

**Dickinson County Soil Conservation
District Commissioners**



Left to right, front row - Claire Champine, Ernie Skow, Andy Hoffman. Second row - Bob Fitzpatrick, assistant commissioner, Bob Ingwersen, Jim Yungclas, assistant commissioner and secretary, and Chuck Shorey.

ASCS Program Assistants



Shown above is the crew of gals that keep the office running right. Pictured left to right are: Ruby Caskey, Clymene Jacobsen, and Pat Achenbach.

**Soil Conservation
Service Employees**



Seated-Betty Farmer, Clerk; standing left to right; Clarence Call, District Conservationist and Dennis Rustman, Conservation Technician.

**ASCS Executive Director
Duane Curry**



Holly Mechem

Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Annual Report For 1974

(Published by
The Lakes News Shopper)



District Commissioners

Ernest H. Skow, Chairman
Claire Champine, Commissioner
Robert Ingwersen, Commissioner
Charles Shorey, Commissioner
Andrew Hoffman, Commissioner
James Yungclas, Asst. Commissioner and Secretary
Robert Fitzpatrick, Assistant Commissioner

Area Office Personnel

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

Field Office Personnel

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

Extension Service

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

**Agricultural Stabilization and
Conservation Service**

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

County ASCS Committee

John Eckard, Chairman
Bruce Will
Neal Delaney

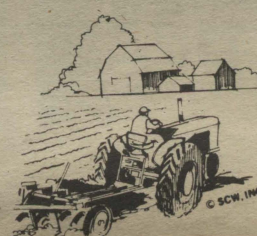
Cost Share Check Presentation



Ernest Skow, left, chairman of the Soil Conservation District Commissioners, is shown presenting a state cost share check to Cletus Ortmeier, Milford. Mr. Ortmeier built an earth dam, to be used for erosion control and as a wildlife area. His was the first project built in the county using state cost sharing funds.

- District's Revolving Fund -

Bal. on Hand July 1, 1973.....	\$ 938.18
Receipts.....	2819.74
Total Receipts.....	3757.92
Disbursements.....	3073.45
Bal. on Hand June 30, 1974.....	684.77



A Commissioner's Pledge

I pledge to do my best for the Soil Conservation District that has elected me to serve in a position of honor and trust.

I WILL:

- Above all things be honest and diligent. Place the interests of the district above my own personal interests.
- Give as careful attention to the affairs of the district as I give my own business.
- Study the business and problems of the district, and the broader considerations that affect its welfare.
- Strive for continued and increased efficiency in the district.
- Be prompt and attentive at all meetings of the commissioners so there is no loss of valuable time.
- Do independent and careful thinking, express my honest opinion, and not be a rubber stamp.
- Be open-minded and a teamworker and realize that the individual views of a commissioner cannot always prevail.
- Remember that the majority rules and that the minority must fall in line.
- Present the views of the district, rather than my own, to fellow members whenever I speak for the district.
- Represent the district in its entirety and not just the members from my community.
- Do all in my power to have the district controlled democratically, including the election of commissioners.
- Welcome new ideas or "new blood" as a means of keeping life in the district and the service to the patrons at a high level.
- Do everything possible to inform members and patrons of established policies and programs of the district.
- Be a good listener to the reactions of the commissioners as a means of better shaping the policies of the district.
- Curb emotions and apply reason and common sense to all problems.
- Give the necessary time to commissioners meetings and other deliberations.

I WILL NOT:

- Consider myself indispensable.
- Expect any special privileges from the district because I am a commissioner.
- Carry grudges against the fellow commissioners, SCS and District employees.

- District Activities -

JANUARY

District Conservationist Clarence Call attended a Resource Planning meeting in Des Moines on January 7, 8 and 9.

Commissioners Bob Ingwersen, Bob Fitzpatrick, Claire Champine, Ernest Skow and District Conservationist Clarence Call, attended Commissioner's Short Course held in Ames on January 15 and 16.

District Commissioners and Clarence Call met with the county supervisors on January 22 to discuss current problems.

1974 tree program was very successful again this year. Commissioners sold 6,485 trees and shrubs in the county this year for windbreaks, wildlife areas etc. A green ash tree was given to each 6th grader in the county.

Conservation workbooks were purchased again this year for the schools in the county.

National Association of Conservation Districts' dues of \$150.00 and Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners' dues of \$100.00 were paid by the district for 1974.

FEBRUARY

Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Commissioners' biennial meeting was held on February 13 at the Holiday Inn, Okoboji. It was held in conjunction with the Extension cow-calf meeting. Commissioners elected to six year terms were: Charles Shorey, Richland Township and Claire Champine, Center Grove Township.

Clarence Call spoke to Mrs. Schroeder's 4th graders of Spirit Lake on February 4 and at Rotary Club on February 20.

District Commissioners' Reorganization meeting was held on February 25. Ernest Skow was elected chairman, Bob Ingwersen, Vice-chairman, James Yungclas, Secretary and Betty Farmer, Treasurer. Claire Champine was appointed as Educational Committee Chairman.

District Commissioner Claire Champine and Clarence Call attended RECP meeting in Storm Lake on February 27 and 28.

Robert Fitzpatrick and James Yungclas were appointed as assistant commissioners for the coming year.

MARCH

Clarence Call presented a slide talk on conservation practices at the Presbyterian Church on March 7.

Commissioners Ernest Skow, Claire Champine, Charles Shorey and District Conservationist Clarence Call attended Regional Commissioners' meeting in Pocahontas on March 13.

Claire Champine attended Education Council meeting in Fort Dodge on March 22.

Commissioners attended a 1973 REAP and 1974 RECP Development meeting with County ASCS Committee on March 28.

The 1974 district speech contest was held on March 28. Judges Bill Connors and Al Johansen were from the local Toastmasters' Club. Winners of the speech contest were: Mike Brower, Spirit Lake, first; Ron Schmidt, Spirit Lake, second; and Chris Hoffman, Lake Park, third.

APRIL

A special meeting of the district commissioners and the ASCS County Committee was held on April 2 to review the 1973 REAP and the 1974 RECP practices.

Soil Stewardship material was furnished to the churches in the county. Rev. M. J. An-sorge of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake wrote a news article for the county newspapers pertaining to Soil Stewardship Week.

Commissioners presented Bob Fitzpatrick with a Distinguished Service Award for eight continuous years of distinguished service. They also presented Bob with a Certificate of Award from the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

Clarence Call attended Governor's Beef Task Force meeting in Ames on April 11.

MAY

Commissioners presented KICD with a plaque in recognition for all the help given them on their farm programs.

Clarence Call made a slide presentation on Soil Conservation practices in the county to the Spirit Lake 4th graders on May 3.

Jay Ford, student trainee, began work in the county on May 28. Jay had just completed his junior year at Iowa State University. He worked during the summer months as a trainee with the Soil Conservation Service in Dickinson County.

SCS office personnel attended several safe-

ty meetings during the year with the ASCS office personnel.

JUNE

Dennis Rustman, Conservation Technician, attended training school in Lincoln, Nebraska on Basic Leadership Management Training, Level II, from June 3 to 7.

Ernest Skow was selected as the Outstanding Commissioner for the district. Clarence Call gave several radio talks during the year.

JULY

Clarence Call spoke at a lady landlord's meeting on "Cost-Sharing" on July 16.

Jay Ford attended training session for student trainees in Des Moines on July 25.

Commissioners and their families held their annual picnic at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Claire Champine on July 27.

Ernest Skow, Bob Ingwersen, Claire Champine, Charles Shorey, Clarence Call and Jay Ford attended the Regional Commissioners' meeting held in Spencer on July 22. Regional Speech Contest was held at this meeting. Dickinson County's winner, Mike Brower, was entered in this contest.

Don Schubert, owner, and Dean Stover, operator, were selected as district winners in the Division II Farmers Section of the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune and the Iowa Farm Register. Mr. Owen Primavera, a teacher in the Milford schools, was the district winner in the teachers division. Mr. Primavera went on to take first place in the regional contest.

AUGUST

District paid 1974 dues in the East Okoboji Lakes Improvement Association and Spirit Lake Protective Association.

Jay Ford completed his training period on August 29 and returned to Iowa State University to complete his senior year in college.

SEPTEMBER

Ernest Skow, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Ingwersen, Mr. and Mrs. Claire Champine, Clarence Call and Betty Farmer, Clerk, attended the 28th Annual District Commissioners' Conference in Fort Dodge on September 8-10.

Clarence Call accompanied Sioux City Marc Cox Contest winners on tour of lakes and conservation projects in the county on September 11 and 12.

Clarence Call spoke to the Daughters of American Revolution in Spirit Lake on the Great Lakes Water Resource Inventory on September 16.

OCTOBER

Ten state cost-share assistance agreements were approved and nine completed and paid during 1974. Total cost-share assistance during 1974 in Dickinson County was \$7059.24. One project is incomplete at this time.

Mrs. Ruth Ann VanDonslear, a teacher in the Milford schools, attended the Fall Conservation Workshop for Teachers at the 4-H Camping Center, Luther, on October 11 and 12.



Ruth VanDonslear

NOVEMBER

Clarence Call, Dennis Rustman, Robert Bergquist, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Dougal, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ingwersen, Chas. Shorey and Claire Champine attended the awards dinner sponsored by the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce and the Sioux City Journal for the 1974 Marc Cox Agriculture Conservation Program in Sioux City on November 14. Dickinson County won first place in the Community Conservation Award division and Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Dougal were district winners in the progress contest.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Call, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Rustman, Mr. and Mrs. Don Schubert, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Stover, Mr. and Mrs. Owen Primavera, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Skow, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ingwersen, Mr. and Mrs. Claire Champine, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Shorey, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fitzpatrick and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hoffman attended the awards dinner held at Stub's Ranch Kitchen in Spencer on November 18 honoring the winners in the Des Moines Register and Tribune Contest.

DECEMBER

Commissioners held their annual Christmas dinner at the Sioux Valley Log Cabin on December 9.

Eleven regular meetings and four special meetings were held by the commissioners this year.

- Financial Statement Fiscal Year 1973-1974 -

District's IM Budget

Receipts

Allocation from State Soil Conservation Committee.....	\$ 1200.00
Brought forward from 1972-1973 fiscal year.....	32.50
Total Receipts.....	\$ 1232.50

Expenditures

Commissioners' mileage, meals and hotel.....	\$ 560.87
Office Supplies.....	204.73
Printing.....	23.85
Prizes for Contests.....	90.76
Rental for Meeting Halls.....	14.40
Office Expense.....	274.45
Meeting Expense.....	62.54
Total Expenditures.....	\$ 1231.60

Carried forward to 1974-1975 IM Budget.....\$.90

District's 2M Budget

Receipts

Allocation from State Soil Conservation Committee.....	\$ 6148.00
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Expenditures

Salary for clerk.....	\$ 5517.00
Travel.....	61.21
F.I.C.A. (District's Share).....	322.74
I.P.E.R.S. (District's Share).....	193.09
Health Insurance.....	36.00
Total Expenditures.....	\$ 6130.04
Returned to State Committee.....	\$ 17.96

District's 3M Budget

State Cost-Share

Receipts

Allocation from State Soil Conservation Committee.....	\$ 9000.00
Additional Allocation.....	1600.00
Total Receipts.....	\$ 10600.00

Expenditures

Disbursed to date.....	\$ 7059.24
Allocated.....	3500.00
Unallocated balance.....	40.76

Including Wildlife In Your Farm Plan by Doug Harr Wildlife Management Biologist

Think of all the different crops you might grow on your land--corn, oats, soybeans, hay and perhaps even some seldom seen things like wheat, sorghum or sunflowers--the possibilities are many. But have you ever considered wildlife to be a crop? It must definitely be.

Wildlife is a product of the land, although it may not be one that puts money in your pocket. However, it is not always possible to measure in dollars those hours of enjoyment spent pheasant or rabbit hunting, or even just thrilling to the sight of a white-tailed buck bounding across your back forty. Wildlife is a valuable part of our farmland today, and lack of birds and animals might be an environmental indicator as to the future of your farming methods and conservation practices.

Every year increasing amounts of pasture, hayfield and brushy fencelines are plowed up for larger row-crop fields and bigger machinery. The land is then often left bare to erosion through part of the year and is useless to wildlife. How often have you heard the lament, "Where are all the pheasants we had a few years ago?" If you are guilty of making that statement, go through your farming records, crop plans or look at some old aerial photos at the SCS office. You'll find that there has been a drastic change in the look of the land over the past twenty years.

There is little doubt that today's farming provides the farmer with the income he must have to survive and gives all of us the food we demand. Yet wildlife does not have to suffer because of this; there are many things the landowner can do to provide for wildlife on his farm without putting a pinch on his pocket-book. Let's discuss some possibilities.

In every field there are small corners that large machinery cannot get into. These areas can be seeded to a grass-legume mix for good nesting cover. A few berry-producing shrubs or some red cedars may be hand planted here for additional wildlife benefits. If your turn-around strips at the field ends are not planted, these strips also might be planted to grassy cover for excellent pheasant nesting enhancement.

Do you have a dugout pond for irrigation or stockwater? Fencing off most of the pond and seeding down a 20'-40' strip provides a great waterfowl production area. Shrubs planted here will make the area ideal for many other creatures, as well.

Try to delay the mowing of headlands, roadsides and grass waterways until at least mid-July, in order to protect pheasants on the nest. Or, if you must mow earlier, a simple flushing bar might be rigged on the front of your tractor. When this is hung with burlap sacks that drag on the ground, a hen pheasant will flush ahead of the mower. You can then

lift the mower bar, pass over the nest and continue mowing. This technique also works well in alfalfa fields where a small mower is used.

Planting a new farmstead windbreak? Instead of just planting honeysuckle, add a couple of rows of red cedar. If your existing shelterbelt consists of larger trees, add a row or two of berry-producing shrubs around the outside. These two ideas will multiply wildlife benefits many times over.

If you have a cornfield adjacent to your shelterbelt or other cover, leave a row or two standing in the fall for winter wildlife food. If it isn't utilized you can always pick it the following spring.

With fencing costs going up, why not plant a row of shrubs between fields? A rod of honeysuckle can cost less than \$2.00. Let's see your fence salesman beat that. What's more, those shrubs stop a lot more wind than three strands of barbed wire.

There are other possibilities--mulch tillage, crop rotation, pasture rotation--all beneficial to wildlife, and almost every practice will help prevent soil and water loss.

When you make your next stop at the ASCS/SCS offices in Spirit Lake, talk to the District Conservationist with the SCS about including wildlife in your farm planning. If desirable, a wildlife management biologist can visit you and your farm to discuss further details for your specific wants or needs. It's a free service provided by the Iowa Conservation Commission.

Considering that many farm groups and individuals now believe that full grain production may be undesirable, the cutback proposed might really pay off in wildlife and soil and water conservation for your farm.

Terrace Systems by Dennis Rustman, Conservation Technician

Terracing continues to be a very much needed erosion control practice in Dickinson County. There are many acres of land in the county subject to erosion that should be protected with conservation practices. Dickinson County farmers who have installed terraces the past year are: Don Schubert, Center Grove Township; Bill Loos, Richland Township; and Fred Wood, Okoboji Township.

The past few years have marked a definite

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

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

There is cost sharing available for building terraces. Up to 75% of the cost can be paid by the state and federal funds. This leaves 25% of the cost left to be paid by the landowner.

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

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Real Estate
is the
Best Way to get
the Full Picture!*

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Spirit Lake

New Conservation Plans

Center Grove Township
Sid and Wayne Northey
Tom Underwood

Lloyd Township
Robert Blum

Diamond Lake Township
Currier Holman
Leo Parks
Doug Swisher
Richard Ringler

Milford Township
Arnold Jorth
Chester Winslow
Howard Titterington

Excelsior Township
Howard and Elsie
Burnside
Lester Jungers
David Lorch

Richland Township
Sam Zehnder

Lakeville Township
Ronald Wittrock
Gifford Gamble
Cletus Ortmeier
James McDonald

Silver Lake Township
Herman Kruger

Spirit Lake Township
Archie Rouse (1)
Archie Rouse (2)
Lee Eral
Ralph Tittle

Superior Township
James Phillips
W. W. Levell (1)
Paul Heebner
W. W. Levell (2)

Westport Township
Denny Winterboer
Dale Taylor

New Requests For Assistance

Center Grove Township
R. F. McCann
Tom Underwood

Richland Township
Elvin Strope (1)
Elvin Strope (2)
Ed and Dick Bockman
Wm. Bockman

Diamond Lake Township
Berg Bros.
Currier Holman

Spirit Lake Township
Archie Rouse
Sid Northey

Excelsior Township
Howard and Elsie
Burnside
David Lorch

Silver Lake Township
Herman Kruger

Lakeville Township
Russell Clark
Cletus Ortmeier

Superior Township
Paul Heebner
Wilbur Bundy (1)
Wilbur Bundy (2)
Ed Tindall

Milford Township
Chester Winslow
Hansen-Newman-
Westergard (group)

Westport Township
Franklin Drury (1)
Franklin Drury (2)

Okoboji Township
Ted Lambertus, Jr. (1)
Ted Lambertus, Jr. (2)
Larry Cook

Conservation Plans Revised

Diamond Lake Township
Currier Holman

Spirit Lake Township
Don Gruhn (1)
Don Gruhn (2)

Lloyd Township
Bertha Schooley
Miles Netsch

Superior Township
Arthur Lutz
J. Justin Rogers

Milford Township
Arlo Newman
Perry Hansen

Center Grove
Don Schubert

Facts About Mulch Tillage

Mulch tillage is a planting and harvesting system which leaves crop residues (stalks, stems, leaves and other plant parts) on or just below the soil surface in the field.

The four general types of mulch tillage explained briefly in this pamphlet are 1) till planting 2) chisel planting 3) no till and 4) rotary strip tillage.

Significant advantages of mulch tillage

have been proven. One of the most important is the mulch tillage stops wind and water erosion. Unlike clean plowed land which is protected only after plants get big enough to provide a protective canopy, mulch tilled land with its residue cover offers soil protection year round, especially in the critical 60-day period after planting. In addition to preventing erosion, mulch tillage requires less labor, lowers production costs, conserves moisture, furnishes food for wildlife, and may increase yields.

The Maintenance Program

By Clarence Call

District Conservationist

Conservation of natural resources is something we all agree with. We don't knock it just like we don't go around kicking big dogs. But do we do everything we can for conservation, even when it doesn't cost anything? It really is an investment, you know. Would you dream of buying and using a \$15,000 tractor without ever servicing it? I doubt it. Yet, there are people who buy farms worth several times more than a tractor and never spend a dollar on the maintenance of this, our most valuable natural resource.

To many, the soil is a resource that needs no care or servicing. They plow, fertilize, plant, cultivate, spray and harvest. With an investment of \$750 to \$1000 an acre for farmland in Dickinson County, doesn't it make good sense to set aside something for the maintenance of this investment? The topsoil averages less than one foot in thickness.

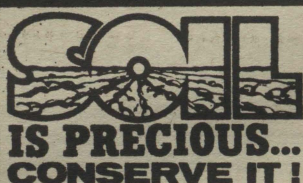
Sometimes it doesn't take much to keep the soil where it belongs. In many cases, simply leaving the crop residue on the surface, or mixing it with the surface soil, will do it. This practice does more than protect against wind erosion.

The stalks and leaves form many thousands of tiny dams to encourage the water to walk, not run, off the field. Walking water does not carry silt with it. This method of soil conservation is available to all farmers-and it doesn't cost much.

Dickinson County needs some special attention to soil erosion and pollution control measures because of the presence of the lakes. Maintaining good water quality is not too expensive. Restoring water to its former good quality is very expensive. We have a plan for maintaining and improving the quality of water in Iowa's Great Lakes. But it does take the co-operation of everyone. The farmer with the erosion problem is not the only offender.

So we do need a maintenance program in Dickinson County. The soil and water needs maintaining as much as that new car or tractor. If you need help with your maintenance program, give us a call.

SOIL EROSION

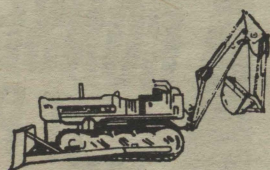


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For

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Dickinson County Soil
Conservation District
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Spirit Lake

Soil Conservation Speech Winners



Shown left to right: Mike Brower 1st, Ron Schmidt 2nd, Kay Curry 3rd.

Mike Brower Wins
Soil Conservation Speech Contest

Mike Brower, a sophomore in the Spirit Lake High School, won first place in the Dickinson County Soil Conservation Speech Contest, held

— Accomplishments —
Fiscal Year 1974

Practice	Unit
New District Cooperators.....	26
District Cooperators Canceled.....	10
Recipients of Technical Assistance.....	205
Requesting Technical Assistance....	307
Services Single Land Unit.....	398
Recipients Applying Practices.....	92
Conservation Plans Prepared.....	33
Conservation Plans Canceled.....	7
Conservation Plans Revised.....	9
Inventories & Evaluations Prepared.....	5
Technical Services Units of Government/Agencies.....	3
Units of Government/Agencies Asstd.....	2
Resource Plans Prepared.....	1
Inventories & Evaluations Units of Government/Agencies.....	2
Requests for Long-Term-Agreements Served.....	2
Group Conservation Plans.....	3
Group Inventories & Evaluations Prepared.....	3
Groups Assisted.....	4
Technical Services for Groups of Land Units.....	10
Groups Applying Practices.....	3
Referrals Served.....	2
Establishing First Commercial Recreation Enterprise.....	1
Holding Ponds and Tanks.....	2
Conservation Cropping System.....	1,176 acres
Crop Residue Management.....	1,822 acres
Diversions.....	250 ft.
Grassed Waterway or Outlet.....	28.9 acres
Minimum Tillage.....	3,094 acres
Pasture & Hayland Management.....	263 acres
Parallel Terrace.....	8,600 ft.
Subsurface Drain.....	117,831 ft.
Wildlife Upland Habitat Management	31.3 acres
Land Adequately Treated.....	941 acres
Cropland to Grassland.....	42 acres

at the Soil Conservation Office in Spirit Lake on February 27. Second place winner was Ron Schmidt of Spritt Lake and third place winner was Kay Curry of Spirit Lake. Mike will now go on to the regional contest to be held early this summer. Regional winners will then compete in the state contest to be held in Des Moines in September.

"Land Use Policy - Insurance for Mankind" was the topic for the 1975 Soil Conservation Speech Contest. The contest was open to all junior and senior high school students in the county.

The regional and state levels of the contest are co-sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company, Grinnell, Iowa.

Winners in the district contest received \$20 first, \$15 second and \$10 third. Regional contest prizes will consist of \$30, \$20, and \$15 for first, second, and third placings respectively. A new regional award of \$10 has been added this year--the Merit Award. One Merit Award recipient per region may be selected at the discretion of the judges. An eligible recipient is limited to an outstanding contestant who has not entered the tenth grade by the time of the regional contest.

The state contest will be held in September, 1975, at the Annual Conference for Soil Conservation District Commissioners in Des Moines, Iowa. The first place winner in the state contest will receive a \$300 college scholarship and \$110 in cash. The second and third place awards in the state contest will consist of \$85 and \$60 in cash respectively.

Recognizing That Dickinson
County's Future Depends On
The Richness Of Our Soils And
The Productivity Of Our
Farmers And Feeders . . .

We Extend Our
Congratulations To
Dickinson County Farmers
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Chamber Of Commerce

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CONSERVATION
PAYS FOR ITSELF

Congratulations
to the Dickinson
County
Soil District
on a
Great Year—



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Jerry Rinders, Sales Rep.
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Your Soil Of Its Productivity...Follow The Proven
Techniques Of Soil Conservation To Safeguard The
Future Of Your Land.

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Grade School Students Win Soil Conservation Poster Contest

The Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Commissioners sponsored a poster contest for all 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th graders in the county. Each poster had to display some positive form of soil conservation, water conservation, pollution, wildlife conservation, ecology etc. The posters were on display at the Spirit Lake Jaycees Home and Sport Show held in Spirit Lake on April 5 and 6. Winning posters were placed in the Soil Conservation District's booth.

The following winners were awarded \$3.00 for first prize, \$2.00 for second and \$1.00 for third along with prize winning ribbons:

6th Grade

1. Barbie Hoss - Spirit Lake
2. Matthew Arnold - Spirit Lake
3. Chris Longmore - Spirit Lake

5th Grade

1. Teresa Fastenow - Spirit Lake
Linda Longmore - Spirit Lake
Lisa DeMarce - Spirit Lake
2. Randi Swisher - Spirit Lake
3. Tony Phillips - Spirit Lake

4th Grade

1. Robbi Reed - Spirit Lake
Kara Jansen - Spirit Lake
2. Sam Resch - Spirit Lake

3. John Lago - Spirit Lake

3rd Grade

1. Robin Watkins - Spirit Lake
2. Ron Maahs - Spirit Lake
3. Lori Smith - Spirit Lake

6th Grade

1. Brènda Lindsay - Arnolds Park
2. Jeff Simons - Arnolds Park
3. Sally Dean - Arnolds Park

5th Grade

1. Jolynn Kramer - Arnolds Park
Lisa Bettern - Arnolds Park
2. Teresa Daly - Arnolds Park
Jacque Robinson - Arnolds Park
3. Diane Vos - Arnolds Park
Mary Jo Dyhrkopp - Arnolds Park

4th Grade

1. David Nelsen - Arnolds Park
2. Bob Brooks - Arnolds Park
3. Karen Carlson - Arnolds Park

3rd Grade

1. Sharon Foster - Arnolds Park
2. Doug Naab - Arnolds Park
3. Mary Brooks - Arnolds Park

Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp

Sessions for the Iowa Teachers' Conservation Camp will be held June 16 through July 3, 1975 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and July 7 through July 25, 1975 in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The camps are sponsored by the University of Northern Iowa, Department of Public Instruction, Department of Soil Conservation and State Conservation Commission.

The Iowa Teachers' Conservation Camp has been offered at regional centers since 1973 to give participants experience with the conservation problems and teaching opportunities of their local areas. Prior to 1973 the program had been located at Springbrook State Park for 23 years.

All sessions of Iowa Teachers' Conservation Camp course are open to elementary and second-

ary teachers, graduate and undergraduate students from anywhere and representing any subject field. Three hours credit is given for the three weeks' course.

The Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Commissioners will help defray the tuition cost of this course. If there are any teachers interested they may contact the Dickinson County Soil Conservation Office in Spirit Lake, phone 336-2604.

Milford Teacher Gains Soil Conservation Award

Owen Primavera, Science teacher in the Milford High School, was named a regional winner of the 1974 Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Award.

The program was sponsored by the Des Moines Register, and the weekly farm section of the paper, entitled Iowa Farming. Mr. Primavera was selected for his effectiveness in conservation education both in the classroom and on field trips.

Conservation Camp by Ruth Ann VanDonslear

I had the privilege of attending Conservation Camp in a beautiful wooded area near Luther, Iowa. The two day program dealt with all aspects of conservation.

The format included speakers, panel discussions, demonstrations, simulated games, experiments, displays, movies and group participation.

Each person had had the opportunity to choose several areas they were interested in and attend sessions ranging from hikes, soil testing, lady bug observing, rock hounding and tree identification to simulated games dealing with land use.

Camping included great meals with wonderful fellowship. Thank You!

Cost-Sharing Assistance

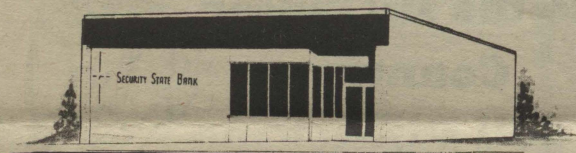
The Federal Government will again provide cost-sharing assistance for conservation practices in 1975. These funds are administered at local levels through the function and responsibility of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) as well as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

These offices work in direct consultation with committee members of these two offices. Committee members are elected by their neighbors and have been charged with the responsibility of selecting conservation practices that will help in the objective of maintaining good soil and water measures.

Cost-sharing assistance will be available generally on a 50/50 basis with farmers to carry out needed conservation practices that include establishing permanent vegetative cover, windbreaks and wildlife habitat. In addition, the construction of ponds, erosion, dams, sod waterways and terrace systems will be on our high priority list.

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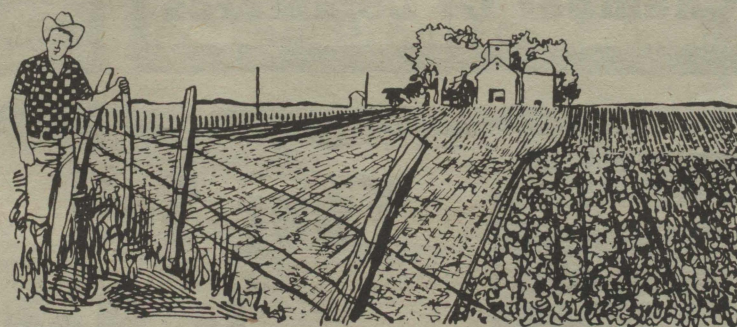


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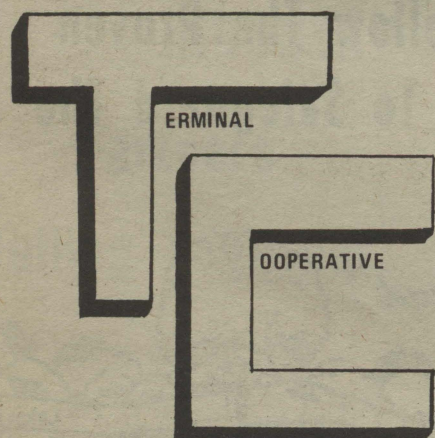
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Many Ways To Stop Gully Erosion

By Lynn Betts

Public Information Officer

You have a lot of options for controlling an active gully. Your method could vary from simply fencing livestock out to building a large dam. More than likely, you'll want to use a combination of conservation practices for complete control.

The principle of stopping a gully is simple, according to Dewey T. Bondurant, state conservation engineer for USDA Soil Conservation Service.

"Generally, too much water on too steep a slope is the cause," Bondurant says. "So reducing the amount of water or the steepness of slope stops most gullies."

One of the easiest ways to cut down on the amount of water reaching the gully is to establish a good ground cover. Well-managed pastures are one way to provide the cover needed to let rainfall soak into the ground. In southern Iowa, where gullies 10 to 15 feet deep are common, conservation farmers are converting steep cropland to pasture.

They build ponds to keep gullies from advancing and to store water for livestock. It's usually a good idea to fence a pond. Then put a stock water tank below the fence. In some cases, the gully below the pond should be fenced to keep livestock out until a good grass or legume stand is established.

In the eastern part of the state, where many gullies average 5 to 10 feet deep, much of the land is well suited for crops. These less serious gullies can be shaped into grass waterways which will handle runoff waters. The waterways are most effective when they're used in conjunction with other conservation practices. Strip-cropping, contouring, terracing, and mulch tillage are soil conserving practices that also reduce the amount of water the waterway must handle. Like good pastures, they hold rainfall on the land, allowing it to infiltrate the soil instead of running off.

Some of the best waterways are in northwest Iowa where the land isn't as steep, according to Bondurant. Winding, uncrossable gullies there are filled in and shaped into easily maintained waterways. You can take a good hay crop off many of these waterways, Bondurant advises.

If you're planning a waterway in any part of the state, plan to tile along it. The tile will keep the center of the waterway dry so that a good grass cover can be established. Good drainage will also let you cross the waterway with farm equipment and maintain it.

Be sure the gully is actively eroding before you decide to shape it into a

waterway, Bondurant cautions. Many old, healed-over gullies furnish valuable wildlife cover and should not be cleared and shaped into waterways.

The most serious gully problem is in western Iowa. Gullies 20 to 25 feet deep are common in the easily eroded loess soil. The steep hills may make a waterway alone impractical. Yet, the deep loess soil is productive cropland that needs gully control.

After 7 years of research with loess soils in the Treynor Watershed near Council Bluffs, Ralph Spomer of the Agricultural Research Service is convinced that the soils can be used for cropland without causing gullies. Spomer found that a completely terraced watershed stops surface runoff and effectively controls gully erosion.

He found that a gully in an unterraced watershed advanced 135 feet in 5 years. It averaged 50 feet wide and 15 to 20 feet deep. A gully in a similar watershed, but with level bench terraces, did not advance and actually filled in during the same period.

A gully may be so steep it needs a dam of some type to stabilize it. There are 3 main types of structures-drop-inlet, drop-spillway, and chute spillway.

A drop-inlet dam is ideal to control an advancing gully that is more than 10 feet deep. It's an earth dam with a drop-inlet spillway of concrete or metal pipe.

A drop-spillway can be designed for any height, but is best suited for drops of 10 feet or less. Drop spillways are often used to stabilize waterways.

Earth dams with chute spillways are used where large quantities of water must be dropped 10 feet or more. They are built with rein-

forced concrete and are expensive; but they may be needed on critical gully problems.

On steep gullies, your best bet is to get an engineer or soil conservation technician to take a look at it. They can determine the type of structure needed, estimate the cost, and suggest alternative solutions.

If you share a gully with your neighbor, you may need to work together to stop it. There are examples of this co-operation all thru the state.

You can get REAP cost-sharing help on most gully control practices. The minimum financial help, if approved, is 50%. Some is as high as 80%. There is a top limit of \$2500 a year for each farmer, however.

"Of course, the best way to control a gully is to prevent its formation," Bondurant says. One way is to plan your entire farm for conservation.

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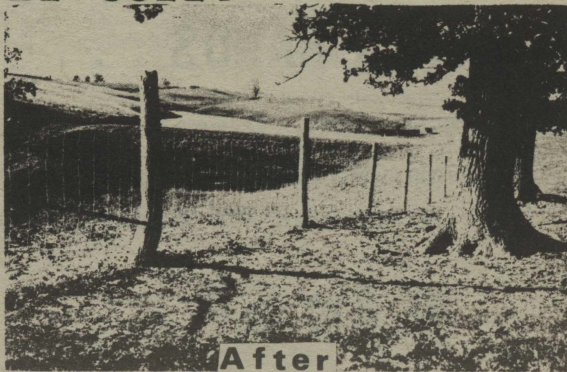
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Good Farming Helps Save Wildlife

By Bill Welker

Biologist

As an Iowa farmer, you have a pronounced effect on wildlife populations. You're one of many who manage about 90% of the state's land for crops, pasture or timber, and how you manage it determines whether wildlife gets basic foods, cover, or nesting areas.

Good land management is completely compatible with good wildlife management. Control of erosion and matching vegetative cover with the proper soils, for instance, is good wildlife management.

Avoid fall plowing where practical. It allows erosion during the winter and early spring months and removes both wildlife cover and food from the field. Winter food and cover is especially critical in northern Iowa where there is little uncultivated land or permanent timber cover.

Instead of fall plowing, try conservation or minimum tillage. By leaving crop residue on the soil surface, the practice allows Maximum protection from erosion and provides some food and cover for wildlife during the winter months. Then, too, it'll save you time and fuel, since you make fewer trips across the field.

A pond can be a haven for wildlife. First, it should be fenced to protect the dam and shoreline from erosion that could be caused by livestock trampling. Among the many plants that might be used for wildlife food, cover and general beautification are these: honeysuckle, dogwood, ninebark, nannyberry, wild plum, red cedar, autumn olive, and russian olive. All are good choices for wildlife.

Larger pines and spruce can provide winter cover and beautification.

There is no reason a picnic table cannot also be added to these surroundings and thereby produce a true multi-use area. The nice part about farm pond wildlife areas is that they are scattered thru Iowa and are "islands" of wildlife refuge.

To help game birds during the nesting season, delay the first spring mowing of grass or alfalfa fields as long as possible.

This allows more eggs to hatch and the young chicks to move from the nests. The Iowa Highway Commission delays roadside mowing until July 1 to promote game bird populations.

Grass provides habitat for several species of wildlife. The warm season, cool season grass combination being tried in southern Iowa looks promising for farmers and wildlife. Since warm season grasses (big bluestem, little bluestem, switchgrass, and Indian grass) produce their growth during the summer months when the cool season grasses (bromegrass and bluegrass) are dormant, the use of both types can provide pasture and wildlife cover during the entire growing period.

Protecting woodlots and windbreaks from livestock is important to both the quality of these areas and their value to wildlife. A good fence protects the lower tree limbs and ground cover from grazing, giving better protection from winds and leaving good ground cover for wildlife.

If you don't mind being a bit on the lazy side, there are also a few things you don't do which help wildlife:

- (1) Save yourself some work and leave brush in gullies, fence rows, and around woodlots.
- (2) If farm operations do not absolutely

demand it, and a gully isn't actively eroding, don't bulldoze it in.

(3) Don't farm right up to the fence row. A strip of grass or plants there can mean a lot to wildlife. You could go one step farther and leave a little corn nearby.

(4) Don't change the natural landscape if you don't have to.

You can get more information on what you can do to help wildlife from your local conservation agent or Soil Conservation District Office.

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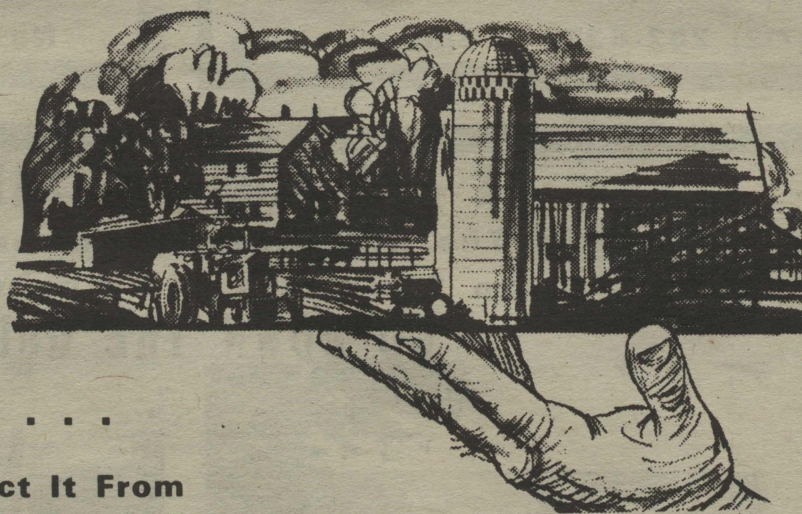
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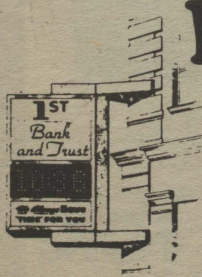
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