

Ag Week dinner--

bushels per acre. Ten producers competed in the Soybean Contest with yields ranging from 51 to a high of 72.91 bushels for an average yield of 61.55 bushels. Five were over 60 bushels per acre," said Anderson

Delaware County Conservation Awards

The third annual Delaware County Conservation Award went to a family partnership of Henry and Delores Brunsman and Lynn and Karen Brunsman.

The award, presented by Keith Kraus, district conservationist, is given to a Delaware County farmer that has made a significant contribution to protecting their farm with soil and water conservation practices and practicing good land stewardship.

The Brunsman farm is located approximately three miles northeast of Dundee in Richland Township.

The Brunsmans own and operate 345 acres, of which 256 acres are in cropland.

Henry and Lynn farrow-to-finish 1,500-1,600 head of hogs per year. They also maintain a 25-30 head stock cow herd.

The Brunsmans have been cooperators with the Soil & Water Conservation District since 1984.

Since that time Henry and Lynn have installed the following conservation practices on their farm:

—Contour Strip Cropping, 63 acres.

—Grassed waterway, 6.3 acres.

—Terraces, 45.0 acres.

—Underground drain tile, 4,000 feet.

—Erosion Control Structure, 2 No.

—Conservation Tillage, 210 Acres.

—Tree planting of walnut and pines on four acres CRP.

—Woodlands for timber and wildlife habitat in Forest Reserve, 13 acres.

—Per. Pasture, 21 acres.

Kraus commented, "The Brunsman farm is an excellent example of how a combination of conservation practices are being used in their farming operation system to control soil losses and maintain productivity."

Henry has served on the Delaware County Extension Council for two terms; served on the ASCS County Committee for six years; is presently a township trustee; and was a township assessor from 1963-1964.

Lynn has served on the Delaware County Pork Producers Board and was a Cat-

nd Front Page

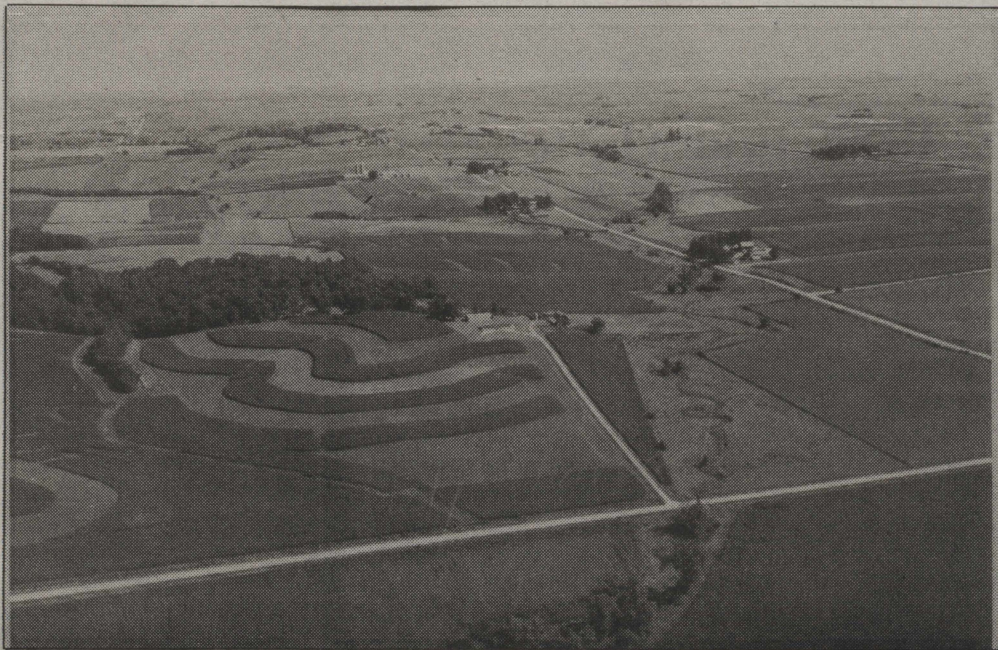


Conservation Award

HENRY AND DELORES Brunsman, along with Karen and Lynn Brunsman, received this year's Delaware County Conservation Award at the annual Farmer/Businessman Dinner. Holding the new sign, which will be placed on their farm, is Marv Calonder, chairman of the Soil & Water Conservation District. (Manchester Press photo)

March 24, 1992

Agriculture —



Brunsman's fields

HENRY AND DELORES Brunzman and Lynn and Karen Brunzman received this year's Delaware County Conservation Award. The top photo shows the contour strip cropping where Lynn and Karen live. In the bottom photo terraces and grass waterways are behind Henry and Delores' place.

Soil Stewardship Week Observance Planned May 3-10

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, will be celebrated locally, May 3 to 10, according to Paul J. Gienapp, chairman of the Delaware County Soil Conservation district.

"Resources and Renewal," the theme of this year's observance, underscores the responsibility which each citizen has in dealing forthrightly with current issues involving stewardship of renewable natural resources.

The Delaware County Soil Conservation district and some 3,000 companion districts throughout the nation along with their state and national associations are sponsoring the event for the 16th consecutive year.

The Delaware County Soil Conservation district has distributed booklets created particularly for this year's observance to the ministers within the county.

Set Special Meeting To Discuss Updating County Soil Survey

A special meeting to discuss soil survey benefits, method of financing the project, and time required to complete the survey, will be held at the Farm Bureau building meeting room in Manchester Wednesday at 8 p.m.

W. T. Moon, head of the Soil Conservation Service in Iowa, and M. Amemyia, extension agronomist from Iowa State university in Ames, will speak.

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Delaware county's most recent soil survey was completed in 1929 and contains a listing of approximately 25 different soils. An updated soil survey, according to George Carlson, farm planner for the Delaware County Soil Conservation district, would map at least 125 different soil types.

The soil survey information meeting is being held especially for members of the County Conference board, USDA representatives, and community and county organization leaders. However, persons interested in learning more about the benefits that may be derived by many segments of the Delaware county economy from an updated soil survey are cordially invited to attend.

Distribute 1500 Pine Seedlings to Pupils In County Schools

Nearly 1,500 pine seedlings were distributed to students of elementary and junior high schools Friday by the Delaware County Soil Conservation district.

These individually packaged seedlings were presented to all students who participated in a recent Soil Conservation Poster and Essay contest.

Schools represented were West Delaware schools at Manchester, Dundee and Greeley; Maquoketa Valley schools at Delhi, Buck Creek, Hopkinton and Earlville; Edgewood-Colesburg schools at Edgewood and Colesburg; Saint Mary's school at Manchester, and Saint Joseph's school at Earlville.

Packaging and distribution of the seedlings was handled by the district commissioners, assistant commissioners and their wives. The commissioners are Paul Gienapp, Verne Hermann and Herb Prideg. Assistant commissioners are Maurice Minor and Vernon Schmock.

The distribution served to climax the week of Earth Day on April 22 and Arbor Day on April 24, and served also as recognition of young people's growing concern with the quality of environment.

Schedule Display Of Conservation Contest Entries

Conservation Poster and Essay contest entries will be displayed at an open house Wednesday, May 20, from 3 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Delaware county fairgrounds.

The open house was announced by Paul J. Gienapp, chairman of the Delaware County Soil Conservation district commissioners.

More than 1,500 pupils from schools in Delaware county participated, preparing 789 posters and 152 essays for the Conservation contests.

Awards will be made to the winners in each of the four divisions of the Poster and Essay contests, Gienapp said.

SCS Staff, Commissioners

COUNTY SOIL DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS and members of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) staff are shown at a recent meeting. Seated are (from left): Pearl Williams, office clerk, Manchester; Vernon Schmock, Strawberry Point; Herb Prideg, newly elected chairman, Manchester; Gib Hoffman, Manchester; Norman Fiddelke, Manchester, and Maurice Minor, Manchester. Standing are George Carlson and soil conservation technician Ray Wycoff. Paul Gienapp of Hopkinton also a commissioner, is absent from the picture.



Manchester, Iowa, September 28, 1970

Conservation Contest Winners Are Named

The winners of a 1965 Poster and Essay contest sponsored by the Delaware County Soil Conservation district were announced this week by Donald Eibey, chairman of the district governing body.

The purpose of this contest, Eibey said, is to promote interest and the study of conservation in our schools and to emphasize the importance of conserving our soil and water resources.

This year's contest was divided into four divisions: Division I—Poster contest for Kindergarten children; Division II — Poster contest for first, second and third grades; Division III — Essay contest for fourth, fifth and sixth grades; Division IV — Essay contest for seventh and eighth grades.

In Division I and II competition was by school class, and in Division III and IV competition was by individual student. Essays were to be approximately 500 words in length and were to be on some phase of soil and water conservation or other natural resources. Exact title was left to the discretion of the student, Eibey said.

The winners were as follows:

Division I, Posters, Kindergarten — first, Manchester afternoon class, Miss G. Franks, teacher; second, Manchester morning class, Miss G. Franks, teacher.

Division II, Posters, first, second and third grades — first, Grade 1, Lincoln school, Manchester, Edna Kehrli teacher, poster made by Debra Harrington; second, Grade 3, Dundee elementary school, Harriett Lawrence teacher, poster made by Randy Lee.

Division III, Essay contest, fourth, fifth and sixth grades — first, Larry Whiting, Maquoketa Valley, Hopkinton; second, Terese Cummings, Maquoketa Valley, Earlville, third, Walter Wessel, Edgewood-Colesburg Community school, Colesburg; fourth Jim Hoffman, West Delaware, Manchester; fifth, James Manson, St. Joseph's school, Earlville; sixth,

Jane Boeckenstedt, Maquoketa Valley, Earlville.

Division IV, Essay contest, seventh and eighth grades — first, Peggy Parmater, St. Joseph's school, Earlville; second, Neil Eldon Sherman, Edgewood-Colesburg Community school, Colesburg; third, Janice Conrad, St. Joseph school, Earlville; fourth, Darla Holthaus, Edgewood-Colesburg Community school, Colesburg; fifth, Linda Gibbs, St. Joseph school, Earlville; sixth, Karen Burkle, St. Joseph school, Earlville.

Cash prizes were awarded as follows: first, \$10; second, \$5; third, \$2; fourth, \$1; fifth, \$1, and sixth, \$1.

Total entries in the contest were: Division I, 4; Division II, 2; Division III, 34; Division IV, 15.

The contest was judged by Mrs. Verne Hermann, Manchester; Mrs. Donald Eibey, Manchester, and Mrs. Francis Nugent, Earlville.

Appreciation and thanks is expressed by all the district commissioners and the district office personnel for the interest and response to this contest, Eibey concluded.



Over 1,000 Conservation Posters

OVER 1,000 POSTERS were on display Friday and Saturday at the fairgrounds pavilion in Manchester. Conservation posters were entered in an annual contest by students in Delaware county, sponsored by Delaware County Soil Conservation District Commissioners. Displaying top ribbons in the lower photo are (from left): front — Kathy Winter, Michael Gudenauf, Keith Hunt, Dennis Hunt, Dwight Hettinger; middle row — Linda Engelken, Kevin Winter, Reeves, Randy Hilby, Tom Gibbs, Dan Cocking; back — Donnie Skinner and Gary Hilby.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE NEWS

Contact: Keith Krause, District Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service
909 W. Main
Manchester, Iowa 52057
319-927-4590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Sign-up for February

Landowners in Delaware County will have another opportunity to participate in the CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) or as some call it the Ten Year Set-a-side Program.

The next sign-up period is scheduled for February 1-19 of 1988, announces Keith Krause, District Conservationist for the Delaware County Soil Conservation Service. Any landowner with highly erodible cropland can submit an annual per acre bid in exchange for idling those acres for ten years. Bids can be submitted to the local ASCS office during the February 1-19 sign-up.

The highest bids accepted in Delaware County have been up to \$85.00 per acre. Krause added, "As of this time we have not received any word of a bonus payment for this year's sign-up. Although there may be some other program modifications prior to sign-up time."

The goal of the CRP program is to reduce commodity surpluses by idling highly erodible cropland from production. This is intended to increase commodity prices, reduce erosion, enhance wildlife habitat and benefit water quality.

Krause explained that Iowa has the fifth largest number of acres enrolled into CRP, with over 1,410,111 acres signed-up. Only the states of Kansas, Montana, Colorado, and Minnesota have more acres into CRP respectively. Landowners in Delaware County have enrolled over 7,600 acres

Any land enrolled into the CRP must be seeded to a permanent cover of grass, grass-legumes, native grasses, or trees. This will control erosion, control weeds, and provide habitat for wildlife. A landowner is eligible for 50% cost share to establish permanent cover. Krause said, the majority of CRP acres are being seeded to a common mixture of smooth brome grass and alfalfa. There are also 64 acres being planted to trees and approximately 200 acres will be seeded to native grasses. "The native grasses, such as switchgrass, will provide some excellent weed control and wildlife cover over the ten year period," says Krause. The permanent seeding cannot be grazed or harvested during the contract period. The addition of some excellent wildlife habitat should help to restore pheasants, quail, and other wildlife to good numbers once again.

One common misconception is some people think that in order to enroll land into the CRP you have to bid in the whole farm. This is not the case. We have very few whole farms enrolled into the CRP added Krause. In most cases landowners have enrolled a particular highly erodible field or a part of the field which is highly erodible. In some cases this will make the remainder of the farm or field easier to operate, more rentable, and more productive because the highly erodible ground has been idled. Enrolling highly erodible fields into the CRP is also an option to consider for the conservation compliance portion of the FSA. This states that all highly erodible fields must have a conservation plan by 1990 and the plan applied by 1995. By enrolling these fields in the CRP they will be in compliance for ten years. After the ten years have expired this land can be farmed again with an approved conservation plan.

Another question which comes up quite often says Krause, is that people feel they cannot sell the farm once it is in CRP. This also is not true. A landowner with ground in CRP can sell the farm as long as the new owner agrees to maintain the CRP contract for the duration. Otherwise the landowner will forfeit all previous payments received. In a couple of cases the CRP program has made the property more saleable because the new owner was able to assume the contract payments.

Krause expects another big sign-up for the CRP this February. He encourages any one who has questions or would like to see if their land will qualify to contact the SCS office as soon as possible in order to be prepared for the sign-up period. The Delaware County SCS office is located at 909 W. Main in Manchester or you can call 927-4590.

This publication was mailed to the following newspapers on 1-7-88.

Delaware County Leader
Hopkinton, Iowa 52237

Dyersville Commercial
153 1st Avenue E.
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Edgewood Reminder
Edgewood, Iowa 52042

FarmBureau Spokesman
Farm Bureau Office
115 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Manchester Press
109 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Press-Journal Office
107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076

Farm news

Conservation Reserve program sign up Feb. 1-19

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Plan Conservation Workshop for Area Teachers Oct. 6-7

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.

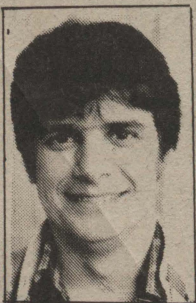
The first workshop, intended primarily for teachers in the eastern part of the state, will be held at Camp EWALU near Strawberry Point Oct. 6 - 7. The second will be at the state 4-H Camp near Luther Oct. 13 - 14.

In past years, many Soil Conservation districts have sponsored teachers to the two-day workshop. Hughes says local interested teachers should contact the Delaware County Soil Conservation district office in Manchester.

According to program chairman Bernard Clausen, 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.

Business/



County Comments

by Chuck Kolbet
Extension
Agriculturist

It's impossible to believe that we could have such a drastic change in our moisture situation in such a short time. In 1988 and 1989, we faced a shortage and now we seem to have the problem of too much at times. The too much isn't like we want to shut it off, but we certainly have seen the situation of too much too fast. The net result of this, of course, is that soil erosion in Delaware County has really become a problem again.

Keith Krause of the Delaware County Soil Conservation Service, and I have discussed the problem. Both of us received a tremendous number of inquiries expressing concern over the wind erosion and some of the water erosion that took place this year. In the next few months I'm planning to cover some aspects of soil erosion control with the help of Keith at the Soil Conservation Service. Our intent is to look at the situation and some facts and figures as to what has to be done to conserve this extremely important resource. The first of these will cover the effects of erosion and conservation tillage.

Soil erosion has been a major world problem for many centuries. Great empires, like the Greek and Roman, fell because of their unchecked soil erosion. Erosion has left the once fertile lands of North China, Persia, Mesopotamia and North Africa in desert. In these countries, man's increasing demands for grain resulted in exploitation of the fragile land, exceeding its natural ability to recuperate. Are the farms in the Midwest heading down the same path?

There are four effects that soil erosion has on crop land: nutrient loss, decreased water storage capacity, crop damage, and decreased farmability.

The first effect concerns the loss of top soil, which contains the richest supply of soil nutrients of any soil layer. The top soil contains about \$12.5 worth of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium per ton. This translates into a \$62.5 per acre loss when erosion is limited to five tons/acre. The organic matter in the top soil contains most of the micronutrients which will be lost with excessive erosion.

Second, erosion reduces the amount of soil available to store soil moisture. Also, water that causes erosion is lost and cannot be used by the crop. If this water were allowed to infiltrate under a conservation tillage system, higher crop yields would be expected where rainfall is limited.

Third, rills and gullies destroy young plant seedlings by removing the soil from their roots and displacing them down slope. Sediment deposits at the bottom end of the fields, burying the young plants and the well-structured soil. Because this sediment has poor soil structure, water and air movement is greatly restricted. Field drainage is slow, often delaying spring tillage and planting in this area.

The fourth and most noticeable effect of erosion is land abandonment by farmers when a field is cut up by gullies. Gully growth can be directly related to the increased peak runoff rates of conventionally tilled fields.

Residue protects soil from the forces of wind and water that cause soil erosion. When the soil surface is protected from the force of wind, wind erosion will not begin. Once soil begins to blow, particles of wind erosion will not begin. Once soil begins to blow, particles of sand bounce along the soil surface, detaching more particles on each impact. While wind erosion is very visible, it accounts for only a small percentage to the total erosion in Iowa.

Water erosion causes the majority of the production loss and off site damage in our state. When conservation tillage practices are adopted, the soil erosion is reduced by protecting the soil surface from rain drop energy that detaches soil particles from the soil surface. Residue left on the surface also creates small dams which store water so that it can be absorbed by the soil at a later time. These small dams slow runoff and thus reduce the amount of soil the runoff carries. The effects of water erosion are reduced yields on the land, and pollution of water with the sediments. Conservation tillage can reduce the impacts of both by keeping the soil on the land and out of the water.

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Bi-County compliance at 95 percent Deadline near for CRP sign-up

by Jean Larson

Farmers in Dubuque and Delaware counties have about three more weeks to meet the deadline on conservation compliance.

Keith Krause, Delaware County district conservationist, said Monday that about 95 percent of Delaware County farmers have prepared plans for conservation compliance.

THAT AMOUNTS to about 120,000 acres of the total 127,000 acres in the county. The remaining farmers need to call the Soil Conservation office by Dec. 31 or risk losing eligibility for USDA farm pro-

grams.

Krause said the plan has to be implemented by Jan. 1, 1995. Farmers

who do not have a plan by the Dec. 31 deadline but compile one in January must implement it within a year.

The conservation plan is designed from rotation and management practices that are matched with the soil types of the land.

In Dubuque County the percentage of farmers with plans is the same — 95 percent. This amounts to 191,000 of the 200,000 acres

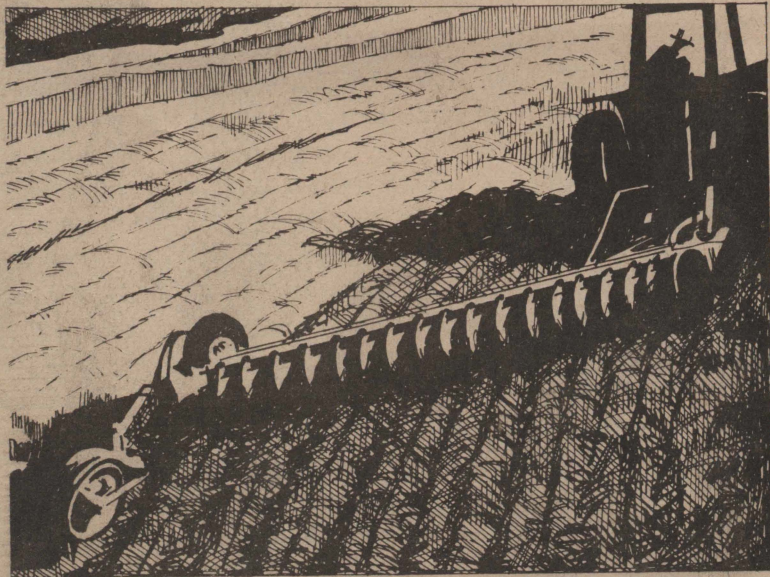
of land in the county.

"Each plan spells out what farmers will do to condense soil loss," said Greg Martin, Dubuque County district conservationist.

He said with the deadline closing in, farmers should contact their local soil conservation office to make arrangements for an appointment to draw up the plans.

Telephone numbers are: Delaware County Soil Conservation, 927-4590; Dubuque County Soil Conservation, 876-3418.

BOTH MARTIN and Krause stressed that farmers should contact the office before the deadline in order to maintain eligibility for USDA programs.



Cuts threaten conservation, officials say

By DIRCK STEIMEL

Register Business Writer

When the federal government slashed farm subsidies last month, it may have triggered a serious erosion of soil conservation efforts in Iowa and other states, says a leading Iowa conservation advocate and an agricultural economist.

With \$13 billion removed from agricultural subsidies in the deficit-reduction package, more farmers will decide to drop out of federal programs, the two said.

Once out of the program, those farmers will be under no obligation to complete the government-sponsored soil conservation efforts launched in the late 1980s. Farmers are required to complete the conservation efforts only if they want to receive subsidies.

"The government had an economic stick, but now that stick is shrinking," said Neil Harl, an Iowa State University agricultural economist.

Congress actually beefed up conservation portions of the 1990 Food Security Act passed last month. It imposed stiffer penalties on farmers who destroy swamps, established water-protection programs and set up a pilot program protecting farmland from being swallowed by urban sprawl.

Cut Economic Incentive

But forced to save money, Congress cut subsidies and thus reduced the economic incentive for farmers to enter conservation programs, Harl said.

"I think a lot of farmers are just going to say 'the heck with it' once the economic incentives are not there," said Rep. Paul Johnson. The Decorah Democrat, who is retiring from office, has long been a leader of soil conservation efforts in the Iowa Legislature.

Conservation advocates like Johnson say Iowa farmers won't suddenly spurn decades of land stewardship practices and begin abusing their land. The state, blessed with some of the world's most productive land, has a proud history of soil conservation, they say.

But conservationists worry the federal subsidy cutback will trim enthusiasm for expensive conservation. Eventually, state or federal governments may be forced to pass laws to stem erosion, Johnson said.

State conservation officials and farm leaders disagree.

They predict few Iowa farmers will drop out of federal farm programs because of cutbacks. And, they predict, Iowa farmers who do drop out will maintain their soil conservation efforts.

"Iowa has been a conservation-minded state for many years," said Merlin Plagge, Iowa Farm Bureau president. A reduction in subsidies won't change that attitude, he said.

Subsidy Checks

There is little question that subsidy checks from Washington, D.C., were a powerful incentive to get American farmers involved in soil conservation during the 1980s, Harl said.

The strong link between soil conservation and subsidies was forged as part of the 1985 farm bill. Congress voted to tie subsidies to conservation after environmental groups complained the government was paying farmers who abused the land, destroyed wetlands and plowed up prairie.

In the 1985 bill, Congress required most farmers who wanted subsidies to write a five-year soil conservation plan with their local Soil Conservation Service office. To continue earning subsidies, farmers are required to complete the plan by building terraces, restoring wetlands and other conservation projects before Jan. 1, 1995.

The Soil Conservation Service plans to randomly check farms in the coming years to make sure operators are fulfilling the plans filed with the government, said Jeffrey Vonk, Iowa State conservationist and head of the

Subsidy cuts hurt soil conservation, officials say

CONSERVATION

Continued from Page One

state's conservation service office. "We'll make sure they are making progress."

Less Enthusiasm

But many farmers may decide Washington's less lucrative subsidies do not balance the costs of carrying out their five-year conservation plans, Harl said. "The greater the costs, the less enthusiasm there will be."

The costs of the conservation plans will vary widely from farm to farm throughout Iowa and the nation because of soil types and terrain, Harl said. Farmers with the most erodible soils and the most expensive conservation plans will probably be the first to drop out, he said.

But others question whether many farmers are ready to drop out of farm programs and dump their conservation plans.

While subsidy payments will be

smaller, they aren't the only thing that attracts farmers to federal programs, said Jim Gulliford, director of the soil conservation division of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. To qualify for other U.S. Department of Agriculture benefits, such as the Farmers Home Administration loans or crop insurance subsidies, farmers still have to fulfill their conservation plans, he said.

Penalty

And farmers who drop out of federal programs will face a penalty when they want to return, Vonk said. Once out of the federal program, farmers would have to complete their conservation plans before returning even if the five-year time period had not expired, he said.

Even if farmers forego subsidies, it doesn't they'll automatically dump the conservation plan, said Vonk and other conservation officials.

"I tend to take a positive view of this," Vonk said. "Instead of hitting people over the head with the loss of

benefits, I think we can show them how they can save by protecting their land."

But Johnson wonders if farmers can be persuaded to continue conservation efforts if they receive fewer economic benefits.

"There is a lot of talk about land stewardship, but I doubt if farmers are going to do it if the money is not there," he said.

As the federal incentives decline for soil conservation, it may be up to states to do more, Johnson said. The states could offer more cost-sharing programs that absorb some of the cost of soil conservation measures, he said.

As it assumes more of the costs of soil conservation, the state could also pass laws that require farmers to use soil conservation practices, Johnson said. "I think Iowa should get something in return," he said.

But Plagge disagrees that conservation laws should be passed. "Most farmers are already doing everything they can for conservation," he said.

Work of defining wetlands begins

By Bert Kreitlow

Gazette rural affairs writer

Five years after Congress told the U.S. Soil Conservation Service to regulate wetlands loss on farmland, the first step in comprehensive enforcement of the swampbuster rules is beginning this spring.

Letters are now dribbling out to farmers from certain counties in the state telling them what the SCS considers to be potential wetlands on their land. All farmers in the state should be notified by summer, and final decisions on what will legally be considered wetlands are expected by Oct. 1.

In the case of Johnson County, district conservationist Wayne Petersen said his staff will be telling farmers in person exactly what the existence of potential wetlands means.

The fact that Petersen arranged to make these presen-

“Agriculture over the last century and longer has been responsible for an estimated 80 to 90 percent of the wetlands loss in this country.”

**Ann Robinson,
Izaak Walton League**

tations in person says something about how contentious the issue of wetlands regulations has become.

Another sign is the years it has taken to even get this far on enforcing the program, partly because the process has been bogged down over disputes and revisions of definitions.

The American Farm Bureau, a critic of the way the swampbuster program is run, has named wetlands rules and the bigger issue of private property rights as its most important issue of the year. (See accompanying story, page 9E).

“I think it has the potential to be a sensitive issue, you bet,” said Petersen.

The purpose of the wetlands protections is to halt any further loss of the minuscule amount of the important ecosystems still remaining.

Simply put, the law says that if farmers drain or damage wetlands on their land, they will then be ineligible for government farm program benefits such as support payments or government loans.

“Agriculture over the last century and longer has been responsible for an estimated 80 to 90 percent of the wetlands loss in

■ Please turn to 9E: Wetlands



Gazette photo by Chris Stewart

Wetlands, such as these in Louisa County, are becoming an issue of farmers' property rights.

Wetlands: Farm Bureau objects to way wetlands are defined

■ From page 1E

this country," said Ann Robinson, an agricultural specialist to the conservation and wildlife organization Izaak Walton League of America. Robinson lives in Decorah.

"In a state like Iowa, where we have lost over 90 percent, it just seems like every additional loss is very serious."

Farm Bureau leadership, though, argues that the regulations and the way they are being enforced are not realistic. Neither are they consistent.

National Affairs Director Emily Piper of the Iowa Farm Bureau said she was at a meeting on wetlands earlier this month attended by staff members of the SCS, the federal Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state Department of Natural Resources.

"Within five minutes of that meeting they were all arguing with each other. It's pretty obvious they were all working from different definitions," said Piper.

Farm Bureau's objections have to do with the way wetlands have been defined. They also argue that it is not reasonable to assume all wetlands from puddle size on up is valuable enough to disrupt a farmer's plans.

And when wetlands on private property prevent farmers from using the land for agriculture production, the owner should be compensated for the loss of income, according to Farm Bureau.

PALO FARMER Ed Kibbie may be typical of several farmers. He said the SCS considers a 16-acre plot of bottomland on his farm to be a wetland. He bought the property in 1986 after swamp-buster laws took effect from a farmer who started to drain the land and then ran out of money.

Kibbie doesn't consider the plot very useful to wildlife, and financially it only makes sense to

tile it rather than pay \$1,600 dollars a year in taxes on \$16,000 worth of farmland that is not producing anything.

SCS officials say that confusion between agencies on definitions have been cleared up. And precisely because most wetlands in this intensively farmed state have already been drained and cultivated, the rules will not make any difference for most farms.

"You can farm it just as you have farmed it prior to the wetlands rules," said Lynn Betts, SCS spokesman for the agency's state office.

Determining where the wetlands may be located was first carried out by teams of map readers who pored over the soil maps and aerial photos covering every piece of Iowa's 33.5 million acres of farmland.

TO DETERMINE what is a potential wetland subject to regulation, the teams looked for the presence of a marshy type of soil on the maps that classify soil types.

Then from aerial photos of the fields taken five separate years, the teams looked for signs of either standing water, drowned out crops or other evidence of water.

The rules allow farmers to continue raising crops on wetlands that have been drained and used for farmland since 1985 or if it is the type of fields that periodically floods or collects water.

But from now on the farmer cannot improve the drainage system or put in new drainage. Technically, that drainage work may mean something as innocuous as clearing trees and pulling out stumps, according to Petersen.

And fields that have been abandoned for over five years and now fits the definitions of

wetlands cannot go back to cultivation without breaking the rules.

Once the farmers are notified of potential wetlands on their land, they have 60 days to agree to the determinations or produce the records or other evidence that the areas are already drained or otherwise don't apply as a wetland.

It will be up to each county's district conservationist to make the final decision. But farmers can appeal that decision to state or federal authorities.

It is too early to tell if the process of determining wetlands will lead to much confrontation, according to SCS officials.

But Petersen of the Johnson County office plans during his personal visit to present the process as an opportunity rather than a burden.

Some incentives and funding are already available for farmers who want to enhance or expand a wetland area as wildlife habitat. In fact, with little or no incentive many farmers have created and maintain such marsh habitat on their land. And hopefully even more programs will be coming from Washington, Petersen said.

"It's critical that they understand the value of wetlands at this point. We're going to be selling wetlands as an alternative," said Petersen.

Wetlands one of many property rights issues

By Bert Kreitlow

Gazette rural affairs writer

Scott County farmer Dick Hahn remembers that 30 years ago his father willingly complied with the government's plans to condemn 160 acres of his 240-acre farm to build the Interstate 80-Interstate 280 interchange.

"He was civic minded enough to realize that's progress," said Hahn, a board member of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation and a critic of the way the government regulates farmers' use of their property to protect wetlands.

"What we have today is quite a bit different," Hahn said. "We shouldn't stand in the way of progress." But he is opposed to the type of regulations that now affects "farmers' rights to farm for a dubious purpose."

Iowa Farm Bureau President Merlin Plagge is leading the state's contribution to a national Farm Bureau campaign promoting more appreciation of private property rights.

"THERE'S A growing feeling among farmers and ranchers around the country that their property rights guaranteed by the Constitution are being eroded," Plagge said.

Wetlands protection laws are prime examples, he said. Other examples are protection of habitat for endangered species and the use of abandoned railways as recreational trails, according to the Farm Bureau.

"They keep adding another layer and another layer," Hahn said.

The Farm Bureau is arguing that such regulations constitute a

taking of land, and that farmers should be compensated for loss of income if such regulations prevent them from producing crops or livestock — and thus income.

The Farm Bureau is also supporting a bill now pending in the U.S. Senate and co-sponsored by Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, that would require federal staff members to carry out the equivalent of an environmental impact study that looks at how new regulations will affect private property rights.

Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, said there is nothing unusual in passing a law that affects the way an individual uses something they own. And, he said, most agriculture laws are not outright bans, but rather are a condition for remaining eligible for government farm programs.

"The government does that every day," Harkin said.

Drake University law professor Neil Hamilton said in a recent book on farming and environmental law that one of the most basic issues in society is the conflict between the Constitution's protection of private property rights and the role of government as protector of the public's health, safety and welfare.

Court cases concerning wetlands have decided both that farmers were denied their constitutional rights and that the public interest in preserving wetlands was more important, Hamilton said.

"Unfortunately, it is still not clear when the government's limit on the use of private land is going too far" in restricting private property rights, Hamilton writes.

Opposition pressures SCS to drop county hearings on soil erosion rules

By Bert Kreitlow
Gazette rural affairs writer

Another change has been made in the way the U.S. Soil Conservation Service plans to handle soil erosion rules.

Plans have been dropped — at least for now — that were announced in May to hold a series of public hearings in all 99 counties and then totally revise the level of maximum soil loss that most farmers must meet by 1995, state Conservationist J. Michael Nethery said.

"We're going to put that decision on hold," said Nethery, the top state official for the federal agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Instead, Washington officials have told Nethery to handle the situation on the state level by holding informal meetings with farmer groups, conservation board members and others.

Any adjustments to the rules as a result of these meetings would be made on a local level and would be minor, Nethery said.

The state SCS office was told over the phone about the change last week. The decision was ultimately made by Wilson Scaling, chief of the SCS, Nethery said.

The particulars of the conservation compliance program were first set out in a section of the comprehensive farm bill passed in 1985. Basically, the section required anyone participating in federal farm programs to not cause more than a certain acceptable amount of erosion on their land.

Farmers had until the end of last year to submit the plans for meeting the soil loss limits and now have until 1995 to implement those plans.

But in April, Washington SCS officials said the soil loss standards for Iowa would be loosened, to

effectively double soil loss limits to up to 40 tons per acre, Nethery said.

That decision was made in response to complaints from some Scott County farmers to the Washington officials. But Scott County farmers have said their complaints were about the way those present standards were being enforced locally and not about the maximum soil loss levels themselves.

Soil conservation officials, politicians and environmentalists protested the change, so 10 days later that plan was rescinded, the previous standards were reinstated and the idea to hold the series of public hearings was substituted by Scaling.

That plan was criticized at a meeting May 15 in Des Moines. Most of those who spoke said that no change should be made in the standards and the meetings were not necessary. The SCS also had been criticized for going over the heads of local staff members who have a better understanding of the state's situation.

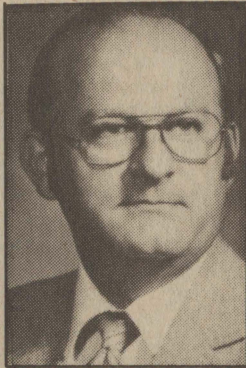
"The (latest) decision was made based on that (May 15) hearing, that it was not appropriate to open up the standards and start from scratch," Nethery said.

"Rather than just make a blanket change, we've been given the opportunity to work with the conservation groups and the individual farmers as far as making any individual changes that need to be made," said Nethery.

Ollie Emerson, a farmer from Allamakee County and chairman of the state Soil Conservation Committee, was among those who criticized Scaling.

"Evidently we accomplished what we were attempting to do then," Emerson said Thursday in reaction to the new development. He also applauded the move toward giving more responsibility for running the program to the local level.

"I don't think that Washington should even stick their nose in it," Emerson said.



J. Michael Nethery

Erosion Damage In Recent Rains Points Up Need

Conservation Week Highlights Loss, Progress

Soil and Water Conservation Week, as proclaimed by Governor Loveless, is set for June 16 through 23.

Eroded fields and gullied drainageways; fence rows and roadside ditches filled with silt; streams running dark with mud stand as striking evidence of the heavy erosion damage caused by recent rains throughout Delaware county.

Commenting on the Governor's proclamation, officials of the Delaware County Soil Conservation district said, "Perhaps no other time would be more appropriate for every farmer and land owner in Delaware county to stop and ask himself, 'Just how much longer can I afford to let this erosion damage continue?' Too often we become concerned with the erosion losses in June and July and then—as tillage operations and growing crops begin to hide the evidence—we forget the problem when we make our plans for another year."

The Soil Conservation Service technicians assisting the district indicated that many fields lost from 20 to 30 tons of topsoil per acre during recent heavy rains. Losses of over 4 or 5 tons per acre per year is considered excessive by soils specialists.

A comprehensive study of the erosion problem in the county a few years ago indicates the magnitude of the problem. This study pointed out that 97 per cent of the county is subject to sheet and gully erosion in varying degrees of severity, with nearly 150,000 acres or over one-half of the cropland area having suffered moderate to severe erosion with only 4 to 8 inches of surface soil remaining.

The district commissioners also emphasized that not only the permanent loss of topsoil but the annual loss of lime, fertilizer and manure, along with crop damage caused by uncontrolled run-off represent an economic loss to the county mounting to many thousands of dollars.

In announcing "Soil Conservation Week", the Soils District Officials pointed out, "In spite of it's value, all the proclamations in the world won't solve the problem. The important thing will be the 'resolutions' we—as individual farmers and land owners—make and keep!—the resolution to adopt those conservation practices that will reduce or prevent these erosion losses."

Turning to the progress side of the picture, the commissioners find statistics to add a note of cheer in the depressing story of topsoil losses.

Nearly 500 Delaware county farmers have become "cooperators" with the Delaware County Soil Conservation district since it was organized over 10 years ago. These farmers have received assistance from the Soil Conservation Service personnel assigned to the district to help solve some of the conservation and land use problems on their farms. The help received ranges from the development of "complete conservation plans" to technical assistance with some specific problem such as gully control or wet land drainage.

The S.C.S. office reports an increasing interest in such projects as waterway development, gully control structures, livestock ponds, and tree planting. During 1956 over 90,000 cubic yards of earth moving was completed on waterway and gully control projects.

In analyzing the job remaining to be done in the district, the S.C.S. office pointed out that the single greatest need was for increased application of contour farming, contour strip cropping and terrace construction.

Over 30,000 acres of cropland is best adapted to strip cropping with only a little over 1,000 acres now on the land. Less than 5 per cent of the corn in the county is now contoured compared with

S.C.S. office pointed out that the single greatest need was for increased application of contour farming, contour strip cropping and terrace construction.

Over 30,000 acres of cropland is best adapted to strip cropping with only a little over 1,000 acres now on the land. Less than 5 per cent of the corn in the county is now contoured, compared with a need estimate of over 50 per cent.

The S.C.S. estimates a need for over 500 miles of terraces with only about 1 per cent now constructed.

An increasing interest in these practices is apparent, S.C.S. points out. In studies conducted over many years, contour farming has been found to reduce soil losses to about 50 per cent and contour strip cropping to about 25 per

(Continued on page 6)

Manchester, Iowa, June 13, 1957

Erosion—

(Continued from page 1)

cent of losses with conventional

"up and down-hill" farming.

George Carlson, Soil Conservationist, said, however, that the greatest opportunity for really satisfactory run off and erosion control is to be found in the use of standard terraces—along with contouring of cultivated crops.

"Terraces, along with well grassed waterways and outlets and a crop rotation suited to soil conditions, represent the most effective erosion control practice adapted to this locality," Carlson stressed. Pointing out that terraces will give 90 to 95 per cent effective control, Carlson added, "Terraces will work for you regardless of the crop in the rotation or the time of the year that heavy rains occur."

The importance of planning ahead and using a complete approach to the conservation problem was emphasized. Carlson cited such situations as newly constructed waterways or ponds filled with silt from uncontrolled run-off and erosion from surrounding fields as examples of poor planning.

Donald Eibey who farms 2 miles southwest of Manchester, is sold on the value of soil conservation. Eibey, who has been Soils District Cooperator since 1949, told the Manchester Rotary Club visiting his farm Monday, that his yields on a strip cropped area had nearly tripled since 1949.

The area being observed was, in 1949, cut up with several ditches too deep to be crossed with farm machinery. A part of the area had reverted to an unproductive blue-grass pasture.

In the fall of 1949, the various agricultural agencies in the county conducted a field day demonstration. Ditches were shaped, fertilized and seeded, a temporary diversion to protect the waterway and a permanent diversion to protect buildings and yards from runoff were constructed, and contour strip cropping was laid out on adjacent fields.

Since that time, Eibey, continuing with his conservation plan, has drained a 1 acre slough and rearranged his fields to permit a better crop rotation and used alfalfa-brome seedings along with a well developed lime and fertilizer program.

In 1956 Eibey reported an 85 bushel corn yield on the strip cropped area. In commenting on the value of his strip cropping, Eibey stated, "In years of heavy rainfall these strips have controlled erosion and in a dry year like 1956 they held what moisture I did get. Some of this soil is on the light side and not only washes easily but dries out in a year like 1956."

Eibey indicated he is now giving consideration to terrace construction on that part of the farm not now in strip cropping.

Eibey serves as an elected Soils District Commissioner and as a member of the County ASC Committee.

Technical assistance for the application of practices is available from the Soil Conservation Service through the Soils district with federal cost-sharing for many projects available through the



County Extension Directors, Past to Present

FORMER COUNTY AGENTS were among the 300 attending a Delaware County Extension Service Golden Anniversary banquet here last Thursday night. From left are Paul Burson, Kermith Huehn, William Diamond, Virgil K. Webster and Robert E. Hall. Hall has been Delaware county extension director the past 20 years.

FREE SEED HELPS WILDLIFE

A winter food plot can go along way to helping wildlife, and especially pheasants, make it through a tough northern Iowa winter, according to Pat Allee, of the Delaware County Pheasants Forever Chapter. In many cases this is the only source of food and cover they may have. Allee adds, "Winter survival is the biggest limiting factor to the pheasant population in northern Iowa."

For this reason the Pheasants Forever Chapter provides free corn and grain sorghum seed to landowners in Delaware County for the establishment of food plots. These areas are to be left standing throughout the winter so as to provide food and cover for all kinds of wildlife.

Larry Baumgartner, also with the Pheasants Forever Chapter, says, "This was the first year we have tried a project such as this. Over 20 food plots were established through-out the county." Baumgartner adds, "We have been well pleased with the quality of the food plots and are looking forward to even more participation next year."

The proceeds from last year's Pheasant Forever Banquet helped to provide the funding to get the food plot project going.

This year the banquet will be held on Saturday night November 7, 1987 at the Manchester Country Club. A buffet dinner will be served for all members at 7:00: Followed by an art auction and the raffling of door prizes.

Allee and Baumgartner commented, "We are looking forward to another successful banquet. With all proceeds staying in Delaware County. Hopefully, more people will be able to participate in the food plot program next year.

Food Plots can also be used in conjunction with some of the present farm programs. Keith Krause, District Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service in Delaware County reports, "Food plots can now be established on existing Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres. This is a new addition to the CRP which has over 7600 acres enrolled in Delaware County at this time. The food plots can be from one quarter to five acres in size as long as they do not exceed

25% of a field or more than 10% of the total acres in CRP." Krause added, "Before establishing a food plot on CRP acres the landowner needs to contact the SCS to certify its location and obtain planting recommendations. The food plot should be established on the flatter slopes where erosion will not be a problem and in a location where it will be accessible for wildlife."

In many cases food plots can be used to intercept or divert wildlife such as deer and turkeys away from crop fields where animal crop damage may be a problem.

Brian Reimer, ASCS Director for Delaware County reports; Food plots can also be installed on annual setaside acres. The food plots on setaside acres can be one half to ten acres in size.

"A landowner must apply for a food plot at the ASCS office prior to establishment and certify the food plot area at the time of crop certification. A twelve dollar inspection fee is required," added Reimer, "and no mechanical harvesting is allowed of a food plot on annual setaside acres."

These are some of the program opportunities available to people in Delaware County. The Pheasants Forever is looking forward to working with landowners and assisting them and wildlife in any way they can.

'Importance Of Conservation'

"THE IMPORTANCE OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION"

The following is the award winning essay in Division III of Soil Conservation contest written by Judy Harris in the sixth grade of Maquoketa Valley school:

Conservation is the saving and wise use of all our natural resources. Conservation means guarding the resources so they can be used by a lot of people. It means taking care of human resources.

The natural resources are things like gold, copper, lead, coal, and the most important one of all, soil.

Soil is the covering of most of the land on the earth. When the soil is all washed away, then the people can't be fed, so many die. But when the soil is well taken care of then everything grows well, and people are happy not starving.

It takes a long time for soil to be made. It can be made by the weather on rocks. This makes the outside of the rocks to become softer and then decay into soil. Freezing and thawing can also help to make soil. Soil may be formed by wind, water, and glaciers.

One kind of soil is the topsoil. It is the soil that crops and other things grow best in. It is a lot richer and softer than the rocky subsoil. The topsoil has bits of dead plants and animals in it. In the 1700's the topsoil was about nine inches deep. Now it is only about three inches deep. We have lost one third of our topsoil.

The subsoil is the soil under the topsoil. It is usually two or three feet deep. It is very rocky and because of this crops don't grow nearly as well in subsoil as in topsoil.

Soil is made from the wearing off of rocks, bits of plants, and roots. Humus is one very important part of the soil. It helps the bits of soil hold together. Humus gives color and minerals to the soils. It acts like a sponge since it holds the water for the plants to use.

Loam is one kind of soil that is very good for growing crops since it is made up of all the particles in soil. Clay is called a heavy soil because it is so hard packed. Sandy soil is called light because it is loose.

Soil is important because without it there would be no life. All our food comes from the soil. Even the things we use for building our homes comes from the soil. This is why soil is important to everyone, everywhere.

Erosion is the wearing, blowing, and washing away of our soil.

Water erosion is erosion where you would get a very hard or long steady rain that washes away a lot of soil and makes gullies. It may also be just a small stream that is making a large gully. It starts as a small gully but then grows larger, cutting into the soil around it. This makes a large gully which the stream flows into.

Another kind of erosion is sheet erosion, sometimes called splash erosion. It is caused by raindrops hitting the bare ground, leaving rocks and dead plant roots up on a sort of base.

Wind erosion is another kind of erosion. It is caused by the wind blowing the good topsoil away. A good example of this is the shifting of sand dunes. One day they are in one place, the next day they are in another place.

Contour plowing is one way of saving our soil. You use contour plowing when you have a gentle slope but you know that it wouldn't be wise to plow up and down it. In contour plowing you plow around the slope as this man is doing.

Terracing is almost the same as contour plowing, except you build up the sides of the hill like in this picture. ---

Another way to save soil is strip cropping. In it you would plant a strip of some kind of crop, then

next you plant another strip of some other kind of crop. Your field will end up looking something like this picture. ---

Rotating crops is a way of putting back into the soil what you have taken out. You would plant a crop in a field one year and the next year you would plant something else there.

Fertilizing is another way of putting minerals back into the ground. Mulching and animal wastes put a lot of minerals into the soil. This man is putting back into the soil what he has probably taken out of it. ---

A grass covering such as this keeps animals fed as well as it holds the soil. Animals shouldn't be allowed to eat the grass off too close to the ground because then the grass will die and it won't hold the topsoil.

If some ground is too steep for crops, then it is best to let it grow in timber like this and be a wildlife refuge. ---

A watershed can be a community that drains off its water into the same river or stream. A ridge can divide a watershed causing water to run in two different directions like I have shown in this picture. ---

One of the benefits of saving soil is better crops. The richer you keep your soil, the better crops you will get. When you get better crops you get more income, too. You also have a better living standard and education when you receive more income.

Better recreation comes from saving our soil. Even when you go on a picnic or go swimming the ground you sit on or the pool or pond you swim in has been created by wise conservation practices. Here is a picture of a place made by wise conservation practices. ---

This picture shows a farm pond fixed up for recreation. It shows some good wildlife paradises. It also shows some recreation and also shows good irrigation and plowing practices. It is a good place to have picnics, too.

When you conserve your soil you will have more wildlife. Animals and birds would much rather live in a place that has trees and is quiet, than in a place that is full of gullies, has no trees, and is swarming with insects.

So you see, conservation pays off in many ways. Better recreation, crops, income, higher living standards, better education, and more wildlife are just a few of these benefits.

"Some times if a man does not put away childish things someone will drive over them coming into the garage"...Waterloo air port.

Delhi Teacher Wins Iowa Award of Merit

WAVERLY — Two men were inducted into the Iowa Conservation Hall of Fame and another was presented with the Iowa Conservation Award of Merit at the Iowa Academy of Science banquet, which was held at Wartburg college Friday evening.

Put in the Hall of Fame were Dr. Justin W. Leonard, a former Iowan who is now chairman of the Department of Resource Planning and Conservation of the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources, and Maynard Reece, a noted wildlife artist from Des Moines.

The Award of Merit recipient is Harold G. Lincoln, a commercial arts teacher at Maquoketa Valley Community high school, Delhi.

At the University of Michigan since 1964, Dr. Leonard earlier served 30 years with the Michigan department of conservation where he was a specialist in aquatic entomology and was employed by the institute of fisheries research. He is a 1931 graduate of Grinnell college and has his Ph.D. degree from Michigan.

Reece's major contribution to conservation has been his portrayal of fish and wildlife in their natural habitat. He is the only artist to ever win the National Contest for the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp four times (1948, 1951, 1959 and 1969).

Lincoln was cited for his role in organizing a teens sports club at Maquoketa Valley Community school for youngsters not involved in other extra-curricular activities.

About 100 students now participate in the club each year, and he has taken it on co-educational trips and camp-outs to Wisconsin, Yellow River State Forest and the Mississippi river.

As a result of interest stirred up by the club, he organized a study course in "Ecology" long before that term became a household word.

He is involved with the Delaware county sportsmen's group, the Iowa Conservation Education Council and the Iowa Wildlife Federation and has written numerous articles for the latter's publications.

Last year he received the Outstanding Conservation Teacher award which was presented by the Soil Conservation Achievement Awards program.

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF HEARING ON AN APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT AUTHORIZING CONTINUED WITH- DRAWALS OF WATER IN DELA- WARE COUNTY, IOWA

Notice is hereby given that there is now on file in the office of the Iowa Natural Resources Council, James W. Grimes Building, Des Moines, Iowa, an application from Martin Marietta Aggregates, Central Division (formerly Concrete Materials Division, Martin-Marietta Corporation) for a permit authorizing continued withdrawals of water in the maximum quantity of 200 acre-feet per year at a maximum rate of 4.3 cubic feet per second during the period April 1 to November 15 of each year from Coffins Creek and a rock quarry on land leased from Dean and Charles Walston generally described as lying in the E 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Section 21 and the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 28, all in T89N, R6W, Delaware County, Iowa, for industrial use on said land. This use of water in the maximum quantity of 154 acre-feet per year from Coffins Creek only is presently authorized by Iowa Water Permit #264-R1 which expires July 25, 1972.

Notice is further given that a public hearing will be held at 1:30 p.m., DST, on July 21, 1972, at the Office of the Water Commissioner, James W. Grimes Building, Des Moines, Iowa, at which time and place or at any adjournment, the Water Commissioner or his Deputy will adopt evidence of record relating to this use of water and will accept further evidence either in support of or in opposition to the granting of a permit. Any person desiring to appear at the hearing herein announced must file a written appearance at the Office of the Water Commissioner on or before July 17, 1972.

R. G. BULLARD
Water Commissioner

P73-w2

Misunderstanding conservation plan can be expensive

Wisconsin farmers risk losing \$500 million in farm program benefits if they don't follow USDA conservation guidelines. Unfortunately, many don't understand those guidelines, a University of Wisconsin Extension survey reveals.

The Conservation Compliance Program requires 55,000 Wisconsin farmers to implement a conservation plan for highly erodible lands by December, 1994.

Farmers are not required by law to comply. But if they don't, they won't be eligible for support prices for grain crops, storage loans, Farmers Home Administration loans, crop insurance, production adjustments, or disaster payments, explains William Taubman, Extension conservation specialist at UW-River Falls.

Dairy price supports are not affected.

Compliance will be monitored by Soil Conservation Service and Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service staff, who will check fields on at least 5 percent of all farms with highly erodible lands.

Agencies administering farm program benefits such as

loans, crop insurance and other benefits must check ASCS records to make sure farmers are complying.

The cost varies according to the practices specified and how much they'll be used. Cost isn't a big factor in most cases. Three quarters of the plans call for crop rotation changes, while 43 percent require a tillage change.

The practices can often save money by requiring less fuel, and saving topsoil, which can prevent loss of income in the long run.

"Conservation plans are not set in stone," Taubman emphasizes. "If the plan seems impractical, it can be amended. But it cannot be ignored."

"Above all," he adds, "we must remember that our top priority is to keep these farmers in business while meeting acceptable erosion standards."

"If by the mere force of numbers a majority should deprive a minority of any clearly written constitutional right, it might, in a moral point of view, justify revolution--certainly would if such a right were a vital one."

-Abraham Lincoln

Maurice Minor's Place is Pictured As Mystery Farm

A farm owned by Maurice Minor and located in Coffins Grove township four miles north of the highway 20 viaduct west of Manchester was pictured as last week's Mystery Farm.

Minor bought the 160-acre farm last February from Wilbur Morris, whose family had owned it for many years. His home farm of 169 acres adjoins this one on the north and he operates the two farms as a single unit.

Minor raises about 400 head of market hogs per year and maintains a herd of about 30 beef cows, feeding out the calves.

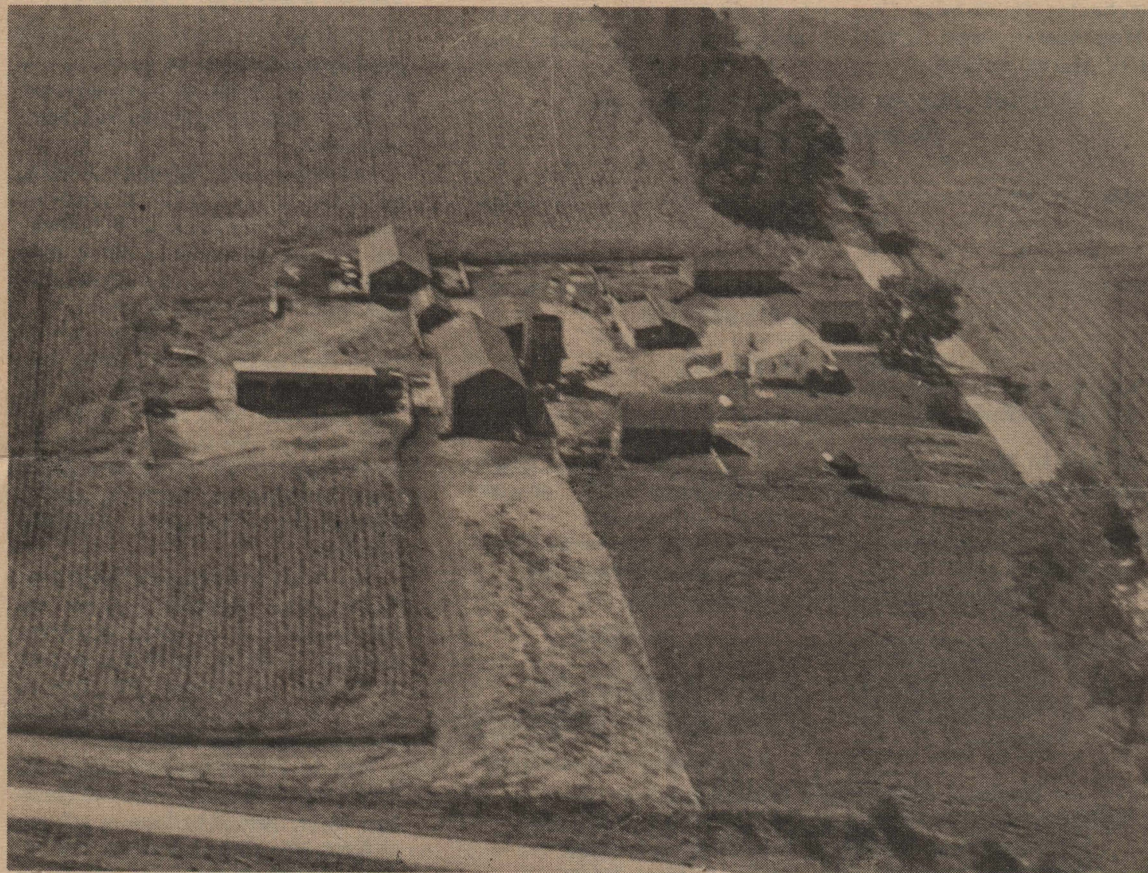
On the two farms he has about 86 acres in corn, 75 in beans, 30 in oats, and the rest of the cropland in hay and pasture.

The Minors have four children: David, a high school English teacher here; Mark, serving in the Air Force and stationed at Great Falls, Mont.; Nell, 18, a senior at West Delaware high school, and Elaine, 13, who attends school at Dundee.

Minor was presented a free aerial photo of the farm compliments of Emerson Hatchery and Feed, and Manchester Newspapers, when he stopped in to identify the farm.

It was also identified by Bill Olive of Manchester, Roger Miller and Morris.

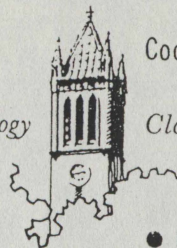
Mystery Farm No. 93



A FREE AERIAL PHOTO of this Delaware county Mystery Farm will be presented to members of the family living on the farm when one of them stops at Manchester Newspapers this week to identify it. Names of other readers who make the correct identification by phoning 927-2020 will be published in a story about the farm in next week's D-R.

DEC 1 1988

Iowa State University *of Science and Technology*



Cooperative Extension Service

Clayton County

● 133 South Main Street
Elkader, Iowa 52043
319-245-1451

MEMO

TO: NE Iowa Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners
FROM: Kathie Bentley, Big Spring Basin Demonstration Project
RE: Soil Depletion Report
DATE: December 1, 1988

Enclosed is a copy of the article written about the USDA Soil Conservation Service report on soil depletion in the Northeast Iowa Rivers Basin. As you indicated, it may be helpful for year-end reports. It contains several graphs and charts to help explain the written text.

Feel free to use it at will. It was prepared to help disseminate information on water quality - a goal of the Big Spring Basin Demonstration Project.

Also enclosed is a news release version of the same article to be used with the appropriate county and district commissioner's name. Please make it available to all news outlets in your area.

When published, would you please mail my office a copy of the article. I am trying to maintain a current clip file on all water quality-related articles for the Big Spring Basin Demonstration Project.

Give me a call if you have any questions about the enclosed materials! Your help in disseminating this news is appreciated.

Kathie Bentley



and justice for all
The Iowa Cooperative Extension Service's programs and policies are consistent with pertinent federal and state laws and regulations on non-discrimination regarding race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, and handicap.

Iowa State University and U. S. Department of Agriculture cooperating

NORTHEAST IOWA RIVERS BASIN STUDY DONE

The USDA Soil Conservation Service has recently released an informative report on soil depletion of farms in the Northeast Iowa Rivers Basin

The goal of this study was to estimate the effect continuing excessive erosion rates over the next 25 years will have on farm income. According to the study, farm income is affected directly by reduced productivity, increased fertilizer needs and increased fuel consumption. *The reduced potential of land to produce because of soil erosion is not adequately considered by farm operators as it is many times masked by improving technology and production inputs.*

As noted in the study, the trend of agricultural land use is toward more intensive farming, with rotations that include soil-conserving meadow crops being replaced by continuous row crops. Row crop acreage increased nearly 34% from 1962 to 1972 and nearly 33 % from 1972 to 1982. The result has been increased soil erosion.

Many soils in the NE Iowa River Basin such as the Dubuque and Nordness, were formed with a shallow layer of topsoil. There are sizeable acreages of these soils in the Northeast Iowa River Basin that have already been depleted to the point they can't economically be used for row crop production. Soils with deeper topsoils and those with more favorable subsoils have been kept productive by substituting increased amounts of fertilizer for the depletion of natural soil productivity.

Sheet and rill erosion by water is the most significant erosion problem because it gradually removes productive topsoil and exposes the generally less productive subsoil, a process defined as soil depletion.

The Northeast Iowa Rivers Basin studied contains 5.4 million acres with 73% being used for cropland. The area is predominantly rural with non-specialized

grain and livestock farms. Sixty-one different soil types were represented in the study area so the land mix by soil association was compared with the National Resources Inventory data to select typical representative 640-acre tracts with respect to soils for the study. Since each soil association has dominant soil characteristics, the 640-acre tract representative farms were used to help visualize the relationship and proportion there is between the steep erosive soils and the other soils in the study area.

Erosion rates are divided into three phases.

Phase one

- a) Soils with topsoil depths over 7 inches
- b) No mixing of topsoil and subsoil in the tilled layer.

Phase two

- a) Soils with topsoil depths between 3 and 7 inches
- b) Some subsoil mixed in the tilled layer.

Phase three

- a) Soils with less than 3 inches of topsoil
- b) Tilled layer is predominantly subsoil material

Data in the survey indicates that the cost of depletion, or reduction in income is cumulative and generally nonreversible. As erosion rates continue to exceed tolerable levels, the top layers of the soil profile will erode away. The reduced income is related to these changes in the soil profile.

Much of Northeast Iowa is represented by soil association 3. (See Soil Association Map - Insert A)

Using soil association 3 as an example, the

annual rate of decrease/depleting acre	\$1.59
annual rate of decrease after 25 years/depleting acre.....	\$39.79
total amount of depletion after 25 years/depleting acre	\$497.38
total amount of depletion for 25 yrs/640 acres	\$318,300.00

(This cumulative amount of each annual decrease is the amount of income foregone in a 25-year period from present levels.) The relationship of depletion to income in the Northeast Iowa Rivers Basin study is graphed below. (Insert B)

RESULTS OF SURVEY

Results of the depletion study show that about 2.1 million acres, or approximately 53% of the cropland, is eroding in excess of the tolerable level. The table below shows how the projected excess erosion will change the number of acres in each erosion phase in 25 years (Insert C)

The impact on crop production caused by erosion (at present rates) is projected to be about \$16.5 million and is equivalent to 5.6 million bushels of corn at the end of the 25-year evaluation period.

As an example, the depletion of a particular soil to the next erosion phase can decrease corn yields from 3 to 10 bushels per acre. This represents a permanent annual loss of \$9 to \$29 per acre.

Depletion impacts on fertilizer costs at the end of 25 years show that the 759,870 acres that will change erosion phase will require:

17.6 million lbs of additional nitrogen
0.4 million lbs. of additional phosphate
3.5 million lbs of additional potash

at an estimated cost of \$4.3 million by the year 2010. The application of these additional fertilizers will not maintain yields at present levels. ***Yields go down with depletion even though fertilizer applications increase.***

As the topsoil is eroded away, the subsoil becomes a part of the seedbed. For many soils the subsoil is more compact, difficult to till, and requires more power. The increase in power requirement will then be reflected in greater fuel cost per acre. Continued excessive erosion will result in a need for an additional 405,000 gallons of fuel in the year 2010 at an estimated cost of \$437,400 for the year 2010 only. When you total the accumulated increasing annual usage and costs

from present to the year 2010, you can fully recognize the total energy wastes and the accumulation of costs.

In addition to estimating future depletion, the historic depletion of counties within the basin area was also studied by using the counties' published soil survey reports. As the survey indicated, an estimated 25% of all land within the study area is presently in erosion phase 2, and 4% is in erosion phase 3. The past depletion estimate assumes that those soils moderately and severely eroded have lost some of their potential to produce regardless of their present use.

The study shows a number of alternative resource management systems that will reduce present excessive erosion rates. These alternative resource management systems include agronomic, engineering, or a combination of both conservation practices. Projected cost/acre of each alternative is shown below by soil association group(SAG).

Tile is included as a conservation treatment cost because drainage improvement is often necessary before reduced tillage practices can be successfully applied. The installation costs of land treatment measures are converted to annual costs per acre. (For example - average installation cost of terraces within the study area is estimated at \$400/acre. The annual cost is the installation cost divided by the expected life of the terrace plus annual operation and maintenance costs.)

Note on the chart below that rotations may show a negative cost, or rather an increase in net income. This occurs when a corn-soybean rotation is replaced by a corn-corn-soybean rotation.
(Insert D)

The change in total production cost as different alternatives are installed is shown below.

The 0 line represents the current average production cost. Alternatives to the left of the present condition alternative indicate an increase in production costs, while alternatives to the right indicate a decrease in production costs. (Insert E)

Each alternative affects soil loss at different rates. The table below summarizes practices and combinations of practices that could be installed to reduce soil loss to acceptable levels for each SAG. (Insert F)

The cost to control all erosion is significant. The annual income lost because of soil depletion per acre is smaller than the annual installation cost of several alternatives. This may be justification for larger amounts and higher rates of public cost-sharing funds since it cannot be paid for out of cost saving, but can be justified as a benefit to society to conserve the soil resources for future generations.

Summary information in the survey indicates that there is moderate to severe erosion in the entire Study Area. These eroded soils will never fully recover to their uneroded condition under present cropping conditions and erosion rates. If erosion continues at its present rate for another 25-year period, significant income will be lost.

While the overall ability to produce continues to increase due to improving technology, the potential to produce has decreased significantly due to soil resource depletion.

Soil depletion costs average \$13./acre as soils change from slight to moderate erosion and about \$27/acre as they change from moderate to severe erosion when you add reduced yields, increased fertilizer needs, and increased fuel consumption.

A final and telling statement ended the study of the Northeast Iowa Rivers Basin Study - **More research that could increase the reliability of the erosion estimates and the economic consequences of erosion is needed.** With research providing alternatives the final course of action is now left to individual producers.

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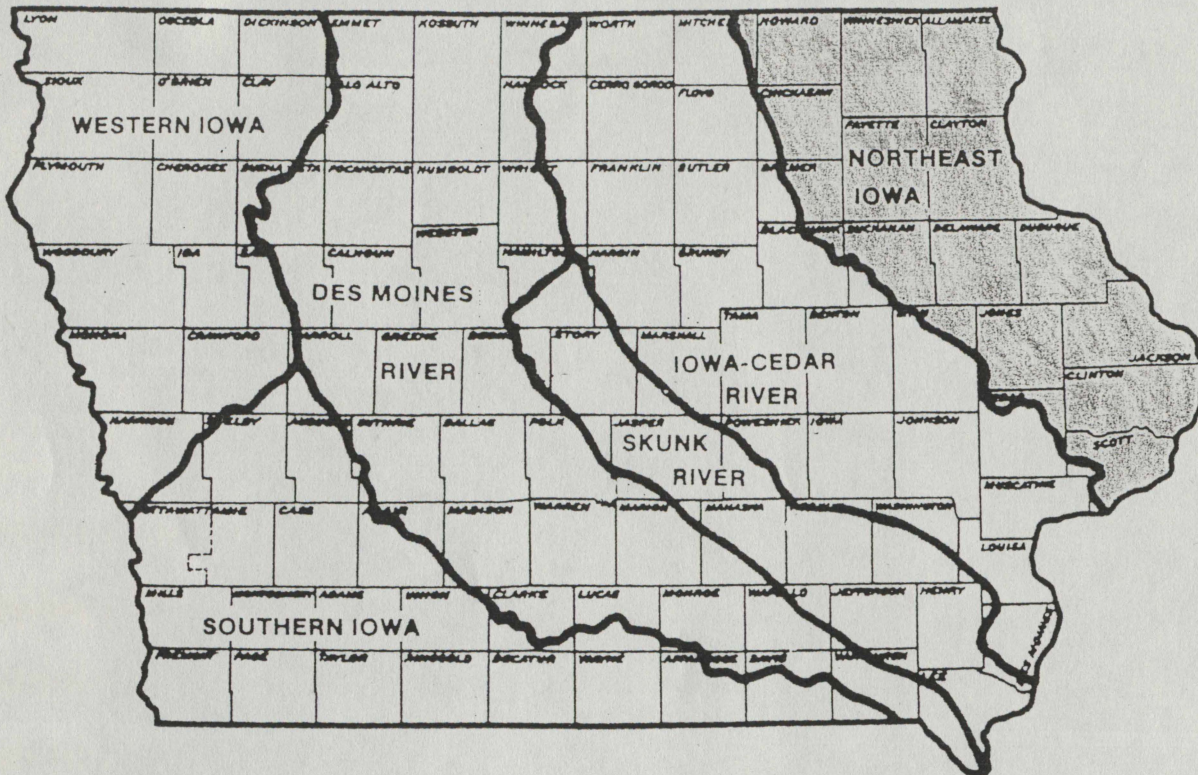
Kathie Bentley
Information Specialist
Big Spring Basin Demonstration Project
133 S. Main St.
Elkader, IA 52043

In an effort to report to the public about ongoing programs, projects and findings of the Big Spring Basin Project; a five year groundwater study in Northeastern Iowa funded by the Iowa Legislature as part of the 1987 Groundwater Protection Act, timely information will be provided in news-release form to area newspapers, radio and television stations, agricultural publications and other appropriate news media formats.

This project was supported, in part, by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, through the Big Spring Basin Demonstration Project. Funds were provided through the Iowa Groundwater Protection Act and Petroleum Violation Escrow Accounts, and other sponsoring agencies: U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VII, Kansas City. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Energy.

Kathie Bentley
Information Specialist
Big Spring Basin Project
ISU Clayton Co. Extension Office
133 S. Main St./P.O. Box 357
Elkader, IA. 52043
(319) 245-1451

NE Iowa Rivers Basin Study Area



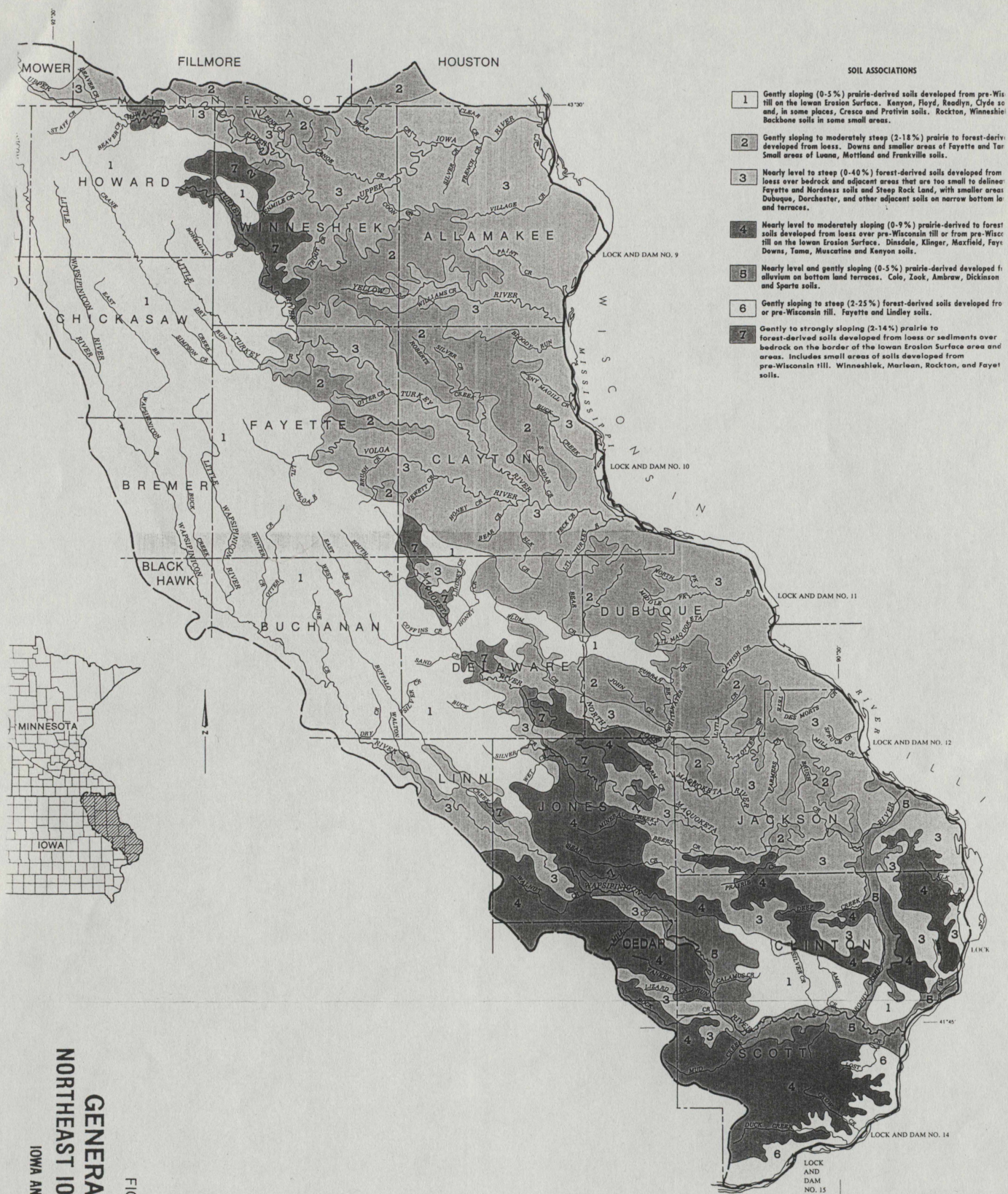


FIGURE 7
GENERAL SOIL MAP
NORTHEAST IOWA RIVERS BASIN
IOWA AND MINNESOTA

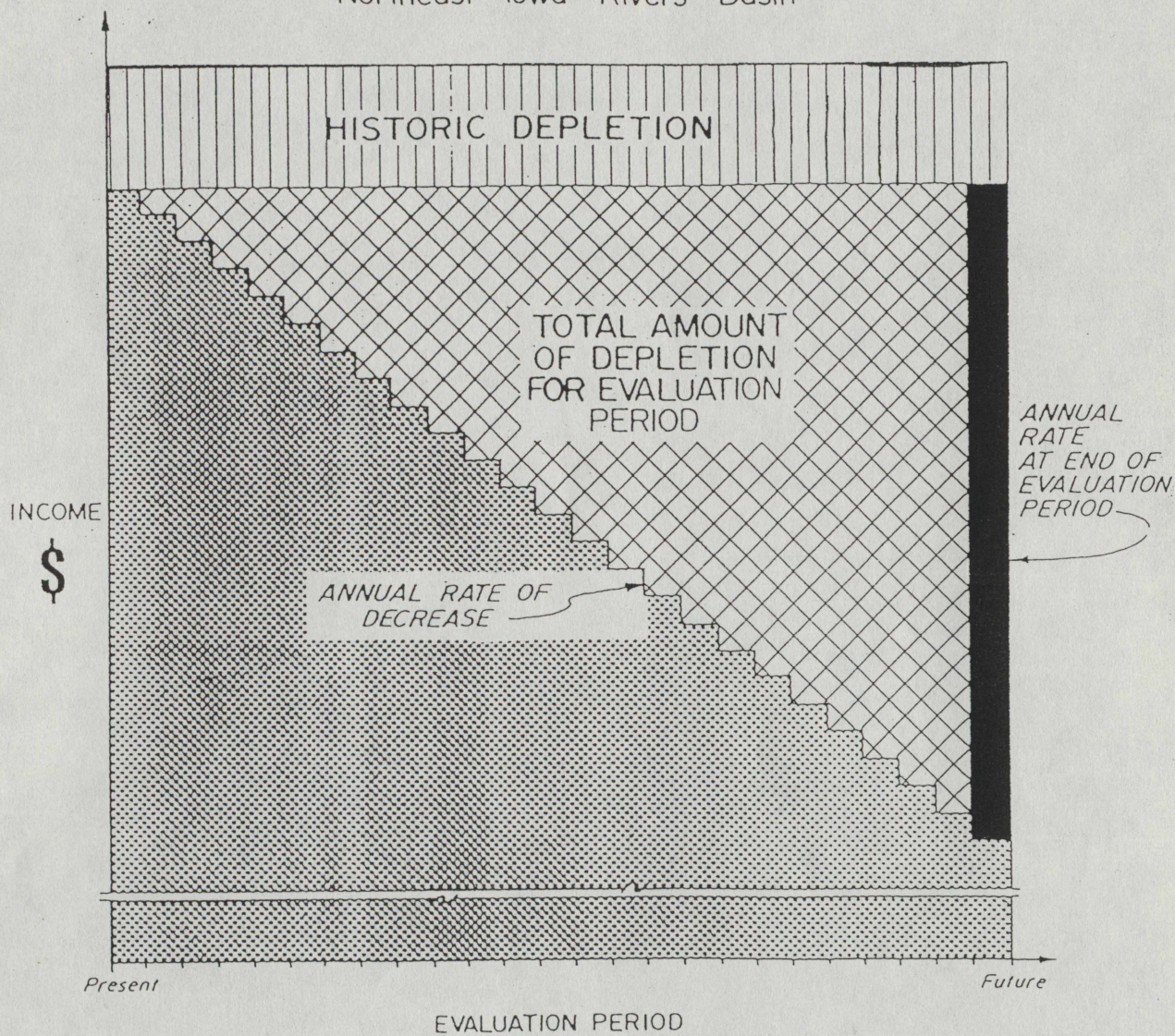
SOURCE:
1960/69 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY BASE MAPS;
1968 IOWA AND 1973 MINNESOTA OFFICIAL IOWA
TRANSPORTATION MAP AND INFORMATION FROM
SCS FIELD PERSONNEL
LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC PROJECTION

REVISED FEBU

Insert B

RELATIONSHIP OF DEPLETION TO INCOME

Northeast Iowa Rivers Basin



WEIGHTED AVERAGE SOIL LOSS BY SAG

Northeast Iowa Rivers Basin

Item	SAG					
	1	2	3	4	5	7
	-----Tons/Ac/Yr-----					
Present Conditions	5.3	9.9	17.7	7.1	2.9	7.0
Terraces	2.5	3.0	4.2	1.4	1.5	4.9
Stripcropping	0.3	1.3	2.9	0.3	0.3	0.5
Contour	3.2	6.5	13.2	3.6	2.5	3.4
Rotation	3.8	5.0	8.3	5.6	2.3	2.2
Mulch Tillage	3.9	9.2	15.1	5.7	2.4	4.2
No-Tillage	2.4	5.9	9.7	3.5	1.5	2.6
Terrace & Mulch Tillage	1.9	2.8	3.7	1.1	1.3	3.0
Contour & No-Tillage	1.5	4.0	7.4	1.8	1.3	1.4
Stripcropping & Mulch Tillage	0.3	1.3	2.5	0.3	0.2	0.5
Stripcropping & No-Tillage	0.1	0.6	1.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Rotation & Mulch Tillage	3.6	5.1	8.4	5.3	2.2	2.2
Rotation & No-Tillage	1.3	1.8	3.1	1.9	0.8	0.8

Insert D

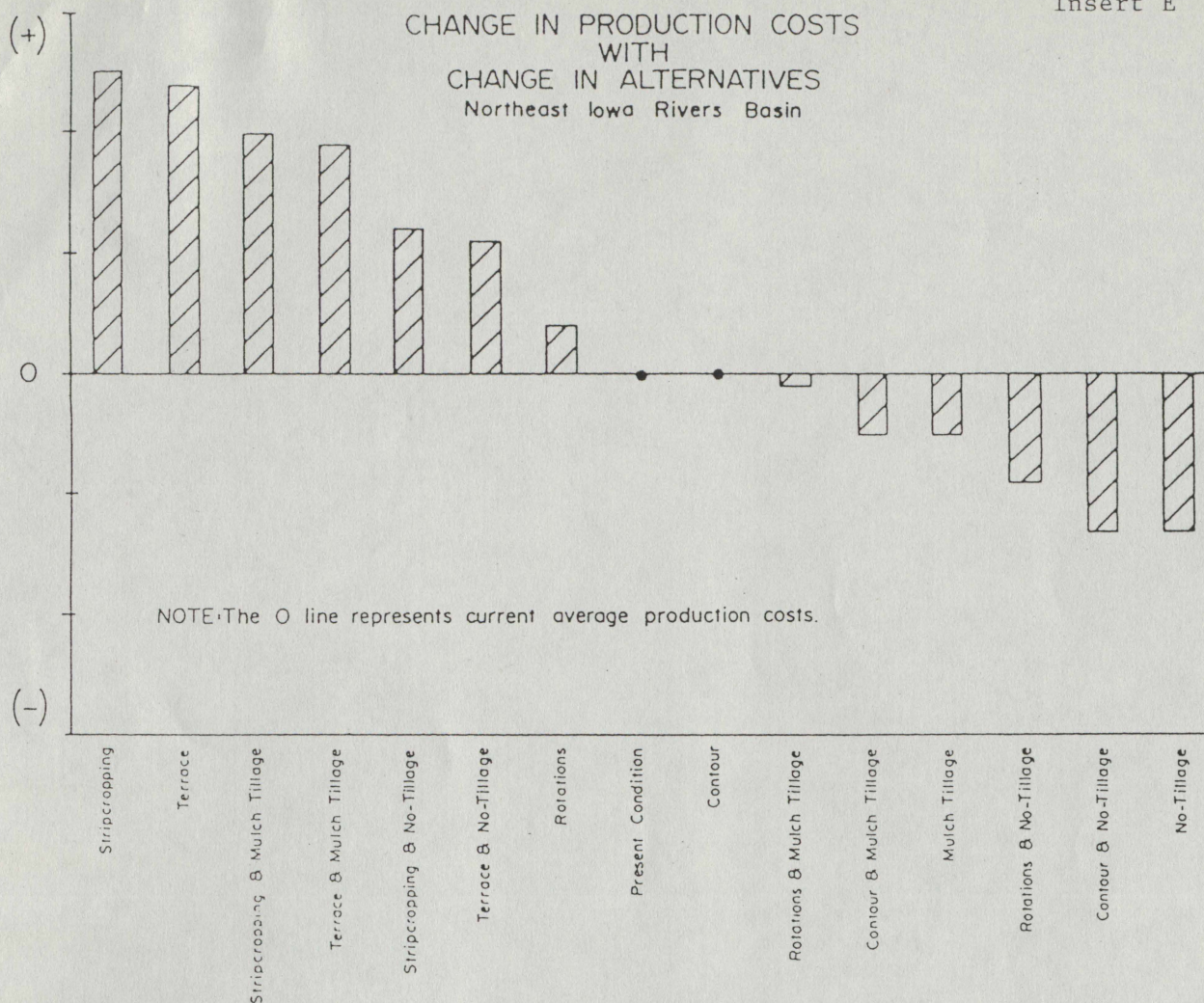
COST OF CONSERVATION TREATMENT

Northeast Iowa Rivers Basin

Item	SAG 1/ 2/					
	1	2	3	4	5	7
	-----Dollars/Acre/Yr-----					
Terrace	16.00	25.00	32.00	21.00	16.00	25.00
Stripcropping	38.00	12.00	12.00	38.00	38.00	12.00
Contouring	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rotation	- 1.00	9.00	9.00	- 1.00	- 1.00	9.00
Mulch Tillage	- 5.00	- 5.00	- 5.00	- 5.00	- 5.00	- 5.00
No-Tillage	-13.00	-13.00	-13.00	-13.00	-13.00	-13.00
Terrace & Mulch Tillage	11.00	20.00	27.00	16.00	11.00	20.00
Terraces & No-Tillage	3.00	12.00	19.00	8.00	3.00	12.00
Contouring & Mulch Tillage	- 5.00	- 5.00	- 5.00	- 5.00	- 5.00	- 5.00
Contouring & No-Tillage	-13.00	-13.00	-13.00	-13.00	-13.00	-13.00
Stripcropping & Mulch Tillage	33.00	7.00	7.00	33.00	33.00	7.00
Stripcropping & No-Tillage	25.00	- 1.00	- 1.00	25.00	25.00	- 1.00
Rotation & Mulch Tillage	- 6.00	4.00	4.00	- 6.00	- 6.00	4.00
Rotation & No-Tillage	-14.00	- 4.00	- 4.00	-14.00	-14.00	- 4.00

1/ Minus values indicate increased income as a result of using or adopting these conservation practices, as a cost reduction.

2/ Total cost for all items. Does not include cost sharing. Includes operation and maintenance. Effects of interest are not included.



WEIGHTED AVERAGE SOIL LOSS BY SAG

Insert F

Northeast Iowa Rivers Basin

Item	SAG					
	1	2	3	4	5	7
	-----Tons/Ac/Yr-----					
Present Conditions	5.3	9.9	17.7	7.1	2.9	7.0
Terraces	2.5	3.0	4.2	1.4	1.5	4.9
Stripcropping	0.3	1.3	2.9	0.3	0.3	0.5
Contour	3.2	6.5	13.2	3.6	2.5	3.4
Rotation	3.8	5.0	8.3	5.6	2.3	2.2
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Stripcropping & Mulch Tillage	0.3	1.3	2.5	0.3	0.2	0.5
Stripcropping & No-Tillage	0.1	0.6	1.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Rotation & Mulch Tillage	3.6	5.1	8.4	5.3	2.2	2.2
Rotation & No-Tillage	1.3	1.8	3.1	1.9	0.8	0.8

Iowa State University of Science and Technology



Cooperative Extension Service

Clayton County

● 133 South Main Street
Elkader, Iowa 52043
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NEWS RELEASE

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and justice for all

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Iowa State University and U. S. Department of Agriculture cooperating

NORTHEAST IOWA RIVERS BASIN STUDY DONE

The USDA Soil Conservation Service has recently released an informative report on soil depletion of farms in the Northeast Iowa Rivers Basin (See attached study area map) according to _____ County Soil and Water District Commissioner _____.

The goal of this study was to estimate the effect continuing excessive erosion rates over the next 25 years will have on farm income. According to the study, farm income is affected directly by reduced productivity, increased fertilizer needs and increased fuel consumption. *The reduced potential of land to produce because of soil erosion is not adequately considered by farm operators as it is many times masked by improving technology and production inputs.*

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Data in the survey indicates that the cost of depletion, or reduction in income is cumulative and generally nonreversible. As erosion rates continue to exceed tolerable levels, the top layers of the soil profile will erode away. The reduced income is related to these changes in the soil profile.

RESULTS OF SURVEY

Survey results indicate that
Results of the depletion study show that about 2.1 million acres, or approximately 53% of the cropland, is eroding in excess of the tolerable level. *The cost of*
impact on crop production caused by erosion (at present rates) is projected to be about \$16.5 million and is equivalent to 5.6 million bushels of corn at the end of the 25-year evaluation period As an example, the depletion of a particular soil to the next erosion phase can decrease corn yields from 3 to 10 bushels per acre. This represents a permanent annual loss of \$9 to \$29 per acre.

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- 17.6 million lbs of additional nitrogen
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at an estimated cost of \$4.3 million by the year 2010. The application of these additional fertilizers will not maintain yields at present levels. ***Yields go down with depletion even though fertilizer applications increase.***

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With research providing alternatives the final course of action is now left to individual producers.

Kathie Bentley
Information Specialist
Big Spring Basin Demonstration Project
133 S. Main St.
Elkader, IA 52043

Statement on discrimination

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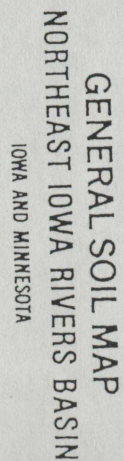


FIGURE 7

SOURCE:
1:250,000 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY BASE MAPS.
1965 IOWA AND 1973 MINNESOTA, OFFICIAL IOWA
TRANSPORTATION MAP AND INFORMATION FROM
SOS FIELD PERSONNEL
CURRENT CONFORMAL CONIC PROJECTION



Newly Elected ASC Committee

DONALD EIBEY (seated) of Manchester was re-elected chairman of the Delaware county ASC committee at a county meeting last Saturday. Albin Pape (left) of Strawberry Point was elected vice-chairman and Paul Kramer (right) was re-elected to the committee and serves as a regular member. Others elected include first alternate Reynold Maier of Earlville and Vince Overman of Manchester, second alternate.

Business/

Perpetual Motion

Business, industry, professional news

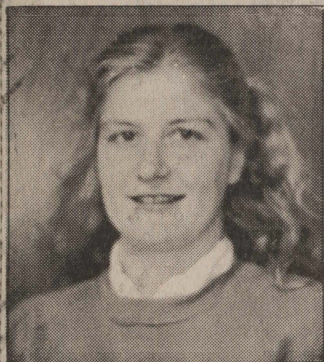
District Conservationist, Keith Krause, for the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District, announced the addition of two new staff members to assist with soil and water

plans.

Beth Beswick-Todd is a graduate of West Delaware High School and the University of Dubuque. She is also engaged in farming with her husband, Philip, near Greeley. She looks forward to assisting farmers with their future conservation needs.

Shelley Zumbach of rural Masonville has also been assisting the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District as a part-time soil conservation aid.

Zumbach is a graduate of

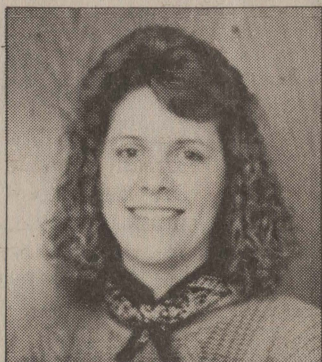


Beth Beswick-Todd

conservation programs in the county.

Beth Beswick-Todd has been promoted to the soil conservation technician position in the Manchester Field Office. Beswick-Todd started in December of 1987 with the SCS on a part-time basis before assuming the technician position in January of 1989.

Her new responsibilities will include working with landowners of Delaware County in the application of conservation practices such as contour stripcropping, windbreaks, terraces, contour farming, grassed waterways, and erosion control structures. She will also be assisting landowners in making conservation plans and the implementation of their



Shelley Zumbach

Maquoketa Valley High School and Kirkwood Community College. She farms with her husband, Dan, and their daughter, Chelsea, south of Masonville.

Along with entering conservation plans and other field office information on the computer, her other duties involve assisting with the application of conservation practices and conservation planning for landowners of the county.

NOV 17 1986

In (111)
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Soil Conservation Service

*Garry P. Sealer, DC,
Mike Schendel, AD*
NEWS

Contact: Mike Nethery
693 Federal Building
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515-284-4260

Northeast Iowa Resource Study Completed

For Immediate Release

More soil conservation and improved fertilizer and pest management are needed to improve groundwater quality in northeast Iowa, a resource study of the area says.

Groundwater contamination was one of seven primary resource problems studied as part of the Northeast Iowa Rivers Basin Cooperative Study. A reference report on groundwater contamination proposes an "early action plan" to target soil conservation practices for 71,700 acres of land that drain directly to sinkholes.

The action plan, with a cost of \$2.7 million a year, would include all activities identified in the 103-square mile Big Spring Groundwater Demonstration Project. "In the study, we tried to get better data to quantify resource problems over all of the northeast Iowa area," says Mike Schendel, assistant state conservationist for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

Other resource problems studied were soil erosion, loss of wildlife habitat, loss of forest land, pollution of coldwater streams, streambank erosion, and loss of agricultural land.

- more -



A report has been published on the findings of the study, called the Northeast Iowa Rivers Basin Study. Five separate reference reports have also been issued. They are Soil Depletion on Representative Farms; Groundwater Contamination; Forest Resources; Pollution of Coldwater Streams; and Streambank Erosion.

The study area included 5.4 million acres covering all or parts of 19 Iowa counties in northeast Iowa. Among some of the findings:

- 2.1 million acres are eroding above tolerable levels.
- Upland wildlife habitat quality is 31 percent of its potential, and forest wildlife habitat is 69 percent of its potential.
- About 2800 acres of forest land are being lost annually
- About 1500 acres of agricultural land are projected to be lost to other uses each year.
- Livestock have access to half the stream corridors of the 25 highest priority coldwater streams, posing pollution problems.
- About 340 miles of streambank are severely eroding.

The study made recommendations on how to deal with resource problems, including estimated costs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service conducted the study in cooperation with state agencies. The agencies include the Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship; Iowa Department of Natural Resources; and the Northeast Iowa Water Resource District.

Copies of the study and reference reports are available from offices of the agencies involved, or by writing to Northeast Iowa Rivers Basin Study, Soil Conservation Service, 693 Federal Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

Distribute 1500 Pine Seedlings to Pupils In County Schools

Nearly 1,500 pine seedlings were distributed to students of elementary and junior high schools Friday by the Delaware County Soil Conservation district.

These individually packaged seedlings were presented to all students who participated in a recent Soil Conservation Poster and Essay contest.

Schools represented were West Delaware schools at Manchester, Dundee and Greeley; Maquoketa Valley schools at Delhi, Buck Creek, Hopkinton and Earlville; Edgewood-Colesburg schools at Edgewood and Colesburg; Saint Mary's school at Manchester, and Saint Joseph's school at Earlville.

Packaging and distribution of the seedlings was handled by the district commissioners, assistant commissioners and their wives. The commissioners are Paul Gienapp, Verne Hermann and Herb Prideg. Assistant commissioners are Maurice Minor and Vernon Schmock.

The distribution served to climax the week of Earth Day on April 22 and Arbor Day on April 24, and served also as recognition of young people's growing concern with the quality of environment.

To Plant 20,000 Trees On Cost-Sharing Basis

Over 20,000 trees will be planted this spring by Delaware county farmers, according to George Carlson of U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

To date, nine different farms have been approved by the County ASCS committee for ACP cost sharing for their tree planting plans for this spring. These approvals are based on planting plans developed with the assistance of William Ritter, district forester from Elkader, who will assist with and supervise the actual planting.

Those who have indicated intention to plant trees this spring are: Kenneth Wickman, Adams township; Dr. Robert Retz, Delaware township; Dr. Orville Schmitz, Elk township, and Vernon Winfrey, Elk township. Others are Keith Wallace, W. C. DeShaw and James Wallace, all in South Fork township; Robert and William Lux in Union township, and Howard Wellemeyer in Elk township. John Hill in Coffins Grove township, also intends to do planting this year.

Plantings will be primarily conifers with Red Pine and White Pine predominating. Smaller numbers of Norway Spruce, European Larch and Scotch Pine, along with some Black Walnut will be planted.

According to Carlson, over 22,000 acres of land in Delaware county are classified as woodland at the present time, some of which could be converted to cropland or pasture in the future. However, the recently completed conservation needs study also indicates that nearly 3,000 acres of land now in cropland and pasture is best adapted to woodland and should be planted to trees. These are primarily steep or sandy areas that are unproductive in present use.

Land owners are beginning to realize that some land is best adapted to tree production—with benefits not only from the standpoint of production of woodland products, but also for erosion control and wildlife or recreation purposes.



Leads Pledge

MRS. CLARENCE BECKER, who was the first Delaware county girls' 4-H president, is pictured leading the Pledge of Allegiance at an Extension Golden Anniversary banquet here last Thursday. At right is her husband, Lyle Sutton (not pictured), a longtime stalwart in extension work, gave the invocation.

Herrick is Speaker At 'Pollution' Meet

Dr. John Herrick, extension veterinarian at Iowa State university, will be the main speaker at a county wide meeting, to be held at the Lambert school in Manchester Oct. 21.

This meeting was originally scheduled to be held Oct. 13.

The program will feature a discussion on "Agricultural Sanitation and Pollution Problems."

The meeting will begin at 8 p.m. and is open to the public. However, this meeting has been especially planned for the joint meetings of the vocational agriculture night school groups in Maquoketa Valley, Edgewood-Colesburg and West Delaware Community school districts.

Elect Herb Prideg Soil Conservation District Chairman

Herb Prideg of Manchester was elected chairman of the Delaware County Soil Conservation District commissioners at a meeting Thursday evening.

Other officers and committee assignments made at the meeting are as follows: Gib Hoffmann of Manchester, secretary-treasurer and soil stewardship committee chairman; Verne Hermann of Manchester, educational project chairman;

and Norm Fiddelke, also of Manchester, finance chairman.

Other commissioners in addition to those mentioned above include Paul Gienapp of Hopkinton and assistant commissioners Vernon Schmock of Strawberry Point and Maurice Minor of Manchester.

Pearl Williams is office clerk for the Delaware County Soil district; George Carlson is district conservationist and Ray Wycoff is soil conservation technician.

FFA soils judging team to state contest

The Manchester FFA soils judging team won the N.E. District contest and qualify for the state contest to be held in Ames. Matt Kolbet was the top individual, Tim Manternach was 5th, Tom Manternach was 8th overall. Scott Lammers is also on the team.

The soils contest is designed to encourage students to understand the make-up and function of soils in producing crops. The contest consists of evaluating soils at four different locations and a written test.

The evaluation is through visual means at a pit 4 to 5 feet deep. Students must be familiar with texture, land capability classifications, soil productivity, all management practices for soil conservation, and suitability of the soils for non-agricultural usage, like septic tanks, building sites and use of top soil.

The Soil Conservation Service provided all the necessary information and assistance with training.

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Soil Judging Team

THE MANCHESTER FFA'S Soil Judging Team of (from left) Scott Lammers, Tim Manternach, Tom Manternach and Matt Kolbet received a silver award at state contests placing 12th overall. They were among 30 teams that participated in the 1987 Iowa Vocational Agriculture/FFA Soil contest held recently near Boone. The contest included the evaluation of four soil pits plus a written test on soils in Iowa. The score card used is divided into five parts: surface features; soil profile; land capability classification; management practices and suitability of soils for non-agricultural uses. The United Community of Boone, FFA chapter hosted the contest. The Manchester Chapter was very pleased with the assistance received from the Soil Conservation Service.

Soil Stewardship Week Observance Planned May 3-10

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, will be celebrated locally, May 3 to 10, according to Paul J. Gienapp, chairman of the Delaware County Soil Conservation district.

"Resources and Renewal," the theme of this year's observance, underscores the responsibility which each citizen has in dealing forthrightly with current issues involving stewardship of renewable natural resources.

The Delaware County Soil Conservation district and some 3,000 companion districts throughout the nation along with their state and national associations are sponsoring the event for the 16th consecutive year.

The Delaware County Soil Conservation district has distributed booklets created particularly for this year's observance to the ministers within the county.

Teachers' Achievement Awards Program by SCS

The Delaware County Soil Conservation district will participate in a 1971 Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement awards program, it was announced by Herb Prideg, chairman of the board.

The awards program is open to all teachers in the state who teach on a regular basis in any grade. It is composed of two divisions for kindergarten through eighth grade and ninth grade through twelfth grade teachers.

The program is sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune, and Iowa Farm and Home Register. The sponsors will present a certificate to each district winner.

All district winners will advance to regional competition at sites corresponding with the nine regions of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners. A regional judging committee will select regional winners, who will be honored at a recognition banquet slated in late fall.

The objective of the program is to recognize teachers who are performing outstanding service in creating public awareness of the need to safeguard natural and human resources.

Teachers may submit their name, or may be nominated by anyone in

the district. School superintendents, principals and board members are encouraged to give emphasis to the annual activity.

A resume of activities must accompany nomination forms, which are available at the Soil Conservation office. All entries must be submitted to the Delaware County Conservation district office at 721 S. Fifth street, Manchester, phone 927-4590. The deadline for submitting entries is July 1.

Soil Conservation District Presents Trees to Schools

"Keep Scene Green Week" is being observed this week by the Delaware County Soil Conservation district by presenting a Scotch pine seedling to each pupil who participated in a Conservation Poster contest.

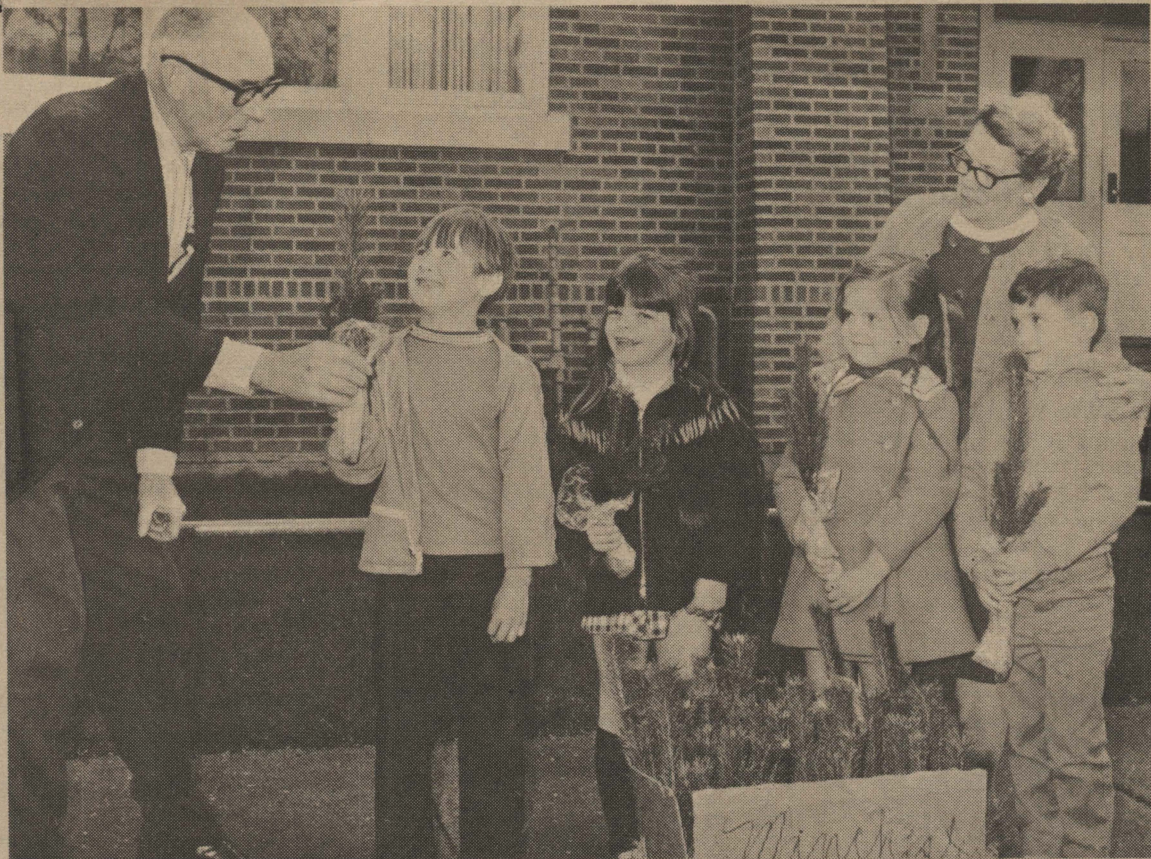
Soil Conservation district commissioners and their families who assisted with individually packaging 1,500 trees were Mr. and Mrs. Verne Herman and sons, Mark and Brock, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Prideg, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gienapp, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Minor, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Schmock, and Gilbert Hoffman.

Soil Conservation Service personnel, George Carlson, district conservationist, and sons, David, Thomas and Richard, and Ramon Wycoff, technician, also helped with the project.

The commissioners have delivered the seedlings to schools that participated in the contest. Pupils will set out the trees prior to Community Beautification Week to

be observed May 9 through May 15. Schools in Delaware county that submitted posters in the contest were Edgewood-Colesburg Community school district, Colesburg unit; St. Joseph's school, Earlville; Maquoketa Valley Community school district, Earlville,, Delhi, Buck Creek and Hopkinton units, and West Delaware Community school district, Dundee, Greeley, Ryan and Manchester units.

Over 800 posters were submitted with more than 1,400 pupils participating in the contest.



Seedling Trees Given to Schools

THE MANCHESTER KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL was one of many schools in Delaware county that received seedling pine trees to be planted on school grounds. Verne Herman, local soil commissioner, hands out the trees to local students here Monday. Youngsters shown with Herman and Mrs. Robert Grant, teacher, are (from left): Lonnie Hentges, Joan Wickman, Cecilia Biswell and Wes Lane, the Delaware County Soil Conservation district sponsored the project.