, a senior at Mediapolis High school, was declared winner of the 1973 Soil Conservation speech contest co-sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Co.

Hemphill presented his talk entitled "Long Range Community Benefits from Proper Land Management" before the soil district commissioners last week. Commissioners were impressed with the soundness of the reasoning Hemphill presented in his case for proper land use.

Hemphill has won previous awards in FFA speech contests and is active in many high school activities. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Hemphill who live in the Latty community, Burlington Rt. 3.

News Era 6-13-73

RALPH E. DEWEY, district conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service in Burlington, has received a certificate of merit from the service for the exceptional manner in which he carried out his responsibilities.

News Era 6-27-73

Winner Of Speech Contest



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Mediapolis News Era 6-20-73

Conservationist Honored



Ralph E. Dewey, (at left in picture), District Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service at Burlington has been awarded a certificate of Merit by his supervisor, John J. Eckes of Fairfield. This award is presented to SCS employees who carry out their job responsibilities in an exceptional manner. Since July of 1969, Dewey has served as district conservation-

ist in the Burlington field office. This office provides technical assistance to all landowners and units of government in Des Moines County through the soil conservation district.

The conservation staff in the Burlington office includes Winston C. Cooper, soil conservationist; Oren F. Champ, soil conservation technician and Mrs. Dorothy Davis, State clerk.

Medapolis New Era 6-20-73



Ralph Dewey, 518 Ruthella, area conservationist, was honored at a ceremony held at Camp L-Kee-Ta when the new nature trail was named "The Dewey Nature Trail." Mr. Dewey helped train the camp staff in nature awareness. A sign with his name will hang near the entrance to the trail which he helped to lay out.

*Des Moines Co. News
St. Burlington
8-9-73*

Conservation scholarships

Individual scholarships have been awarded by soil conservation districts of Carroll, Henry, Lee, Hamilton, and Henderson counties, the Des Moines Izaak Walton League and the Iowa chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America.

Contributions helping to finance the session have been received from: Environmental and Pollution Control council, Burlington High School Ecology club, Long Creek Conservation club, Burlington Kiwanis club, and soil conservation districts of Muscatine, Louisa, Des Moines and Appanoose counties.

Hawk Eye 7-15-73

RALPH E. DEWEY, right, district conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service, receives a certificate of merit from his supervisor, John J. Eckes of Fairfield. The award, presented at a meeting earlier this month, is given to SCS employees who carry out their job responsibilities in "an exceptional manner." Since July of 1969, Dewey has served as conservationist in the Burlington field office. His office staff includes Winston C. Cooper, soil conservationist; Oren F. Champ, soil conservation technician, and Mrs. Dorothy Davis, state clerk.

Hawk Eye 6-20-73



By
Bob
Sogard

the Ag bag

Cost-sharing funds for conservation practices have been allocated to Iowa counties, but amounts are small compared with the REAP benefits conferred in past years.

The State Soil Conservation Department has provided nearly \$1.5 million, to be used to finance permanent soil conservation practices on a 50-50 cost-sharing basis. The allocations range from \$7,000 to \$24,000 for each county soil conservation district.

Guess where Des Moines county ranks. That's right, \$7,000 worth. Rex Troute, chairman of the district, said this county is small in area and this accounts for the low figure.

Troute said the county committee now can accept requests from district co-operators for funds for practices such as terraces, waterways, diversions, erosion control dams, and tree plantings, among others. Room 218 of the Federal Building is the place to check for details.

Lee county gets \$11,100, Louisa \$7,000, Henry \$10,900, Jefferson, \$11,500, Van Buren \$11,100 and Washington, \$15,100.

Troute said the district is particularly interested in establishing erosion control in the watersheds above Geode Lake and the proposed Franklin Township Lake. However, use of the cost-share money won't be restricted to these areas.

When the 1971 Iowa Legislature passed the conservancy district law, the first in the nation, legislators were counting on federal funds to help underwrite the program.

Iowa was supposed to get \$5.5 mil-

lion under the Rural Environmental Assistance Program, but last December President Nixon impounded REAP funds.

A farm owner, under the conservancy law, can be required to install permanent soil and water conservation practices if a complaint is filed and soil loss exceeds specified limits.

The hooker is that funds totaling 75 per cent of the costs must be available before the farmer has to install the necessary practices. And only \$75,000 has been set aside by the legislature for the 75 per cent program. An additional \$90,000 has been earmarked for working with the State Conservation Commission to help prevent soil erosion around Iowa lakes.

Meanwhile, both houses of Congress are considering versions of a federal land use policy bill which would provide funds principally to those states that aren't pushing conversation policies like Iowa's. A compromise bill is expected to be passed this fall.

So there may be a successor to REAP.

*After Hawk Eye
8-7-73*

Camp L-Kee-Ta Thank You Dinner Held

A progressive dinner was held at Camp L-Kee-Ta to show appreciation to the many neighbors and volunteer helpers for this camping season. The girls themselves prepared and served the entire meal. Invited guests and their families had all given encouragement and support to the camp staff and camping program.

Following the dinner, a ceremony was held naming the new Nature Trail at L-Kee-Ta "The Dewey Nature Trail". Mr. Ralph Dewey, area Conservationist, helped train the camp staff in Nature Awareness. He stressed the discovery and use of various

Named Area Conservationist

Eldon C. Weber of Mason City has been promoted to the area conservationist position with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service at Fairfield; State Conservationist Wilson T. Moon has announced.

Weber will direct activities of a 17 county area in southeast Iowa including Des Moines, Henry, Lee, Louisa and Van Buren.

*Medapolis New Era
8-23-73*

*Medapolis New Era
8-2-73*

First-ever pact links city, SCS in land use

The city of Burlington and the Soil Conservation Service signed an agreement Wednesday night to cooperate in saving soil and establishing proper land use plans.

"We are a public agency that has been serving just a segment of our population — principally farmers — and this doesn't make sense when there are other citizens and public bodies that need our service," said Ralph Dewey, district conservationist.

Rex Trout, chairman of the Des Moines county soil conservation district, said: "It may be blowing our own horn, but I feel we do have valuable information for you."

Mayor Wayne Hogberg, signing for the city, agreed. "We should have taken advantage of your information much sooner. I feel it's a commitment we should have made long ago. You have a valuable asset we should use."

John Johnson, city comprehensive planner, said: "We hope to minimize the effects of erosion, especially on roads and construction sites, and get the help of the SCS office on long range land use planning."

The SCS once was prohibited from making mutual assistance pacts with local governments, but that stance has changed completely in recent years. The accord with the city is one of the first between an SCS office and an Iowa community.

Something learned

Mayor Wayne Hogberg was a little late arriving at the Soil Conservation Service office in the federal building Wednesday night. He was there to sign an agreement between the city and the county committee on resource conservation inside the city limits.

"The door was locked and I had to go through the back of the post office to get up here," said the mayor. He wasn't aware that the north front entrance off Main street is kept open at night to provide access to offices above the post office.

The mayor is a letter carrier, but he works the day shift.

The district agreed to provide technical and clerical help in preparation of soil and water resource plans, to interpret soil surveys and point out prospective soil and water problems that may result from proposed land use changes.

The city pledged sound land use management, to refer development plans to the district and adopt district recommendations that are acceptable to the city council and plan commission.

After the signing William Vierling of the conservation committee asked Hogberg about the city's position on zoning as far as two miles from the city, a prerogative of Burlington under the law.

"We are doing nothing in this respect," Hogberg stated. "We prefer that the county take care of that problem."

Johnson added that his office is looking at current land usage as it affects the city and checking with the county on what it plans to do regarding individual cases within the two-mile limit.

Hawk Eye 9-27-73

Conservation post filled

DES MOINES — Eldon C. Weber of Mason City has been promoted to the area conservationist position with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service at Fairfield. State Conservationist Wilson T. Moon announced.

Weber will direct activities of a 17-county area in southeast Iowa, including Des Moines, Henry, Lee, Louisa and Van Buren.

Weber began his career in SCS as a soil conservationist in LeMars in 1957 following his degree in agricultural education from Iowa State university. After two years of military service he transferred to Sioux City where he worked on watershed projects in the Little Sioux River Basin. He also served as Woodbury district conservationist. In 1969 he was promoted to Mason City as area conservationist for 15 counties in northeast Iowa. He received an outstanding performance award from SCS last year.

Weber succeeds John Eckes, former area conservationist from Fairfield, who is attending a graduate study program of the SCS at the University of Montana. Eckes has served nearly five years in that position.

Hawk Eye 8-22-73

10-25-73

MEDIAPOLIS NEW ERA



FFA Soil Judges Are District Champions

The four members of the champion Mediapolis FFA soil judging team are from left; Rick Todd, Jon Luttenegger, Kirk Siegle and

Kelly Baker. The team was in competition with eight other Southeast Iowa schools. Ranking in the top ten individuals and receiving plaque were Kelly Baker 1st, Kirk Siegle 2nd, and Rick Todd, 4th.

Diverted Acres May Bring Big Soil Loss

Soil district chairman Rex Trout of Burlington announces that as much as 16,000 tons of soil may be washed away from Des Moines county cropland in 1974 because of the release of diverted acres from the feed grain program.

"If these acres continue to be plowed in 1975," Trout stated, "We can expect an added 38,000 tons of soil to be washed toward the Mississippi."

In expression of concern over the cropping of the acreage reserve program, district commissioners in southeast Iowa have asked for an inventory of planned use of this land. Soil Conservation Service technicians Winston Cooper and Oren Champ have reviewed many acres of the county to estimate possible soil losses.

"We find in our sampling that about 62 percent of the sample area will be plowed for row crops next year," Cooper explained. "Assuming soil losses from normal cropping practices, a little more than 2,000 newly plowed acres will lose 5.3 tons per acre in 1974, and 15.9 tons per acre in 1975."

Conservationist are aware that demands for increased production are tempting farmers to plow up every square inch of land, and they are greatly concerned.

"Much of the land that has been diverted is erosive and less productive than the acres already under cultivation," according to district conservationist Ralph Dewey of Burlington. "In the face of shortages in fertilizer and farm gasoline, it hardly seems wise to try to crop any but the best acres this year."

Some of the diverted land is already fall plowed, a practice calculated to bring about the most erosion. The local soil conservation office suggests the use of conservation tillage to protect these erosive acres to try to reduce soil losses.

Soil conservationist Cooper points out that minimum tillage practices can reduce losses as much as 80 percent. "It costs two dollars a ton to remove silt from the river," Cooper concludes. "Can the taxes from a little additional crop pay such a bill?"

Des Moines Co. News Oct 1973

Shot in the lip

DES MOINES — Former Keosauqua resident Stanley Barker, 43, suffered a lip wound when he was shot during an attempted holdup in a garage at his Des Moines home about 8 p.m. Tuesday.

Des Moines police said Barker was accosted by two armed men in the garage, who demanded money. When Barker leaned over to pick up a package, one of the men shot him and then the pair fled.

Hawk Eye 10-3-73

More cropping threatens erosion

Soil district chairman Rex Troute of Burlington estimates that as much as 16,000 tons of soil may be washed away from Des Moines county cropland in 1974 because of the release of diverted acres from the feed grain program.

"If these acres continue to be plowed in 1975," Troute stated, "we can expect an added

28,000 tons of soil to be washed toward the Mississippi."

In expression of concern over the cropping of the acreage reserve program, district commissioners in southeast Iowa have asked for an inventory of planned use of this land. Soil Conservation Service technicians Winston Cooper and Oren Champ have reviewed many acres of the county to estimate possible soil losses. The review looks ahead to Soil and Water Conservation Week Oct. 7-14.

"We find in our sampling that about 62 per cent of the sample area will be plowed for row crops next year," Cooper explained. "Assuming soil losses from normal cropping practices, a little more than 3,000 newly plowed acres will lose 5.3 tons per acre in 1974, and 15.9 tons per acre in 1975."

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Hawk Eye 10-3-73

Local 'UFO': Deer, lightning or mower?

Two naturalists who examined circular spots in a triangle pattern in a clearing in Mud Creek Recreational area about six miles south of New London found nothing unnatural about them Saturday.

An area resident had told four tourists last week that the spots were unexplained and hinted they might have been made by Unidentified Flying Objects.

Most likely reason for the bare spots, says Ralph Dewey, district conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, is that thin topsoil in the clearing eroded from the sloping surface, exposing infertile subsoil.

Erosion could have occurred, added Sherman Lundy, biology teacher and geologist, after a deer circled about, packing down plants which normally hold the soil. "That circular pattern of packed grass allowed the rain to wash away the topsoil," Lundy said.

Lundy pointed out there were hoofprints on the periphery of the bare areas.

Lespedeza in the circles is a plant used for conservation and forage, Dewey observed, with a shallow root system that allows it to take hold in poor soil. White grass growing in some

of the areas, Dewey added, is a common "poverty" grass.

Another natural occurrence which could explain the spots, Dewey said, is lightning. Lightning, which recently struck his house, he said, "does some funny things," and could have burned off the grass and caused the erosion.

"Are there any other possible explanations?" the two were asked.

"They might be places where the mower turned around," Lundy said.

Hawk Eye 10-14-73

Soil judging set for FFA groups

The annual southeast Iowa FFA soils judging contest will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday in Des Moines county at a site to be announced when the vocational agriculture students are on the way.

Ralph Dewey, district conservationist, had arranged the "diggings" a week ago, but the contest was delayed because of wet grounds. FFA chapters from Des Moines, Lee, Louisa, Henry and Van Buren counties will take part.

Hawk Eye 10-10-73

Soil Loss Warnings

Soil district chairman Rex Troute of Burlington announces that as much as 16,000 tons of soil may be washed away from Des Moines County cropland in 1974 because of the release of diverted acres from the feed grain program.

"If these acres continue to be plowed in 1975," Troute stated, "We can expect an added 38,000 tons of soil to be washed toward the Mississippi."

In expression of concern over the cropping of the acreage reserve program, district commissioners in southeast Iowa have asked for an inventory of planned use of this land. Soil Conservation Service technicians Winston Cooper and Oren Champ have reviewed many areas of the county to estimate possible soil losses.

"We find in our sampling that about 62 percent of the sample area will be plowed for row crops next year," Cooper explained. "Assuming soil losses from normal cropping practices, a little more than 3000 newly plowed acres will lose 5.3 tons per acre in 1974 and 15.9 tons per acre in 1975."

Conservationists are aware that demands for increased production are tempting farmers to plow up every square inch of land, and they are greatly concerned.

"Much of the land that has been diverted is erosive and less productive than the acres already under cultivation," according to district conservationist Ralph Dewey of Burlington. "In the face of shortages in fertilizer and farm gasoline, it hardly seems wise to try to crop any but the best acres this year."

Some of the diverted land is already fall plowed, a practice calculated to bring about the most erosion. The local soil conservation office suggests the use of conservation tillage to protect these erosive acres to try to reduce soil losses.

Soil conservationist Cooper points out that minimum tillage practices can reduce losses as much as 80 percent. "It costs two dollars a ton to remove silt from the river," Cooper concludes. "Can the taxes from a little additional crop pay such a bill?"

Des Moines Co. News - 10-4-73

Danville City Council
Danville, Iowa
Sept. 4, 1973

Mayor Berry presided at the regular meeting with all councilmen present.

Minutes were read and approved, also clerk's and treasurer's reports accepted by motion by Frazer, seconded by Beckman.

Terry Loesch, lawyer present, to give opinions on several town problems.

1. proposed development annexation
2. 3 copies of petition for necessity of crossing gates to Burlington and Northern Railway, signed by Mayor, clerk and councilman
3. Opinion given on weed nuisances also.

Ralph Dewey of Soil conservation Agency present, stating the types of assistance available to us. Films and recording shown by him were examples of these projects. Letter was mailed to them requesting their services on our surface water and drainage of North and West sections of land, problems. Our copy of "Memorandum of understanding", given to us.

Budget was presented for hearing. There were no written or oral objections. A motion by Frazer, seconded by Beckman to adopt said budget resulted in a roll call vote of all ayes by council. The budget was declared adopted.

The following bills were allowed by vote by Mumme, seconded by Frazer. Motion carried.

Salaries	
August	2801.83
Treasurer of Iowa	
Sales Tax-July	358.38
Danville Telephone Service	105.33
Dan Sylvester gas	2.00
Emmett Frazer Mileage	44.00
Danville Recreation Donation	300.00
Marvin Berry Mayor fees	75.00
U.S. Postoffice Postage	20.70
Des Moines Co. News Publications	77.22
Ray Lelfch and sons Back-hoe work	565.85

Des Moines Co. News
10-4-73

Dodds wins soil award

Bob Dodds of Danville Rt. 1 said he was surprised to be selected as a regional winner in the 1973 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.

"The ground has a ditch through it but it's fairly level. I debated quite a lot but they (conservation officials) told me that in a very few years the soil would be down to clay," Dodds said.

He was speaking of a 40-acre tract in the Lake Geode watershed that he purchased. Tilted terraces and new tiling were installed last year and additional work had to be done last spring because of damage from heavy rains.

Dodds said that the soil loss was more noticeable when the tiler went through. The trench showed that the clay was near the surface in places.

The farmer, a former state legislator who helped draft soil saving laws, said he didn't see that his project was so special but it survived the judging for southeast Iowa counties of Region 9. His category is new cooperator.

A group tile system that involved several neighbors was improved for the mutual benefit of all, according to Ralph Dewey, district conservationist.

The corn planted in the terraced field looks good, Dodds said. The ground was limed and fertilized before planting.

The program of recognition for soil savers is directed by Wilson T. Moon, state conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service, and William H. Greiner, director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation. The Des Moines Register is one of the principal sponsors.

Regional winners will be judged for sweepstakes awards and these nine will compete for the top state award, a plaque. Regional and sweepstakes winners will be cited at banquets this fall in the home counties of the sweepstakes winners.



Dodds

The Hawk Eye 10-3-73

FFA Hosts Soil Judging Contest

Thursday, October 11 the Des Moines County Conservation Service and the Mediapolis sophomore vocational agriculture class were hosts for the F.F.A. soil judging contest. Out of the seven other teams involved, Wapello, Columbus Junction, Winfield, Mt. Pleasant, Central of Argyle, Harmony and Ft. Madison, our team of Kelly Baker, Kirk Seigle, Jon Luttenegger and Rick Todd won first place and brought home the travelling plaque. Second place team was Harmony, which was 30 points behind our team.

The way that the contest is run is that each member of each team goes to each of the three sites which is a hole dug in the ground about 4 feet deep. They have a card on which they mark down the decision on the soils. After each site has been judged the cards are taken to the scorers who score the cards accordingly. Also a test is taken over soil judging. While the scores were being tabulated Ralph Dewey discussed with the teams the conservation practices that were going on. Refreshments were served by the sophomores of Mediapolis.

The three high scoring individuals are also given a plaque. Kelly Baker received first place and Kirk Seigle won second by a flip of the coin. He was tied with a boy from Argyle.

Mr. Dewey also came out to the school about three weeks ago and talked to the sophomore class about the profiles and soils of Iowa. He tried to clear up any questions about the soil the class had.

Rick Todd, reporter

Mediapolis News Era
10-18-73

Butz Urges Conservation

Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz has amended his request to farmers for more 1974 production by pleading with them to use sound conservation on acres they will be putting back under the plow.

"First of all, good soil conserving practices in themselves will help increase production per acre," the secretary said. "Our farmers are the foremost guardians of our soil resource and have a responsibility to use the land wisely and to keep it productive for future generations. With the great progress in 35 years of conservation farming, we need careful planning to increase production without stepping backwards."

Butz asked the Soil Conservation Service and soil conservation districts to give "first priority" to helping farmers with conservation plans.

"Proven conservation practices such as contour farming, terracing and minimum tillage are vital to protect our land from further erosion," Butz said.

At the local level, Des Moines County Soil Conservation District chairman Rex Troute of Burlington stressed that over sixty percent of last years diverted acres are planned for crop production in 1974.

"This may mean as much soil loss as 16,000 tons from Des Moines County alone," Troute claimed, "Unless we take immediate steps to control the newly plowed areas."

"Cost sharing assistance is available to farmers who plan effective conservation projects," Troute stressed. "Both state and federal monies will be available, but preliminary planning will be needed to be sure cost shares are justified."

"Early contact with our district office at the Federal Bldg. in Burlington will help assure the help our farmers need," Troute concluded. "We certainly want to do all we can to prevent another possible dust bowl from happening."

Des Moines Co. News
11-1-73

Greiner speaks Nov. 6 at soil awards meal

William H. Greiner, director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation, will be the principal speaker at the 1973 Soil Conservation Achievement awards banquet to be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 6 at the Mediapolis United Methodist church.

Greiner will discuss "Land Use Policy and Planning."

Headliner among the award recipients will be Bob Dodds of Danville Rt. 1, a regional winner in the 1973 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program. Dodds wasn't present at the regional awards program held last week in connection with Salute to Ag-

riculture activities at Keosauqua. He was cited in the "new cooperator" category.

Other winners in the county competition to be recognized are Henry Dockendorff, Danville, in the owner-operator class, and Robert T. Rehnke, West Liberty, owner, and Keith Thomas, Mediapolis, operator, the latter two in the landlord-tenant division.

Ralph Dewey, district conservationist, said several farmers who have done considerable conservation work, but who didn't place in competition, also will be recognized.

Hawk Eye
10-24-73

Teachers get education and dose of fresh air

By BOB SOGARD

Ever been to Luckenbill Woods, Hunt Woods, the U.S. Gypsum Co. mine or Starr's Cave?

Neither had most of the teachers in the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp, including the group of 16 that comes from Burlington — until last week.

There are 33 teachers taking part in the 3-week biology course offered by the University of Northern Iowa extension service. The three-credit course emphasizes field experience with southeast Iowa natural resources, as well as techniques and methods of environmental conservation teaching and curriculum development.

They have studied trees and other plants, birds, insects, rocks, fossils, soils, streams, creeks and rivers in classroom and labs, but especially in the field.

Geologists, soil scientists, conservationists, factory and mine managers were among the specialists who contributed to the concentrated course the first week. Their input was coordinated and

expanded by the staff which includes Bernard (Ben) L. Clausen, camp director and UNI biology instructor; David V. McCalley, assistant professor of biology at UNI and bus driver for the group, and Duane Toomsen, environmental education consultant for the Iowa Department of Public Instruction.

Toomsen is a former Burlingtonian. He taught science at Oak Street school. One of his students was Nancy Marr, now enrolled in this summer class, who is fifth grade teacher at Jackson school in Ft. Madison.

Headquarters is Burlington high school where the entire science department has been turned over to the class. "They have treated us wonderfully here and we're most appreciative," Clausen said.

The week started, after the class organized, with an introductory ecology field trip to a forest community in which Clarence Schneider took part. Schneider is former superintendent of Crapo park and arboretum.

Frederic Leopold, Burlington natural-

ist, helped with Tuesday's study and field trip on the ecology of birds and plants.

Assisting Wednesday and Thursday were Fred Dorheim, Iowa Geological Survey; John Highland, U.S. Soil Conservation Service; Ralph Dewey, SCS district conservationist; Lonnie Miller, state SCS; Charles Kiepe, area SCS soil scientist, and James T. Settles, officer with the Des Moines County Conservation Board.

It was appropriate that they started an all-day trip Thursday with a visit to the gypsum mine. It was geologist Dorheim's survey of this area, Clausen said, which resulted in development of the mine by U.S. Gypsum Co.

The group studied prairie and woodland soils, then lunched at Chautauqua park at Kossuth, where Settles reported on existing and projected parks in the county system.

The afternoon was spent in the bottoms and uplands of the northeast part of the county and concluded with the visit to Starr's cave off Irish Ridge road just north of Burlington. McCalley was with the group fording Flint creek when he spotted a fossil rock, rich in crinoids.

The teachers said they are amazed at the variety of plant and wildlife they have identified. Inside a square-meter frame, one group found more than a dozen types of plants. One young teacher held up a twig for help in identifying it and McCalley said, "I believe it's poison ivy. Yes, by George, it is poison ivy."

This week, there will be a visit to the Lake Odessa area for a study of marsh life, more park and nature trail study, natural resources and environment field study and a look at water quality as related to conservation practices. Dewey and Burlington officials will take the group from the water source on a farm through the city, including rural and urban erosion control in their presentations.

Next Friday and the concluding week will find the camp participants deeply involved in developing courses and planning outdoor classrooms for their respective schools.

Clausen said the sessions recently concluded on the UNI campus at Cedar Falls had 26 participants. Of these, only five or six said they would have gone to Spring Brook state park this year if the camp had been held there as in the 24 previous years.

Sec. Butz Asks Sound Soil Conservation

Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz has amended his request to farmers for more 1974 production by pleading with them to use sound conservation on acres they will be putting back under the plow.

"First of all, good soil conserving practices in themselves will help increase production per acre," the secretary said. "Our farmers are the foremost guardians of our soil resource and have a responsibility to use the land wisely and to keep it productive for future generations. With the great progress in 35 years of conservation farming, we need careful planning to increase production without stepping backwards."

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"Early contact with our district office at the Federal Building in Burlington will help assure the help our farmers need," Trout concluded. "We certainly want to do all we can to prevent another possible dust bowl from happening."

Those enrolled:

John C. Black, Monticello; Jim Gabriel, Letts; Mrs. Emma Lou Grau, Coon Rapids; Mrs. Eleanor Greiner, Webster City; Patrick Hazell, North English; Elsie Asby, Olds; Marjorie Jordan, Middletown; Mrs. Andra Kongable, Winfield; Julie Larson, Council Bluffs; Mrs. Helen Liddle, Weyer, Nancy Marr, Ft. Madison; Gloria Niehaus, Sperry; Mrs. Louis Oberman, Yarmouth; Mrs. Betty Mahoney, Mt. Pleasant; Mrs. Shirley Randall, Biggsville, Ill.; Richard Stout, Anamosa; Mrs. Pauline Thayer, Mt. Pleasant; and Joyce Ward, Fairfield.

Those from Burlington and schools here:

Mrs. Susan Baldwin, Perkins third grade; Katherine Braun, St. John third grade; Dennis Cleland, art teacher at Horace Mann and Oak Street; Mrs. Mary Crane, Corse second grade; Mrs. Annabelle Dahlsen, Apollo ninth grade biology; Mrs. Vicki Dillon, Perkins fourth grade; Wallace W. Johnson, BHS math; Mrs. Helen Derrick, Apollo ninth grade science; Mrs. Pat Mayle, Black Hawk kindergarten; Mrs. Joan Rabe, Black Hawk first grade; Mrs. Beverly Lundy, Corse second grade; Ross L. Soule, Corse third grade; George Vineyard, BHS math; Donald R. Vinson, BHS chemistry and astronomy; Mark Volkmann, West Burlington science teacher; Mrs. Liddle teaches second grade at Flint Hills; Mrs. Mahoney has ninth grade physical science at Apollo.

The Hawk Eye 7-15-73

*Medapolis News Era
11-1-73*



Conservation group getting first-hand knowledge

SOIL CONSERVATION BANQUET HELD IN METHODIST CHURCH

The annual Des Moines County Soil Conservation banquet was held last Tuesday night in the Mediapolis Methodist Church with approximately 100 in attendance.

Bill Vierling acted as Master of Ceremonies and introduced the Chairman, Rex Troute, who said a few words about soil conservation. Ralph Dewey was introduced and he introduced the office staff. Introductions continued with Commissioners, Bankers, and others.

Winners were announced as follows:

New Cooperators - Bob Dodds who was also the Regional Winner. Dodds won for his work on a tract of 40 acres at the head of the Geode Lake watershed that he recently acquired.

Dodds had a set of parallel tile terraces installed along with a mutual tile drain affecting four farms. Neighbors above Dodds have connected to the new tile system and one has installed a fence line terrace controlling runoff above the Dodds farm.

Owner-operator - Henry Dockendorff. Dockendorff farms in the same area as Dodds' newly improved land. Dockendorff has installed tile outlet terraces providing maximum erosion control on 100 acres and has five acres of waterways, with two more being built to control an old gully.



Mr. and Mrs. Bob Dodds received the new cooperators regional award and county award from Chairman Rex Troute at the annual Des Moines County Soil Conservation banquet last Tuesday night.



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dockendorff received owner-operator award from Ray Pilling at the Des Moines County Soil Conservation banquet last Tuesday night.



Receiving the landlord-tenant operator award presented by Ray Pilling was Mrs. Keith Thomas for her husband who was unable to attend the Des Moines County Soil Conservation banquet last Tuesday night.



Mr. and Mrs. Bob Rehmke received the landlord-tenant owner award from Ray Pilling last Tuesday night at the Des Moines County Soil Conservation banquet.

There are three farm ponds and four erosion control dams and Dockendorff recently planted a new windbreak north of his building.

Landlord-tenant - Bob Rehmke, owner; Keith Thomas, operator. The Rehmke farm is known as the Mehmken place. Rehmke, who is now a West Liberty banker, built a tile outlet division around his feedlot, draining it into a settling pond where wastes are reduced to a minimum before any can flow into the waterway. Pastures are being renovated on a planned basis and wooded areas provide for abundant wildlife.

Other cooperators were introduced by Troute: Kenneth Wehage, Mediapolis; Dr. Carl Hulen, Burlington; Donald Nelson, Danville; Grover Wilson, Morning Sun; Joe Beckman, Sperry; Ver-

ner Amenell, Mediapolis and Virgil Massner, Mediapolis.

Entertainment was furnished by Rev. Ralph Schenck.

Speaker of the evening was William H. Greiner, Director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

Among other facts and statistics concerning land use, Greiner said that a land use policy for the entire state of Iowa would eventually be written and passed into law. There will be many problems before it will be completed since 96 or 97 percent of the land in Iowa is privately owned.

Greiner warned that legislation in this direction will be coming very soon and urged everyone to keep themselves well informed on the subject.



WINNERS AND WIVES. Soil conservation award winners recognized at the annual Des Moines county banquet included, from left, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dockendorff, Danville; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dodds, Danville; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rehmke, West Liberty, and Mrs. Keith Thomas, Mediapolis.

Hawk Eye
11-7-73

Controversial issue for future: Land use

By BOB SOGARD
Hawk Eye Farm Editor

MEDIAPOLIS — Changes in land use that appear inevitable won't come without compromise and controversy, said William H. Greiner here Tuesday night. He is director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

Greiner was speaker at the annual Soil Conservation Achievement awards banquet held at the Mediapolis United Methodist church.

He told the 93 persons present that planning and controls for the nation's land are probably the most interesting and controversial topics facing an increasingly crowded country.

"The founders of this country put strong backing to private use of property but many have been wasteful of our resources and we are going to have to husband them more carefully," he stated.

A major study made a decade ago indicated that the United States population would double by the end of the century. While the actual rate of growth has slowed, demands for resources haven't.

For instance, water and timber needs were expected to double in about 35 years.

Greiner said far-reaching bills on a national land use policy are pending in both the US House and Senate, the former featuring sanctions on funds which would be used against recalcitrant states. The 5-year program would provide nearly \$1 billion in planning and administrative grants to states that develop resource inventories and land use plans.

Greiner stated that local input will be an important element of all state plans. He also commented that he was happy to see that Bob Dodds of Danville was a county and regional winner in the soil-saving awards given Tuesday. "I've known Bob for a long time, first in the (Iowa) House and then in the Senate," he said.

Dodds was the new cooperative division winner for his work on a tract of 40 acres at the head of the Geode lake watershed that he recently acquired.

Dodds had a set of parallel tile terraces installed along with a mutual tile drain affecting four farms. Neighbors above Dodds have connected to the new tile system and one has installed a fenceline terrace controlling runoff above the Dodds farm.

Owner-operator class winner was Henry Dockendorff, who farms in the same area as Dodds' newly improved land. Dockendorff has installed tile outlet terraces providing maximum erosion control on 100 acres and has five acres of waterways, with two more being built to control an old gully.

There are three farm ponds and four erosion control dams and Dockendorff recently planted a new windbreak north of his buildings.

The landlord-tenant awards went to Bob Rehmke, owner, and Keith Thomas, operator, of a farm north of Burlington, the old Mehmken place. Rehmke, now a West Liberty banker, bought the 198-acre farm that featured five ponds. Then he added another.

He built a tile outlet division around his feedlot, draining it into a settling pond where wastes are reduced to a minimum before any can flow into the waterway. Pastures are being renovated on a planned basis and wooded areas provide for abundant wildlife.

In addition to the award winners, these cooperators were cited by Rex Trout, chairman of the district commissioners:

Kenneth Wehage, Mediapolis; Dr. Carl Hulen, Burlington; Donald Nelson, Danville; Grover Willson, Morning Sun; Joe Beckman, Sperry; Verner Amenell, Mediapolis, and Virgil Masner, Mediapolis

Entertainment for the banquet was provided by Rev. Ralph Schenck, pastor of the Mediapolis United Presbyterian church, with guitar and vocal music.

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