

Conservation featured at Ag Expo

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The 1988 World Ag Expo, to be held in the Amana Colonies September 7-10, won't be without conservation activity.

Conservation tillage field demonstrations, a hill of five slopes the size of a football field, a conservation farmer booth, a soil conservation play, and several exhibits will be part of the 4-day show.

"We think we have several conservation activities that will interest people," says Mike Nethery, State Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service. Among them:

- No-till and ridge till planting demonstrations will be coordinated through various machinery companies. The demonstrations will show companies operating their machinery side-by-side. Ridge-building equipment and drills are included. Demonstrations are each afternoon.

- A "Hill of Slopes," with each of five slopes being 100 feet long, has been built near the Ag Expo Welcome Center. The hill will enable visitors to view 2-, 5-, 9-, 14- and 20-percent slopes side by side. "We intend to give farmers a better idea of how steep their land is for conservation purposes," Nethery says. The hill was built by the Southeast Iowa District of the Land Improvement Contractors of America.

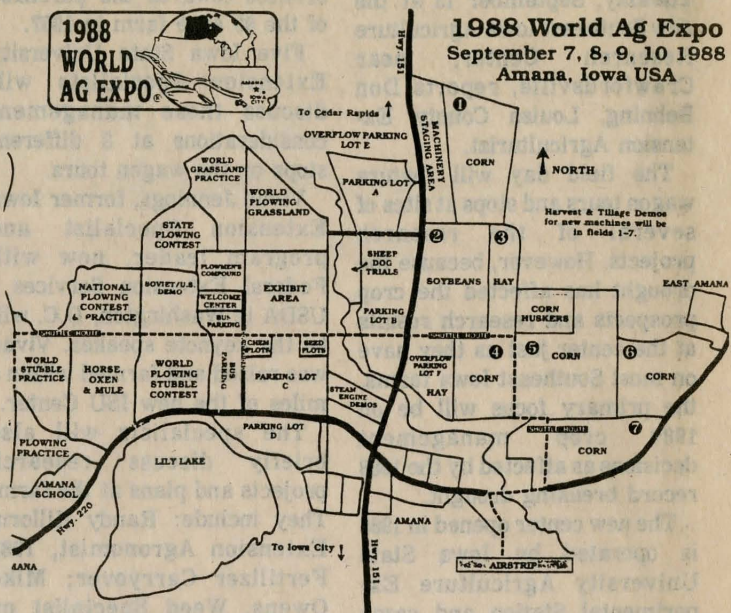
- More than 40 experienced conservation tillage farmers will take turns appearing at a question and answer booth in the soil conservation display in

the All-Iowa Ag Tent. The booth will be manned continually.

- On Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of the Expo, a soil conservation play called, "Planting in the Dust" will be presented in the Expo's Welcome Center. To be shown at 2:00, the half-hour drama is one of farm woman's story of her connection to the land and the satisfaction of farming it right. Sponsors of the play are Gutwein Seeds, Pioneer Hi-Bred, Land Improvement Contractors of America, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

- The soil conservation booth in the All-Iowa Ag Tent will be manned with SCS personnel to answer conservation questions, including those on the conservation provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act. A representative of the Division of Soil Conservation of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship will answer questions on state conservation programs. Soil district commissioners of Iowa and the Soil and Water Conservation Society will also work in the booth. Conservation tillage models and an interesting 3-dimensional view of a raindrop splash will be included in the exhibit.

Nethery notes that while the Ag Expo includes the World Plowing Matches, show organizers have been adamant that the Expo is also a soil conservation event.



Soil Conservation Service Drainage deadline September 19

Iowa farmers who began a drainage or tile project in a wetland before December 23, 1985, may be able to finish the drainage work without losing U.S. Department of Agriculture benefits.

"Swampbuster provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act restrict the conversion of wetlands to farmland, but if the work was begun before the act, the landowner can continue the work," says Mike Nethery, State Conservationist for the USDA's Soil Conservation Service.

"The key is to file a request for "commenced" determination with your local ASCS office," Nethery says. "But the

deadline for filing such a request is September 19, so landowners should get to the ASCS office now with their evidence that work was commenced."

Documentation that drainage work was begun on the project before December 23, 1985, can include: signed contracts, canceled checks for supplies already purchased, etc.

Any landowner who wants to resume a drainage project begun before December 23, 1985 should contact SCS to find out if the land is classified as a wetland. If it is, file the request for a commenced determination with ASCS before September 19. Nethery advises.