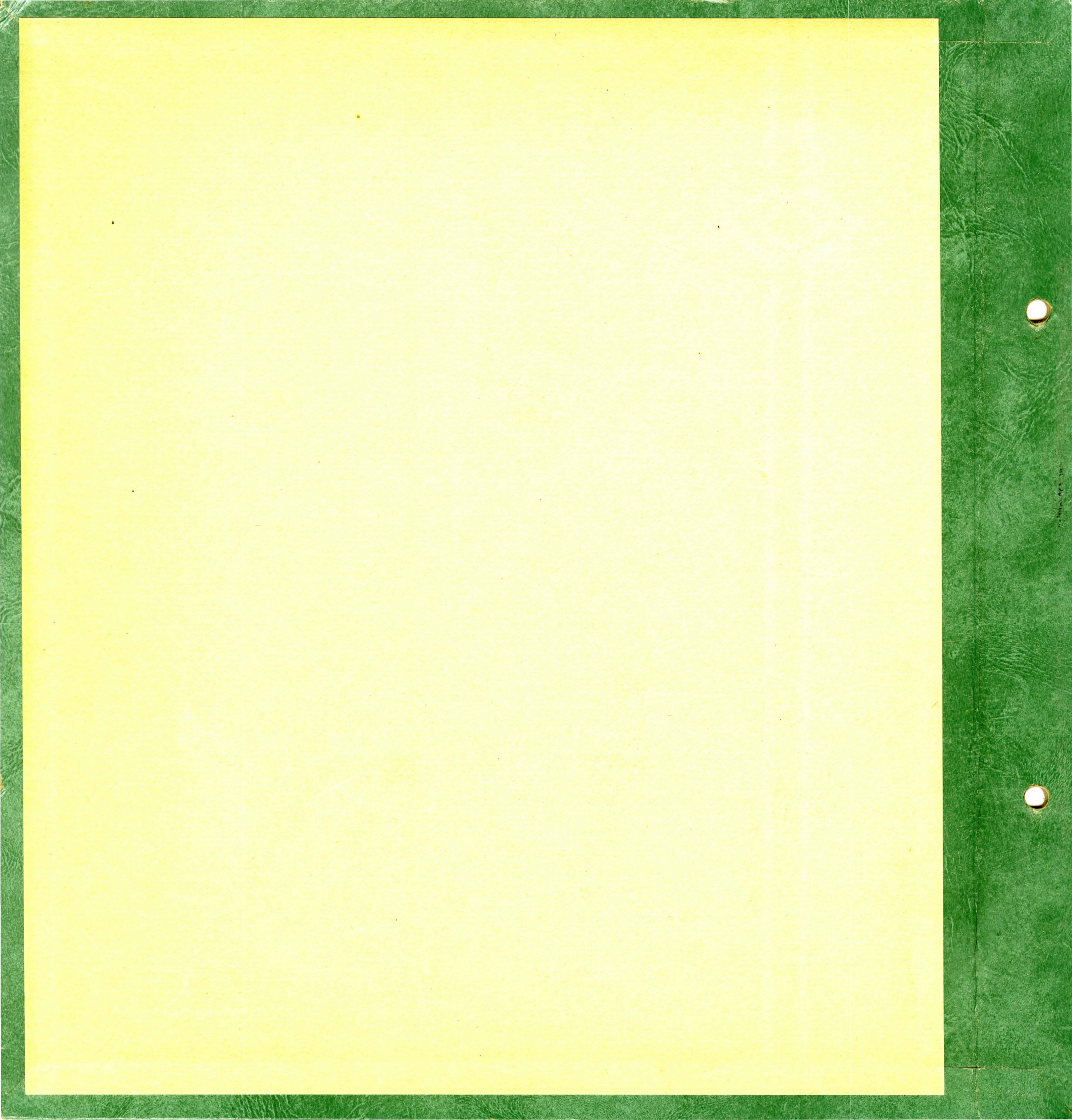




Scrap Book



35th Annual Report 1980

Iowa Soil Conservation District

Williamsburg



District Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners: Back row left to right: Commissioners Larry Wetjen and Gregory Misbach; Assistant Commissioners Mary Welsh, Jerald McCaw, and Robert Faber. Front row left to right: Commissioners Fred White & Larry Beyer.



Rhonda Glandorf



SCS Office Staff: Standing left to right: David Dermody, State Aide, Millen Sandersfeld, SCS, Aide; Ted Oswald, Cons. Technician. Seated left to right: Lennis Doehrmann, State Clerk and Harry Bryant, District Conservationist.

FIELD OFFICE PERSONNEL

Harry Bryant, District Conservationist
Ted Oswald, Conservation Technician
Millen Sandersfeld, SCS Aide
Lennis Doehrmann, State Clerk; resigned Sept. 25, 1980
David Dermody, State Aide; resigned Oct. 1, 1980

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Larry Beyer
David McCartney
Gregory Misbach
Larry Wetjen
Fred White

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Robert Faber
Jerald McCaw
Mary R. Welsh

AREA OFFICE PERSONNEL

Keith Glandon, Area Conservationist
Ronald Peterson, Civil Engineer
Kent Rice, Civil Engineer
Francis Vos, Civil Engineering Technician
Kathleen Ohnemus, Area Clerk

DISTRICT OFFICERS

Gregory Misbach, Chairman
Larry Wetjen, Vice Chairman
Lennis Doehrmann, Secretary-Treasurer

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Thursday 7:30-5:00 P.M.
Friday - 7:30-4:30
Closed 12-12:30

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

MAJOR PRACTICES	UNIT	1980
Diversion Terraces	feet	10,900
Erosion Control Structures & Ponds	number	10
Terraces & Sediment Basins	feet	65,550
Tile	feet	167,125
Conservation Tillage	acres	15,464
OTHER SERVICES		
Individuals & Groups Assisted	number	351
Individuals & Groups Applying Prac.	number	264

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

January

02 - Commissioners Meeting - Election of officers held. Elected were: Greg Misbach, Chairman; Larry Wetjen, Vice-Chairman; Lennis Doehrmann, Sec.-Tres.; Robert Faber, Jerald McCaw and Mary R. Welsh, Assistant Commissioners.

09 - Commissioners met with Board of Supervisors, Iowa County Engineers & farmers along Keswick Road to encourage incorporation of conservation in new road construction.

10 - Commissioners met with Representative Phil Tyrrell to discuss conservation needs and funding.

15 - Trees and Wildlife Information Meeting for farmers with District Forester and District Wildlife Biologist.

15 & 16 - Commissioners Short Course at Ames.

22 & 23 - Conservation Tillage Show in Cedar Rapids

23 - Agri-Business Luncheon at Roosevelt Royale Hotel.

28 - Meeting in Williamsburg for farmers on No-till.

February

06 - Commissioners attend Resource Conservation Act Training in Iowa City.

19 - Commissioners Meeting.

March

07 - Region 7 held information Meeting on Resource Conservation Act at Amana Holiday Inn.

18 - Commissioners Meeting.

18 - District held Contractors Meeting.

April

15 - Commissioners Meeting.

May

16 - Conservation Education at Lake Iowa for Williamsburg 6th Graders.

21 - Conducted tour for Williamsburg Vo-Ag on "No-till farming."

June

05 - Conservation Tour for Commissioners and ASC Committee.

17 - Commissioners Meeting.

17 - North English Group Meeting at North English High School.

July

07 - Iowa County No-till Tour for farmers in Iowa County.

08 - Meeting for Area 5 District Clerks at Des Moines.

15 - Commissioners Meeting at Conroy Park.

August

19 - Commissioners Meeting

27 - ACP Development Meeting with ASC Committee.

September

25 - Lennis Doehrmann resigned as District Clerk/Sec.-Treas.

October

01 - David Dermody resigned as State Conservation Aide.

02 - Farm Progress Show.

09 - Three-County Soil Judging Contest held at Fred White Farm.

21 - Commissioners Meeting.

22 - District Speech Contest.

November

06 - Commissioners attend Regional Commissioners Meeting at Colony Haus Restaurant in Little Amana.

10 - Iowa-Cedar Conservancy District Ward Election at Tama.

19 - Annual Soil Conservation Awards Banquet & Commissioners Meeting.

December

01 & 02 - Annual Conference at Stouffers Five Seasons Hotel in Cedar Rapids.

04 - Special Commissioners meeting to interview for new District Clerk.

16 - Commissioner Greg Misbach and District Conservationist Harry Bryant attend meeting in Iowa City on "Year 2000 program."

WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

Advance Drainage Systems
Donald Baker
Beyer Farms (Larry)
Harry Bryant
Citizen State Bank
Colony Market Place
Donald Dietrich
Dietrich Earthmoving
Helen Donahue
Elwood Brothers Farm
Elwood Implement
Robert Faber
Farmers Savings Bank
Farmers Trust & Savings Bk
Dave Fetzer
Lester Fetzer
First Trust & Savings Bk
Gahring Tile & Trenching
Rudolph Hagen & Son
Helgeson-Ahrens, Inc.
David Horras
Iowa County Farm Serv.

Iowa County Savings Bk
James Earthmoving
Leo Kelly Company
Russell Kinsinger
Harold Koehn
Levine Company
Pauline Lillie
Harlan Maas
Marengo Elevator
John Maxey
Maxwell Tiling
David McCartney
Jerald McCaw
Meiers Feed & Fertilizer
Larry Miller
Max Miller
Rex Miller
Gregory Misbach
Ronald Mohr
Morse Farm
Ned's Feed & Grain

Patrons Mutual
Charles Pope
Larry Quinlan
Lyle Riggan
Del Roth
Millen Sandersfeld
Clifford Schwarting
Security Savings Bank
Shaull's Tractor & Implement
Harold Sherman
Arnold Stutzman
Chris Swartzendruber
Swartzendruber Lumber
T.I.P.
Thermogas, Inc.
Mary R. Welsh
Delmar Wetjen
Larry Wetjen
Fred White
Edwin Yoder
Paul E.M. Yoder
Ray L.Yoder & Son

Robert O'Meara
Don Popham
Arnold Roberts
Dorothy Schultz
Gail Steffen
Jerry Timm

Don Popham
Dorothy Schultz
Jerry Timm

DISTRICT COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS - 4,883 Acres

Jerald Bernhard
Duane Brenneman
Wilton Dunn
Gary Edwards
English Valley School
Dorothy Fullmer

Gerald Heath
Bill Jahlas
KMS Farms
Kenneth Leichty
Gerald Mullnix
O'Meara Farms

BASIC CONSERVATION PLANS - 1,029 Acres

Donovan Bender
Jerald Bernard
Ken Boeke

Roland Dasenbrock
Adella Hewitt
Kenneth Leichty

BASIC CONSERVATION PLANS REVISED - 436 Acres

Iowa County Farm

Marian Marine

Gail Steffen

FINANCIAL REPORT: (Fiscal Year 1979-80)

	Receipts	Disbursements
1M Budget		
Allocation	\$ 1,900.00	
Additional Allocation	80.00	
Commissioners' Expense		\$ 1,011.88
Office Supplies		333.69
Printing		15.00
Prizes for Contests		266.59
Office Expense		299.74
Meeting Expense		53.07
TOTAL EXPENDED		1,979.97
Released		.03
		1,980.00
2M Budget		
Allocation	\$21,595.00	
Additional Allocation	673.07	
Clerical and Technician		\$16,557.38
Insurance		944.71
Travel		114.75
Equipment & Equipment Maintenance		719.07
TOTAL EXPENDED		18,335.91
Released		3,932.16
		\$22,268.07
REVOLVING FUND		
Balance on hand July 1, 1979	\$ 766.16	
Receipts- Contributions	2,117.65	
Receipts - Reimbursements	1,084.12	
Disbursements		\$ 3,144.28
Balance on hand June 30, 1980	823.65	
3M BUDGET (1978-1979)		
Allocation	\$48,000.00	
Additional Allocation	22,000.00	
Mandatory Allocation	11,383.07	
Disbursed to Farmers		\$80,374.81
Unobligated Funds		1,008.26
		\$81,383.07
3M BUDGET (1979-1980)		
Allocation	\$54,000.00	
Additional Allocation	10,000.00	
Disbursed to Farmers		\$63,085.99
Unobligated Funds		914.01
		\$64,000.00
3M BUDGET (1980-1981)		
Allocation	\$75,000.00	
Additional Allocation	9,650.00	
Disbursed to Farmers		\$51,181.09
Obligated Funds		21,100.00
Unobligated Funds		12,368.91
		\$84,650.00



SUCCESSFUL DAY — Executive director for the Iowa county agricultural stabilization and conservation service Irene Wetjen said the annual tree information day held Tuesday, Jan. 15, was very successful with many residents of the county, both rural and urban, attending the meeting with state forestry and wildlife technicians. Mrs.

Wetjen said many applications for ASCS cost sharing for tree plantings were also filled out along with the tree sale orders from the state nursery. Wildlife biologist Robert Kurtt talks with the Duane Blomme family, Victor, about possible tree plantings on their farm.



TREE INFORMATION — District forester Robert Hibbs, formerly of Marengo, talks over information with Robert Derr, Williamsburg, last Tuesday, Jan. 15, when Hibbs and district

wildlife biologist Robert Kurtt were at the Iowa county agricultural stabilization and conservation service office on their annual swing through the county. The two come to the county

every year to answer questions concerning tree plantings and offer tree seedlings for sale from the state nursery.



ORGANIZE FOR 1980 — Soil commissioners for the Iowa county district met Wednesday, Jan. 2 at the Iowa River Power company, Iowa City, for a reorganization meeting. Serving on the board this year are Larry Wetjen and Greg Misbach, both Marengo; Fred White, Parnell;

Mary Welsh, Williamsburg; Larry Beyer, Marengo; Jerald McCaw, Williamsburg; David McCartney, North English, and behind him, Bob Faber, Parnell. The SCS is one of the promoters of the Eastern Iowa Tillage show set later this month in Cedar Rapids.



NAMED TO SCS STAFF — At the Wednesday, Jan. 2 meeting of the Iowa county soil commissioners, the following took office: Larry Wetjen, Marengo, vice president; Lennis Doe-hr-

mann, secretary; Greg Misbach, Marengo, chairman; and Harry Bryant continues as the county conservationist.

12B The NEWSnakers of Iowa County

Thurs., Jan. 31, 1980



GAVEL PASSES — Larry Beyer, rural Marengo, right, passes the gavel for chairman of the Iowa county soil commissioners to Greg Misbach, Ma-

ren-go, left. The ceremony took place Wednesday night, Jan. 2 at the Iowa River Power company, Iowa City, at a reorganization meeting.

Farmers Cite Experiences -

No Till: Farming In The Future

By Alan Sieve

Conservation or minimum tillage has received a lot of interest recently, but it appears the extreme in conservation tillage philosophy - no till - will be receiving a lot more interest in the future.

"We're going to be pushing it this winter," said soil conservation service (SCS) county director Harry Bryant, Williamsburg. The Iowa county agricultural stabilization and conservation service (ASCS) committee is also offering payments as an incentive for farmers to try no till.

Two Iowa county farmers who've tried no till also offer their support and related their experiences to The NpIC.

Bryant noted the soil conservation service's problem. It would take 150 years to protect with permanent structures all the land needing erosion control at the current building rate. However, if soil erosion continues at the current rate, Iowa county's topsoil would be gone in about 24 years, he said.

No till farming with contouring, however, would adequately protect one-third of Iowa county land that needs some erosion control, he continued, including land up to a 9 percent slope. On land up to a 13 percent slope, no till with terracing would adequately protect the farmlands temporarily would at least cut in half the amount of erosion taking place, he added noting no till could be used on at least half the farmland in Iowa county. About 3,000 to 5,000 acres in the county are presently being farmed with no tillage.

Bryant noted cost sharing to try no till farming is expected to be forthcoming from the SCS following the next meeting of the legislature would probably be instituted next July.

"We'll really put the push on in farmer meetings this winter," he said, with information programs and moral support."

Financing for farmers to try no till is being provided by the ASCS. They will pay \$10 per acre for up to 40 acres for the first year. A farmer can only receive the payment once and cannot receive it if he has already used no till on his own, said ASCS county director Irene Wetjen.

The purpose behind the payments, according to material from ASCS is to demonstrate a system that "will prevent or reduce pollution from sediment and chemically contaminated runoff, protect soil from wind and water erosion and improve soil permeability."

Wetjen added although some counties allow payments for minimum tillage operations, the Iowa county ASCS committee has decided to only allow payments for no till.

Bryant added he expects SCS payments which will be in addition to ASCS payments, will probably just be for no till as well. He cited difficulty in setting regulations for conservation tillage as the reason.

He noted also that 90 percent of ground is being farmed using some forms of conservation tillage now, but not enough residue is being left to provide adequate protection. Between 2,000 to 3,000 pounds of residue must be left, he said. From a 150 bushel corn crop, there would be about 9,000 pounds of residue, he pointed out.

Bryant added that an eight county conservation tillage equipment show would be held at the Five Seasons center, Cedar Rapids, Jan. 22-23.

Reduces Investment

A reduced investment in machinery was one reason for Duane Stohlman, 34, rural Williamsburg, going to no till farming when he returned to farming three years ago. Stohlman farms 120 acres north of Williamsburg, rotating

corn, oats, hay and pasture.

Rather than investing in a plow and disc or chisel plow and disc, he decided to just invest in a no till planter.

Jack Tuttle, rural Marengo, who has planted with no till for the first time this year, added it saved him two trips

over the field with a cultivator disc, over minimum tillage practices he's used for the past eight to ten years. Tuttle, 42, farms 580 acres, 350 of which is tillable, with 300 planted in corn with no till and 30 beans planted with minimum till.

In fuel savings, no till allowed him to complete planting with 300 gallons of diesel fuel as opposed to 800 gallons he had needed when he used conventional tillage over ten years ago. Stohl-

(Please turn to page 12C)



NO TILL CORN — Duane Stohlman, rural Williamsburg, shows ears of corn from his field in back which he planted using no tillage. Stohlman has

been farming with no tillage for three years and prior to that worked for two years for another farmer using no till.

He believes his yield are comparable with other conventional and minimum tillage practices.



TIME SAVER — Jack Tuttle, rural Marengo, planted the field of corn be-

hind him with no till this year. Doing so saved him two trips over the field with

a disc, and cut fuel usage to 300 gallons.

No Till - -

(Continued from page 5C)

man also believes his fuel costs are at least half what would be needed for conventional tillage.

Both men were asked if more herbicide was needed with no till over what is used for conventional or minimum tillage. They said the only additional herbicide used is paraquat, a "burn down" type herbicide to kill weeds present before planting. Other herbicides normally used with conventional or minimum tillage are used at the same rate with no tillage, they said.

Bryant added he believes less herbicides may be needed in the long run with no till. When a field is disced, weed seeds, buried in past discing operations are brought to the surface where they can grow, he explained. If the soil is undisturbed, weed seeds are not brought to the surface and less herbicides would be needed. There are studies that now suggest this, he said.

He added where some people feel the need a heavier herbicide because of the residue on the surface, he believes perhaps more water to give a better saturation is needed instead.

The men were asked how this additional use of herbicides with no till would square with concerns over pollution.

Paraquat is quite toxic to the user, Stohlman and Bryant admitted, but noted it is also completely biodegradable, losing its effectiveness when it reaches the soil and leaving no residue.

Bryant added one problem with chemicals that some people feel "if a little is good, a lot is better," and advised always following directions.

Gerald Gogan, Iowa State university extension crop specialist, Cedar Rapids added that chemical pollution is caused by soil movement and with minimum tillage there is less soil movement.

Gogan also says with no tillage, a

few insects such as armyworms and stalkborers are frequent problems and may require more insecticides, but Stohlman and Tuttle reported no need for more. Stohlman noted he has stock cows glean cornstalks which helps control insects.

Stohlman added he uses a tank mixture of paraquat and atrazine on sod ground that has been in pasture or hay the year before and paraquat and lasso-blade on cornstalk land.

His tank mixes are custom applied by J and S Farm supply, Williamsburg, before planting. He noted the herbicide could be applied while planting, that's the way it was done when he worked for another man doing no till farming, but he prefers to do it before because it's messy trying to do it at the same time and chemicals are corrosive to machinery.

Stohlman also says he likes to work with fertilizer that builds and maintains life in the soil, and uses just a little more than the crop takes out. He

mixes 100 pounds of nitrogen and 100 pounds of starter in with his tank mix.

He also rotates his land, on a three years corn; one year oats, one year hay and one year pasture schedule. He farms 120 acres with 80 acres in corn this year and 60 usually.

He describes the yields he gets as average: 100 to 125 acres bushels per acre with a \$60 per acre investment in fertilizer and chemicals. "I'm not shooting for high yields," he explains, noting nearly all of his corn is fed to livestock.

He and Tuttle were both asked how they felt their corn looked this year compared with neighbors and both said crops looked comparable.

Stohlman was also asked about the performance of no till on dry years and wet years.

"No till will come out ahead on a dry year, because you don't stir up the ground and let the moisture out," he said. He noted he had a dry year two years ago, and his yields were again comparable to neighbors'.

Asked how working with no till was this spring, when the ground was wet, Stohlman said he felt he got into the field quicker, because soil was firmer. "Guys have been known to plant with no till in the rain," he said.

Tuttle adds he would recommend both no till and minimum tillage but particularly no till on hilly land as there is less wash.

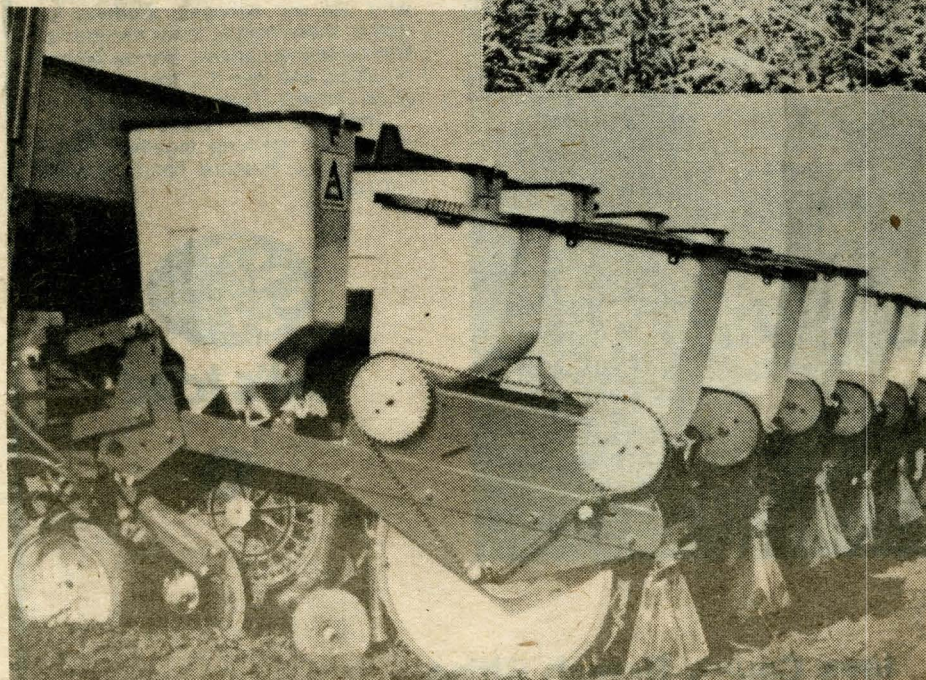
Asked if there were any disadvantages with using no till, Stohlman noted the weather must cooperate in providing rain after herbicide is applied. Otherwise some cultivation will be necessary.

A savings in time is one of the biggest reasons Stohlman says he likes no till farming, noting it gives him more time to spend on managing his cattle and hogs. He maintains a stock herd of 30 crossbred cows which he artificially inseminates himself and 50 sows.

Calves are sold as feeders and about half of his hogs farrowed are finished with the other half sold as feeder pigs.

"If I'm getting a comparable crop with less work, I'm surely keeping up," he declares. But, in regard to no till, he adds, "Soil conservation: that's the big thing years ahead."

Taking full advantage of conservation planting.



Be it minimum tillage or no tillage. Either way, it's called conservation tillage and it's the way of the future that's here today.

Conservation tillage protects the soil from erosion and prevents the runoff of valuable fertilizer, insecticides and herbicides. It allows planting at the optimum time to promote yields. . . even if the ground is too wet for plowing or discing. And during dry years, moisture is retained in the soil by the covering residue.

Best of all, conservation tillage allows you to double crop. And it saves the time

and fuel required for conservation tillage.

Allis-Chalmers builds the planters that are the leaders in conservation. From the company that pioneered and patented the No-Til planter concept.

Ideal for minimum or zero tillage planting. Allis-Chalmers 300 and 333 planters feature units with more weight than the popular competitor.

Removable-unit gauge wheels, a choice of No-Til coulters and row-spacing flexibility from 15" to 40" make these planters the perfect match for all types of conservation tillage. In all types of field conditions.

SHAULL'S TRACTOR & IMPLEMENT

Marengo

Behn Is Speaker For Conservation Tillage

Earnest Behn, farmer and author from Boone, will be one of the featured speakers at the Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage show at the Five Seasons Center, Cedar Rapids, Jan. 22 and 23.

Behn has 12 years experience using a till-plant system on ridges. He has had top yields with weed control and savings in time, labor and fuel.

Behn and his son have 1,200 acres of corn and soybeans using no tillage prior to planting.

Both the Buffalo till system and a John Deere Max-emerge planter have been used by Behn while planting on six inch ridges.

Behn has also written a book entitled "More Profit

with Less Tillage," explaining his system.

Free tickets are available at many equipment dealers and USDA offices in an eight county area surrounding Cedar Rapids.

Iowa Co. Advertiser 1-16-80

Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show

Earnest Behn, farmer and author from Boone, Ia. will be one of the featured speakers at the Eastern Ia. Conservation Tillage Show to be held at the Five Seasons Center in Cedar Rapids on Jan. 22 and 23.

Behn has 12 years of experience using a till-plant system on ridges. He has had consistent top yields with excellent weed control and huge savings in time, labor and fuel.

Behn and his son have 1200 acres of corn and soybeans using no tillage prior to planting. Much of Behn's soil is a black, heavy, silty clay loam, which many farmers say should be moldboard plowed. Yet his yields have been very high and his costs low throughout his 12 years experience.

Both the Buffalo Till System and a JD Max-emerge planter have been used by Behn while planting on 6" ridges.

Behn has also written a book entitled "More Profit with Less Tillage." The book explains his system in detail in simple language.

The Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show will begin at 6 pm Tues., Jan. 22 and conclude Wed., evening Jan. 23.

Free tickets are available at many equipment dealers and USDA offices in an 8 county area surrounding Cedar Rapids.

ATTEND A MEETING ON NO-TILL FARMING IN

WILLIAMSBURG CITY HALL

JANUARY 28, 1980

1:30 PM

HEAR WHAT IOWA COUNTY FARMERS WHO HAVE TRIED IT HAVE TO SAY - HEAR ABOUT INSECT AND THEIR CONTROL - HEAR ABOUT WEED CONTROL & APPLICATION PROCEDURE - HEAR HOW YOU CAN CUT SOIL LOSSES

SPONSORED BY: IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Incorporates Erosion Control Into Road - -

Get Twice The Use Of The Tax Dollar

By Kevin Blind

On the western edge of Iowa county, what has been called an innovative experiment is nearing completion. It involves the incorporation of soil conservation structures in the construction of a public roadway.

Those involved with the construction of the V road and the erosion control structures were generally enthused with the idea and termed the project a way for people to get double use out of their tax dollars.

Local support and belief in the project was high enough that the plans for the road were taken to Washington, D.C., by Ron Gahring, Williamsburg, as an example of the double use of tax dollars. His efforts resulted in changes in rules governing the use of federal soil conservation funds.

Logical Road

The supervisors spent \$50,000 in federal revenue sharing funds on the soil conservation projects along the V road. They committed the \$50,000 to such a use in December, 1977 following a public hearing, but at that time the V road wasn't singled out as the road on which the funds would be used.

According to the then supervisor chairman Ed Shima, the commitment of these funds only stated that they would be used in conjunction with secondary roads.

"As time went on the V road logically fell in," said Shima.

Shima said the commitment of these funds was done as an example to the people of the county, the state and the federal government. "We have a situation not only in Iowa county, but in the state and the nation, where not enough is being done in terms of soil conservation," said Shima.

He also said that soil conservation has traditionally been ignored when it came to road construction, and many times he said construction of a road created more problems with soil erosion. So the money was committed.

"At that point Bernie (Elwood) and I went into office, there was no question that the V road would be the next road," said Shima, in terms of road construction in the county. The A road had just been paved, and the V road had a high priority also by the previous board of supervisors.

Since the V road was the next to be graded and the cooperation of farmers in the soil conservation efforts was there, the entire \$50,000 committed to soil conservation was spent on the V road projects.

Cooperation

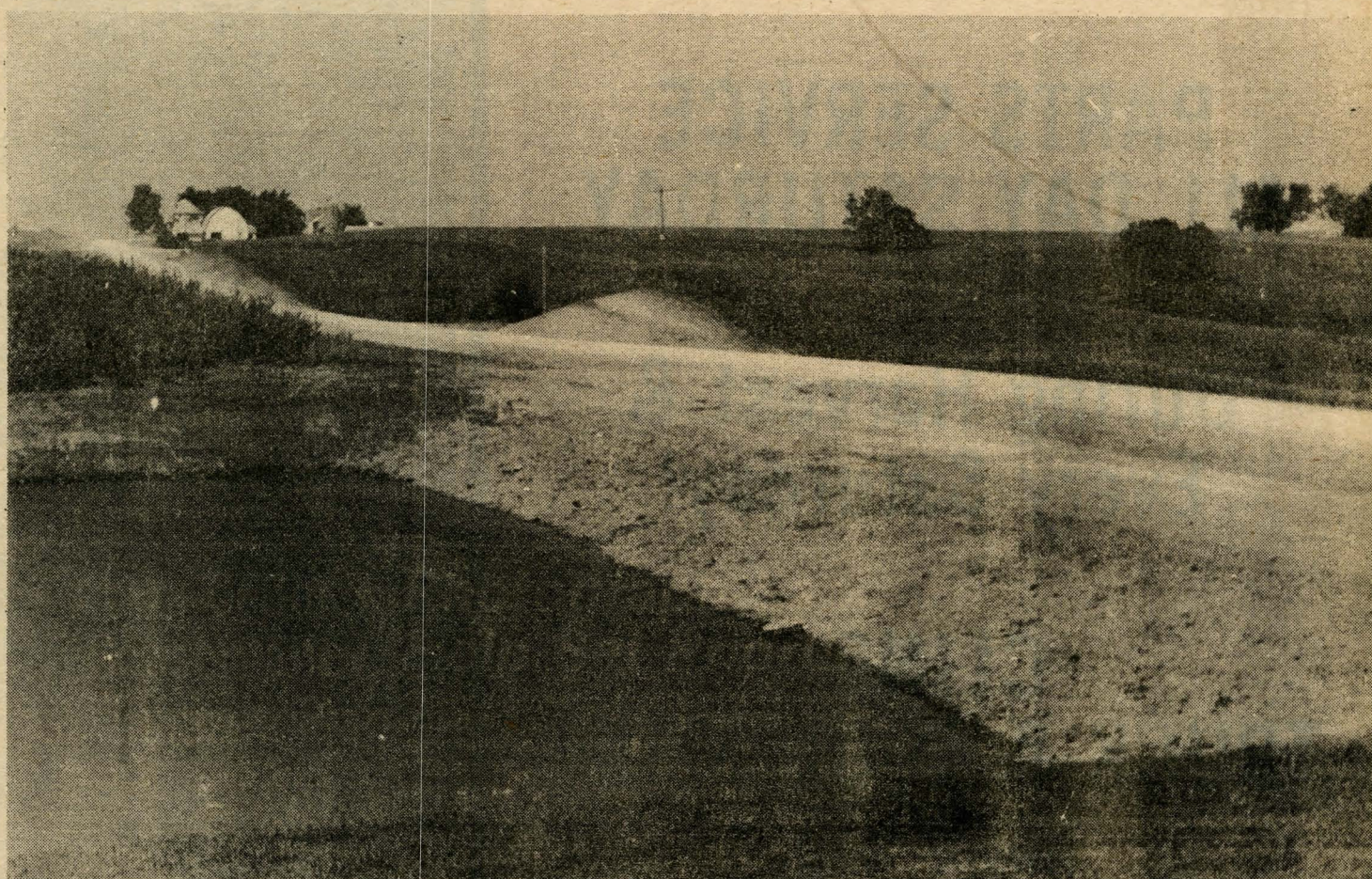
Cooperation was an important factor in the success of the project. District conservationist for the Iowa county soil conservation service, Harry Bryant, said none of the erosion control structures were forced on the farmers in the area. "The farmers had to want it."

The agreement between the county and the farmer stated that the county would install the erosion control sediment basins along the road at no cost to the farmer, but the farmer agreed to maintain the devices after they were built.

As it turned out, seven dry ponds and two wet ponds were installed on the north half of the construction project, and five dry ponds and another two wet ponds on the south half are now being built.

Another erosion control technique used on the road was the installation of tile lines across the roadway in every waterway.

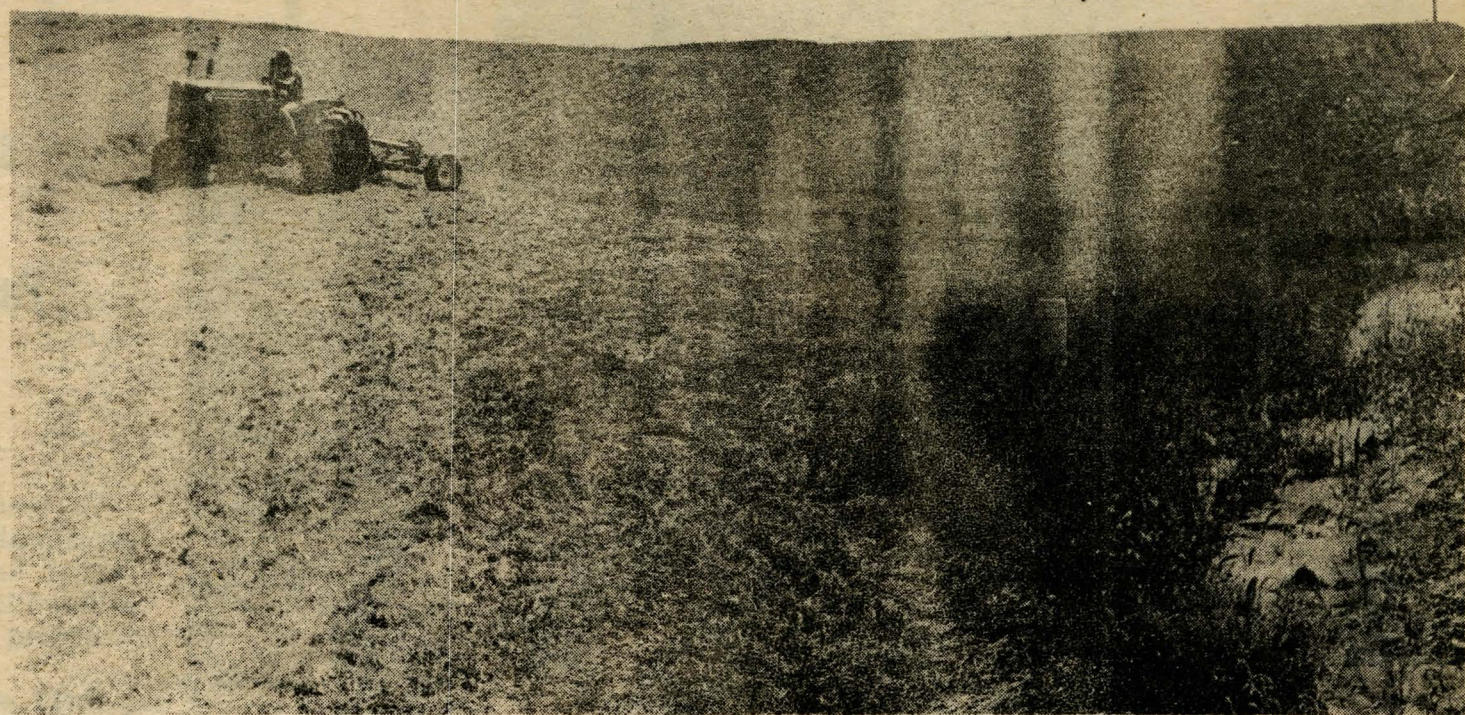
Bryant said cooperation was so good that some farmers have added to what was started by planning further terraces, and sediment basins in their fields uphill from the structures along the road.



WORKED OUT NICELY — This wet pond of the Orville Bloethe farm, Victor, worked out well, according to Harry Bryant, soil conservation service

director, since Bloethe had been considering putting in a wet pond in the area before the V road construction was decided. Most of the time, Bryant

said, it doesn't make a difference whether a dry or wet pond is built so the decision is left up to the farmer.



MOWS AROUND DRY POND — A farmer mows hay around one of the 12 dry ponds built along the V road as part

Bryant admits that a couple more erosion control structures could have been built along the road had the farmers been interested, but overall he said they had really good cooperation with the farmers.

Construction Costs

The dry and wet ponds were installed at no cost to the farmer with the tab being picked up by the county government. Bryant figures that the wet ponds probably cost about \$4,000 each while the seven dry ponds on the north

half of the road he estimated cost in excess of \$10,000 together.

The question one might raise is what did this work add to the cost of building the road as opposed to what it might have cost if it were built with conventional methods? Those involved with the planning and construction of the road don't think it increased the cost of construction at all.

Bryant said the installation of the dry and wet ponds reduced the size of the culverts necessary to handle the

the experiment was made by the county supervisors in 1977.

water runoff, and in some spots, he continued, it eliminated the need for a culvert entirely.

Even though water control structures such as culverts were either reduced in size or eliminated reducing the cost of conventional costs of building the road, county engineer Frank Cmelik says other things had to be done which wouldn't have had to be done if the road were built the traditional way.

(Please turn to page 18C).

V Road - -

(Continued from page 3C)

He continued that a dry pond may have reduced the culvert necessary from an 80 inch culvert to maybe a 20 inch one, but in other places things were done where, with traditional road construction, nothing would have had to have been done.

Where dry and wet ponds were built, 10 foot berms were built to prevent the water from seeping into the road grade. In other areas, higher grades were necessary and vertical curves were changed to allow for proper construction of the soil erosion structures.

"If you add everything together, I question that we saved any money," said Cmelik, "but I don't think it cost any more."

This is where the proponents of this road construction system claim they got double use of the tax dollar. "It didn't cost the taxpayer any more to build the road," said Bryant.

"Besides, we got some erosion control," he added.

Gahring then took the V road plans to the federal soil conservation office in Washington and successfully lobbied for a change in the rural clean water act guidelines, which seek to stop non-point pollution, and a change in the funding through the resource conservation and development act.

As a result of his visit, Gahring says the federal government now requests that such conservation practices be implemented in road construction where ever possible.

Because of the wording of the resource conservation and development act when it finally became law, Gahring said the funding through this act was limited to private lands only. This did away with any possibility of the funds being used on public roadways he explained. He also successfully lobbied for a change in this wording.

The First Time

This is the first time Bryant has ever incorporated soil conservation structures into the complete reconstruction of a road. "We were really enthused and happy to try to do this," said Bryant.

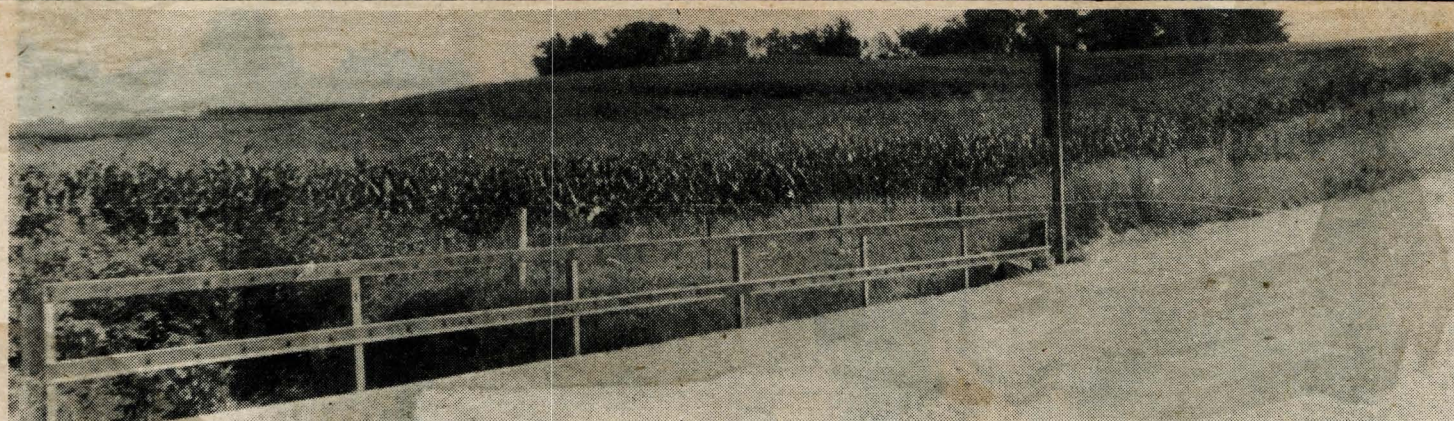
Cmelik also was rather pleased with the results. He said the major benefit

probably went to the farmer in holding the soil on his land from fast storm runoff, but he said the project also had benefits for the road.

"It helped the road by stopping the

gullies," said Cmelik. This had a stabilizing effect of the roadway fore-slopes and ditches. "For everybody involved, it was a good deal," he concluded.

CUT SOIL LOSSES — Howard Webb, Ladora farmer, has completed a three year program to re-design a hilly farm, southwest of Ladora, for more corn production and stop water runoff.



HOWARD WEBB

Webbs Are Cited By SCS - - *Redesigned Hilly Farm*

By Doris McCartney

Howard Webb, Ladora, has reconstructed a hilly piece of land with soil conservation practices in the last three years.

The Webbs will be named owner-operator winners of this year's soil conservation service citation for work on this land.

After the death of his late father-in-law, Clark Schafbuch, the Webbs inherited the 121 acre tract in Pilot township, northwest of Williamsburg. He had been renting the land seven years.

With ownership, the Webbs began land improvements.

Since 1976 they have spent \$24,000 in modifying the steep hills, an amount equal the value of the land.

The farm house and a plot of ground has been sold off to the Jim Recht-fertigs, Marengo.

With cost sharing programs with

service and the agricultural stabil-
tion conservation service, they have
completed many improvements.

Installed were 12,050 feet in
races and sediment basins and 20,
feet of waterways and terraces on
farm.

In addition, the Webbs have been
practicing conservation tillage and
contouring.

Webb signed on as a soil conser-
tion cooperator in 1971 and is a be-
liever in aiming to prevent soil runoff.

In 1976, they established 11 tile
lets and three terraces, building
eventually to 13 tile outlets.

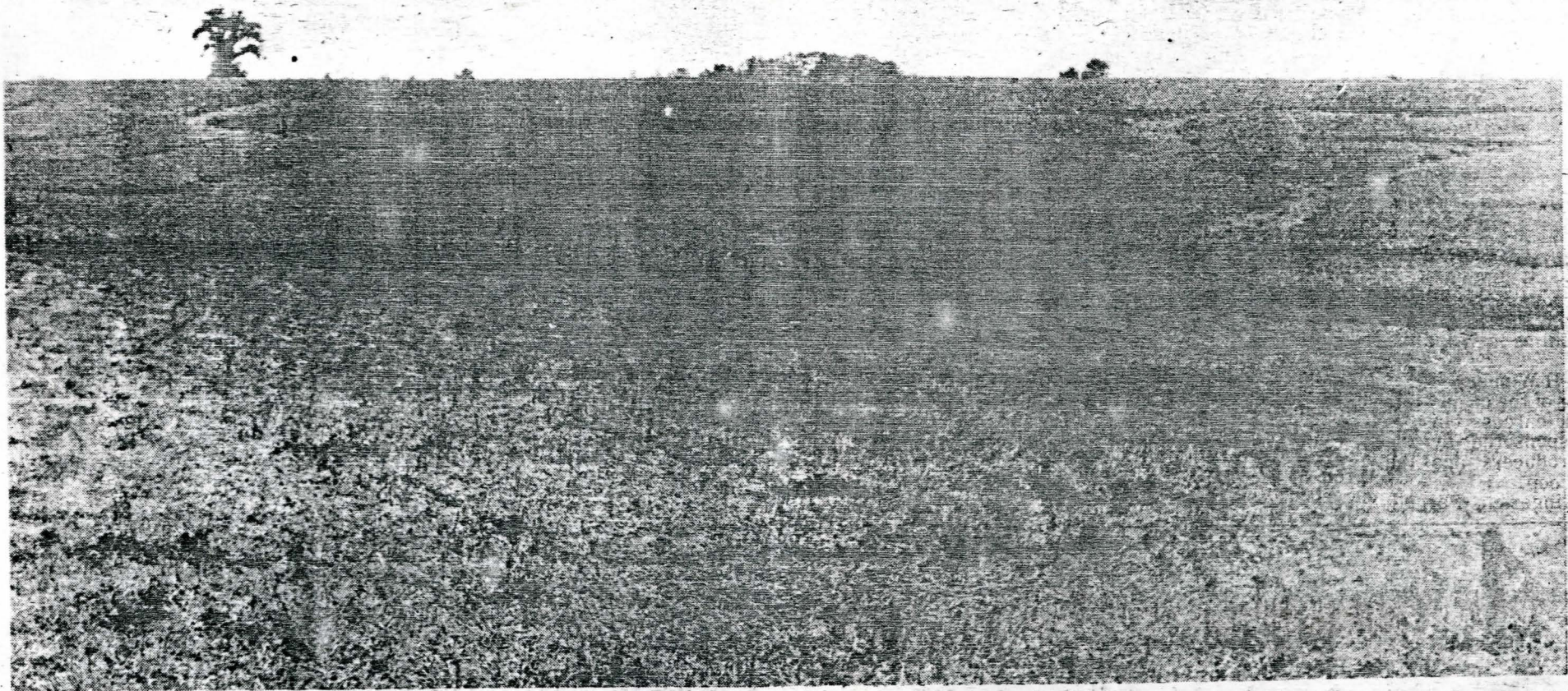
They have 12 outlets on the no
slope, installed after a crop of hay was
harvested.

A crop rotation plan is in effect on
farm on a two year row crop and 1
years of alfalfa and oats ratio, with



ARE COMMISSONERS — Iowa county soil conservation service board members attended the Eastern Iowa Tillage show Jan. 26 at the Five Seasons center, Cedar Rapids. Seated, left to right are: Greg Misbach, Larry Wetjen, both Marengo;

Robert Faber, Parnell; back row: Fred White, Parnell; and David McCartney, North English. Not pictured are assistant commissioners Larry Beyer and Andy Rowe, both Marengo.



CONTOURS AND ROTATES — Acres of corn are separated by grass waterways and contour lines on the Ed Buhrman farm located about a mile west of Conroy.

In the foreground is pasture land which in years to come will be converted to cropland while the cropland will one day become pasture in Buhrman and Willard Ha-

gen's soil conservation efforts. Hagen has rented the land from Buhrman since 1964.

Howard Webb - -

(Continued from page 6C)
maintaining the steeper slopes in grass.

In some instances, terraces were installed on an 18 percent grade.

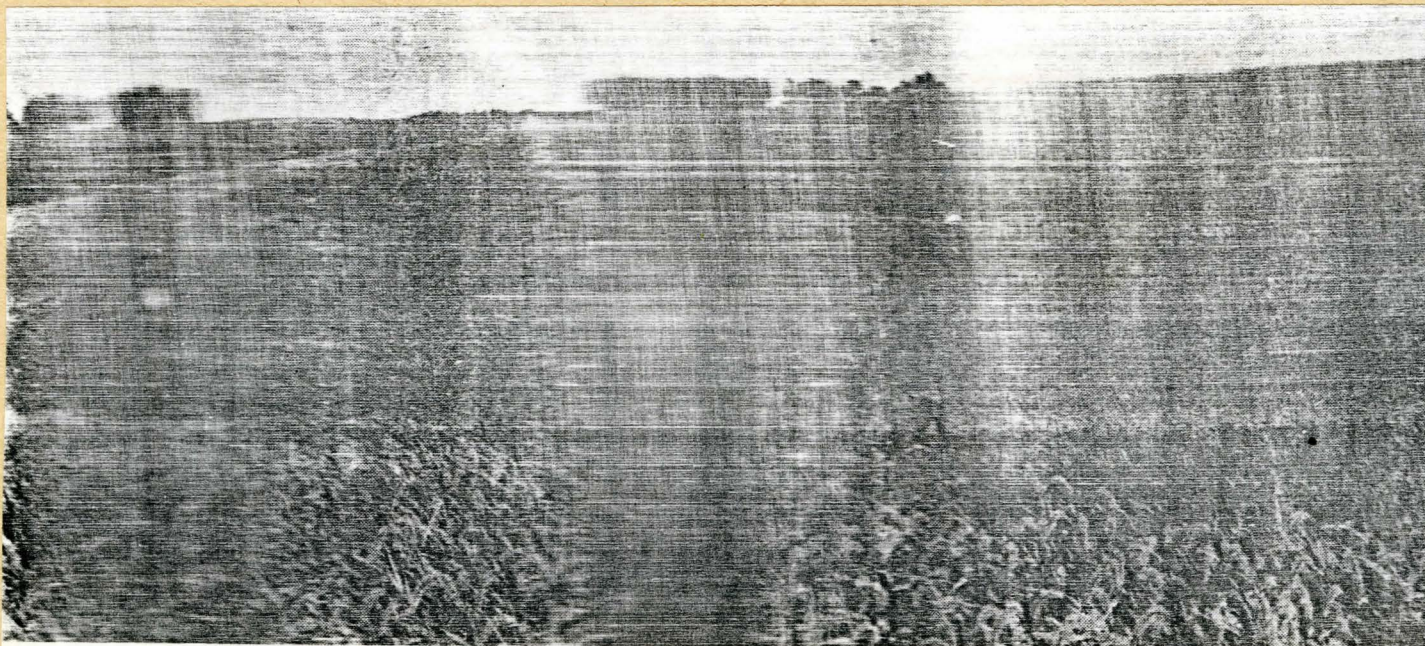
With a six row corn planter, Webb is pleased in the spring with the practical way of handling the crop planting with the redesigning.

Back slopes, carpeted with alfalfa and emerald vetch, hold soil runoff and washing through the corn fields.

With the land improvements, the Webbs have 320 acres in their operation, of which 262 acres are planted in corn. The remaining acres are in diversified crops, grass and oats.

As a cattle feeder, Webb converts his corn into animal rations on his home place a mile south of Ladora.

Mrs. Webb is the former LaDean Schafbuch.



INVESTED IN IMPROVEMENTS
The Howard Webbs, Ladora, will cited for land improvements on farm, southeast of Ladora, where they have invested a long-time program tiling, terraces and crop rotation.

Iowa-Cedar Conservancy Finalizes Plan

Photograph Land To Help Set Priorities

Public participants in the Iowa-Cedar River Basin are moving ahead with a plan designed to deal with the basin's soil and water management problems.

The plan was developed by the Iowa-Cedar River Conservancy District advisory committee with staff assistance from the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation. When implemented, the plan will offer a means for solving the basin's soil and water management problems on a local, hydrologic and watershed basis.

Such water management plans are an outgrowth of the Iowa Conservancy Act. That legislation created conservancy districts as legal entities of state government established along the state's six major drainage basins.

Each conservancy district is charged by the law with responsibility for developing a water management plan for its basin area. The Iowa-Cedar is the first such plan to be completed.

Thirty-five county resource coordinating committees within the basin were involved in a series of public meetings that began in the fall of 1975 to assess water management problems. Subsequent efforts were culminated last October when the state soil conservation committee approved the proposed plan.

The Iowa-Cedar Conservancy District plan calls for continued citizen involvement to develop priorities, initiate watershed improvements and provide assistance in carrying out related conservation work.

County resource coordinating committees will help implement the plan and will work closely with advisory committees, sub-basin boards, watershed committees and soil conservation districts to coordinate the overall basin

Iowa land is being photographed from the sky at least once every 18 days.

This photography has been going on since 1973 as a result of the cooperation of several state and federal agencies. The purpose of the photos is to help set priorities for Iowa land use.

Each frame of the satellite photos records the land cover - buildings, forests and crops - over 12,700 square miles. That's an area 112 miles wide and 112 miles long.

These photos, combined with county soil survey reports are programmed into a mini-computer and make it possible to accurately assess land use. Iowa State university extension agronomist Gerald Miller explains that comparing data from different years gives an accurate assessment of land use change over time.

Planting Trees Can Save Soil

Planting trees in well managed woodlands can be profitable and it helps save soil, according to Iowa's state forester.

Gene Hertel encourages landowners to consider planting trees on soils where erosion is a serious problem. Each year Iowa loses 20,000 acres of woodland, according to a recent U.S. Forest Service survey.

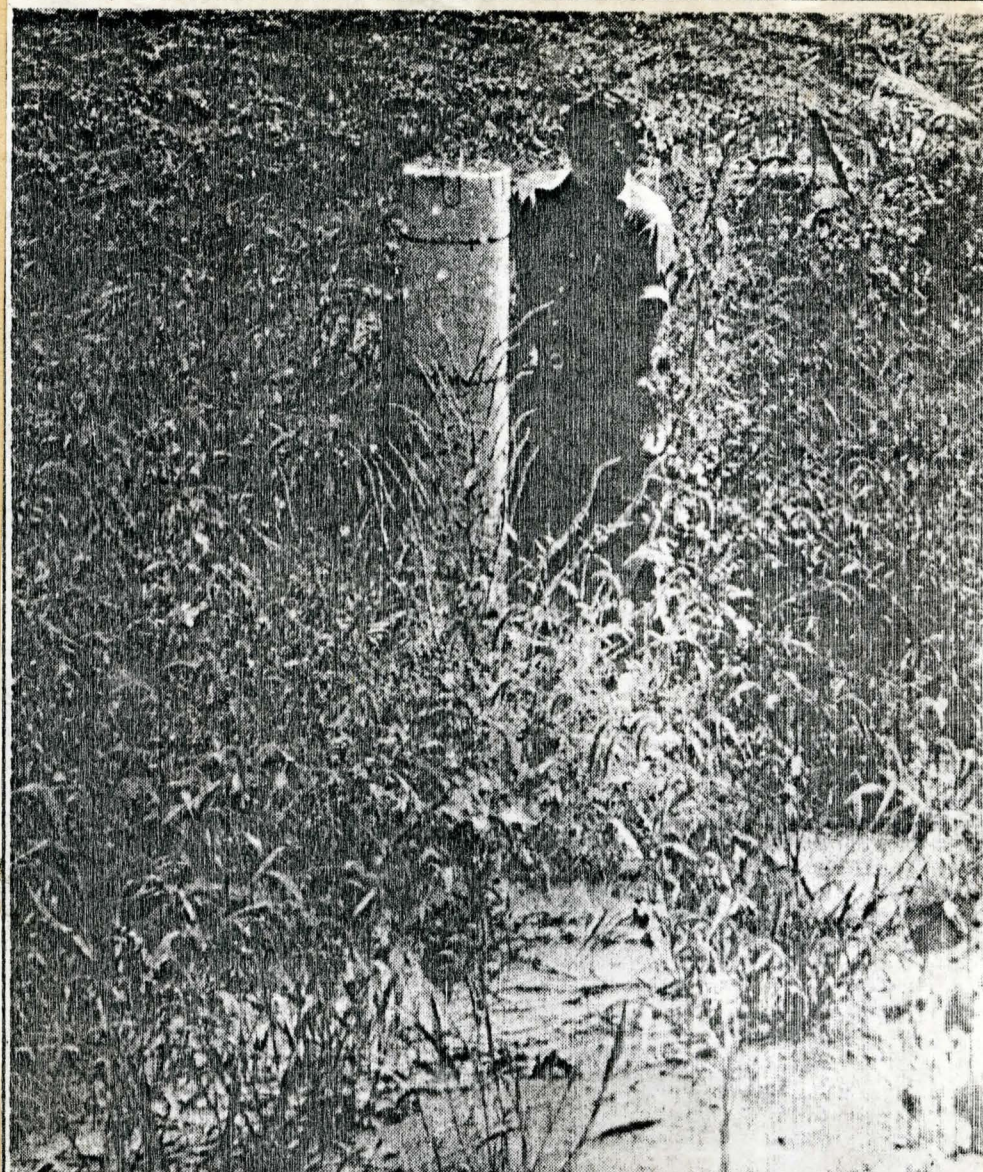
plan.

Experience gained in the Iowa-Cedar planning process will benefit the other five conservancy districts when they start to develop their own plans.

Acres of prime agricultural land converted to non-agricultural uses are easily determined using this system, the ISU agronomist notes. In addition, the effects of selected soil tillage practices on erosion can be measured.

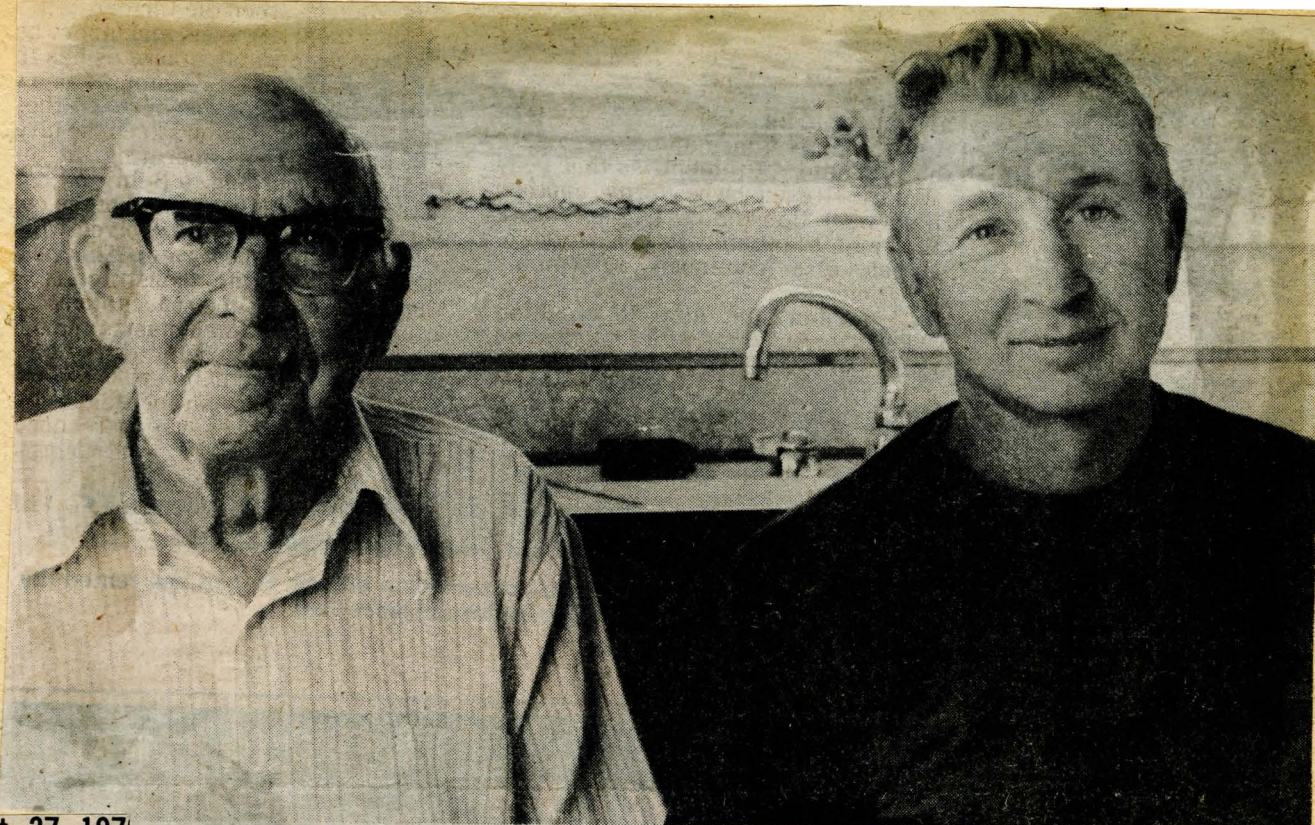
It's a quick, easy way to monitor land use changes. You can spread several years of multi-county area photos on a table top to compare them, he says. The floor space of a good sized room might have been needed to look at the same area using airplane photos.

The Iowa program is coordinated by the Remote Sensing Laboratory of the Iowa Geological Survey, Iowa City. Other organizations participating in the program include the College of Agriculture, Iowa State University, Iowa Conservation Commission, and the state departments of agriculture, soil conservation and transportation. The state office of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service also works with these groups.



CHECKS STANDPIPE — District conservationist Harry Bryant checks a standpipe in the dry pond installed on the Lawrence Cronbaugh farm, Victor. The

district soil conservation office was responsible for designing the soil conservation structures along the road.



Inty Farmer

Thurs., Sept. 27, 1971

Contours The Land - -

They Believe In Their Efforts

By Kevin Blind

About a mile west of Conroy rows of corn, 140 acres worth, follow the lay of land with rolling hills. In a couple years this cropland will be turned into pasture, while other pasture land on the farm is converted to crops.

This process of contouring cropland and periodically converting cropland to pastureland and vice versa has been carried on by Ed Buhrman since 1942, shortly after he purchased the 267 acre farm. In 1964 Buhrman began to ease himself into retirement, so that year Willard Hagen, who owns another farm near Buhrman's, began renting Buhrman's land and continues to do so. Hagen also continued Buhrman's practices.

"I wouldn't let him do anything else," said Buhrman with a laugh as he emphasized his belief in contouring as a soil conservation method. Of course Buhrman had a willing cooperater in carrying on his soil conservation when Hagen began to rent the farm.

"I'm a believer in it, too," said Hagen. Hagen also practices almost the same conservation techniques on the 160 acres he owns further west of Buhrman.

Contouring

Contour farming is a fairly simple conservation practice which doesn't involve a large capital outlay to accomplish. All it involves is following the lay of the land when the crop is planted.

On hills, the farmer plants around the hill following the hills contour. Leaving grass waterways is another important facet of the contouring method. All of this simply slows the water runoff from the fields following a rain and keeps the top soil from washing away with the water runoff.

Of course contouring, according to Buhrman and Hagen, is not without its limitations. Contouring almost always leaves the farmer with a lot of short rows, said Buhrman. When he first began the practice of contouring, farm machinery was small so the short rows didn't bother the farmer.

Since then, however, machinery has grown considerably in size as has the size of many farms. Contouring slows down the farmer because of these short rows and the rows keep the large machinery from operating at full capacity, according to Buhrman.

In more recent years, another conservation practice has evolved which eliminates the short rows. This practice involves the construction of thousands of feet of terraces along hills coupled with sediment basins and field tile which direct ground water underground before it runs over the top soil.

However, Buhrman and Hagen don't have any plans to change their conservation practices from contouring to terraces. First of all the two point out the large monetary investment they'd have to make to convert to terraces and sediment basins. Secondly, as Hagen points out, "The land's been doing real good with this contouring."

So he plans to keep on doing it.

Rotation

Contour farming isn't the only conservation practice they perform on the ground. They also believe in the value of converting cropland back to pasture.

Buhrman said they usually plant their land in crops for about three years in a row, then seed it down for pasture. Ground that has been converted to pasture they leave undisturbed for at least three years and sometimes up to six years.

LANDLORD AND TENNANT — Ed Buhrman and Willard Hagen have been farming 267 acres west of Conroy as landlord and tennant since 1964. Buhrman first bought the farm around

1940 and has contoured the cropland and rotated the cropland with pasture since 1942. He joined the Iowa county soil conservation district as a co-operator in 1950.

As a result of this practice, this year they are farming 140 acres of corn and 35 acres of oats. The remainder of the 267 acres is pasture planted with a combination of alfalfa, clover, timothy, alsike clover and brome.

The idea behind converting cropland to pasture periodically is to return nutrients to the soil according to Buhrman. However, with the cost of operating farmland these days, Hagen doesn't leave the pasture land idle with no use gotten out of it. Hagen also raises beef, and as Hagen says the pasture has certainly helped him out in providing feed for the cattle.

"It's always been real good pasture," said Hagen. "(The beef have) always had good eating."

Buhrman also fed cattle from the pasture land when he was operating the farm. At first he maintained a cow-calf herd, but he later changed to raising feeder calves.

The Results

As a result, Buhrman says his conservation practices over the years have increased the yields and put the land in better shape.

His best example to back up his results is one hill on the farm whose soil was so poor when he took over the entire hill was red in color. "You couldn't even plow it," exclaimed Buhrman.

Now, the hill isn't covered with black top soil, admitted Buhrman, but it has turned to a richer, deep color.



SAVING THE SOIL — The soil conservation service estimates this system of tile lines and terraces will cut soil loss in half when it is completed on the Russell Collingwood farm, three miles west of Williamsburg. The system consists of three terraces in the main water way to-

taling 2,300 feet of terracing and seven intakes along with about 3,000 feet of tile. The construction is being funded on a cost sharing basis with the agricultural stabilization and conservation program with engineering done by the SCS.

Annual Awards Banquet Held - -

Cite Farmers For Soil Conservation

By Doris McCartney

Soil conservation awards were presented at the annual banquet, Monday, Nov. 19, at the Colony Market Place, South Amana, by the Iowa county district commissioners.

Named as the winner of the owner-operator division were the Howard Webbs, Ladora, for work completed on their 121 acre farm, northeast of their home farm.

On the rolling ground, the Webbs have established crop rotation plans, installed many tile outlets, grassed waterways and modified the rolling land for increased corn production during the last three years. Webb signed on as a cooperator in 1971.

Land improvements on the farm have been \$24,000 with some cost sharing received.

Ken Boeke and his wife, Deanna, rural Deep River, were cited as new cooperators for practices established on their 160 acre farm west of Millersburg.

Boeke, who is farming an additional 240 rented acres, has been district cooperator for the last three years.

His conservation practices includes .6 acres of grassed waterways established last year; a pond built in 1976 and a grade stabilization structure built last year.

He has installed 1,845 feet, does contour farming and strip cropping.

An innovator, Boeke also has piped water from the pond to the hog facilities, in a former barn, as a water conservation measure.

Landlord-Tenant

Ed Burhmann, who lives west of Conroy, and Willard Hagen, rural Marengo, won the landlord-tenant award for soil saving measures on the 270 acre farm in Hilton township.

**SUPPORTS CONSERVATION**

Wendell Simonson, Oxford, Johnson county conservation officer, spoke on the Williams native prairie and a trip on the Milwaukee railroad, which he taped and filmed before the recent closing of the line in this area. Simonson was the featured speaker at the Monday, Nov. 19 soil conservation awards banquet at the Colony Market Place, South Amana.

Burhman has been a cooperator since 1950. Strip cropping and a unique contour plan are features of the award winning operation.

Harry Bryant, county conservationist, said the farm plan was terrific since it was so well maintained so many years.

Awards

Plaques and citations were given by David McCartney, North English; Larry Beyer and Larry Wetjen, both rural Marengo, commissioners. Greg Misbach, rural Marengo, chaired the awards meeting.

Marcia Wehner, of the Williamsburg Community school district, a fifth grade teacher, spoke on the weekend Iowa teachers conservation workshop at Wyoming.

"Cameras in the Classroom" was the topic of the study with teachers taking pictures and developing their negatives for their records.

Environmental studies included other related subjects.

Native Prairie

Wendell Simonson, Johnson county conservation officer, Oxford, spoke on the Williams native prairie near Oxford and a trip on the Milwaukee railroad before it shut down earlier this year to observe the conditions of the land along the route.

A 30 acre plot, six miles west of Iowa City, has been purchased by the state conservation to preserve the Williams native prairie.

"Early explorers probably found all of Iowa in a sea of grass similar to this tiny plot," Simonson notes.

"Here there are sounds of wildlife, yet many moods through the seasons. Song sparrows, bird nests, quail or pheasant prevail.

"In spring, Sweet William, Queen Anne's lace, and the bleeding heart are a few of the blossoms springing up."

Simonson has taken slides over three years at the site, enough for a ten minute slide show. He has served as an Iowa conservation officer 27 years in that area.

Speech Winners

Soil conservation speeches, entered by Jeff Folkmann, Iowa Valley FFA student, and Char Les Heitman, Williamsburg high school student, who placed first and second in the county event, were given for the program.

Miss Heitman advanced to the regional contest, winning a merit award.

Folkmann, who elected not to go to the regional event, was in Kansas City at the national FFA conference, where he competed in an extemporaneous speaking event as the Iowa winner.

**PRESENTED CONSERVATION AWARDS**

Iowa county farmers cited for soil saving practices at the annual awards banquet sponsored by the Iowa county soil conservation district Nov. 19 at Colony Market Place, South Amana, are left to right, Howard Webb, Ladora, owner-operator; Ken-

neth Boeke, Deep River, new cooperator; and Ed Burhman, landlord, who with his tenant, Willard Hagen, rural Marengo, not present for the photograph, won that division. A complete article on the program will be published in the next issue of The Farmer by The NEWSpapers of Iowa county.

Area banks which helped sponsor the awards banquet are Security Savings and Farmers Trust and Savings, Williamsburg; Farmers Savings, North English; Farmers Savings, Victor; Iowa County Savings, Marengo; Citizens State, Belle Plaine; and Wellman Savings bank.

Other Iowa county district commissioners are Fred White, Parnell; and assistant commissioners are Robert Faber, Parnell; Mary Welsh and Jerald McCaw, both Williamsburg. Miss Welsh gave the dinner invocation.

On the soil conservation staff are also Ted Oswald, conservation technician, North English; David Dermody, state aide, Parnell; Millen Sandersfeld, aide, Williamsburg; and Lennis Doebrmann, clerk.



CITED FOR SOIL IMPROVEMENTS — Recognition for improved land improvements were given by the Iowa county soil conservation district, Monday, Nov. 19, to left to right, the Howard Webbs, Ladora, owner-operators; the Kenneth Boekes, Deep River, new co-operator; and Ed Burhman, rural Marengo, landlord. Burhman's tenant, Willard Hagen, rural Marengo, was not present for the award presentations.

Speech winners

'Leave soil better'

By Al Swegle
Gazette farm editor

CORALVILLE — Alan Parmater, 15, of La Porte City was named the top soil conservation speech winner in region seven at the annual fall contest at the Carousel Restaurant in Coralville Wednesday evening.

"We in the world have received an inheritance — the soil — and it is our bound duty to leave it better than we found it," Parmater said in his award-winning speech.

Iowa farmers presently are losing topsoil at the rate of 1 inch every 12 years, Parmater said. If present trends continue, the 9 inches of topsoil left in the state will be gone in 100 years, he added:

"If farmers till their soil up and down the hillside, the soil will be gone in 36 years. If they farm on the contour, the soil will last 72 years. If they leave residue on the fields, the soil will last 136 years. If they adopt no-tillage techniques, the soil will last 2,224 years, which is long enough for the soil to renew itself."

Second place

The second place winner in the contest was Mary Blanchard, 14, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Blanchard of Iowa City, who criticized farmers for having "naive ambivalence."

"Naive refers to someone acting innocently," Blanchard said. "Ambivalence refers to the attitude that one should do something but doesn't."

Besides criticizing soil erosion, Blanchard attacked farmers who indiscriminately use chemicals, noting that U.S. farmers apply chemicals at the rate of 40 million tons per year.

"These chemicals don't automatically self-destruct," Blanchard said.

Blanchard said the nation should be more concerned about the loss of soil than about the energy crisis.

"Like the Cinderella story, the bewitching hour is fast approaching," Blanchard said. "Let's hope the monster of soil erosion will meet its death in a pool of water behind a terrace."

The third place winner was Jack Schlichting, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Schlichting of Muscatine, who said the nation's topsoil is eroding at the rate of 2 bushels of soil for every bushel of corn produced.

Schlichting said he favored zoning laws to limit urbanization of

prime farmland, adding: "It's hard to farm on concrete."

The merit award, presented to a promising ninth-grade student, was given to Char Les Heitman, 15, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Heitman of Williamsburg.

Questions

During a question and answer period, she said she favored mandatory conservation measures. Most of the other contestants, responding to the same question, opposed mandatory measures.

"The government can tell motorists to drive 55 miles per hour on the highway to conserve gasoline, so the government should be able to tell farmers to conserve the soil," Heitman argued.

During her speech, she said rain can't be stopped, but its effects on the soil can be slowed by the building of terraces on the land.

"Man cannot live long without the soil, and soil cannot live long without man," she added.

Other county winners in the East Central Iowa speech contest were:

Cedar County, Margo Peters, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Peters of Tipton; **Clinton County**, Bill Bossen, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Bossen, Clinton; **Linn County**, Doug Dostal, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lumir Dostal Jr., Marion; **Louisa County**, Tammy Cheever, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cheever of Columbus Junction; **Scott County**, Victor Hansen, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Hansen, Walcott; **Tama County**, Bob Linhart, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Linhart, Clutier; **Washington County**, Kerry Fladung, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Fladung of Washington.

Peters called erosion "the cancer of the earth," but with proper fund-

ing she optimistically said the two disasters — cancer and soil erosion — could be wiped out in our lifetime.

"If we forget all else, under all is the land," Dostal said. "Soil is more valuable than oil, more precious than gold."

Dostal said it costs 30 cents a bushel the first year for farmers to switch over to conservation tillage, but after that there is no additional cost to using minimum tillage methods.

Linhart said it was "time to stop being concerned with the present and time to think about the future (in stopping erosion)."

Bossen quotes experts who say that 85 million people could be fed by the land used up by urbanization by the year 2,000.

Fladung criticized soil loss into streams or "the deep blue sea," as he called it. This loss will eventually "make Louisiana the biggest state in the union," he added.

Hansen questioned whether future generations will have soil if it isn't controlled today.



Region 7 speech contestants at Coralville last week included, from left: front row, Tammy Cheever, 17, Columbus Junction; Margo Peters, 18, Tipton; Victor Hansen, 14, Walcott; Mary Blanchard, 14, Iowa City; and Char Les Heitman, 15, Williamsburg. Back row, Alan Parmater, 15, La Porte City; Jack Schlichting, 17, Muscatine; Doug Dostal, 16, Marion; Bob Linhart, 17, Clutier; Kerry Fladung, 17, Washington; and Bill Bossen, 18, Clinton.

Gazette photo by Al Swegle

The Cedar Rapids Gazette

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1979

23C

S.O.S. - Save Our Soil - Is Topic - -

Folkmann, Heitman Earn Speech Awards

By Jeff Folkmann
Senior At Iowa Valley
High School, Marengo

(First place in county soil conservation speech contest. He could not participate in the regional contest because he was a contestant in the FFA national contest at Kansas City, Mo., the same week.)

The theme is S.O.S. — Save Our Soil, a vitally important resource in Iowa. When I started to research for this speech, I wondered what S.O.S. meant. I found that it is a distress signal established by an international sanction in 1912.

S.O.S. is easily typed out due to its shortness, this is very important to someone in distress. With this history, it is entirely fitting that S.O.S. be the theme of this years contest.

The past decade has seen the continued acceleration of soil erosion to alarming rates. Although rates have diminished some in the last two or three years, it is necessary to continue the effort to stop soil erosion.

Soil scientists say that it takes nature anywhere from 250 to 1,000 years to produce one inch of topsoil, depending on the parent material. Erosion is sapping the strength of Iowa farmland at the rate of one inch in ten to fifteen years. We cannot allow this to continue very long. This must be stopped, the question is how? S.O.S.!

Farmers are a very resourceful group; given a chance and a way to protect the soil, they are usually willing to implement it. The problem is when costs are too great for the individual to afford the needed protection that trouble develops.

Terraces are expensive, so maybe the farmer can adopt a rotation system using a grass crop. Strip-cropping may work in a situation well suited for it. Another farmer might use no-till to accomplish the same goal.

These ways cost much less than terracing and can be nearly as effective in slowing erosion.

Demands on the farmer grow every year. He must do those things he feels are necessary and right. I feel that you listening to my speech, will take heed of the message I am speaking.

I want you to make examples of your own farms and homes. Let your neighbors see that you care, that you have heard the distress call and didn't ignore it.

If you were to receive a signal that someone needed your help, that their very life depended upon you, what would you do? Would you go back to whatever you happened to be doing? Would you forget it? I most certainly hope not. If you don't act now you may

never get another chance. Yesterday is past, we have no control over it. Tomorrow may never get here or we may not live to see it.

Take today, it is all you have and is all you control. Listen to the S.O.S. and help America and Iowa to save our soil.

By Char Les Heitman
Freshman At
Williamsburg High School

(Miss Heitman placed second in the county speech contest, but won a merit award in the regional contest at Coralville, while substituting for Jeff Folkman.)

Why save our soil? Theodore Roosevelt once said, "When soil is gone man must go." Man and soil are closely linked. Man could not survive long without soil as soil could not survive long without man.

When farmers first settled in Iowa, topsoil was 14-16 inches deep. Now, 100 years later less than half remains. In fact, at the present, topsoil makes up about eight inches. If topsoil remains at this depth, we should have nothing to fear, but if the loss continues in 100 years or less we will be left with nothing.

Nothing to live off, nothing to raise food off. Nothing! The answer - Conservation!

Yet conservation isn't the

only answer to saving our soil. We must practice effective methods of conservation or we can do more harm than good. Careless conservation resulted in the loss of one-third of our nations topsoil.

Who should conserve? Who should see to it that conservation is being practiced? Everyone should — whether it be actually practicing conservation, coming up with new methods of conservation, or just supporting the people who conserve. Everyone's responsibility is equally important.

The actual conserving of our land is usually placed in the hands of the person making a living off of it - the farmer. It is up to him to see to it that his land is being conserved.

Since we are supported by the food the farmer raises, we must support the farmer and help him carry out conservation.

S.O.S. is a common signal of distress often used when someone is in trouble and needs help. The land can send out S.O.S. signals of its own suggesting that its damaged. Yet, the secret is not only to catch these signals, but to catch them soon enough to prevent damage from worsening.

To do this, the farmer must have some knowledge of the causes and effects of soil damage and

(Please turn to page 13C)

11 Contestants Competed - -

Char Les Heitman Earns SCS Speech Merit Award

Iowa county's contestant at the regional Soil Conservation speech meet Wednesday, Nov. 7. Char Les Heitman, 15, Williamsburg, earned the merit award, the first given in this area in recent years.

The event was held at the Carousel restaurant, Coralville.

Miss Heitman advanced to the area contest when Jeffrey Folkmann, Marengo, an Iowa Valley high school student declined so he could participate at the national FFA speaking meet in Kansas City.

Winners in the regional SCS contest were Alan Parmenter, 15, La Porte City, first; Mary Blanchard, 14, Iowa City, second; and Jack Schlichting, 17, Muscatine, third.

Miss Heitman, daughter of the Harlan Heitmans, Williamsburg, said the rain can't be stopped but it's effect on soil can be slowed by the building of terraces.

She observed, "Man cannot live long without the soil, and soil cannot live long without man."

Responding to questions by the judges following her speech, Char Less approved mandatory controls on soil conservation work, saying, "If the government can order a 55 mile an hour speed limit, I think it can tell farmers to save their soil."

Parmenter will advance to the state contest at the



RECEIVED MERIT AWARD — Char Les Heitman, 15, daughter of the Harlan Heitmans, Williamsburg, competed in the regional soil conservation speech contest, Wednesday, Nov. 7, at Coralville and earned a merit award for her presentation. "Save Our Soil" was the topic for 11 contestants.

Topic Is Save Our Soil - -

SCS Essay Winners Are Published

The following are the entries in the annual essay contest sponsored by the Iowa county soil conservation service. Judging for the contest was held Oct. 17 in Williamsburg with the essay topic being "S.O.S. — Save Our Soil."

Robin Smith, an eighth grader from the Deep River Millersburg school district took first place in the contest. Smith was followed by Darcy Drown, Lutheran Interparish school, Williamsburg, second, and Lori Fenton, DR-M, third.

By Robin Smith

Soil is Iowa county's most precious resource. Many acres of land are highly productive for growing crops such as corn, soybeans and hay. A favorable climate and just the right amount of rainfall make Iowa county well suited for farming.

But erosion is eating away and wasting that precious soil. If Iowa's lost soil were piled six inches deep across the state, it

would cover 280,000 acres. A 1972 Iowa State university study put soil losses nationally at 4,000,000 tons annually.

Soil conservation practices, like terracing, conservation tillage, and contour farming can help save soil.

Terracing can reduce soil losses 50 percent. Contour farming can also reduce soil losses 50 percent. Both of them together can reduce soil losses 75 percent. Tillage practices can reduce losses 90 percent. While all three practices can reduce the soil losses 97.5 percent.

Conservation tillage, any tillage system that contributes to reduced soil erosion, is often called minimum tillage. This system leaves corn stalks and other crop residues on the soil surface for erosion control. One-third of Iowa's row crop land is prepared for planting with some form of conservation tillage. It requires fewer trips over the field, which uses less fuel. About one gallon of fuel can

be saved per acre by substituting a chisel plow or a disk for a moldboard plow.

No-till system, where the crop is planted in residue, takes one gallon of fuel per acre as compared to 5.5 gallons used in conventional tillage methods.

Terraces, a series of man-made earthen dikes, hold soil and harness water. Farmers have voluntarily built enough terraces in Iowa to stretch across the state 200 times. Despite steady progress only 60,000 miles of a needed 360,000 miles of terraces have been built. That means the job is only one-sixth complete.

Combinations of terraces, conservation tillage, contour plowing, and other conservation practices now protect 40 percent of Iowa's land against soil erosion.

That means more than one-half of the job still needs to be done. Erosion control work is getting more expensive and pressures for extensive row

cropping continue to grow.

Please try to protect our land in response to our call for help.

"S.O.S. — Save Our Soil"

By Darcy Drown

Save Our Soil please!

This is a special news report!

Land all over the state of Iowa is being ruined. Our land is being washed into ditches. Please help stop this disaster! Why you ask? Do you want your children not to have any land left to farm?

I myself am a city person and my friends live in the country. They (my friends) hope to be farmers like their parents are. Do you want to ruin all of their dreams? Well do you? Think about that!

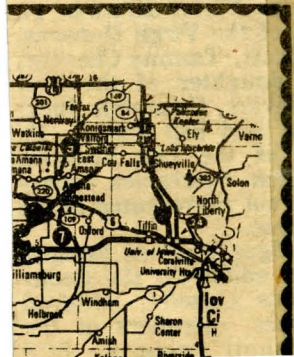
Now, you ask, how can you help? Well, you can go to your nearest soil conservation service office and get some information on how to save our soil.

One way is — watershed projects — which control erosion and flooding, but the problem with that is that it takes 10 to 15 years to com-

plete. A way to stop wind erosion is by stubble mulching, improved cropping systems, wind strip cropping and shelterbelts. Severe "blow" areas might need to be planted to trees or dune grasses.

Without good soil, farmers can't plant crops, so we can't get much food. According to statistics only one farmer can supply enough food and fiber for 54 people. We all enjoy eating don't we? Without good

(Please turn to page 14C)



Speech Winners -

(Continued from page 10C)
know some ways to treat and prevent it.

Sheet Erosion

Sheet erosion is one thing farmers must be aware of because it does its damage so quickly and permanently. When rain comes down fast and in large amounts and hits a slope or hill, the water gains speed and digs gullies and takes topsoil with it.

The rain cannot be stopped, but the water can be slowed several ways.

Terracing is an effective method to help slow the water. A terrace also has another advantage, not only does it slow water it also drains excessive water.

A terrace, usually placed between two hills, more commonly referred to as a slough or grass way. This has the same effect by breaking the speed of the water and trapping topsoil.

Yet rain isn't the only factor in soil damage, wind too is harmful. Strong wind especially is a threat because it can carry with it the topsoil that took hundreds of years to build. Like rain, wind cannot be stopped, but it cannot be slowed enough to keep topsoil in place

either. So the next best thing must be done.

Two methods are similar. Both create residues on the land making the topsoil heavier and less apt to be affected by the wind. The first is mulch tillage; it works by spreading straw on the land and discing it under, or by leaving some form of vegetation such as hay or chopped corn stalks on the ground.

The second is minimum tillage and it works like it sounds. The idea is to "minimize" the amount the soil is worked. This prevents it from getting so fine that the slightest wind will blow it away. The advantage to minimum tillage is that the fewer times you go across the field the more gas you save.

Wind And Rain

Wind and rain can be helpful. Wind circulates air, pollinates crops, and dries the land. It's only when there is too much wind or rain they can be harmful.

Contouring can help to get the best benefit of rain. By planting the crops around the hill or with the contour of the land, the rain will settle between the rows.

The farmer must see to it that his land is not misused

or abused. By planting the same crop year after year, such as corn, nitrogen and other minerals in the soil are lost. By planting another crop, such as soybeans, every few years, this and other nutrients, can be replaced.

Soil can also lose its productivity if not properly fertilized. Natural and commercial fertilizers can keep topsoil in good condition.

Until everyone realizes the importance of conservation, really cares, and works to conserve, the loss of this vital valuable topsoil will continue. One definition of save is — to preserve for future use.

Tomorrow is the future, so everyone must save our soil.

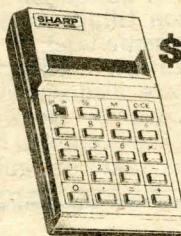
Stalk

Arvo Uskallio, West Branch, who has raised soybeans and lots of other vegetables for many years, is convinced that this year's soybean crop in Cedar county is going to be a bin-buster. He had a bean stalk, taken from his bean field, which contained 279 soybean pods. According to Arvo, a normal plant will bear about 150 pods. - West Branch Times.



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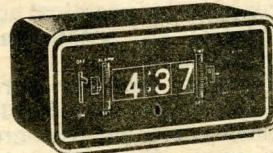


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Starts to brew as soon as plugged in. Stops automatically at peak flavor and keeps coffee at ideal temperature.

Essay Winners -

(Continued from page 12C)

farm products we would be in a terrible situation at meal time. We should take inventory of how many farm products we use every day in our lives.

Whether you live on a farm or in the city, soil conservation works in your favor. It helps reduce your taxes, your food, clothing, electricity and water bills, and your railway and bus fares. Plus it also gives better recreational opportunities and better health for you and your children.

So, now don't you think that everyone should try to help stop erosion? Lets save our soil.

A lot of people really don't know much about soil conservation, so go to your nearest SCS office and find out more about it. You and everyone should be concerned about the soil because it is very important to all.

Many of us city people take this for granted. I really hope that we can all learn more and help our farmers with their soil conservation problems. After all, two-third's of our

26,000,000 acres of crop land need permanent conservation protection and SCS estimates that only one-third of our crops and their land is adequately protected against erosion.

By Lori Fenton

Everyone should help to save our soil. Men, women, and children should all be concerned with this problem.

Soil erosion is usually described as carrying away of soil by either wind or water.

Erosion of this kind has been speeded up by man's mismanagement of land, even to the point of destroying it for practical agricultural use within one generation.

Thirteen tons per acre soil loss figures out to be 230 bushels of soil loss per acre per year. With average corn yields of 115 bushels per acre, then, there is a two bushel loss of corn produced.

Soil resources are dying out, just as coal, oil or any other natural resource. So far, crop yields have been kept high with commercial fertilizers. Nitrogen fertilizer use in Iowa has increased by 700 percent since 1960. Extra fertilizer

is being used to make up for loss of fertile top soil.

Terraces are a series of man-made earthen dikes around a hillside. Terraces can cut erosion by 60 to 80 percent. Farmers have voluntarily built enough terraces in Iowa to stretch across the state 200 times. Despite steady progress, only 6,000 miles of a needed 360,000 miles of terraces have been built. The job is only one-sixth complete.

Conservation tillage is often called minimum tillage. It generally cuts soil erosion in half. The system leaves corn stalks, other crop residues, on the soil surface for erosion control. One-third of Iowa's new crop land is prepared for planting with some form of conservation tillage. There is potential for conservation tillage on all Iowa's crop land. A better job of conservation tillage could be done on some land.

Conservation tillage practices are also energy saving measures. No-till, where the crop is planted in the residues, takes one gal-

lon of fuel per acre compared to 5.5 gallons used in conventional tillage methods. It requires fewer trips over the field, which also uses less fuel. Farmers can save themselves time, money, wear and tear on equipment, and help meet the nation's energy conservation goals by eliminating unnecessary field operations.

On steeper land, conservation tillage can enhance the effectiveness of other conservation practices necessary to control erosion under intensive row cropping.

Assuming that 22,000,000 acres of corn and soybeans are planted in Iowa each year, conservation tillage can mean a reduction of from 20,000,000 to 100,000,000 gallons of diesel fuel each year.

There are several ways to reduce energy requirements for tillage. They are, if the reason for tillage is not evident, don't do it; don't till deeper than necessary for the job; or don't till when soil moisture is be-

yond field capacity at tillage depth. Be sure tractor engine and implements are properly adjusted and maintained. Don't overload your tractor.

More than half the job remains to be done. Erosion control work is becoming more expensive, and pressures for intensive row cropping continue to grow.

Whether the piece of land is intended for use as farm land, a road, industrial development, a home, a recreation, or anything else, the decision should not be made without considering the soil first.

Iowa may be losing the battle against soil erosion. Iowa is now losing 261,000,000 tons of top soil annually, compared to 200,000,000 tons of soil just a few years ago. Iowa's soil losses now average more than nine tons per acre per year, twice the national average.

If Iowa's lost soil were piled six inches deep across the state, it would cover 280,000 acres to emphasize the loss.

By everyone being concerned about this problem, we could have nice productive soil.

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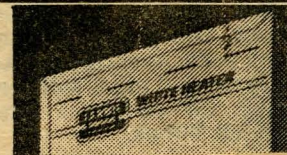
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field, which uses less fuel. About 1

SOS — Save Our Soil

By Darcy Drown
(Lutheran Interparish School)

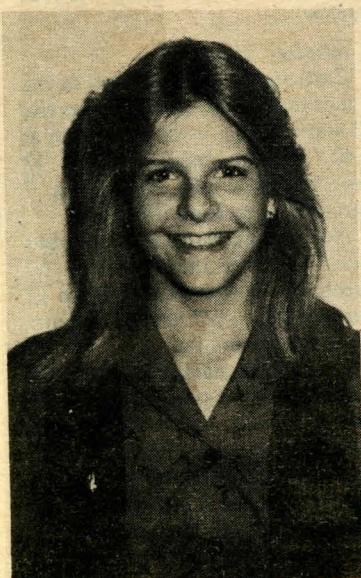
Save Our Soil, Please!

This is a special news report! Land all over the state of Iowa is being ruined. Our land is being washed into ditches. Please help stop this disaster! Why, you ask? Well, do you want your children not to have any land left to farm?

I myself am a city person and my friends live in the country. They (my friends) hope to be farmers like their parents are. Do you want to ruin all of their dreams? Well, do you? Think about that!

Now, you ask, how can you help? Well, you can go to your nearest Soil Conservation Service office and get some information on how to save our soil.

One way is — watershed projects — which control erosion and flooding, but the problem with that is that it takes 10-15



Darcy Drown was the second place winner in the Iowa County Soil Conservation essay contest.

years to complete. A way to stop wind erosion is by stubble mulching, improved cropping systems, wind stripcropping and shelterbelts. Severe "blow" areas might need to be planted to trees or dune grasses.

Without good soil — farmers can't plant crops, so we can't get much food. According to statistics, only one farmer can supply enough food and fiber for 54 people. We all enjoy eating, don't we? Without good farm products we would be in a terrible situation at meal time. We should take inventory of how many farm products we use every day in our lives.

Whether you live on a farm or in the city, soil conservation works in your favor. It helps reduce your taxes, your food, clothing, electricity and water bills, and your railway and bus fares. Plus, it also gives better recreational opportunities and better health for you and your children.

So, now, don't you think that everyone should try to help stop erosion? Let's save our soil.

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Many of us city people take this for granted. I really hope that we can all learn more and help our farmers with their soil conservation problems.

After all, two-thirds of our 26 million acres of cropland needs permanent conservation protection and SCS estimates that only one-third of our crops and their land is adequately protected against erosion.

S.O.S. — Save Our Soil

By Robin Smith, 8th Grade
(Deep River-Millersburg School)

Soil is Iowa county's most precious resource. Many acres of land are highly productive for growing crops such as corn, soybeans and hay. A favorable climate and just the right amount of rainfall make Iowa county well suited for farming.

But, erosion is eating away and wasting that precious soil. If Iowa's lost soil were piled 6 inches deep across the state, it would cover 280,000 acres. A 1972 Iowa State University study put soil losses nationally at 4 billion tons annually.

Soil conservation practices, like terracing, conservation tillage, and contour farming can help save soil.

Terracing can reduce soil losses 50%. Contour farming can also reduce soil losses 50%. Both of them together can reduce soil losses 75%. Tillage practices can reduce losses 90%. While all three practices can reduce the soil losses 97.5%.

Conservation tillage, any tillage system that contributes to reduced soil erosion, is often called minimum tillage. This system leaves corn stalks and other crop residues on the soil surface for erosion control.

One-third of Iowa's row crop land is prepared for planting with some form of conservation tillage. It requires fewer trips over the field, which uses less fuel. About 1 gallon of fuel can be saved per acre by substituting a chisel plow

or a disk for a moldboard plow.

No-till system, where the crop is planted in residue, takes 1 gallon of fuel per acre as compared to 5.5 gallons used in conventional tillage methods.

Terraces, a series of man-made earthen dikes, hold soil and harness water. Farmers have voluntarily built enough terraces in Iowa to stretch across the state two hundred times. But despite steady progress only 60,000 miles of a needed 360 thousand miles of terraces have been built. That means the job is only one-sixth complete.

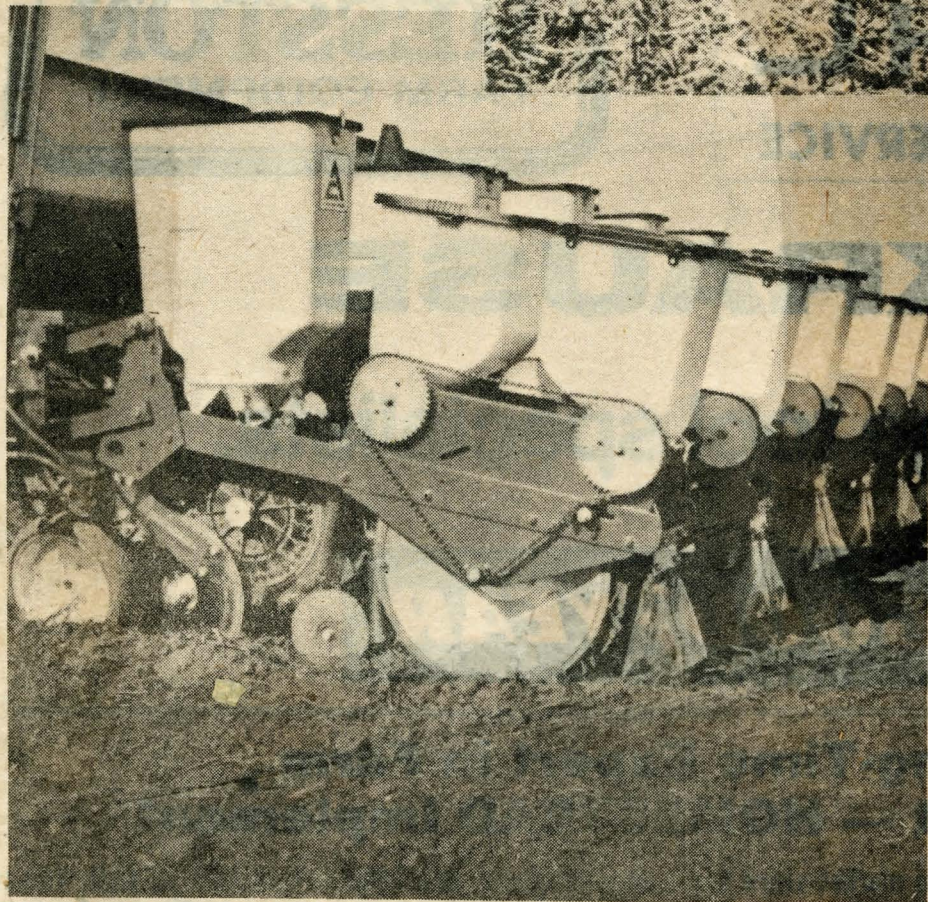
Combinations of terraces, conservation tillage, contour plowing, and other conservation practices now protect 40% of Iowa's land against soil erosion. But, that means more than one-half of the job still needs to be done. Erosion control work is getting more expensive and pressures for extensive row cropping continue to grow.

So, please try to protect our land in response to our call for help — S.O.S. — Save Our Soil.



Robin Smith is from Deep River-Millersburg School, 8th grade. Robin's essay took first place in the Iowa County Soil Conservation Essay Contest.

Taking full advantage of conservation planting.



Be it minimum tillage or no tillage. Either way, it's called conservation tillage and it's the way of the future that's here today.

Conservation tillage protects the soil from erosion and prevents the runoff of valuable fertilizer, insecticides and herbicides. It allows planting at the optimum time to promote yields. . . even if the ground is too wet for plowing or disking. And during dry years, moisture is retained in the soil by the covering residue.

Best of all, conservation tillage allows you to double crop. And it saves the time

and fuel required for conservation tillage.

Allis-Chalmers builds the planters that are the leaders in conservation. From the company that pioneered and patented the No-Til planter concept.

Ideal for minimum or zero tillage planting. Allis-Chalmers 300 and 333 planters feature units with more weight than the popular competitor.

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SHAULL'S TRACTOR & IMPLEMENT

Marengo

S.O.S. — Save Our Soil

By Jeff Folkmann
(Senior at Iowa Valley
High School, Marengo)

The theme is S.O.S. — Save Our Soil, a vitally important resource in Iowa. When I started to research for this speech, I wondered what S.O.S. meant. I found that it is a distress signal established by an international sanction in 1912.

S.O.S. is easily typed out due to its shortness; this is very important to someone in distress. With this history, it is entirely fitting that S.O.S. be the theme of this year's contest.

The past decade has seen the continued acceleration of soil erosion to alarming rates. Although rates have diminished some in the last 2 or 3 years, it is necessary to continue the effort to stop soil erosion.

Soil scientists say that it takes nature anywhere from 250 to 1,000 years to produce 1 inch of topsoil, depending on the parent material. Erosion is sapping the strength of Iowa farmland at the rate of 1 inch in 10 to 15 years. We cannot allow this to continue very long. This must be stopped, the question is how? S.O.S.!

Farmers are a very resourceful group; given a chance and a way to protect the soil, they are usually willing to implement it. The problem is when costs are too great for the individual to afford the needed protection that trouble develops.

Terraces are expensive, so maybe the farmer can adopt a rotation system using a grass crop. Stripcropping may work in a situation well suited for it. Another farmer might use no-till to accomplish the same goal. These ways cost much less than

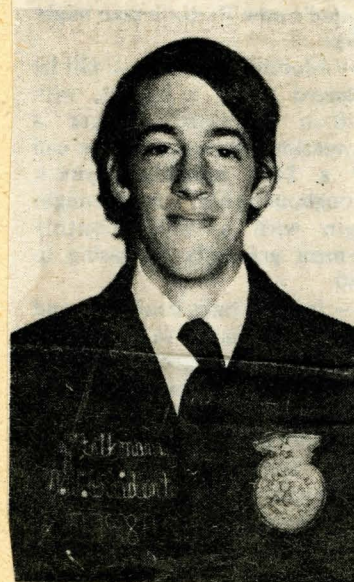
terracing and can be nearly as effective in slowing erosion.

Demands on the farmer grow every year. He must do those things he feels are necessary and right. I feel that you listening to (or reading) my speech will take heed of the message I am giving.

I want you to make examples of your own farms and homes. Let your neighbors see that you care, that you have heard the distress call and didn't ignore it.

If you were to receive a signal that someone needed your help, that their very life depended upon you, what would you do? Would you go back to whatever you happened to be doing? Would you forget it? I most certainly hope not. If you don't act now you may never get another chance.

Yesterday is past; we have no control over it. Tomorrow may never get here or we may not live to see it. Take today, it is all you have and is all you control. Listen to the S.O.S. and help America and Iowa to save our soil.



JEFF FOLKMANN

Speech, Essay Winners Selected For District

Winners of the Iowa county soil conservation district speech contest were Jeff Folkmann, senior at Iowa Valley community high school, first place; CharLes Heitman, freshman, second place; and Nathan Lutz, junior, third place,

both from the Williamsburg community high school. The topic was "S.O.S. - Save Our Soil."

Since first place winner Jeff Folkmann will be attending the national convention of the Future Farmers of America in Kansas City

when the regional speech contest is held, second place winner CharLes Heitman will represent the district at the regional contest to be held Nov. 7 at the Carousel Inn, Iowa City.

Winners in the essay division of the speech contest

were eighth grade students Robin Smith, Deep River-Millersburg community school, first place; Darcy Drown, Lutheran Interparish Sch. I, Williamsburg, second place, and Lori Fenton, Deep River-Millersburg community

school, third place.

The first three places in each contest received a cash award and trophy from the district.

Others entered in the speech contest were Larry Martin, Chet McCaw, Dale Folkmann, and Rod Lar-

son all from Iowa Valley.

The speech and essay competition was held Wednesday, Oct. 17, in the Farm Bureau building, Williamsburg.

The speeches and essays will appear in future issues of The NpIC.



JEFF FOLKMANN



CHARLES HEITMAN



NATHAN LUTZ



ROBIN SMITH



DARCY DROWN



LORI FENTON



Win speech contest

Students who entered the soil conservation speech contest, S.O.S. — Save Our Soil, held Wednesday, Oct. 17, were from left to right: Rod Larson, Larry Martin, Iowa Valley Community School; Nathan Lutz, Williamsburg Community School; Chet McCaw, Dale Folkmann, Jeff Folkmann, Iowa Valley Community School; and Charles Heitman, Williamsburg Community School.

Winning first place was Jeff Folkmann, second place went to Charles Heitman, and third place to Nathan Lutz. They each received a cash award and trophy from the Iowa County Soil Conservation District. Their speeches will appear in future issues of the Spokesman.

Farm Bureau Spokesman 10-26-79



Essay contest winners

Winners of the essay contest, entitled S.O.S. — Save Our Soil, held Wednesday, Oct. 17, in the Farm Bureau building, Williamsburg, are, left to right: Robin Smith, Deep River-Millersburg, first place; Darcy Drown, Lutheran Interparish, Williamsburg, second place; and Lori Fenton, Deep River-Millersburg, third place. They each received a cash award and trophy from the Iowa County Soil Conservation District. Their essays will appear in future issues of the Spokesman.

Pioneer Republican 9-27-79

Opinion Page

Editorials

Check The Iowa County Farmer

Much was discussed and subsequently written about a number of months ago about the pros and cons of joining soil conservation projects with road construction.

The proposal was made, then examined and has now been carried out to construct a number of soil conservation projects in connection with the regrading of the V road in western Iowa county. The work that has been done is the subject for an

article on making the tax dollar work twice in The Iowa County Farmer section this week.

Conservation is the subject, too, of articles on owner and cooperator and owner-operator in the soil district and other articles on no till and organic farming. Several different approaches are being used.

Articles on recent Pork Producer and Farm Bureau annual meetings are included also.

October Is. . . National Everything Month

October is almost everything month - probably the busiest one of the year on the calendar of events.

It isn't enough that it is an extremely busy one on school and university calendars as well as those at home when nearly everyone tries to take advantage of those golden autumn days.

Add in such events as observances of National Restaurant and Cooperative months. Those are featured in The NEWSpapers this week, just so we get a head start on those things. Coming up next will be National 4-H week and following close on

its heels are new car showings, salute to firemen, October is pork month, salute to industry and if one wants to get down to details there is a national newspaper week. Because the month is such a busy one, we in this part of the industry, tend to glance off that one because we hope our readers know we're here while we're busy saying "take a bow" to the rest of you whose lives are touched by most of the other activities.

That's only a brief look at things to come in the next few issues of The NpIC!

Farm Bureau Spokesman 9-28-79

SCS news

Farmers in Iowa county are beginning to use conservation tillage on most of their cropland to help control erosion and save fuel.

This year about 5,000 acres of corn was planted with no tillage operations prior to planting. The previous year's crop residue was used to protect the soil from eroding until the new crop was big enough to protect it.

No-till is also a big fuel saver. Jack Tuttle of Marengo says he used less than 300 gallons of fuel to plant 300 acres of corn the no-till method.

Chisel plowing and disking are the other conservation tillage systems being used. These are somewhat less effective for erosion control because they don't leave as much residue on the surface. Between 3,000 and 4,000 pounds of residue need to be left on the surface to reduce erosion on sloping land.

Farmers can get a good idea of how much residue is on the surface after planting by the following method: For every pound of corn produced, figure 1 pound of crop residue. That amount of residue will be reduced by 50 percent for each tillage operation used.

Newspapers of Iowa Co. 10-25-79

Folkmann, Marengo Are Third In FFA Soil Contest

Marengo future Farmers of America chapter placed second overall in the annual Iowa, Johnson and Washington county soil judging contest held at the Johnson county fairgrounds Oct. 10.

Jeff Folkmann, IV senior, was third high individual.

Mid Prairie of Wellman teams captured first place senior team and first and second place junior teams while the Marengo chapter followed with second place senior and third and fourth place junior teams.

Eleven Marengo members attended including Folkmann, Eric Walker, Dana Roggentien, Russ Brecht, Brett Walker,

Craig Schafbuch, Mark Plotz, Craig Knock, Gary Grafft, Rodney Cronbaugh and Tim Crosby. About 90 students participated from nine schools with vocational agricultural programs.

The contest consisted of three sites that the contestants judged according to 30 characteristic including slope, soil thickness, capability for farming, management practices needed and suitability for non-agricultural uses.

Area soil scientists provided the official soil classifications. A 25 question exam was included also in each contestant's score.

Iowa Valley vocational agriculture instructor and FFA advisor is Andy Rowe.

Journal-Tribune 9-27-79

Seek Speech, Essay Entries - -

"S.O.S. - Save Our Soil" Is Soil Conservation Contest Theme

The Iowa county soil conservation district is sponsoring a soil conservation speech and essay contest to students interested in conserving dwindling natural resources.

The contest will be held Wednesday, Oct. 17, at 8 p.m. in the Farm Bureau basement, Williamsburg.

"S.O.S. - Save Our Soil" is the topic of the speech and

essay contest.

The speech contest is open to all students in grades seventh through twelve and residents of Iowa county. Awards will be \$20, \$15 and \$10 and trophy for first, second and third places respectively.

The essay contest is open to all seventh and eighth grade students and residents of Iowa county.

Awards will be \$10, \$7.50 and \$5 and trophy for first, second and third places respectively.

Copies of rules and regulations have been sent to each school in Iowa county. Anyone interested in entering either contest should contact their school or the soil conservation service office, 600 Court street, Williamsburg.

Project Less Work To Be Done - - Inflation, Funding Affect Conservation

By Kevin Blind

The county soil conservation service and the local office of the agricultural stabilization and conservation service are both cost sharing and planning soil conservation efforts for local farmers.

Since 1972 nearly \$1,000,000 in state and federal funds have been expended in cost sharing programs in Iowa county most of which were funded on a 50 percent cost sharing basis.

However, because of inflation and intermittent reductions in funding - especially in federal funding, soil conservation efforts have not been able to keep up the pace it has in the past. "We're getting less money, and it's costing more to do it every year," said county ASCS committee chairman Paul Hannon.

In 1972 the ASCS office was the only county office providing cost sharing funds for area farmers who wanted to begin or carry on soil conservation programs on their farms. In that year the county's allocation from the federal government was \$108,000. The next year that funding increased slightly to \$110,000.

In 1974, however, district conservationist Harry Bryant said the President impounded the federal funds for soil conservation programs. The United States Congress then took the issue to court to have the funds released which in the end they were, but the total county funding for that year was

only \$44,400 - less than half the amount granted the previous year.

Before 1974 the district soil conservation service was merely a technical arm of the state government. Soil conservation plans tentatively approved by the ASCS committee were reviewed and designed by the SCS personnel.

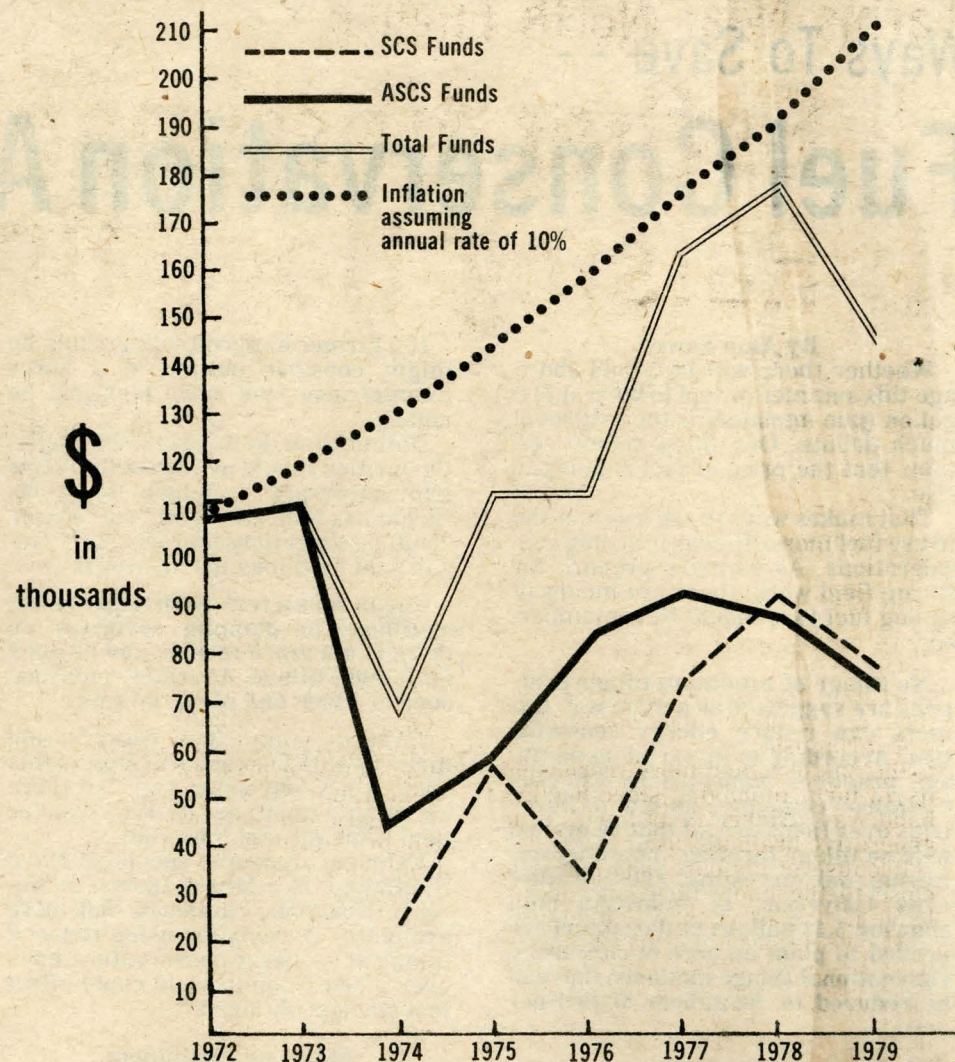
"That (1974) was the year the state legislature decided they had to do something if they wanted soil conservation to go on," said Bryant. The legislature approved cost sharing funds to be distributed through the district offices. That funding began with an initial apportionment of \$18,000 in 1974, and has since risen to \$48,000 for the 1978-79 fiscal year for Iowa county.

However, because of reapportioning state funds based on need, the annual funding received for cost sharing programs from the state has been much more than that. Funds received from 1974 were actually \$23,336, and funds received from the 1977-78 fiscal year totaled \$89,948.

Since 1974 federal funding had rebounded to a high of \$90,000 in 1977. The federal funds, however, are again on the decline falling to \$85,900 in 1978 and \$70,490 for the current year.

The reductions in federal funding haven't caused any basic changes in the priorities in ASCS conservation programming. It has however, forced cut backs in some program activities

(Please turn to page 18C)



FALLS BELOW INFLATION — Using 1972 as the base year for computing a 10 percent inflation rate, the above graph shows the cost sharing funds for conservation projects expended from each of the succeeding funding years has not kept up with the annual inflation rate. Funding for 1979,

however is incomplete on the graph because funding for the district soil conservation service may increase because of reapportionment of funding for the year. The 1979 funding for the local agricultural stabilization and conservation service is the total to be received for the year.

(Continued from page 4C)

and the adoption of some committee policies to help spread the available federal funds.

Priorities

To help hold down costs of conservation projects a higher priority is placed on permanent conservation practices such as terraces which are scheduled for construction during the summer months.

Acting executive director for the local ASCS office Robert Carson says more work can be accomplished for the dollar spent on these summer projects than would be accomplished on permanent conservation structures built in the spring and fall.

Carson is the acting executive director for the county ASCS office while Irene Wetjen is visiting various county and state ASCS offices in a training program preparing for her appointment as local executive director. Carson is the ASCS executive director for Johnson county.

In the spring the ASCS generally funds conservation projects such as permanent seeding, windbreak planting and contour strip cropping practices. Contour strip cropping has also risen in priority for the ASCS committee because its cost is lower than terracing.

The reduction of federal funding has also cut back the long term agreement program sponsored by the ASCS office. The long term agreements were begun in 1974 to provide funding over the course of three to ten years to institute a comprehensive conservation plan over an entire farm. The county currently has seven long term agreements.

However, funding for the long term agreements this year amounts to only \$8,500 which Carson said would only be enough to fund a watershed of 20 to 40 acres on one farm. So they've instituted a mini-long term agreement which will be given to one applicant from the list of applications received in March.

Selection of applicants is one of the main jobs of the county committee since the local ASCS office generally receives two to three times the number of applicants than there is money to go around. Because of this, the ASCS county committee has limits of \$3,500 as the maximum amount of money any one farmer can receive in a year. If a farmer receives a large cost sharing payment one year, he is then asked to defer application for cost sharing

funds for the next year.

SCS Funding

Because of a different method of funding for the state SCS office, Bryant hasn't been faced with policies such as this. He says the SCS office generally funds on a flat 50 percent cost sharing basis with no limit on the amount of money that farmer can receive in a year.

He said his office also tries to promote conservation programs over a series of years. "What we encourage is to do a little every year," said Bryant.

"We're treating the land instead of the farmer," he added.

Funding from the state legislature is mandated by law, noted Bryant, as one of the reasons state cost sharing funds have steadily increased over the years. On the other hand, Bryant said federal funding for cost sharing is not required so when budget cutting talk begins on the federal level this is one of the first places they look.

The state funding begins with an initial proportionment. After this money is depleted on the local level, each district can receive more money for extra projects if they can first demonstrate a need, and if there is money available in the state reserve.

However, inspite of the increases Bryant said they have not taken into account full inflation over the year. So, although the conservation district commissioners have listed priorities for their conservation program, the only programs receiving cost sharing funding are those practices which are permanent such as terracing and erosion control dams.

In the past, because of the funding based on need from the state, Bryant says they really haven't had any problem getting money. In fact, he said they always have been able to get about as much money as the farmers have requested and haven't had to turn any away.

Because of the continual inflation, which he estimates to be running at about 10 percent annually, Bryant also believes that not as much conservation work will get done as had been in the past.

In reaction to this, Bryant said the commissioners are currently looking at several alternatives. One of the alternatives is to seek out alternative methods of funding, the other being a change in the priorities of the commission.

Continued on next page ->

Bryant said several counties such as Polk and Henry have begun cost sharing programs through the use of locally generated funds. This he said the commissioners might be looking at in the near future.

He continued the rural clean water act might provide extra funding to the county. However, although the county has been placed on the funding priority list for the act, it isn't high enough on the list to receive the monetary benefits of the act as yet.

Bryant said the commission might also be looking at their priority rating with the possibility in mind of changing the priorities from emphasizing permanent structures to more of a management priority system.

The management systems would emphasize the use of no-till and conservation tillage. According to the long range plan developed by the conservation commission, conservation tillage would adequately protect about one-third of the county land still in need of some conservation practices. The remainder of the land needing protection would require a combination of terraces, sediment basins and conservation tillage. However, conservation tillage alone would at least slow down the erosion process, allowing more time for permanent structures to be built.

One of the things Bryant said that was brought out at the last meeting with county farmers was the need for a higher rate of cost sharing to speed up the conservation program. Bryant said some feel that the state should cost share at a rate of about 75 percent.

However, for the present an increased rate of cost sharing is not likely. "There's no use going 75 percent if you can get rid of all the money you can get at 50 percent," said Bryant.



MONEY TO GO AROUND — District soil conservationist Harry Bryant said the district soil conservation office is generally able to get enough money to

cover the requests of county farmers, but funding is restricted to permanent conservation practices.

MORE REQUESTS THAN FUNDS — The county agricultural stabilization and conservation committee generally receives two to three times the requests from county farmers for funding than they have money. The conservation program assistant for the committee is Loretta Williams.

Newspapers of Iowa Co.
5-10-79

SCS Commissioners Meet May 15 In Williamsburg

Iowa county soil conservation district commissioners will meet Tuesday, May 15, at the Williamsburg office at 8 p.m.

Items on the agenda are the conservation awards program, district budget for 1979-80, a memorandum of understanding with USDA and SCS, a supplement on civil rights, EEO; and policy on that issue. Larry Beyer, rural Marengo, is chairman of the board.



Soil districts name officers for coming year

Several soil conservation districts elected officers for the coming year in meetings held last month.

The elections are as follows:

Benton County. Chairman, Henry Lyphout, Vinton; vice chairman, Don Weichman, Atkins; secretary-treasurer, Connie Lange, Vinton; assistant commissioners, John Niebuher, Blairstown, Larry Rolfstead, Lee Goodell, Randy Mickelson, Harlan Bell, all of Vinton, Pauline Grovert, Shellsburg, Don Kozik, Belle Plaine, and Jim Jacobi, Atkins.

Buchanan County. Chairman, Harlan Murley, Aurora; vice chairman, Glenn Burrows, Brandon; secretary-treasurer, Janice Devens, Independence; and assistant commissioners, Beverly Forster, Aurora, and Paul Copenhaver, Independence.

Cedar County. Chairman, Darrell Brown, West Branch; vice chairman, Bill Davidson II, Stanwood; secretary, Kenneth Muller, Tipton; treasurer, Hilda Carey, Tipton; and assistant commissioners, Randall Shaull, Tipton, and Russell Voss, Durant.

Clayton County. Chairman, Lorin Dettmann, Monona; vice chairman, Bernard Hanson, Elgin; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Mary Carnes, Elkader; and assistant commissioner, Oscar Pufahl, Garnavillo.

Delaware County. Chairman, Larry Knipper, Hopkinton; vice chairman, Marvin Calonder, Manchester; secretary-treasurer, Pat Hogan, Manchester; and assistant commissioners, Gib Hoffman and Herb Prideg, both of Manchester, and Pam Ledenbach, Delhi.

Fayette County. Chairman, James Stewart, Oelwein; vice chairman, George Halstead, West Union; secretary, Leslie Anderson, Castalia; and treasurer, Frank Thyer, Randalia.

Iowa County. Chairman, Larry Beyer, Marengo; vice chairman, Greg Misbach, Marengo; secretary-treasurer, Lennis Doehrmann, Marengo; and assistant commissioners, Mary Welsh, Williamsburg, Bob Faber, Parnell, and Jerry McCaw, Williamsburg.

Johnson County. Chairman, John Lindemann, Iowa City; vice chairman, Roger Stutsman, Hills; secretary, Jan Duwa, Riverside; treasurer, Fremont Isaacs, Iowa City; and assistant commissioners, Don Gringer and Robert Lovetinsky, both of Iowa City, and Ray Brannaman, Lisbon.

Jones County. Chairman, Max Specht, Monticello; vice chairman, Paul Waggoner, Onslow; secretary-treasurer, Rose Marie Austin, Anamosa.

Linn County. Chairman, Jack Kintzle, Coggon; vice chairman, Stephen Martin, Springville; secretary, Lavina Morpew, Marion; treasurer, Morris Neighbor, Marion; and assistant commissioners, Roy Hampton, Springville, Herbert Hoover and Jean Oxley, both of Marion, Jerry Passer, 1634 Arizona Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids, and Curtis Schantz, Alburnett.

Tama County. Chairman, Harry Scurr, Gilman; vice chairman, Welbey Dixon, Toledo; secretary-treasurer, Audrey Wheeler, Toledo; and assistant commissioners, Harold Higgins, Traer, and Forest Hill, Dysart.

Winneshiek County. Chairman, Harris Bruvold, Decorah; vice chairman, Darrell Crawford, Frankville; secretary-treasurer, Obert Sacquitne, Mabel, Minn.; and assistant commissioners, Kenneth Reeves and Richard Geving, both of Decorah, Andrew Hemesath, Calmar, and Mrs. Lavern Hageman, Fort Atkinson.

Thurs., Feb. 1, 1979

The NEWSpapers of Iowa County 5B



SCS DISTRICT ORGANIZES — Soil Conservation Service district commissioners formulated plans for the new year meeting Jan. 2 at South Amana. Plaques were given to outgoing commissioner, Vernon Sandersfeld, Homestead, for nine years, front row, left; and Keith Enochson, Conroy, rear, left, for six years. They were succeeded by Larry Wetjen, rural Marengo, front row,

second from right; and David McCartney, rear, right. McCartney has been an assistant commissioner nine years. Others serving are Mary Welsh, Williamsburg, assistant commissioner; and Greg Misbach, Marengo, front row, right. In rear also are Larry Beyer, Marengo, second, left; and Fred White, Parnell. Beyer was re-elected chairman of commissioners.

Programs Support Planting - -

Trees Are Important To All Conservation

By Kevin Blind

"Trees affect everything else in the natural resources field," said state forester for this district, Robert Hibbs.

The state forestry service has a program of supplying trees to people around the state, and the local agriculture stabilization and conservation service provides cost sharing programs to encourage tree plantings. However, both parties note problems with promoting the tree planting programs.

"It hurts us when land prices get high and market prices for grain rise," said Hibbs. "Land clearing is still going on, and it's going on on land that's too steep for crops and in river bottoms."

Hibbs believes part of the land clearing is a carry over from the pioneer ethic in Iowa to clear the land and put it into useful production.

Irene Wetjen, acting director for the ASCS office in Williamsburg, also referred to these problems along with the property taxes on farm land. However, she said she couldn't really blame farmers because, with the high costs of land maintenance, farmers have to put as much land as they can into production to pay for these costs.

However, both parties noted that tree planting programs are fairly successful in Iowa county. State wildlife biologist Robert Kurtt said that part of the reason for the success of the programs in the county could be attributed to the hilliness of the county's terrain.

"We've got a lot of land here that's not suitable for row crops," said Kurtt.

Amana Program

Kurtt continued probably the biggest customer in Iowa county is the Amana society. He estimated that probably 50 percent of all the trees sold in the county are purchased by the Amanas, and he said, if it weren't for the Amanas, the county would not have the wild turkey relocated within its borders.

Forester for the Amanas John Hin-

ners said he has carried out an active tree planting program since he has been here, about four years. In that time, Hinners said, he has planted about 77,000 trees with his biggest year in 1976 when he planted 33,000 maples. Hinnes said he gets about 95 percent of his seedlings from the state nursery.

Every winter Hibbs and Kurtt travel the state taking orders for seedlings from the state nursery. They were in Iowa county on Jan. 5 for the program.

"We try to get people interested in es-

tablishing or improving existing forest for erosion control and wildlife refuges and water conservation," said Hibbs. He noted they also help people plan windbreaks, but they don't recommend the use of state nursery trees for windbreaks because they're so small. For windbreaks they recommend the person go to a private nursery for larger trees to provide more immediate benefits.

According to Hinners, the expressed purpose of the state nursery is for fores-

tation, the seedlings cannot be used for windbreaks by law.

Conserve Soil

Wetjen said the tree plantings are excellent soil conservation practice. The trees help hold the soil more firmly and protect it from runoff. Kurtt said windbreaks are used along fields in western Iowa where the land is flatter and the climate is drier to protect the soil from the ravages of the wind.

"When you have a hillside covered with trees, water will be retained by the trees and released gradually," added Kurtt as an advantage to tree plantings in this area.

The fact that the trees protect the soil from water runoff also helps to keep streams and rivers cleaner, making tree plantings a means of water conservation. Of course, Kurtt said, tree plantings naturally make excellent wildlife refuges. "All these things are interrelated," he said.

The ASCS county committee is currently in the process of designating the

percentages for cost sharing of its various programs. During 1978 the county committee had cost shared on a 50 percent basis for the establishment of permanent wildlife habitats, windbreak restoration or establishment, forest tree stand improvement and forest tree plantations. Wetjen guessed that the 1979 cost sharing program would remain the same.

"I'm sure the tree planting practices will continue to carry a high priority with the county committee," said Wetjen.

According to federal regulations, where the cost sharing fund originate, the county could cost share up to 75 percent of the money necessary to establish the various programs. Wetjen said, however, that the county would rather keep the percentage at 50 percent so the money allocated can reach more farmers.

"If we spend a lot on one person, then we have fewer people served," she explained. "We'd rather get more people involved in conservation."

Wetjen said the county committee feels it should do something to protect the forests. Because there are still more trees being taken in the state than trees planted is one of the reasons for the high priority placed on the cost sharing programs.

One of the biggest problems involved with keeping a forest in the proper condition in Iowa is livestock. "I'd say it's the number one problem in Iowa," said Kurtt.

Hibbs said unrestrained grazing in forested areas stifles the regeneration process of the wooded area. He said the livestock will feed on the seedlings and saplings which in time would have replaced the older trees.

"They eat everything but the thorn species," said Hibbs.

So Kurtt said he and Hibbs suggest fencing off the area when any type of tree planting is planned by a farmer. ASCS cost sharing regulations require fencing for all of its programs.

"Fencing is probably the most important thing you can do," said Kurtt.

TREE PLANTING PROGRAM — Wildlife biologist Robert Kurtt and forester Robert Hibbs talk with Wayne Gingerich and Larry Dermody, both of Filmore township about ordering seedlings from the state nursery. Kurtt and Hibbs were at the county ASCS office on Friday, Jan. 5, to take orders from county residents as a part of the state wide program promoting tree plantings.



Iowa County Farmer 7-12-79

NO-TILL TOUR

JULY 16



3rd Year No-Till

See and hear about these no-till plots from the farmer, chemical dealer, implement dealer, extension specialist and soil conservation service.



Corn in Alfalfa Sod

6:00 P.M. - Duane Stohlmann's: 1 mile north of Landmark, 1½ miles west, and ¼ mile south.

7:15 P.M. - Jack Tuttle's: 1 mile south of Marengo and 2 miles west.

8:00 P.M. - Howard Tuttle's: 2 miles west of Marengo on Highway 212.

Sponsored By

**Shaul's Implement, Marengo - Thermogas,
Inc., Marengo & Iowa County Soil
Conservation District**

Participate in no-till corn tour

About 25 farmers went on an evening tour of corn planted by the no-till method on July 16 at the Duane Stohlmann, Jack Tuttle and Howard Tuttle farms.

At each of the farms, each farmer told of his management and experience with no-till farming and answered any questions the group asked about his operation. Specialists from the Extension Service, Chevron Chemical Company, Monsanto Chemical Company, Thermogas Company, Shaul Implement and the Soil Conservation Service were present to answer questions pertaining to their fields.

The tour sites included corn planted in alfalfa-brome sod, 3 years of no-till corn after corn and first year of no-till in last year's corn stubble.

No-till is a relatively new method of producing corn or soybeans in Iowa but is catching on very fast because of the benefits of reducing fuel needs and reducing soil loss. With good management, yields are comparable to yields of conventional tillage in Eastern Iowa, according to those who have been using it the past few years.

Iowa county has approximately 3,000 acres of corn planted the no-till method this year.

F.B. Spokesman

Iowa County Farmer 7-26-79
Method Used On 3,000 Acres- -

Farmers Tour Corn Planted By No-Till

About 25 farmers attended at the Duane Stohlmann, Jack Tuttle and Howard Tuttle farms.

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Soil Commissioners Will Meet In Williamsburg

Iowa county soil commissioners will meet Mar. 27 at the soil conservation service (SSS) office, 600 Court, Williamsburg, at 7:30 p.m.

Items on the agenda included approval of minutes and treasurers report and discussion of cost share request and annual work plan.

Meeting Is Friday - -

Offer Information On Trees, Wildlife Areas At Williamsburg

People interested in planting trees or developing wildlife areas are invited to come to the Williamsburg agricultural stabilization and conservation service (ASCS) office Friday, Jan. 5, between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Information will be available from Bob Kurtz, wildlife biologist; Bob Hibbs,

district forester of the Iowa conservation commission; Harry Bryant, district conservationist of the Soil Conservation service; and Irene Wetjen, ASCS.

Printed material will be available for anyone interested in trees or wildlife. Order forms will be available for those wishing to make orders for trees or

shrubs for reforestation or wildlife.

Assistance will be given in the filling out of the order forms and determining the kinds and amount of trees and shrubs to order.

Prices for the 1979 nursery stock is \$25 to \$30 per thousand plus tax and shipping.

Homeowners, farmers or anyone who has an interest in tree planting, wildlife, or conservation of natural resources are welcome.

Any aspect of conservation will be discussed from soil conservation, water control, wildlife habitat, hunting any type tree planting, tree management, and marketing.

Newspapers of Iowa Co.
2-08-79

Marengo, Iowa
January 22, 1979

STATE OF IOWA: SS COUNTY OF IOWA:

The Board of Supervisors met this 22nd day of January, 1979, in adjourned session at the Courthouse with all members present. Meeting was convened at 9 a.m.

Dale Mayberry, Williamsburg, met with the Board concerning proposed closing of Highway 149 by IDOT for repair work over an extended period.

Upon motion by Buelow and seconded by Thys approved endorsement of statement to Iowa Department of Transportation by Williamsburg residents and groups asking that planning modifications be considered in construction work to be done on Project F149-2(9)-20-48. All voting Aye. Motion carried.

Applicants for courthouse custodian position were interviewed.

Representatives from SCS were present to ask Board's cooperation in use of funds for conservation purposes. Present were: Fred White, Gregory T. Misbach, Larry E. Beyer, David McCartney, Larry Wetjen, Ted Oswald and Harry Bryant.

At 11:35 a.m., Board recessed to go to county care facility and reconvened at 1 p.m.

The following residents living on Lakeside Road in Middle were present to request the Board reconsider its plan to hard surface the West Amana Road and give priority consideration to hard surfacing the Lakeside Road in Middle: Roger E. Nordyke, Harriet K. Graesser, Melvin R. Graesser, Dieter D. Konitzer, Karl Shull, Clifford Trumpold, Ralph DeGood, James Bryson, Vernon Klimes, Ivan W. Reihmann and Carl W. Hergert. Ivan Reihmann acted as spokesman and presented group's request to Board. Discussion was held, and Board asked residents of all villages to reactivate a road committee and recommend to current Board of Supervisors roads to be on construction and maintenance program; that a unified program be established.

At 2:40 p.m., Board recessed to 3 p.m. and reconvened at that hour.

Upon motion by Thys and seconded by Buelow approved minutes of January 19, 1979 as presented. All voting Aye. Motion carried.

Thys introduced motion that Iowa County invest in two cars for the Sheriff's Department and that Federal Revenue Sharing funds be used to make this purchase. Buelow seconded motion specifying that motion be tabled until further study on matter is done.

At 4 p.m., Board adjourned to Monday, January 29, 1979, at 9 a.m.

s/Leonard J. Thys,
Chairman.

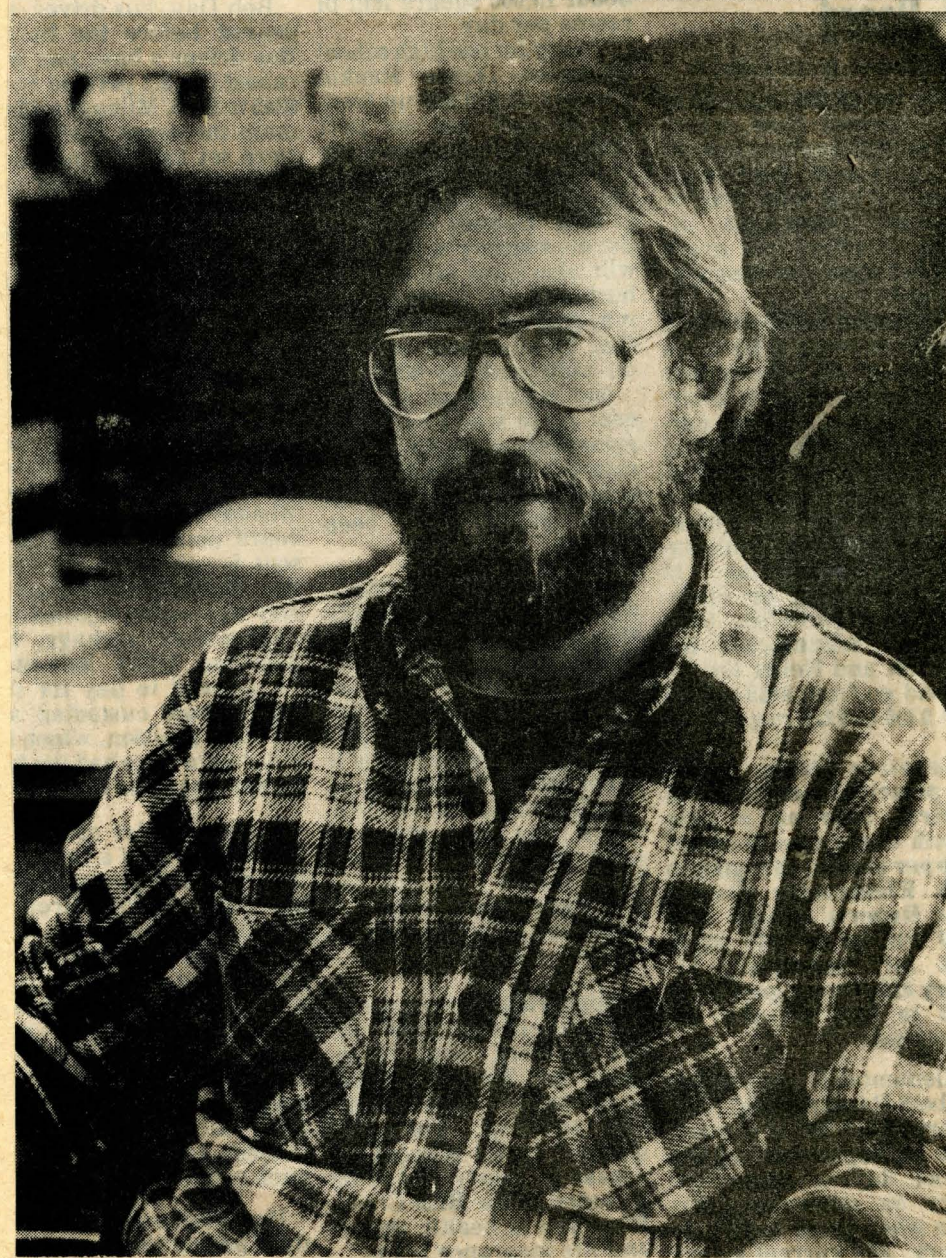
Board of Supervisors
s/Mary E. Slaymaker.

Iowa County Auditor

PR-JT-6-11

Thurs., Jan. 18, 1979

The NEWSpapers of Iowa County



NEW CONSERVATIONIST — Ted Oswald has assumed the duties of assistant to the soil conservation service office in Williamsburg. Oswald has

had seven years of association with state and federal conservation programs through his work at Knoxville and Algona.

Stresses Environmental Studies - -

Learns Tricks Of The Trail At Conservation Workshop



SHOWS OUTDOOR COLLECTIONS — Wildlife collections for posters and coal gardens are items fifth graders in the Williamsburg Community school district have found interesting. Marcia Wehner, teacher, studied environmental education during a workshop

this fall at Camp EWALU near Strawberry Point.

By Doris McCartney

Teachers went to the woods to sit, listen, observe and smell for a weekend course in environmental education at Camp EWALU near Strawberry Point, Sept. 29 and 30.

"I was amazed how much there is to learn in a secluded site," Marcia Wehner, a fifth grade teacher for the Williamsburg Community school district, says.

"Tricks of the Trail" was one of her favorite courses, which featured a hike by the teachers, assigned to drop out at intervals at isolated spots. "In our solitude we were to concentrate on our spot and write reports on our observations. I was impressed at how much activity there is happening in the woodlands," Mrs. Wehner comments.

Her attendance at the workshop was sponsored by the Iowa county soil conservation district. Fees were less than \$15, which did not include lodging. She was accompanied by her husband, Bill. They camped in their trailer.

Nearly 200 attended the outdoors studies, ranging in



MADE A BUDDY BURNER — Marcia Wehner, Williamsburg fifth grade teacher, and her husband, Bill attended a teacher's conservation outdoors education workshop this fall where she learned to make a buddy burner for cooking and transform wildlife tracks into plaster forms.

age from 5 for children with their parents to some who were 70.

"There were hard choices to decide," she admits. "I wanted to take more studies than time allowed." She opted for two others - new games and pot-pourri.

"We were asked to imagine how the land lay prior to the arrival of the Indians, during the occupation and what has occurred in the passing years. Awareness is the key to environmental education," Wehner observes.

Since her stay in the woods, she has been afflicted by curiosity about natural elements in her surroundings and has become a collector to provide opportunities for science classes as they pursue conservation studies.

Bird Feeders

For instance, by gathering pinecones, her pupils are finding a simple meth-

od to feed winter birds. "The kids like the project since they can dig into the ingredients with their hands and get messy."

Into a bowl they prepare amounts of uncooked rice, oatmeal, commercial birdseed, grinder chopped field corn and peanut butter. Push the batter into holes in a small log, made by drilling openings or coat a pinecone.

Fathers of the farm children are kind enough to provide the grinder mixed corn, she says.

Attach a cord or wire to the bird feeder and station it where you can watch the activities, Mrs. Wehner suggests. The bird feeder would also be a thoughtful gift to a shut in or grandparent for Christmas and becomes part of environment if left to decay, if not refilled, once it is empty, she adds.

Nature pictures are another activity designed

to interest children in their surroundings.

"Children are challenged by bringing in a variety of outdoors items, cedar boughs, tree leaves, weed pods, moss or grasses and twigs to create pictures on colorful sandpaper by arranging the articles at various angles.

Seed Tapes

Seed tapes for spring gardens are practical for youngsters or to give as gifts. Mrs. Wehner teaches her pupils to carefully arrange seeds on a length of tissue paper, easily softened by rain and to cover it with sticky tape.

"These are inexpensive, compared to the commercial product," she notes.

Her science pupils became intrigued with making coal gardens. "Take a coal cinder and pour over these ingredients," she suggests.

4 tablespoons uniodized salt

4 tablespoons water

4 tablespoons blueing

1 tablespoon ammonia

Pour over the clinker and watch the crystal form and grow. Food coloring also

adds to the colorful garden.

"Some children have made them to install in jars or fish tanks. Blueing, the old fashioned product, seems to have nearly disappeared from the grocery shelves. Mrs. Wehner obtained her supply from an environmental instructor

for the benefit of the her pupils.

Wildlife Tracks

An observant woodsman will find collecting wildlife tracks a treasure to take home and store. But a simple method of preserving and studying bird and animal prints is with a collection of plaster of paris casts.

Her collection includes pheasant, racoon, badger, skunk and fox, made with rubber molds.

A practical method for surviving in the woods or an isolated camp site is the buddy burner, guaranteed

to heat well enough for meal preparation.

Her husband took a three gallon tin can, slit the sides, and pierced a hole on the bottom side of the can and turned it upside down. Heat is generated by a paraffin and cardboard wick.

"Instructors showed us that placing strips of bacon in a folded paper grocery bag and an egg on top in 15 minutes we would have a delicious breakfast on the buddy burner," the teacher comments.

The burner should be small, about one or two inches across or otherwise it would become too hot, she cautions.

Liquid castings are a method to save outdoor treasures. Resin cast into molds, usually ice cube trays or aluminum foil pans, for simplicity, requires 24 hours to dry.

Before the liquid congeals, twigs or miniature items may be dropped into it. The finished product may serve as a paper weight or decorative item.

Kill Jar

Because children often choose biology or entomology projects, instructors showed the teachers the most humane method to kill an insect with a kill jar.

A small jar is layered with sawdust, a small piece of tissue paper, plaster of paris with a hole opening. The center is filled with a bit of cotton soaked in alcohol after the first mixture dries. A specimen dropped into the jar dies quickly for preserving in a humane way.

A number of teachers made butter for their first time by shaking baby food

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Dwight Slaubaugh, Parnell

Harold Edwards, Oxford

Earl Anderson, Oxford

Long Range Plan Is Revised - -

He Has A Twofold Plan To Fight Soil Erosion

By Kevin Blind

"We estimate that at (present rates) it would take us about 100 years to treat all of the land that still needs erosion protection in the district," said district soil conservationist Harry Bryant.

Bryant estimates that, of the 301,000 acres of crop land in the district, 40 percent is adequately protected from soil erosion. This estimate includes 10 percent with no erosion problem, 15 percent river bottom which has no erosion problem and another 15 percent which has been adequately treated through control structures or conservation practices.

This leaves about 182,000 acres of unprotected land which Bryant estimates would take about 100 years to treat through permanent structures. Now comes the problem. Bryant also estimates with current erosion rates, it will

only be 24 years before the untreated crop land in the district is left without any topsoil.

Of this remaining acreage which still needs erosion protection, Bryant says about one-third of it could be adequately protected through conservation tillage while the other 120,000 acres would need practices such as crop rotation, terracing, strip cropping, and contouring for adequate erosion protection.

Revise Plan

Bryant believes continued work with both the farmers and legislators can speed up the process and protect the land from erosion in spite of this doomsday prophecy. To help with speeding up the process, the local soil conservation district is in the process of revising the long range plan for the district. "This will give people an idea of what we'll be trying to do in the next four to five

years," said Bryant. He said the revised plan should be ready for distribution after the first of next year.

The report identifies many of the major problem areas involved in the soil conservation program and some suggestions as to how to alleviate these problems. The five major problems involve financing, the construction season, understanding and education, technical expertise and construction contractors and equipment.

The basis of the plan is twofold, with the first part being to increase the time

SOIL CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

— District conservationist for the Soil Conservation service Harry Bryant uses the soil tests in the background to explain many of the points involved in soil conservation when he lectures.



available before the unprotected land runs out of topsoil through conservation tillage giving more time to erect permanent structures to solve the erosion problem. The second part of the plan is to increase the intensity of the construction of the permanent erosion control structures thus reducing the estimated 100 years necessary to adequately protect the land.

Financing Is Concern

Financing is one of the major concerns. Cost sharing programs both through the state and federal governments are available. The state allocated \$87,000 in 1978 in cost sharing funds while the federal government also cost shared about \$86,000 in soil conservation projects.

"As far as interest is concerned, the farmers are willing," said Bryant. "The thing that's holding us back is the extreme cost."

Bryant said it usually costs about \$300 per acre to terrace the land, but terracing costs sometimes range as high as \$500 per acre. Figuring the lower cost of \$300 per acre, and the 50 percent cost sharing programs available through the government, the district would only be able to terrace 1,153 acres per year if all of the government money were used for terracing.

According to Bryant participation is not the problem. "It seems like once you get a farmer started on a program, there's no problem," said Bryant. He said farmers involved in a conservation program will keep coming back year after to do a little more. For every dollar spent in government money, Bryant said the farmer spends about \$1.50.

What Bryant hopes to do is work for increased funding for cost sharing so more land can be treated against erosion each year. He also said that tax incentives could also lengthen the con-

struction period for soil conservation projects.

"Right now we don't get as much summer construction done as we'd like because the ground is in crops," Bryant explained.

Right now they work with the farmers to use the set aside program to their benefit for construction. By building conservation structures on land which has been set aside under the federal program, the farmer can still receive some monetary reimbursement for the revenue lost by leaving the land fallow for the construction.

Other than that, Bryant said they

have to wait until the crop is out before they can built erosion structures. This, Bryant said, is usually about a month in the spring and two months in the fall.

"Another thing a few people are concerned about is they're afraid the productivity of the land will increase in the long run and their tax assessments will increase," said Bryant.

"There's some concern that (a farmer) shouldn't be taxed because he took care of his ground," he added.

Conservation tillage reduces erosion by about one-half, according to Bryant. "By getting people to use conservation tillage, we can extend the 24 years (estimated before the topsoil is gone) to about 50 years," said Bryant.

This brings Bryant to the third problem outlined in the long range plans. The problem of getting people to understand the extent of soil erosion and the correct methods for conservation tillage. This, he said, would involve a lot of education.

"People think that if they chisel plow or just disk the ground they're practicing conservation tillage," said Bryant, "but they're going out there and working the ground so much, they're not really using conservation tillage."

For adequate conservation tillage, Bryant said, a farmer needs to leave about 2,000 to 3,000 pounds of residue from last years crop on the top of the ground. As an example, he said if a farmer were able to produce about 150 bushels of corn per acre, he would have about 9,000 pounds of residue left after the harvest.

Each time a farmer chisel plows or disks a field, Bryant said, the residue on top of the ground is reduced by about half. So the field with 9,000 pounds of residue originally could only be chiseled

or disked twice to leave adequate coverage. Bryant said many times a farmer leaves only 1,000 pounds of residue on the ground after he finishes with the field.

Bryant estimates that only 40,000 acres within the district would actually be classified as tilled with conservation methods.

The last two problems outlined in the long range plan may or may not end up to be problems. They deal with the question of whether there will be an adequate supply of people with technical skills and contractors with equipment available should conservation construction increase.

Bryant said there are people who believe that the number of construction contractors and construction equipment will increase as the construction intensifies. He noted the technical skills usually come from people who are funded through federal programs. With all of the talk about cutting government spending, Bryant worries that the technical expertise won't be there when it's needed.

History Repeats Itself - -

Soil Erosion Plagues Farmers For Centuries

Editor's note: The following is the speech delivered by Jeff Folkmann, rural Marengo, for the Iowa county Soil Conservation service speech contest recently. Jeff, a junior at Iowa Valley and a member of Future Farmers of America, is the son of the Wayne Folkmanns. He competed also in the regional speech contest.

By Jeff Folkmann

If you have ever asked a person what soil is, he might tell you it is what a farmer plants his crops in. Ask that same person what dirt is, and he might tell you it is the same thing.

That person would be partially correct for soil is what a farmer plants in, but dirt is misplaced soil. Dirt is what soil erosion is all concerned with.

Erosion results in less and less productive soils, and history is repeated so take for example a country in Africa. Some of the countries near the Sahara Desert in years past, had productive soils. They farmed their land and their countries grew. When they eroded the topsoil off, the land couldn't support as large a population. The people either had to move or starve. Today the Sahara Desert is expanding to swallow-up these regions.

Along this line of thought the U.S. may be heading in the same direction. Today, the U.S. has the most productive soil in the world. The land of the U.S. is being eroded at a fantastic rate.

Soil scientists tell that the average soil can produce from one to one and one-half tons per acre per year. The lowest estimate of soil erosion is a rate of five tons per acre per year. This is one reason that U.S. agriculture ranks third as a polluter of water.

Farmers and landowners, even home owners, who don't protect the soil from erosion are asking for problems. Times are changing, and people must change their attitudes with them.

Two hundred years ago when this country was small and just being settled, our forefathers cleared the land, sowed their crops on the land and raised their families here. The land they settled wasn't the best on the continent, and when the soil became eroded or the soil wore out, they only had to pack up the wagon and move west.

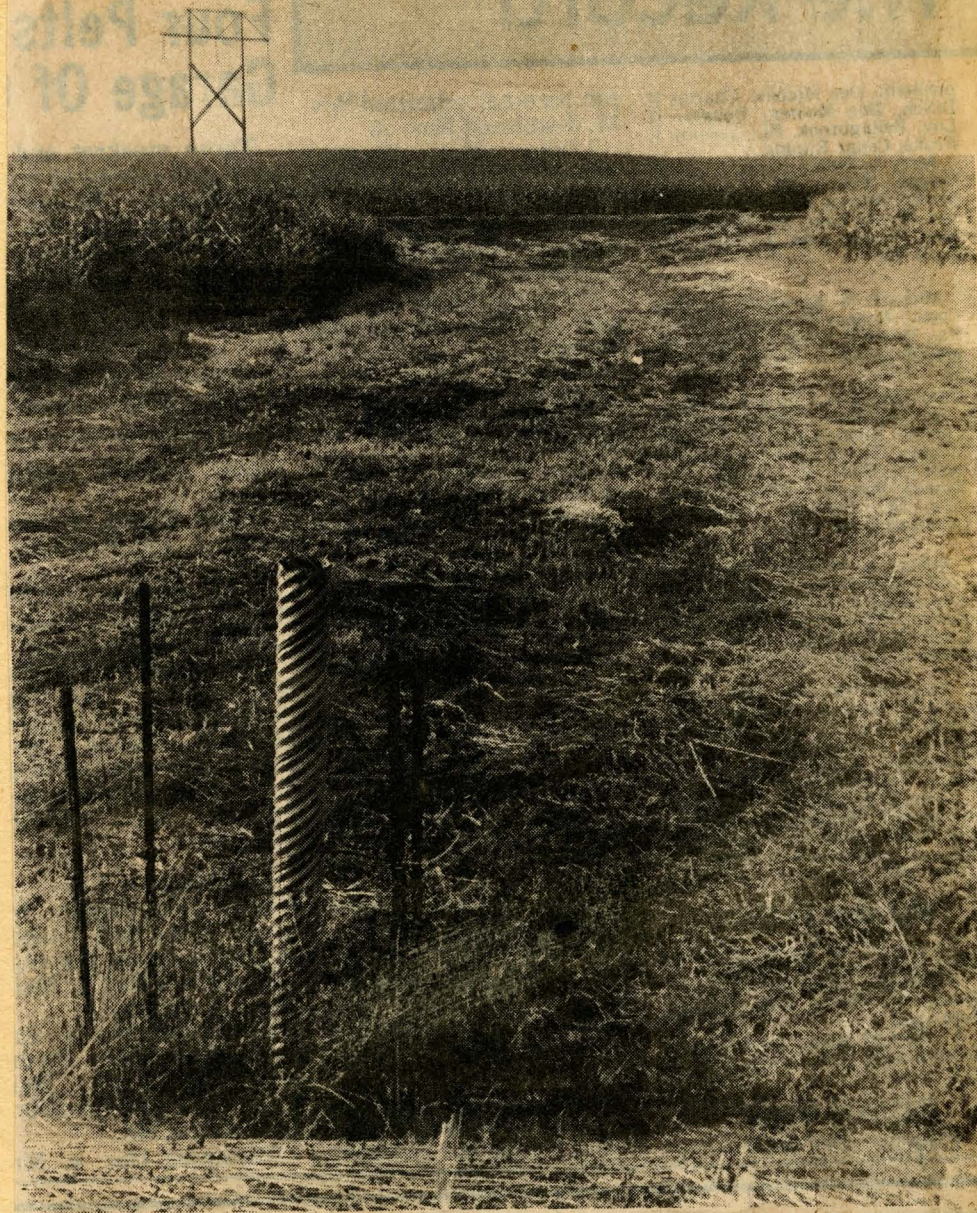
Today, however, the best land is in production; we can't move to another

place. We have to protect the land that we now farm.

Man is a land animal - where would we be without the soil? Man lives on the land, he builds on the land, he eats from the land, and eventually we will be in the land. People must realize soon what is happening because half the topsoil is now gone, and in 75 years the other half may be gone.

We have many sayings and one of these is that it is to late to shut the barn door after the horse is gone. It will be to late to say conserve soil and water after the soil is gone and the water is polluted. Future minded people say the sea can be farmed and support the populations, but if the water is so polluted it can't grow anything, how will it support us?

The soil has been abused and battered for a hundred plus years. With the demands of today we can't wait even fifty more! Time will tell how we handled this



PERMANENT STRUCTURES — The ultimate goal of the conservation district said Bryant is to erect permanent structures such as these dryponds found on the Chris Swartzendruber farm in Greene township to control soil

erosion adequately. Bryant describes adequate protection as a soil loss of no more than five tons of soil per year. Below that loss rate, Bryant said the soil could be replenished by nature. See article page 6C.

Thurs., Dec. 7, 1978

Iowa County Farmer

The Iowa Co



SHORT TERM CONSERVATION — District conservationist Harry Bryant says that conservation tillage is a short term answer to the soil erosion problems of the district. Conservation tillage, he said, could double the amount of time before unprotected land loses all of its topsoil. This no-till

ground on the Jerald McCaw farm in Pilot township is the maximum step in conservation tillage. Bryant said other conservation tillage practices would be such things as using a chisel plow or disk instead of the common moldboard plow.

Junior And Senior High Essays Earn Top Placings - -

Students Write On "Soil And Water, Key To Our Future"

Essay Wins Contest - -

Practice Soil Conservation Today For Benefit Tomorrow

Editor's note: The following was the first place entry of CharLes Heitman, daughter of the Harlan Heitmans, Williamsburg, in the Soil Conservation service essay contest for junior high students. CharLes is an eighth grade student at Lutheran Inter-parish school.

By CharLes Heitman

To many mothers, mention soil, and they think of dirty hands and muddy carpets. On the other hand, ask children, and they think of having fun with mudpies and playing in the dirt.

To the farmer soil means a lot more than meets the eye. Water, too, is a valuable resource and can be just as vital as soil.

But what's going to happen if we don't take proper care of these things? Wasting precious soil can mean crop failure, and misusing valuable water could mean dry land and dry crops. Many land and water improvers can guarantee to keep each in fair condition, but conservation is the first step to a profitable future.

Water Conservation

To kids, ponds mean recreation like swimming on a hot summer day and ice skating on a cold winter morning and just a natural spot of beauty all year long. But sometimes, the price of happiness can mean waste and having fun can result in disaster. That's why farmers must use strict methods to conserve water.

Ponds are very widely used in Iowa county. By catching rain that falls, ponds can reserve water for later use. Damming rivers also provides water for irrigation.

Too much water can be just as harmful to the farmer as if he didn't have

enough. That's where soil conservation comes in.

Soil Conservation

Why is soil conservation so important? It's similar to company. It takes so long to prepare the house, yet, in a flash, after the company is gone, it's a mess. Topsoil is the same way.

Hundreds of years are needed to create just one inch of topsoil, yet after wind, and too much water is gone, you wouldn't know there was any to begin.

Water though can be useful, so it's up to the farmer to make use of it without ruining the soil.

Minimum tillage, and mulch tillage are methods becoming more widely used here to prevent major wind erosion. By leaving large lumps of dirt and some form of vegetation, such as chopped corn stalks and mowed hay on the land, the wind can't blow it away as easily.

Mulch tillage works when farmers spread straw on the land and disc it under. Both of these methods create residues on the land and do similar jobs.

Soil must be protected from water as well as wind. Yes, in most cases water is very helpful, but sometimes can be harmful. For instance, when water comes down as rain in large amounts, it can carry soil with it.

Contour plowing can prevent this. By plowing the furrows around the hill, the water doesn't have as much chance to wash away the soil.

Then, look at a whole bunch of farms and count how often you see a strip of grass between two hills. Farmers call these sloughes and they're left there for a purpose. When

water comes down the hill, the grass helps stop it from gaining speed and digging gulleys.

Farmers can also be the reason for infertile soil. It's up to them to plant so that their land yields as expected.

By rotating their crops, farmers can keep their land in pretty good condition. Naturally by planting the same crop year after year, the land won't be as fertile. By planting corn one year and soybeans the next, the soybeans will replace the nitrogen the corn took out.

Sheet erosion is one thing farmers must beware of. Sheet erosion is dangerous because it does its damage so quickly. Regular erosion takes place when constant wind and rain wear away the soil little by little. But strip cropping can prevent sheet erosion. By planting several crops in alternating strips, the rain won't harm the soil as much.

Terracing is a method of good drainage and soil conservation. A terrace is usually placed between two hills and all it has showing above the ground is a pipe with several holes, and a mound of dirt. When water comes down the hill, the water drains into the pipe and into a nearby lake, stream, or creek. The mound of dirt helps stop the water until all of it is in the pipe.

Soil conservation is practiced today for the benefit of others tomorrow. This is where topsoil differs from company, the house can always be cleaned again, but topsoil can't be replaced as easily. So it's we, through conservation, that hold the key to a profitable future.

Writes Essay - -

Farmers Are Urged To Control Pollution

Editor's note: The following was written by Robin Smith, daughter of the Floyd Smiths, rural North English and a seventh grade student at Deep River-Millersburg school, as an entry for the Soil Conservation service essay contest. She placed second in the contest for junior highers.

By Robin Smith

The Iowa Department of Soil Conservation and the water quality commission of the Department of Environmental Quality prepared a proposal by which Iowa farmers will be urged to control nonpoint source water pollution.

Nonpoint source water pollution is water runoff from fields, building sites, lawns, etc.

Sediment makes up the largest part of pollution in water. Sediment comes from soil erosion. It also makes it hard to get water fit for use.

Large amounts of pesticides are used by farmers. These chemicals help produce the amount of food we need, but a lot of them are poisonous to fish, birds, and man. Chemicals sprayed on crops are washed off by

rain and flow into rivers. These chemicals collect in the bodies of some animals.

Fertilizers can also pollute the water. Like pesticides, they are carried into rivers and lakes by rain. Fertilizers contain nitrates and phosphates, which are also found in sewage from homes.

What is a way to prevent nonpoint source water pollution? To control this nonpoint pollution, Iowa farmers could use the following practices: conservation tillage, contour farming, cover crops, grassed filter strips, subsurface drainage and sediment and water control basins, cropping sequence, irrigation water management, land use change.

Other control methods are nutrient and pesticide management, pasture and hayland management, permanent vegetative cover, strip cropping, tree planting, debris basins, fences, grade stabilization structures, field drainage ditches, grass waterways, and various kinds of terraces.

Conservation tillage programs that incorporate heavy crop residue in the

top foot of soil rather than burying it with a moldboard plow, may be increasing the organic content of the soil.

In some cases, improved organic matter can be a mixed blessing. While they have to go to higher rates of herbicides to hold down weed population, they may like what is happening to the fertility of their soil. Better water holding capacity, less erosion, less soil compaction, and high yields are some of the benefits.

Keeping a uniform cover of incorporated residue on the surface is very important. Naturally it slows wind erosion and traps snow, but more importantly, each stub of trash, protruding from the soil will act as a wick to move rain into soil.

The Department of Environmental Quality along with the Iowa Conservation commission has drawn up a list of priority problem areas, in Iowa, in which pollution is affecting

water quality in lakes, rivers, and creeks.

There was only one in Iowa county and that was Iowa river. It was ranked 14 out of 15 among many others.

I think the reason for Iowa county farmers having only one major problem area is because they are taking more steps in soil conservation.

Newspapers of Iowa County
12-07-78

Writes Essay For SCS Contest - -

Young Conservationist Sends Out SOS

Editor's note: The following was written by Greg Welsh, Williamsburg junior high student and the son of the Eugene Welshes, Parnell, for the Soil Conservation service junior high essay contest. He placed third.

By Greg Welsh

S O S! Save our soil! We need to conserve our soil and water for the sake of our world. Our resources are running low, and our soil is getting away from us.

We must save our soil and water for future use. How will we live without adequate soil and water to plant our crops?

We can save our resources if we act now! We can strip farm, plant corn on a hill in one strip, and hay or alfalfa in another strip. Then the soil won't slide down the hill.

We can also terrace to prevent soil erosion by water. This is a small dam to stop the water from carrying the topsoil away.

Another way of saving our top soil is not tiling, which is planting the crop right in the unbroken ground. This saves time and money.

We also have to save our clean water resources. If we don't, our fish will die. We depend on fish for widespread use. If the fish drink poisoned water, and we eat the fish, we will get sick too.

Even our furry friends are effected by our dumpings. They will die if their streams and ponds are polluted.

Our factories must stop dumping their wastes into our waters. They can buy screens and other equipment to filter out the harmful chemicals and other dangerous materials. It might cost the factories, but it will cost all of us in the long run, if we don't do something about it now!

We, ourselves, have to stop littering in our rivers and ponds. We can stop lit-

tering by putting more trash cans around our ponds and lakes. We can also put up signs to make people aware of their wrong doing.

We still have time, if we use it wisely. It's up to all of us to save our soil and water. We need to answer the S O S call now!

Future!" Without proper care and conservation the same 25,000,000 acres could become a vast waste land.

But the problem of conserving these two major natural resources is not just a problem of Iowa. It should concern all states because soil is continuous over all the land surface except for steep and rugged mountain peaks in the land of perpetual snow and ice.

In Iowa alone though, scientists, have reported that up to 1,000 years is required for one inch of good Iowa top soil to be formed. But in the last 100 years because of erosion on some of our unprotected sloping land. The top soil depths have been cut in half. In the last 100 years we used to have 12 to 16 inches of good top soil on these slopes, but we now only have six to eight inches. Now all this soil has been eroded away and not taken away by man.

A solution for keeping the soil is simple. It has to be self-help and cooperation. If everyone would go by this, the amount of soil lost would be dropped greatly. So in order to keep this soil from eroding away special programs and ideas must be applied.

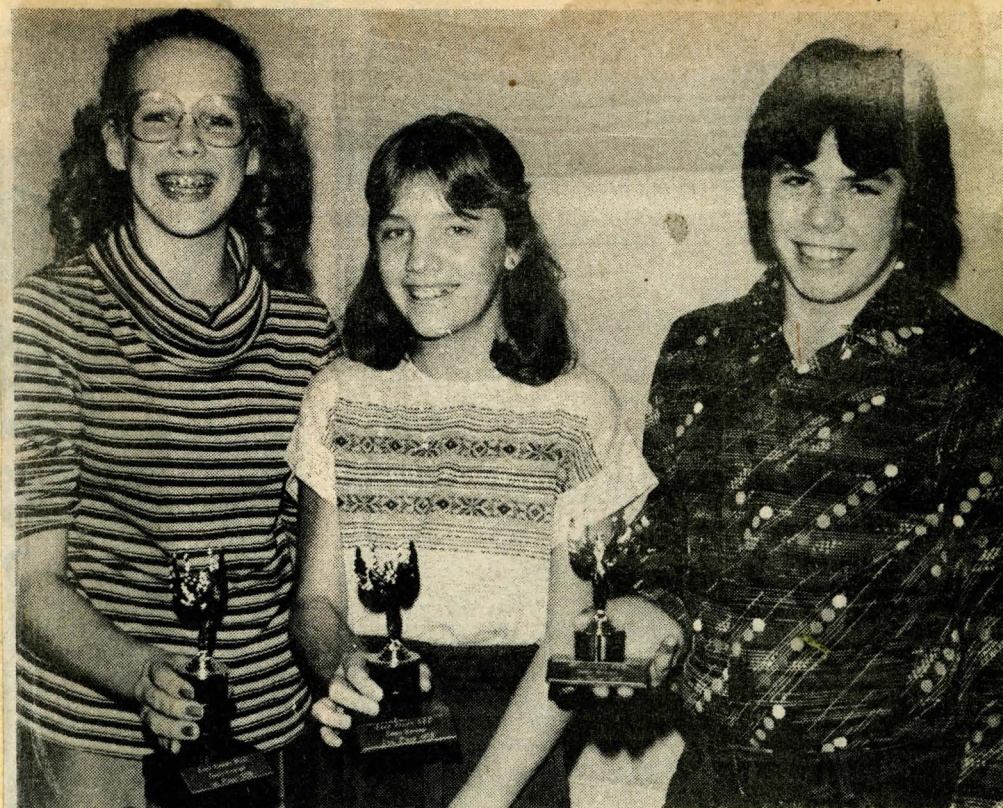
One of these special programs is the SCS or soil conservation service. Programs like this enables the farmer to get some extra funding to install projects like ponds, dry ponds and terraces.

Each one of the projects is concerned with stopping soil erosion. Ponds are put in to stop all the water coming down a slope and thus leaving soil deposits within the pond. Dry ponds stop all the water but let it go under ground through tile, thus saving a lot of the soil below the dry pond and above the pond. Finally terraces are buildt to slow the water down and then let it go down slowly on well seeded water ways. Now all three methods work well and all are used, but everyone

must self-help and cooperate.

I think if everyone would look at it like an essay written back in the 1960's called "Consider the Soil" we would all realize its importance. I quote this small passage, "It is the source of our nourishment, it provides the means of our protection. God has willed we can live with it, we cannot live without it. Consider the soil. Consider it well."

Thank you,
David Dermody
Williamsburg



Write Winning Essays

WON WITH SOIL CONSERVATION ESSAYS —Top three junior high essay winners in the contest sponsored by the soil conservation district of Iowa county, competeted for placings Wednesday, Oct. 25, at the Williamsburg city hall. First place winner was CharLes Heitman, left, daughter of the Harlan Heitmans, Williamsburg. She is a student at Interparish Lutheran school, Williamsburg.

Robin Smith, center, rural North English, placed second. A student at Deep River-Millersburg Community school,

Millersburg, she is the daughter of the Floyd Smiths. Greg Welsh, right, who attends eighth grade at Williamsburg, earned third place. His parents are the Eugene Welshes, Parnell.

There were nine essays entered in the contest. Written work was judged Tuesday night by Mrs. Greg Misbach, Mrs. Fred White, Mrs. Larry Beyer and Mrs. David McCartney. Speech judges for both junior and senior high school students were Mrs. Robert Coulter, Ron Gahring and Marvin Dorschadis, all Williamsburg.

To the editor,

Twenty-five million, yes 25,000,000 is the number of cropland acres in Iowa which help feed our population along with other states. This same 25,000,000 acres is also a filter for our water supply. So the same 25,000,000 acres that help feed and water our population is also "The Key to Our

Soil speech winners named

By Al Swegle
Gazette farm editor

Six counties — Buchanan, Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, and Linn — have named winners in the annual soil speech contest.

Three of this year's victors — Karen Timm, 16, of Marion; Jeff Folkmann, 17, of Marengo, and Peggy Bhalla, 14, of Iowa City — were repeat winners from last year.

Timm won the contest in Linn County, Folkmann in Iowa County, while Bhalla won the contest in Johnson County.

Timm is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Timm. Folkmann is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Folkmann. Bhalla is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. R. C. Bhalla.

Timm's sister, LuAnn, 17, placed second in the Linn County contest. Suzy Hargreaves, 16, placed third. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Hargreaves, 233 Brentwood Drive NE, Cedar Rapids.

Lyle Stutzman, 17, of Kalona, placed second and Max Stier, 16, of Coralville, placed third in the Johnson County contest. Stutzman is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Stutzman. Stier is the son of Dr. Serena Stier and Steven Burton.

Iowa County

Other winners in the Iowa County contest included: 2. David Dermody, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Dermody Jr. of Williamsburg; 3. Eric Walker, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Walker of Marengo; and 4. Denise Felling, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Felling of Marengo.

Winners of the Iowa County seventh and eighth grade essay contests

Agriculture

included: 1. CharLess Heitman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Heitman of Williamsburg; 2. Greg Welsh, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Welsh of Williamsburg; 3. Robin Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Smith of Deep River.

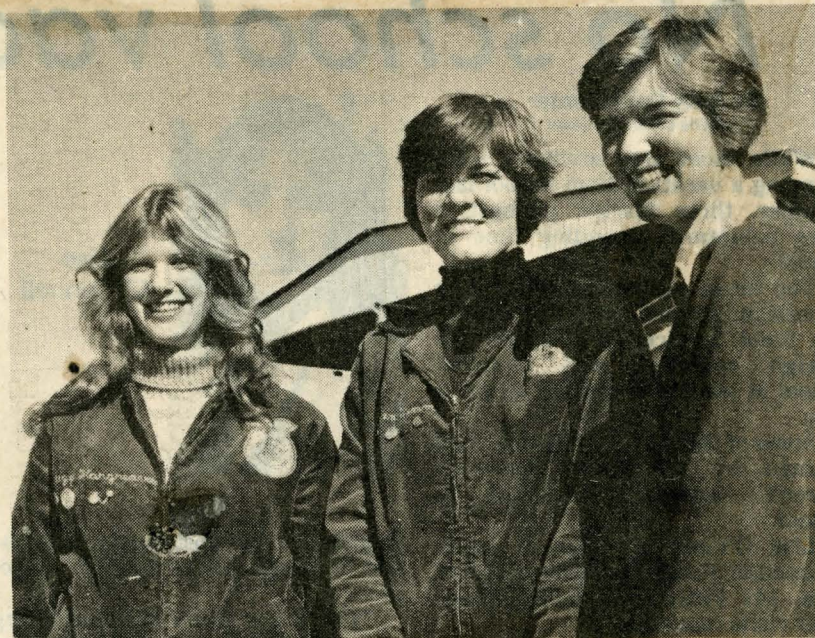
Benton County

Steve Werning, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Werning of Newhall, placed first in the Benton County contest. Second place went to Doug Walker, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Walker of Vinton. Third place went to Chris Close, son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Close.

Kevin Stremke, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Stremke of Independence, placed first in the Buchanan County contest. Bev Birchard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Birchard of Independence, placed second.

Christine Powell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Powell of Cascade placed first in the Jones County soil speech contest. Mary Luckstead, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Luckstead of Martelle, placed second, while Mary's brother, Milton, placed third.

There were ten entrants in the Johnson County contest, five in the Linn County contest, three in Benton County, four in Iowa County, and six in Buchanan County.



Gazette photo by Al Swegle

The top three finishers in the Linn County soil conservation speech contest were, Suzy Hargreaves, 16, of Cedar Rapids, third; Karen Timm, 16, of Marion, first; and LuAnn Timm, 17, of Marion, second.



DAVID MCCARTNEY

His family includes his wife, Doris, three sons and a daughter; John McCartney, North English; Joe McCartney, Cedar Rapids; Eric Larson, Hollywood, Fla.; and Mrs. Dennis (Elaine) Clarke, Waterloo; there are three grandchildren.

He has been active in the Iowa county Farm Bureau, serving on various committees; has been treasurer; and is currently public relations chairman; and was the 1978 membership chairman.

At Community church he has served two terms as trustee. The church began a building project, originally estimated at \$35,000 two

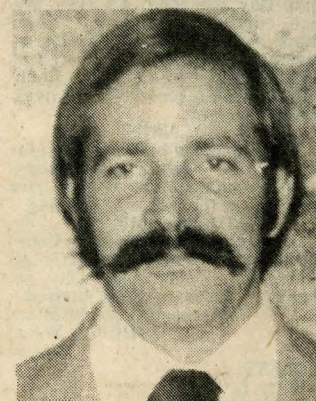
Thurs., Nov. 2, 1978

The Newspapers of Iowa County 9

years ago, which has been paid through completion of present work.

McCartney said that he would continue to maintain and implement soil conservation programs which minimize soil losses from farms and can contribute experience to that.

The water quality 208 act will affect all Iowa county residents, he believes.



LARRY WETJEN

Wetjen, 28, Marengo, farms in a family partnership raising mainly hogs and corn. They use strip cropping and contour farming methods and were named the 1977 landlord-tenant conservation award recipient.

He serves on the legislative committee of the Iowa County Farm Bureau, is on the board of directors of the Izaak Walton league, is a member of the Iowa County Pork Producers association and St. Mary's Catholic church, Williamsburg.

A graduate of the Williamsburg high school, he received his bachelor of science degree from Iowa State university. He and his wife the former Wanda Caddell have two children Callie, 5, and Becky, 2.

Wetjen said, "I'm very concerned about conservation of our natural resources. I'd like to practice as much conservation as I practically can and would like to see all other people do the same.

"I'm seeking a position on the county SCS board because I feel it's my civic duty to help in their endeavor to conserve our natural resources.

"I don't necessarily believe too many tax dollars are being collected, however in many capacities they are being spent inefficiently," Wetjen concluded in responding to a question on tax dollars.

SCS Commissioner

McCartney, 64, rural North English, is candidate for soil conservation district commissioner. Since September 1969 he has served as an assistant commissioner for the SCS.

Last year McCartney won the long time owner-operator award in Iowa county for soil conservation improvements and programs on his 341 acre farm in Dayton township. He has lived there since Feb. 17, 1954.

Crews to build soil-saving road

By Al Swegle
Gazette farm editor

VICTOR — A four mile long road project south of Victor is drawing considerable interest locally and in Washington as an example of ways county government and soil conservation districts can work together to solve erosion problems.

The project is unique in that ten landowners will be running tile lines thorough the roadway, diverting all their runoff underground. The road will have culverts, but the culverts will be smaller than normal because tile lines have been installed.

"The county engineer and the board of supervisors are using this road as an example of how other landowners can install soil projects when road construction runs by their place," Harry Bryant, soil district conservationist, told The Gazette.

The unique aspect about the project is that the county — not the farmers — will be paying for the tile running through the roadway. But county officials figure they'll come out money ahead on the project because it means they won't have to install as expensive road culverts as they would otherwise.

The road will be brought to grade and surfaced in the next few years.

So everyone benefits — the ten landowners involved because of the soil conservation projects installed and the county because of the cheaper road culverts.

The four mile stretch of County Road V south of Victor will officially be known as Soil Conservation Road. County officials hope to extend the project with landowners further

south when road construction begins there next spring.

Every waterway will have a tile providing outlet for the drainage-ways along the road. A total of ten sediment and water control basins will be installed along the road, as well as two ponds. The county will use the dam of the ponds as the road-way.

The two ponds will be built on the Lawrence Cronbaugh and Orville Bloethe farms. Other farmers participating in the project are Marvin Brandt, Roy McClenathan, Dorothy Swiebert, Dan Murtha, Raymond Wille, Arnold Baestle, Martin Bayer, and Marvin Reed.

Washington officials became informed of the project when Ron Garhing, a Williamsburg soil contractor, testified before national hearings on section 208 of the Clear Water Act in Hershey, Pa. Garhing, as national chairman of the 208 committee of the Land Improvement Contractors of America, has been actively involved in 208 planning nationwide.

Garhing told Gene Highland, a national soil conservation leader, about the project, because it illustrated how county governments could use appropriations from 208 funding programs.

As it turns out, the 208 financing program was not approved by congress this year, but Garhing was able to convince Highland of the need for funds for county road construction in conjunction with soil conservation projects.



Gazette photo by Al Swegle

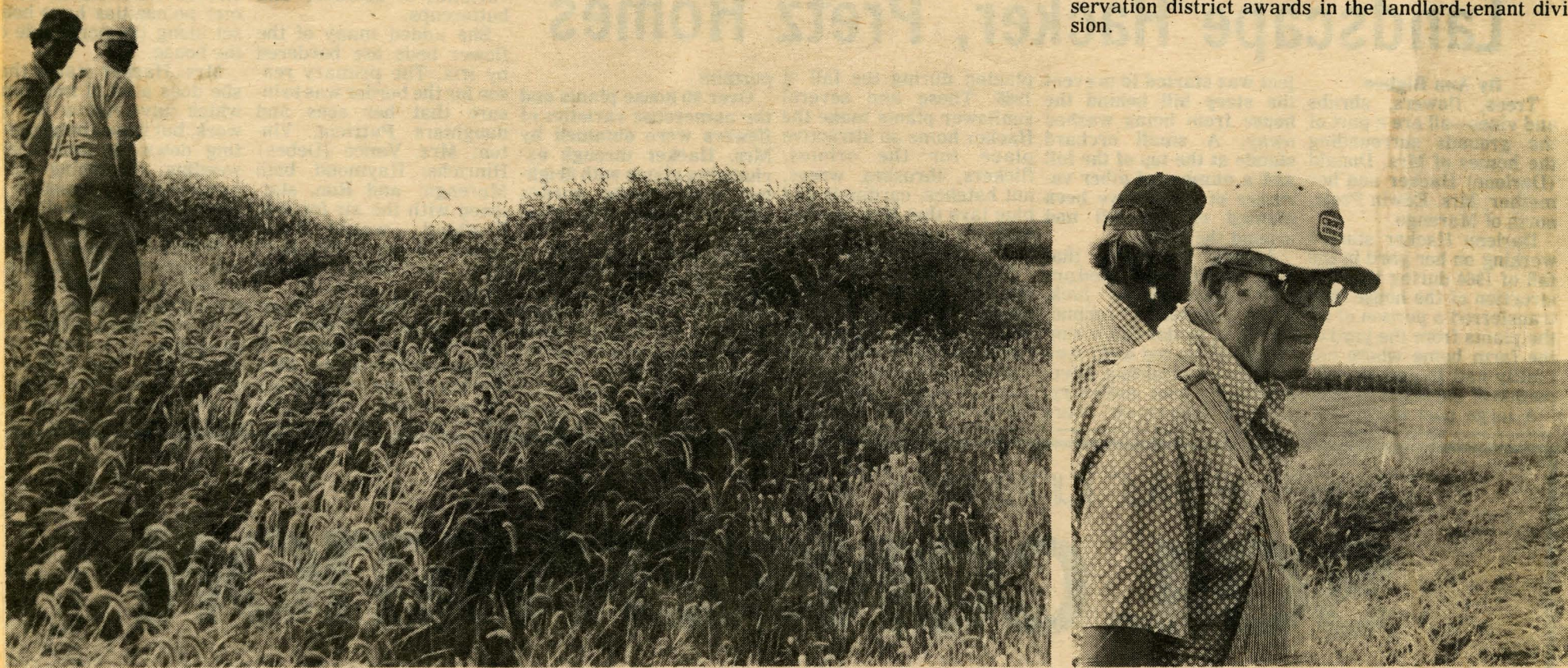
Harry Bryant, Iowa County soil conservationist, holds plans for a soil-saving road which will be constructed by Iowa County over this four mile stretch of roadway south of Victor this fall.

Iowa County Farmer 9-21-78



NO TILL TESTING — Corn stalk residue remains on the ground from the previous crop year while the new crop grows among it in a 25 acre test plat on

the Gerald McCaw farm. McCaw received the new cooperators award this year for his soil conservation efforts.



DRY PONDS — Chris Swartzendruber and Robert Faber stand near the ridge of a dry pond in their field. They are award recipients in the Iowa county soil conservation district awards in the landlord-tenant division.

Began Work In 1950 - -

Water Control Efforts Win Conservation Award

By Kevin Blind

Chris Swartzendruber, landlord, and Robert Faber, tenant, are the Iowa county recipients of the 1978 soil conservation award for the landlord-tenant division.

Swartzendruber has cooperated with the soil conservation district since 1950 when he built his first concrete dam as an erosion control structure in a 120 acre area in Greene township. Later, Faber, his son-in-law joined in the efforts of extensive erosion control on the 233 acre farm. The last of the efforts is the 14th in a series of dry ponds to slow the flow of runoff water from their fields.

Since 1950, Swartzendruber and Faber have installed five miles of terraces, four miles of tile and two erosion control structures. They also use conservation tillage and contouring on all the cropland.

The 120 acre field, which lies on a series of hills has received a lot of the attention from the men. Swartzendruber said that when he first began farming, the area was actually several smaller fields with different crops planted in each. At that time Swartzendruber practiced crop rotation. Each of these fields was separated by a waterway, which Swartzendruber recalled was badly washed. So badly, according to Swartzendruber, that the gully was many times impassable for farm machinery.

Swartzendruber said an employee of the soil conservation district while looking at the field, told Swartzendruber that he knew a way to contour the land so he would be able to make it one continuous field of corn. When he was told that, Swartzendruber said, he immediately gave the man the go ahead to try it.

Then the terraces were installed. Swartzendruber said the terraces were an improvement to the field, but he said

there were drawbacks to this system of conservation.

A lot of time and money was spent in maintenance of the terraces, and the terraces still caused some washing in the waterways as the water ran off the ends of the terraces and into the waterway.

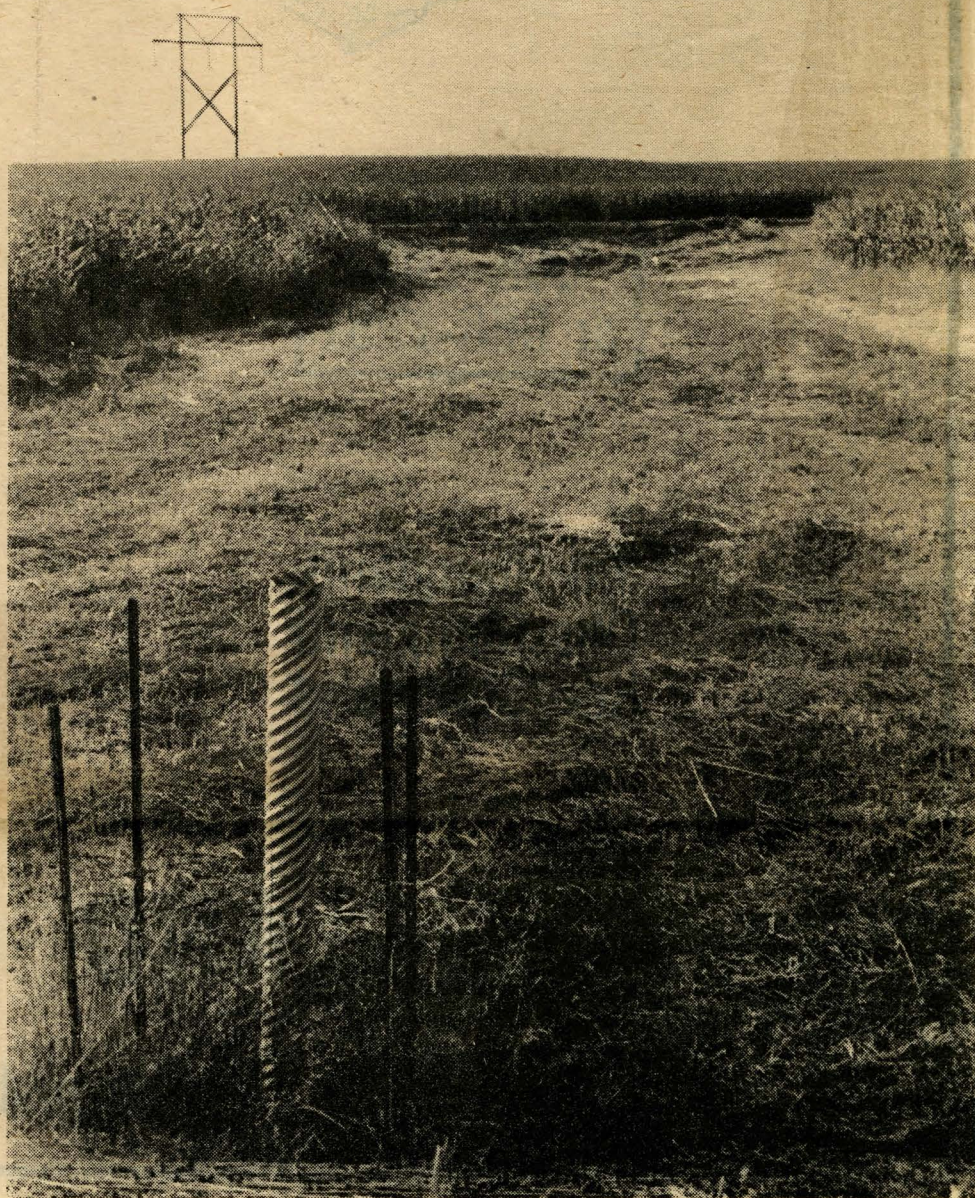
In the later years, Swartzendruber and Faber began installing a series of dry ponds in the waterways to slow the runoff water and direct it underground into a system of drainage tile.

Swartzendruber is a believer in the dry ponds system. He pointed out the gradual slope from edge-to-edge of the waterway with only a slight depression hardly visible to the eye where a small gully still remains covered by grass. At one time it used to be a very wide, deep gully.

Faber said the most important factor, however, in a successful dry pond system is an adequate drain tile. As the water from storms collects in the dry ponds it is directed underground through a perforated stand pipe in the middle of the pond. The water then flows through a series of tile lines on the edges of the waterway to the fence line of the field and into a creek. Faber said they installed five inch field tiles.

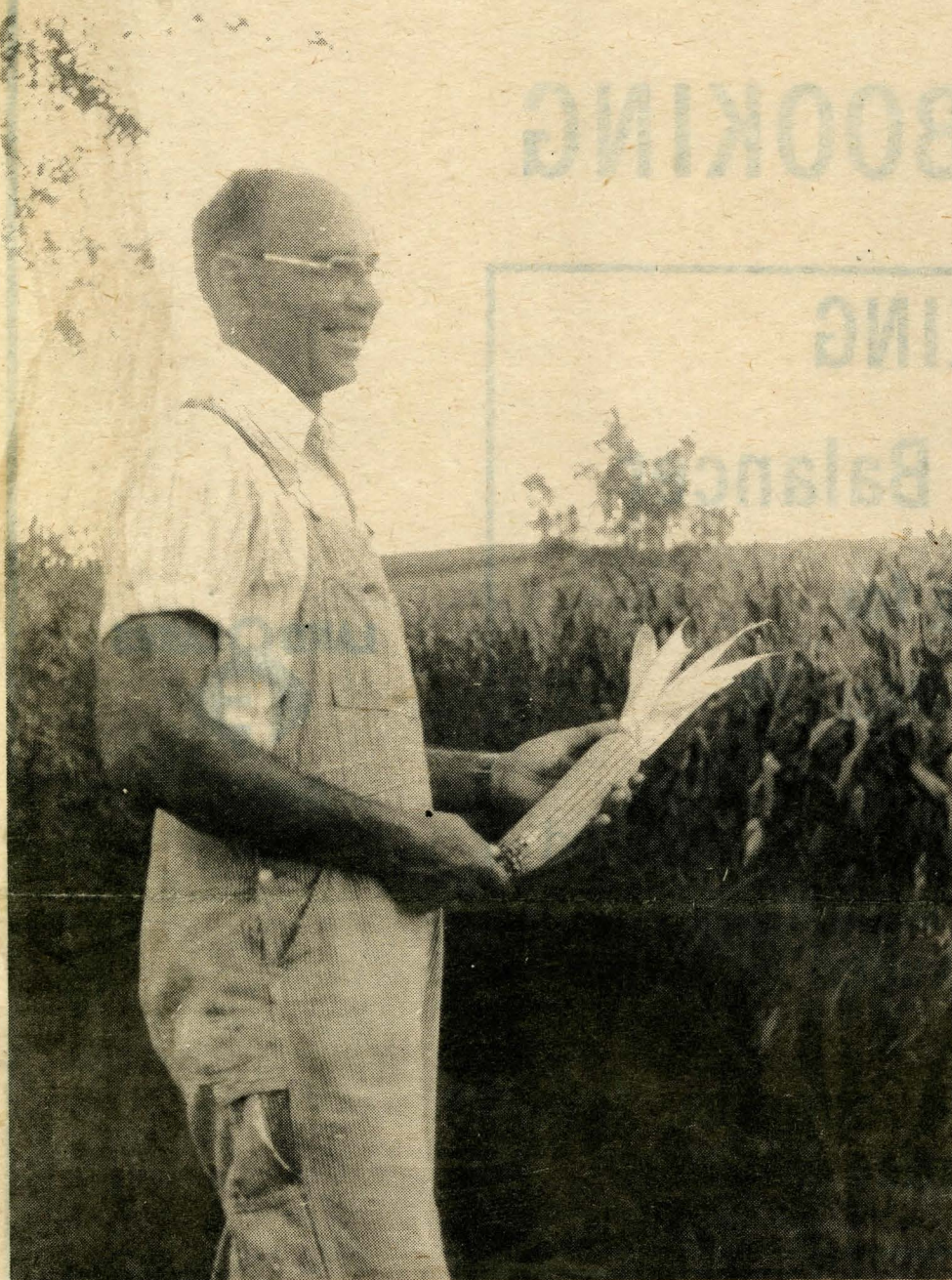
WATER GOES UNDERGROUND —

The standpipe in the foreground directs water from the dry pond into a system of field tile to control runoff. In the background is another dry pond to control water further up the waterway. These are part of the conservation efforts on the farm owned by Chris Swartzendruber and operated by Robert Faber in Greene township. They have been cited by the county soil conservation commission in the owner-operator division.



Named Owner-Operator SCS Winner - -

Sandersfeld Redesigned Waterways As Major Soil Saving Improvement



TALKS CONSERVATION — Vernon Sandersfeld, Homestead, will be cited this fall by the Iowa county Soil Conservation district, as the top owner-operator for soil saving efforts on his

160 acre farm in the past ten years. Sandersfeld is an employee of Amana Refrigeration, Inc., and is a partnership with his son, Steve, in the farm operation.

By Doris McCartney

Soil conservation efforts have been paying off for Vernon Sandersfeld, rural Homestead on his 160 acre farm in Iowa township for the past ten years, since signing as a cooperator with the county soil conservation district.

He has been named winner this fall of the owner-operator division by the Iowa county soil conservation district.

A major benefit of his farm improvements has been the rebuilding of the waterway through the farm.

"Before redesigning this stretch, there was the constant battle with run-off water," he declares.

A diversion terrace is another improvement installed. The land is slightly rolling, and Sandersfeld strip crops for soil saving benefits on 120 acres and uses conservation tillage on all the ground.

"Let's face it, point rows are a problem with this plan, but the benefits are far greater," he comments.

The Sandersfeld farm takes water both from the north and east from Clear Creek and a South Amana stream.

"With the improved waterways we've demonstrated a good conservation plan," he notes.

A four generation family farm, Sandersfeld bought the land from his parents. Originally his grandparents homesteaded here. His son, Steve, who bought a plot of ground to build a new

home south of the family home, four years ago, is on a grain-share rental agreement with his father.

Sandersfeld has another son, David, who is a graduate student at Chicago. His wife, Ann died last year.

No Livestock

During the past years he has not had a livestock operation. Previously, he had operated a dairy herd. Later he raised hogs in confinement. Some disease problems prompted him to sell off the hogs.

As a result, several years ago, he began developing an annual study of micro nutrients, soil testing each fall after crop harvesting. Sometimes a representative of a Nevada firm does the testing and other times he handles the soil probe.

"This is a project where we strive to determine what is lacking in the soil among the minor nutrients such as iron, copper zinc."

Major soil nutrients are nitrogen, phosphorous and potash.

"By maintaining this program, I aim to improve the soil quality for both crops and livestock, he says.

In recent years, Sandersfeld has been buying cattle to graze the cornstalks after harvest. This fall he is considering leasing the stalk ground because of higher cattle prices.

The Sandersfeld crop program this year includes these acre amounts, corn, 54; soybeans, 55; hay, 20; and oats, 17.

Originally, Vernon bought the home place of 140 acres and added 40 acres on the south later.

Adds Trees

More recently, he has started tree planting, adding a few ash, hickory and hackberry. Fruit trees were established this spring.

"I wish I had started tree planting a few years earlier," he confesses.

The yard is bordered with tall spruce and Norwegian pine planted by his grandparents.

"I've always hated to see the results of heavy rains with soil washes across roads and ditches where no soil conservation program has been established," he mentions.

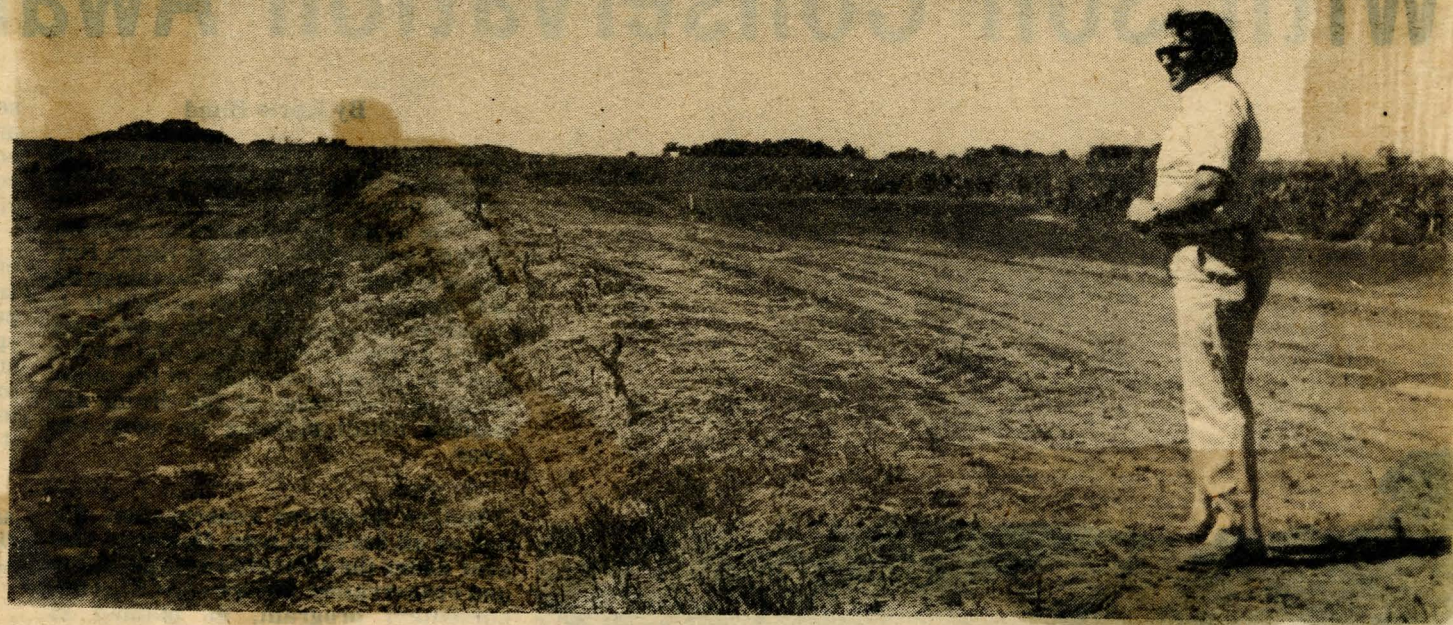
"Soil building and conservation practices seem more urgent too when you are operating a family type farm."

"We want that top soil to be here for our grandchildren and others on down the line."

"I've seen a lot of improved farms in the county during the nine years as a district soil conservation commissioner. That's one of the greatest enjoyments of serving with other land owners on the SCS board."

Sandersfeld has declined to seek reelection when his present term expires later this year.

INSTALLS NEW TERRACES — District conservationist Harry Bryant inspects terraces and dry ponds installed on the Gerald McCaw farm this past summer. Bryant said McCaw did an excellent job mulching the slopes of the terraces to permit seeding. Bryant added many times it's hard to get farmers to take the time to mulch this way.



Thurs., Sept. 21, 1978

The Iowa County Farmer

Page 19C

May Lower Production Costs - -

Conservation Tillage Cuts Soil, Water Loss

Conservation tillage reduces the loss of soil or water compared to unridged, clean tillage, according to Min Amemiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State university.

Effectiveness of conservation tillage systems depends on the amount and distribution of crop residues, surface roughness and surface soil configuration, he said. Such conditions are enhanced by less moldboard plowing and unnecessary secondary tillage prior to planting.

The adoption of conservation tillage makes it possible for farmers to have efficient and profitable crop production, to conserve soil and water resources, and to improve environmental quality, Amemiya said.

Conservation tillage can lower crop production costs by reducing time, labor, and machine and fuel requirements, although some of these reductions may be partially offset by increased costs for pest control.

Are Comparable

Crop yields usually are comparable to those from conventional tillage systems, Amemiya said, but conservation tillage requires more management. As with conventional tillage, good stands, effective pest control and adequate soil fertility are necessary for maximum yields, he added.

Conservation tillage is adapted to a broad range of soils and slopes. "It could be the single most effective and least costly means of reducing soil erosion," Amemiya said. He also noted that by controlling erosion, conservation tillage can contribute to the maintenance or improvement of water quality.

The specialist noted that Iowa is in-

involved in a national program to maintain and improve the integrity of water. Surface runoff from agricultural land carries pollutants into Iowa's waters, he explained.

Pollutants occur as sediment caused by soil erosion, plant nutrients, agricultural chemical and organic matter. The major pollutant is sediment eroded from land and transported to streams and lakes by runoff waters. Sediment control through soil erosion control measures can prevent or reduce the generation of sediment and related pollutants.

Conservation tillage systems control erosion on level to gently sloping land, which makes up more than half the land in Iowa.

"This does not imply that terraces and erosion control measures should not be used," Amemiya said, "but in many instances, adoption of such practices is costly or short-run economic return is low."

Reduce Losses

On sloping land, soil and water losses can be reduced by providing a mulch of plant residues or a rough soil surface. If fall tillage is necessary, Amemiya says a chisel plow can be used on the contour or across the slope. A once-over system such as a till planter or a slot planter may prove promising on sloping land, he added.

On level to nearly level land on the uplands, operations that provide surface residue and cloddy overwintering surfaces promote surface drying and protect against wind erosion. By reducing the number of trips, soil compaction and soil crusting potential are minimized. These soils are often slow to dry in the

spring, Amemiya said, so some fall tillage with a chisel plow and till planting are desirable.

"The better drained the soil, the less tillage needed," Amemiya said. Crop residue reduces evaporation of soil water on sandy soils, which makes slot planting or till planting advantageous, he added.

Using the proper tillage equipment at the right time of year and on certain soil conditions can also help soil and water conservation, Amemiya said.

Chisel plowing in the fall is preferred over spring plowing. But using a field cultivator in the spring may not always produce desired results. Disking or strip tillage may be needed to firm the soil and provide a good seedbed to obtain stands comparable to conventional tillage.

Fall disking leaves less residue than chisel plowing and may result in more wind erosion over the winter months. Disking in the spring is well adapted to late springs when weather or soil conditions do not allow for fall or early spring tillage.

Till planting provides good stands except on poorly drained, heavy textured soils, when planting on top of ridges is more successful. Ridges should be made across the slope for best erosion control.

Weed control problems are most severe with slot planting, especially on sod, Amemiya said. "It is essential to provide sufficient weight for the coulters to penetrate the undisturbed soil. Firmness of soil continuous slot planting decreases water infiltration, but produces the best erosion control," Amemiya said.

Follows Several Practices - -

McCaw Named Top New Cooperator With Soil Conservation Award

By Kevin Blind

Gerald McCaw has been named the winner of the soil conservation award for the new cooperator division.

To be in the new cooperator division, district soil conservationist Harry Bryant said the farmer must have joined the soil conservation offices in efforts to preserve the soil within the past three years. In the last two years, McCaw has installed nearly two miles of tile outlet terraces, two miles of tile drains and started no-till planting for corn this year.

McCaw practices conservation tillage on all his farm land. However, this year under the agriculture stabilization and conservation service (ASCS) reimbursement program, he planted 25 acres of corn over old corn ground with no tillage before planting. The ASCS office reimburses farmers \$10 per acre to a maximum of 40 acres for no-till planting for the first year.

Bryant said they encourage farmers to work government programs to their advantage in soil conservation programs. This past summer McCaw left a field west of the house fallow so the con-

servation office could install terraces and dry ponds. This field was registered for the set aside program so the work could be done without the economic loss of leaving the ground fallow.

Bryant pointed out a liquid manure pit on the McCaw farm also helps in conservation of resources. He said the pit permits McCaw to store the manure and spread it only when the ground is thawed and ready to absorb the manure. This prevents the manure from leaching out into streams and polluting the water as it might if the ground were frozen.

"We're interested in all resources," said Bryant, adding that the district office was not just concerned with soil conservation.

"When a farmer has a pit, we also encourage the use of the chisel (plowing) system to turn (the manure) into the ground," said Bryant. He said when the manure is left lying on the top of the soil, it loses about half of the nitrogen it originally had.

This year, McCaw has also planted a farmstead windbreak to reduce the costs of fuel for heating. The windbreak consists of two rows of evergreen trees with a row of shrubs.

TILE LINES INSTALLED — The mound of dirt leading back into the soybean field is the only evidence left that tile drains were installed recently on the Gerald McCaw farm.

Farm Bureau Spokesman
9-15-78

Mighty raindrop

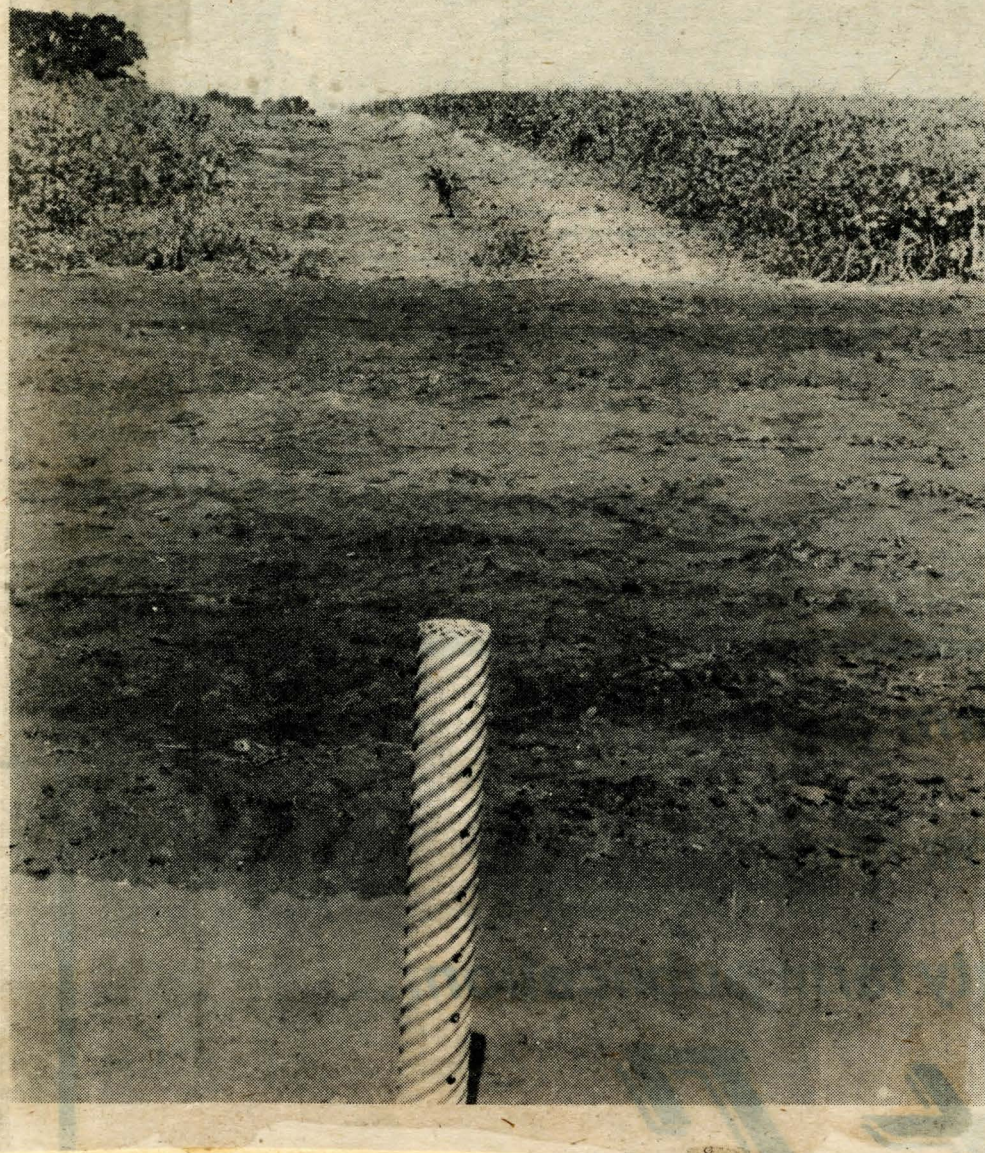
(Conservation Week —
Sept. 17-23)

A single raindrop seems harmless until it joins the millions to make an inch of rainfall. Did you know the impact energy of 30 inches of rainfall (Iowa's average) on a square mile of land equals the energy produced by 10,000 tons of TNT? That's only 3,000 tons less than the explosive power of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima!

This happens every year. Iowa's soil needs protection from that kind of destructive force. One way of doing this on cropland is to leave the crop residue from the previous crop on the surface.

This year several farmers in Iowa county have tried planting in last year's residue or a sod crop with no prior tillage operations. The results look real good, both from the standpoints of producing a good crop and protecting the soil.

Anyone interested in knowing where some of these no-till plots of corn are located should contact the Soil Conservation Service office in Williamsburg.



Elect Greg Misbach To CDAC - -

Soil Conservation District Sponsors Resources Clean Water Act Meeting

The Soil and Water Resources Conservation act of 1977 was aired at a meeting chaired by Larry Beyer, Marengo, and sponsored by the soil conservation district of Iowa county, Wednesday, July 12 at 8 p.m. in the Farm Bureau building, Williamsburg.

Harry Bryant, county conservationist, summed up legislative history of the act which was introduced in the 95th Congress by Senator Walter D. Huddleston of Kentucky as S 106 and by Congressman E. (Kida) de la Garza, Texas as H. R. 75.

The bill was signed by President Jimmy Carter, Nov. 18, 1977.

Briefly, Bryant described the authority of the act which directs the secretary of agriculture to continuously appraise soil and water and related resources; develop and periodically update a national program for effective and orderly development of those resources, and to include broad public involvement in carrying out the law.

Bryant said secretary of agriculture Bob Bergland will assign leadership for

these activities through the assistant secretary for conservation, research and education to the soil conservation service.

"In addition, public law 95-192 is a companion measure to the resources planning act of 1974, administered by the forest service. The two laws give U.S. department of agriculture (USDA) authority to make a total assessment or appraisal of America's basic natural resources and act to protect and improve them."

"The first step in carrying out the resources conservation act in the state is to seek public opinion," according to Bryant, "on the condition of local resources, as well as opinion on what needs to be done."

Worksheets are currently in circulation and may be secured from the soil conservation district office, Williamsburg, to poll the public on concerns about resources.

Seek Opinions

After the public opinion on resource needs has been compiled, Bryant said, local soil conservation districts will begin to develop programs.

"When 25 percent of the people attending meetings call a need a major con-

cern, the district will develop a worksheet on how the problem may be attacked."

"In a resource team effort, with help from various state and federal agencies and groups, they will propose a state program," he added.

During the July 12 meeting, suggestions on clean up of junk cars and debris on

farms were aired as a definite need in the county.

Criticism of the army corps of engineers was also voiced by another farmer, saying we need to build more farm ponds.

Other issues touched on by those in the audience were trespassers and the effects of trespassing on private farm lands, re-creation commanding

priorities over ag lands and flooding on fields.

Water Quality

In a second session and separate topic, the soil conservation district opened a meeting next on the 208 water quality act.

Fred White, who has served three years as an Iowa county representative (Please turn to page 23C)

Thurs., July 27, 1978

The Iowa County Farmer

Conservation - -

(Continued from page 5C)

tive on the conservation district advisory committee was succeeded by Greg Misbach, Marengo. Misbach also serves as a county soil conservation commissioner.

Discussing the water act was Steve Probst, Cedar Rapids, who serves as a coordinator in the Cedar-Iowa river valley watershed area.

"Local discussions are needed to seek high priorities for this program," Probst told the audience.

"The goal is to make the waters swimmable by 1982."

"Saving the soil is best served by signing long term agreements of five to ten years. Our local plans will be better than having state or federal plans handed to us," he added.

"Local decisions are more flexible and best secured by massive public participation," Probst commented.

Under the water quality act, a questionnaire is also available to evaluate long range farming operations.

Topics cover conservation tillage, contouring and strip cropping, temporary and permanent vegetative cover.

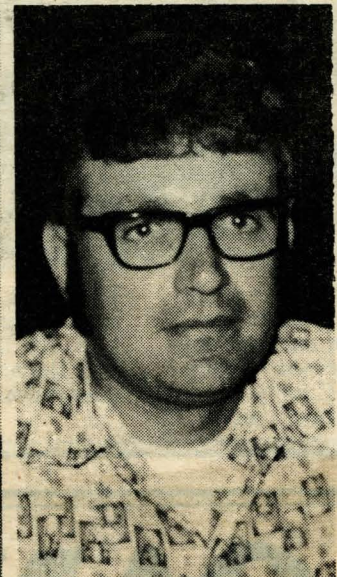
Also land owners are asked to consider advantages

of grassed waterways or outlets, diversions, terraces, sediment and water control basins and grade stabilization structures.

Further public meetings on both subjects are expected to be sponsored by the Iowa county soil conservation district.



LARRY BEYER



GREG MISBACH



FRED WHITE



STEVE PROBST

The Stone Jar Fly To Check Farmlands

By Doris McCartney
There was a sparkle to the big farmer's eye. He jumped out of the twin prop plane Sunday and walked back into Folkmann's hangar.

He had just viewed his farm from the air for the first time. The pilot had obligingly made a few passes at about 2,000 feet altitude or higher so the farmer could appraise his fields.

Grinning, he pushed back his cap and told the others waiting to fly, "I'm going home for my wife and take another trip."

Later he returned. His wife, lacking courage, had refused the invitation to take a soil conservation air flight.

The farmer, undaunted, tossed down the fee, and joined another group making a 20 to 25 minute flight over the county.

A number of farmers or their youngsters were fly-

ing for the first time. Approximately 59 flew to appraise soil saving efforts or to view crop progress at home or on neighboring acres.

Pilots Ed Folkmann, Conroy; Tom Kinzenbaw and Orville Weiss, Williamsburg, occasionally had a break, resting in the hangar, recounting flying experiences.

Folkmann has been flying more than five years. Kinzenbaw finds the plane an asset for the Kinze Manufacturing business trips, while Weiss earned his pilot's license less than two years ago.

The air tour fees for the non profit soil conservation district venture helped defray the pilots' expenses which range up to almost \$65 per hour.

A haze drifted over the sky with the ground tem-

Cashmere in all the desir-
cent Prints to the finest
full and complete, from 4
My stock of Dry Goods is
"Dry Goods - A Specialty -
D.W. Roberts advertised
cross a gutter."

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alarmed; she isn't going to
tail train, don't be
swoop up in her hand a fan-
behind her, and skillfully
kicking the other wildly out
lancing herself on one foot,
"When you see a woman ba-
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in a column entitled "Sense
In the Apr. 17, 1878, issue
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H.R. Crenshaw were pro-

Iowa County Farmer 7-27-78



PASSENGERS BOARD — The Howard Webb, Ladora, were among 59 flying over the county Sunday, July

16, to appraise soil improvement projects. Orville Weiss, Williamsburg, pilot, directs passengers.

Ask Opinions On Conservation Work

County residents are being asked for their opinions on what kind of conservation programs should be offered in the future, according to Larry Beyer, chairman of the Iowa county soil conservation district.

"We're asking for public input in any form we can get it," says Beyer. "One way is the public meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 12, at 8 p.m. at the Farm Bureau basement, Williamsburg. "We're also sending letters to heads of organizations, inviting people to stop by the district office, and doing whatever else we can to get opinions."

"We're asking people to fill out a worksheet to find out what they think are the most serious problems," Beyer says. "For instance, they tell us whether they're more concerned about soil erosion and flooding than they are about the loss of prime farmland or wildlife habitat."

The Iowa soil conservation district will use the answers in formulating local conservation programs for the future. They'll also forward a summary to state and national offices of the U.S. soil conservation service. The information will be used with other county summaries to develop state and national programs.

It's part of the resources conservation act of 1977, termed "unprecedented legislation" by conservation officials. The act requires the U.S. department of agriculture to use public opinion as well as scientific data to appraise natural resources on private land all over the U.S. every five years. Then, in cooperation with local soil conservation districts, other resource agencies and with public input, they must develop a five year conservation program. They must also evaluate progress in attacking the problems identified by people.

Thurs., July 27, 1978

VIEWED CONSERVATION WORK — Among those touring the county conservation projects, Thursday, July 6 included these commissioners or spouses, David McCartney, rural North English; Larry Beyer, Maringo; Fred White, Parnell; Vernon Sandersfeld, Homestead; and Mary Welsh, Williamsburg. Mrs. White is in second row, left.

The Iowa County Farmer

Page 19C



The Stone Jar Fly To Check Farmlands

By Doris McCartney

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A haze drifted over the sky with the ground temperatures in the high 80's. Kinzenbaw, our pilot the past three years, suggested by flying higher we could be cooled more comfortably. His passengers however were traveling to view the earth.

Fields, flooded with sunshine, were the scene of oat harvesting. Numerous combines were operating as farmers pushed against a deadline of predicted rains.

A patchwork of green and gold fields covers the county in this stretch of the midwest grain belt.

Strip cropping, where curving stretches of corn, oats and legumes spills across a farm near Homestead, forms a picturesque scene.

An old windmill, entwined with vines, marks the spot where this soil project is established.

Soil washing from frequent spring, June and July rains have muddied streams, creeks and the north branch of the English river. A film of algae covers backwater in a north township.

Dual stretches of interstate 80 divide the county. A fast paced traffic pattern cuts through the area. The beautiful scenery unnoticed by the average traveler.

But whether you are walking, driving or flying, you're sure to discover the health of the county's economy.

From the air, that's found by checking the corn, stretching as high as an elephant's eye.

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Iowa County Farmer 7-27-78



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Thurs., July 27, 1978

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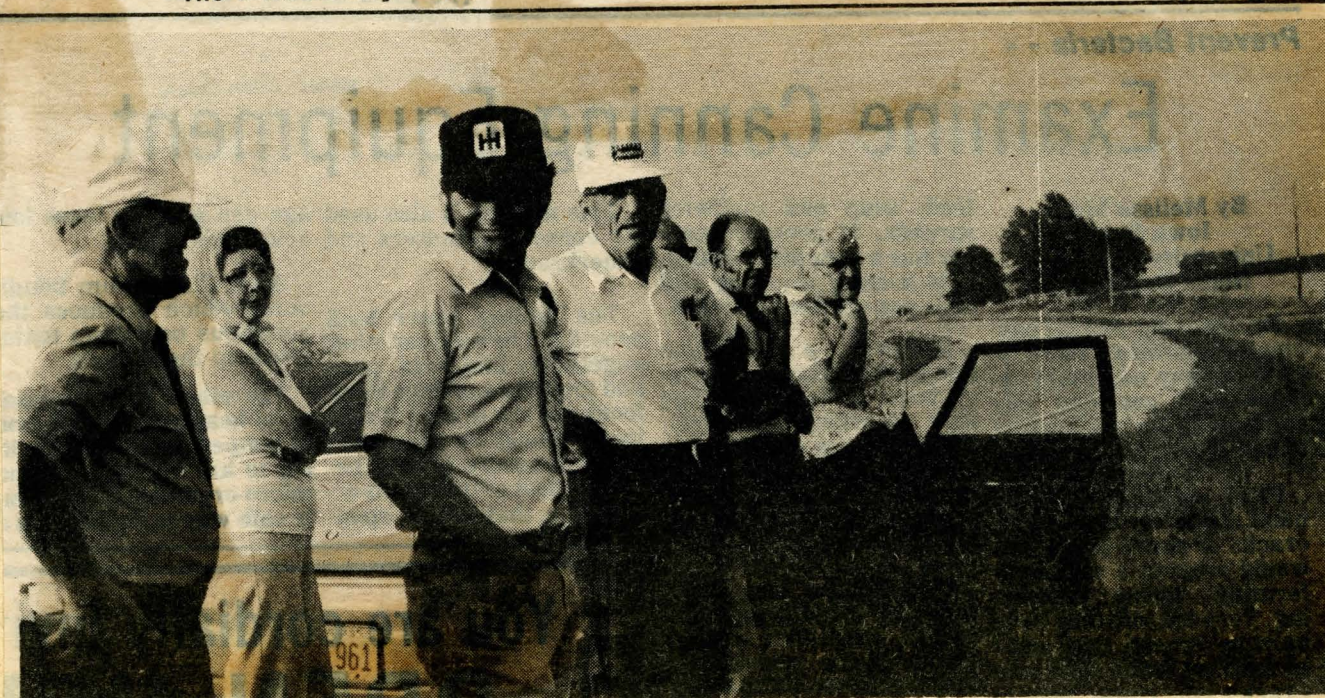
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The Iowa County Farmer

Page 19C



Visit Farm Conservation Projects



DESCRIBES PROJECT — Harry Bryant, Iowa county conservationists describes a no till conservation project on the farm in township to the Soil Conservation Service commissioners and their wives Wednesday, July 5 on a twilight tour across the county. Fred White, Parnell, is on the left and Bryant, right.

A twilight conservation tour was sponsored by the Iowa county Soil Conservation service, Wednesday, July 5, to view proposed and completed projects during a three hour trip. Harry Bryant, county conservationist, planned the trip.

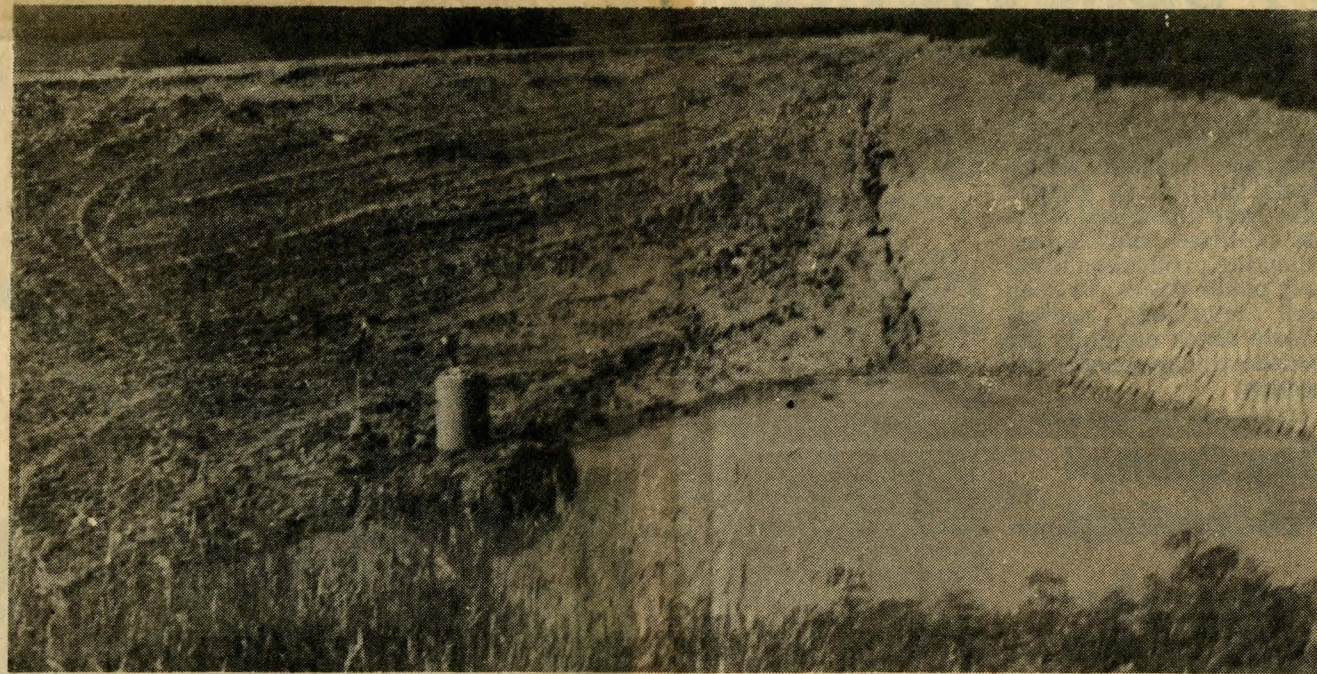
Strip cropping on the Vernon Sandersfeld 160 acre farm in Iowa township, south of Homestead, was an owner-operator plan viewed by the soil commissioners and a number of their spouses.

Long range planning here has proved to be a land conservation investment by the father-son team.

A no till corn crop was seen on a 20 acre project established by Jerry McCaw, rural Williamsburg. A new cooperator, McCaw built 6,000 feet of terraces two years ago. Terrace application was established for the summer.

Cost of his improvements was about \$4,400. McCaw is using conservation tillage practices on the remainder of his land.

On the Chris Swartzendruber-Robert Faber project, east of Parnell in Greene township, an owner-tenant plan, conservation tillage was viewed. Their plans includes five sediment basins and 22,150 feet of terraces.



POND INSTALLED — A new project on the Erle Driscoll farm, west of Williamsburg, this summer is a pond, built with 1977 ASCS funds and completed in June. Estimated cost was \$2,000. The work was observed by the Soil Conservation Service commissioners while touring projects Wednesday, July 5.

Improvements viewed on the Helen Donahoe farm, Williamsburg, north of Mil-

lersburg, included terraces built in 1974 through

1976, and a pond completed two years ago, in partici-

pating in long term SCS programs.

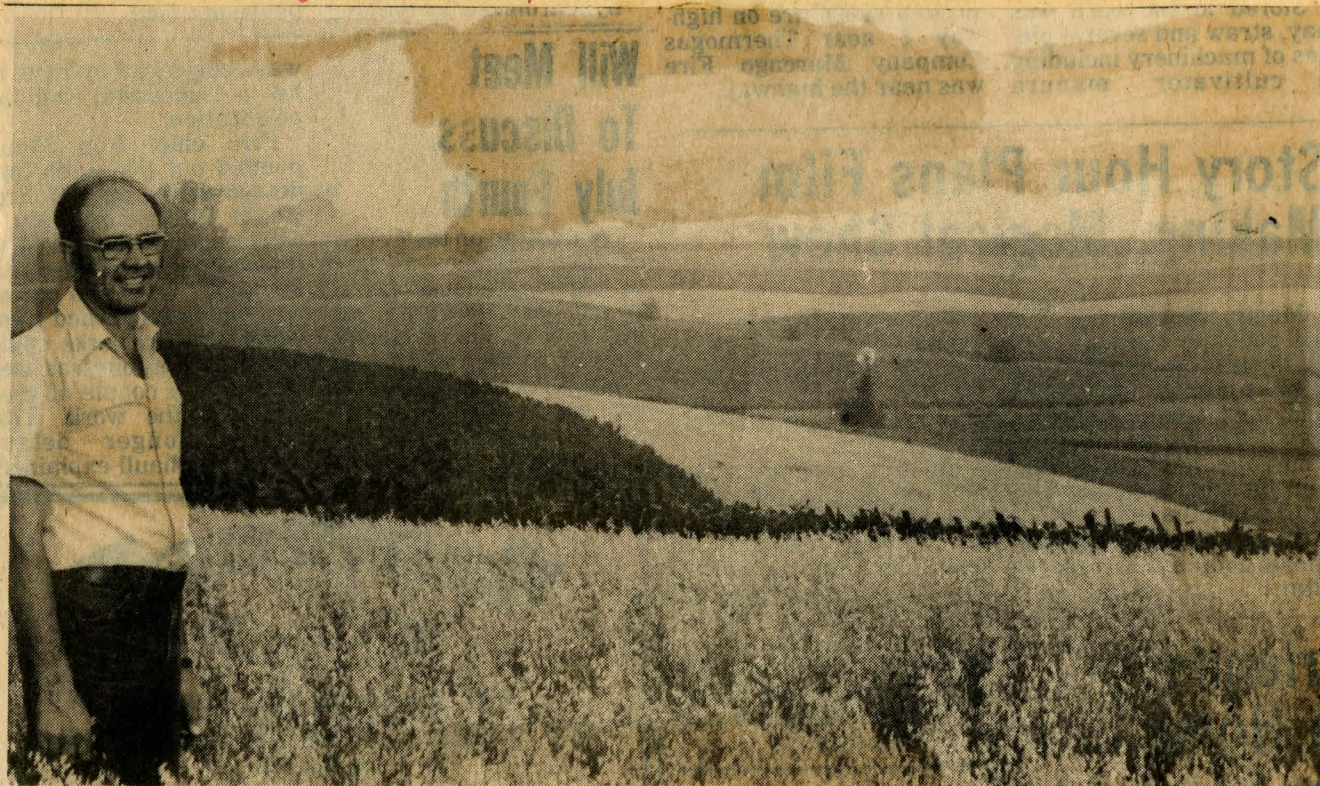
She is considering installation of an erosion control dam as a major improvement.

Tour stops also were on the following farms: Darryl Grimm, rural Deep

River; Rex Miller and Jerry Townsend, Williamsburg.

A number of applications for cost sharing assistance were considered by the commissioners later that night.

Newspapers of Iowa County 7-13-78



TALKS CONSERVATION EFFORTS — Vernon Sandersfeld, Homestead, stands in a field on his farm, noting efforts on strip cropping which have been soil im-

provement practices. A colorful land pattern is viewed from this spot.

NO-TILL CORN TOUR

THURSDAY, JUNE 29
@ 6:30 PM

Starts at the Harold Joseph farm
5 miles southwest of Williamsburg.

Follow signs off of "C" road

Sponsored by:
THE IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Iowa County Advertiser 6-29-78 & 7-06-78

CONSERVATION AIR TOUR

Sponsored by: Iowa County Soil Conservation District

SUNDAY, JULY 9, 1978
10 AM - 4 PM

(Rain Date: SUNDAY, JULY 16, 1978)

REFRESHMENT
STAND

\$7.00
Per Person

REFRESHMENT
STAND

EDGAR FOLKMANN FARM

2 miles east & 1½ miles south of Conroy, Iowa

NOT RESPONSIBLE IN CASE OF ACCIDENTS



CONSIDER NO TILL — Larry and Howard Beyer, rural Marengo, check seed placement and cover after planting on the no-till demonstration plot on their farm near Belle Plaine. Six different conservation tillage methods were demonstrated at a field day there May 12. Twilight tours will be planned

throughout the growing season so that area farmers can check progress and management methods. Implement dealers taking part in the demonstration were Shaull implement; Kelley implement; Buffalo Till, Monticello; Sindt implement, Keystone; and Keystone implement.

Newspapers of Iowa County 7-20-78



BOARDS — Fred White, Parnell, a soil conservation district commissioner,

boards a plane Sunday to check farm projects in the county.

Seek Candidates For Soil Commissioner

The terms of two Iowa county soil conservation district commissioners - Keith Enochson, Conroy, Hilton township and Vernon Sandersfeld, Homestead, Iowa township - will expire at noon, Jan. 2, 1979. Successors will be elected at the general election Nov. 7.

Any qualified elector residing in the soil conservation district, which is all of Iowa county, including cities and towns, is eligible for the office of commissioner, except that no more than one commissioner may be a resident of any one township. Incumbent commissioners are Larry Beyer, Marengo, Honey Creek township; Greg Misbach, Marengo, Sumner township; and Fred White, Parnell, Fillmore township. Residents of these townships would not be eligible for office at this time.

Prospective candidates seeking the office of soil conservation district commissioner must file nomination petitions in the same manner as for other elective positions at the general election, except that no political party is designated. Nomination petitions can be obtained from the county auditor.

Petitions, signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the county auditor at the Iowa county courthouse no later than 5 p.m., Sept. 13.

Individuals elected in November will serve a term of six years commencing Jan. 2, 1979.

Soil conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county. For further information pertaining to the responsibilities of a commissioner, contact the Iowa county soil conservation district office, 600 Court street, Williamsburg, phone 668-2359.



Sixth Graders Have Conservation Class

POINTS OUT LEAVES — Carl Selby, one of the Williamsburg sixth grade teachers, points out different types of leaves during the annual sixth grade conservation classroom at the Iowa county lake Friday. Members of the class were divided into groups and then went

around the lake stopping at various stations to learn about wildlife biology, plant life and other out-door type items. They also had a unit in kite making. Parents of some of the youngsters also accompanied teachers during the daylong event.

↑ Newspapers of Iowa County 5-25-78 ↓



TALKS ABOUT SOIL — District soil conservationist Harry Bryant talked to sixth grade students when they stopped at his station at Iowa county lake Friday. He was one of a number of persons who staffed stations

along the route who shared their knowledge of land and wildlife conservation with the children. Sixth grade teachers Carl Selby, Betty Golden and Dan Becker coordinated the classroom.

Would Exempt Soil Conservation Practices From Land Assessment

Land preservation commission members have moved to include a provision that soil conservation practices shall not raise the assessed valuation of property and that any such practices and structures shall be exempt from assessment for taxes. The current corn suitability rating shall be used as the basis for assessment the commission approved.

That action came at the final public hearing on the resolutions the commission will submit to the state

on land preservation in June.

Jerold McCaw, Williamsburg, one of only two persons present besides commission members and the press for the hearing, asked if land owners would be willing to install soil conservation practices even with 90 percent governmental cost sharing if in a short time the county assessors office would look at the improvement and assess it as such. The 90 percent would go back to the government quickly in taxes, McCaw noted.

While Bernard Elwood, supervisor and commission member, said that property tax doesn't have to raise 100 percent, McCaw questioned if they could control it. "It doesn't make much sense to have 90 percent cost share if it's going to have to go back," McCaw added.

Fred White, soil conservation commissioner, commented that a lot of terraces had been built already, but he was not aware if the farms were taxed any more than anyone else.

McCaw said an assessor had indicated these would be considered improvements and would be added to the assessments.

Ed Shima, chairman of the board of supervisors, continued that if they were talking soil conservation practices being taxed they were defeating goals regardless of merit.

The CSR formular is based on soil types, slopes, etc., for the suitability for raising corn. That work has already been done, Shima added, and "theoretically it wouldn't be done again since the soil stays the

same."

Leonard Thys, supervisors, observed that terraces don't improve the value of the farm but hold the land and keep it producing for the next generation. Thys continued that when he got out of high school he wanted to do contour farming, a practice his father fought but had finally accepted.

Greg Misbach, preservation commission chairman, pointed out that SCS and the commission tie terrace building in with conservation tillage and rotation. "It defeats the purpose if we think it can be farmed in corn year after year," he added.

Current conservation practices have been funded by the farmer more than 50 percent, David McCartney, soil conservation assistant commissioner added.

Following discussion and acceptance of the inclusion of the resolution on keeping soil conservation practices from affecting the assessment rolls, the hearing was concluded. There had been no further questions or comments on the resolutions prepared earlier and for which the hearing was held.

They include statements on the policy for prime agricultural land production, soil erosion management to handle a ten year high rain

falling on land in a 24 hour period, encourage towns to have long range plans, commend and set forth guides for establishment of a land preservation commission, provide for building roads on existing right of ways, etc.

Commenting on a regional meeting held of representatives of land preservation commissions, McKean noted the Iowa county one was the only one with specific recommendations for a county commission. The county one calls for a commission of five - one to be appointed by the board of supervisors, one by soil district commissioners, one by cities and towns, and two members elected at large in the general election. Commission members would be compensated at 4 percent of the county supervisor salary per day or about \$40 per day based on \$10,000 per year. Compensation is to be reimbursed from the state general fund to the county.

Referring to the overall land preservation proposal, White said he wanted a state referendum before the state adopts it.

McKean showed the group slides from the land/energy century III program for background on land use.

The commission will meet next at 8 p.m. May 25.

Newspapers of Iowa County 5-04-78

Will Examine Methods, Equipment - -

Conservation Tillage Field Day Is Planned

A conservation tillage field day will be held Tuesday, May 9, at 9 a.m. on the Howard Beyer farm, operated by Larry Beyer, Marengo, located 1½ miles north and 1 mile east of Belle Plaine.

Various methods of conservation tillage and equipment will be demonstrated by implement dealers in the area.

There will also be herbicide plots to demonstrate some of the chemicals used with conservation tillage systems. Jerry Gogan, crop specialist from the

Cedar Rapids area extension, will speak.

Min Amemiya, extension agronomist from Iowa State university, will speak on conservation tillage and erosion.

The field day is being sponsored by the Benton county soil conservation district and the Benton county extension service. Area implement dealers who will be participating are Shaull Tractor and Implement, Marengo; Keystone Implement and Sindt Implement, Keystone; Leo

Kelly company, Blainstown; and John Maxey, Williamsburg. Soil conservation district commissioners will furnish rolls and coffee.

In case of rain, the date will be changed to Friday, May 12.

Newspapers of Iowa County 5-11-78

Rain Postpones Program - -

Hold Tillage Field Day Friday On Beyer Farm

A field day on the Larry Beyer farm, focusing on conservation tillage, has been postponed until Friday, May 12, at the site 1½ miles north and one mile east of Belle Plaine, beginning at 9 a.m.

Conservation tillage and equipment will be demonstrated by area implement dealers.

Jerry Gogan, crop specialist, Cedar Rapids area

extension will speak. Herbicide plots are planned to demonstrate some of the chemicals used with conservation tillage systems.

Min Amemiya, Iowa State university extension agronomist, will also appear on the program, speaking on erosion and conservation tillage.

Sponsors of the field day are the Benton county soil conservation service and

the Benton county extension service.

Among the area implement dealers participating are Shaull Tractor and Implement, Marengo; Keystone Implement and Sindt Implement, Keystone; Leo Kelly company, Blainstown; and John Maxey, Williamsburg.

Coffee and rolls will be furnished by the soil conservation district commissioners.



CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES — Members of the Iowa county land preservation commission held the first of two hearings scheduled for February last week at the Iowa county courthouse, Marengo. Another hearing is set for tonight, Thursday, Feb. 23, at Williamsburg city hall. Hearings are held to give the public an opportunity to express an opinion on how the state should handle land preservation. After comments are heard currently, the county commission will meet further to

finalize their proposal which will be made to the state. A final public hearing will be held later in the spring. Left to right are Ed Shima, Bernie Elwood, county supervisors; Greg Misbach, chairman of the commission; Larry Beyer, chairman of the soil conservation commissioners of which Misbach is also a member, and Leonard Thys, supervisor. Lowell McKean, county extension director, is secretary for the commission.

Iowa Co. advertiser 2-23-78

FARMERS - CONTRACTOR MEETING

Farmers interested in doing conservation work in 1978 are urged to attend a meeting at the Williamsburg City Hall on Monday, Feb. 27, 1978 at 7:30 p.m. Topics for discussion will be cost-sharing, priorities, and an open discussion. Personnel from the Iowa County Soil Conservation District, Soil Conservation Service, and the ASCD will be present to answer any questions.

Newspapers of Iowa County 3-23-78

Panel Airs Water-Land Conserving Issues Mar 29

The 208 water pollution control act and land preservation commission efforts will be the topic aired by a panel appearing at a meeting Wednesday, Mar. 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the Farm Bureau building, Williamsburg.

Panelists will be Ron Gahring, Williamsburg, land improvement contractor, Greg Misbach, Marengo, chairman of the land preservation commission; Larry Beyer, Marengo, chairman of the county soil conservation service commissioners; and Harry Bryant, Parnell, county conservationist.

Gahring has been active in the past year and a half on the national level on the behalf of better conservation techniques and programs.

The informational meeting is geared to explain the voluntary program on soil conserving issues which will help all farmers and urban residents rigid governmental mandate controls.

Newspapers of Iowa County 4-20-78

Land Preservation Is Set For Tonight Hearing

A final hearing on recommendations for a county and state land preservation policy will be tonight, Thursday, Apr. 20, at 8 p.m. in the court room of the Iowa county courthouse, Marengo.

The temporary county land preservation policy commission has made recommendations as to provisions to be included in a state land preservation policy and comments on these and other recommendations may be made at the public hearing.

Those recommendations have been included in previous issues of The NpIC.

Newspapers of Iowa County 3-23-78

Land Preservation - What Does It Mean Here?

Land preservation has been the subject for two public hearings, a number of meetings and more to come in Iowa county. Few people turned out for the hearings and their opportunity for input into the document which will be submitted to the state in June.

After a number of years of debate on a state land use policy, legislators turned the task of formulating a policy over to commissions throughout the state. Commission members were primarily those from the county soil conservation commissions, and thus qualified to know what had been done already and what was possible with funds available through their departments. Also included were members of the county boards of supervisors, and city council representatives.

The task they were assigned is not an easy one. They were told to present various criteria for what is now termed "land preservation." Obviously what is important in Iowa county, may not be the case in Cerro Gordo, as was pointed out at one hearing, or Polk counties. Topography may be the determining factor in the first, while population is in the second. So it is that it is a formidable task to consider what are the priorities.

The Iowa county commission posed a series of questions prior to the public hearings. Those were discussed in varying degrees according to interest in the particular subject.

One area which included a fair amount of discussion was how to handle a Q-10 rainfall. They define that as the top rainfall in a ten year period that will be received in a given time, a matter of hours. Where was that rainfall to be contained - on the land where it fell? Downstream? Who would pay for containment structures - i.e. terraces, ponds, dams, etc? The farmer? The taxpayer?

Will future housing be eliminated completely

from being built on prime ag land? Will building in flood plains - as along the Iowa or English rivers, etc., be forbidden?

What about cattle confinement structures? What takes precedence - the cattleman already in the area? The homeowners whose residential area now borders the farm land?

How does a county enforce the land preservation laws if they pass them?

Is there an elected body to be concerned only with land preservation or an existing body to take it over or an appointive one?

Is there a problem at all when we face a year when set asides are the main talk on the farm scene, and there would appear to be an abundant supply of land on which to raise crops?

Some people are expressing grave concern over our giving up long accepted and precious freedoms of controlling our own land. That responsibility they see as being taken over by area land planners. They have every right to be concerned.

But what concerns us most at this time is the general lack of interest in attending the hearings. Probably not more than 25 people in addition to the commissioners attended the two hearings.

Farm Bureau building, Williamsburg, is the site of a meeting to discuss the 208 clean water act and its implications in the county along with the land preservation considerations Wednesday, Mar. 29. An article appears elsewhere.

Land preservation seems to be one more time that we as citizens have the opportunity for input. We need to take advantage of that opportunity before someone else makes decisions about which we'll complain for years to come.

How do you feel about land preservation?

33rd Annual Report 1978

Iowa Soil Conservation District Williamsburg



CLEM McBRIDE

In Memory of CLEM McBRIDE

For his dedicated service to the Iowa County Soil Conservation District.

August 1970
to December 1978

WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

Patron's Mutual	Iowa County Farm Service	Rudolph Hagen & Son	Pauline Lillis	Mary Welsh
T.I.P. Rural Electric	Rhinehart's	David Horras	V.R. Points	Chris Swartzendruber
Amana Farms, Inc.	Colony Market Place	Gene Stoltzfus	H & R Tiling	Elwood Farms
Midwest Culvert	Gahring Construction	Larry Miller, M.D.	Roy L. Yoder	Donald Baker
Iowa Drain Tile Co.	Walt James	Evelyn Hoff	Jerry Rabe	Donald Dietrich
Sheffield Brick & Tile	Dietrich Construction	Alma Heitman	Joseph Rabe	Frank R. Smith
Seven Villages Restaurant	Harry Bryant	Dave & Lester Fetzer	Greg Misbach	Helen Donohoe
Iowa County Farm Bureau	Millen Sandersfeld	Robert Crane	Beyer Farms	Paul E.M. Yoder
Levine Company	Harold Sherman	John Maxey	Fred White	Donald Wyant
Cedar Valley Distributing	Leonard Thys	Murray Armstrong	Larry Wetjen	
Swartzendruber Lumber	Delmar Wetjen	Duane Bloome	David McCartney	

FIELD OFFICE PERSONNEL

Harry Bryant, District Conservationist
Clem McBride, Conservation Technician
Lennis Doebrmann, State Clerk
Millen Sandersfeld, Conservation Aide

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Larry Beyer Vernon Sandersfeld
Keith Enochson Fred White
Greg Misbach

DISTRICT OFFICERS

Larry Beyer, Chairman
Greg Misbach, Vice-Chairman
Lennis Doebrmann, Secretary-Treasurer

AREA OFFICE PERSONNEL

Keith Glandon, Area Conservationist Francis Vos, Civil Engineering Technician
Marvin Parmer, Civil Engineer Kathleen Ohnemus, Area Clerk
Kent Rice, Civil Engineer

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

David McCartney
Mary Welsh

DISTRICT COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS - 7,301 Acres

John O'Rourke	Ralph Miller	O'Rourke Brothers	Lawrence Haman	Mary Lacina	John Townsend
Paul Brimmer	Martin Bayer	Ken Caes	David Kinzenbaw	Daryl Newberry	Gene Stanerson
Vernon Fisher	Floyd Groff	Ed Vesley	Gary Tanner	Albert VanThournout	Ed & Gary Koehn
John Rot, Jr.	Harold DeBrower	Charles Scott	Dean M. Smith	Jerry Townsend	Loyel Schutterle
Donald Hadenfeldt	Marvin Grimm	Nelson Hinstead	Larry Fuller	Wayne Ebel	Robert Crane
Elmer Grimm	Kenneth Grimm	Willie Schropp	Duane Fuller	Clarence Hagen	Robert Crane
Kenneth King					

BASIC CONSERVATION PLANS - 5,685 Acres

Lyle Riggans	Ed Kinsinger	James Prince	Robert Crane	Gene Goodman
Vernon Fisher	Phillip Kinsinger	Gary Schafbuch	John Rot, Jr.	C.P. Rohde
Dean M. Smith	Evelyn Hoff	John Henning	Elsie Slaubaugh	Kenneth Grimm
William Lillie	Jerry Townsend	Marvin Grimm		

BASIC CONSERVATION PLANS REVISED - 25,363 Acres

Art Dermody, Jr.	Glen White	Harold Koehn	John Stevenson
Wilbur Litwiller	Amana Society	Collins & Finnegan	

GROUP PLANS

John O'Rourke and Alfred VanDee	Orville Bloethe and Iowa County
Clayton Dietrich and Lawrence Haman	Marvin Brandt and Iowa County
Wilbur Litwiller and Ed Martin	Lawrence Cronbaugh and Iowa County
Walter Volz and Loyel Schutterle	Elmer Grimm and Iowa County
George Heller and George Stanerson	Dorothy Schweibert and Iowa County
Harold Yoder and Glen White	Raymond Wille and Iowa County
Linn Hoff and Eugene Stanerson	

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MAJOR PRACTICES	UNIT	1978	OTHER SERVICES	UNIT	1978
Diversion Terraces	Feet	12,450	Individuals and		
Ponds	Number	9	Groups Assisted	Number	321
Erosion Control Structures	Number	9	Individuals and Groups		
Terraces and Sediment Basins	Feet	71,330	Applying Practices	Number	150
Tile	Feet	229,709			

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

JANUARY

10: Commissioners Meeting - Election of officers held. Elected were Larry Beyer, Chairman, Greg Misbach, Vice-Chairman, and Lennis Doebrmann, Secretary-Treasurer.
12: Tree and Wildlife Information meeting.
17 & 18: Commissioners Short Course at Ames
25: Iowa County Conservation Contractor's Luncheon and Meeting
31: Resource Coordinating Committee Meeting

FEBRUARY

23: Annual Report Published in Iowa County Farmer
27: Contractor-Farmer Meeting at Williamsburg City Hall
28: Commissioners Meeting

MARCH

1: Contribution Letter mailed
10: Regional Commissioners Meeting at Seven Villages Restaurant
21: Commissioners Meeting
29: Land Preservation Committee Meeting
31: Reviewed Soil Loss Complaint Site and Special Commissioners Meeting

APRIL

11: Commissioners Meeting
30: Soil Stewardship Week

MAY

19: Williamsburg 6th Grade Conservation Outdoor Classroom at Lake Iowa
31: Commissioners Meeting

JUNE

15: ASCS Conservation Tour
20: Commissioners Meeting
29: RCA Workshop at Carousel Motel, Iowa City; No-Till Tour at 6:30 p.m. of Harold Joseph and Jerry McCaw farms

JULY

5: Commissioners Conservation Tour, Supper, and Business Meeting
12: RCA Public Meeting
16: Conservation Air Tour
25: Commissioners Meeting and Picnic Supper at Greg Misbach's home.

AUGUST

15: Commissioners Meeting

SEPTEMBER

19: Commissioners Meeting
27: Area Staff 5 Meeting at Newton. District Conservationist Harry Bryant Technician Clem McBride, and District Clerk Lennis Doebrmann attended.
29 & 30: Fall Teachers Conservation Workshop. Marcia and Bill Wehner from the Williamsburg Community School attended.

OCTOBER

24: Commissioners Meeting - Iowa County Board of Supervisors attended the meeting. District Conservationist Harry Bryant showed new slide set "Soil - Iowa's Underated Resource."
25: Soil Judging Contest held in Washington County. Schools from Iowa, Johnson, and Washington counties participated; Soil Conservation Essay and Speech Contest at 8:00 p.m.; Speech Contest Winners were: Jeff Folkmann, first; David Dermody, second; and Eric Walker, third. Essay Contest Winners were: Charles Heitman, first; Robin Smith, second; and Greg Welsh, third.

NOVEMBER

7: Election Day. Larry Wetjen and David McCartney were elected as district commissioners to replace retiring commissioners Keith Enochson and Vernon Sandersfeld.
9: Regional Commissioners Meeting and Speech Contest at Seven Villages Restaurant.
20: Annual Awards Banquet and Commissioners Meeting at Colony Market Place, South Amana. Winners were: Owner-Operator, Vernon Sandersfeld; New Cooperator, Jerald McCaw; Landlord-Tenant, Chris Swartzendruber-Robert Faber; Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award, Arlo Cronbaugh.

DECEMBER

5, 6, 7: Annual Commissioners and Clerks Conference at Starlight Village, Fort Dodge. District Clerk Lennis Doebrmann attended.
9: Commissioners Christmas Party and Meeting at Old Creamery Theatre and Stage Door Restaurant.

FINANCIAL REPORT

	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS		RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS
1M BUDGET			3M BUDGET (1976-77)		
Allocation	\$1,855.21		Allocation	\$41,000.00	
Commissioner's Expenses		782.69	Add. Allocation	31,050.00	
Office Supplies		320.52	Disbursed to Farmers		\$71,569.95
Printing		152.50	Obligated Funds		480.05
Prizes for Contests		219.12			\$72,050.00
Office Expense		297.91			
Meeting Expense		82.47	3M BUDGET (1977-78)		
TOTAL EXPENDED	\$1,855.21		Allocation	\$44,000.00	
			Add. Allocation	23,100.00	
2M BUDGET			Mandatory		
Allocation	\$11,785.00		Allocation	11,498.05	
Clerical and Technical		\$10,167.09	Disbursed to Farmers		\$69,535.60
Insurance		483.10	Obligated Funds		9,062.45
Travel		196.41			\$78,598.05
Equipment		63.50			
TOTAL EXPENDED	\$10,910.10		3M BUDGET (1978-79)		
Released	874.90		Allocation	\$48,000.00	
	\$11,785.00		Add. Allocation	15,000.00	
REVOLVING FUND			Mandatory		
Balance On Hand 1-01-78	280.37		Allocation	11,383.07	
Receipts - Contributions	1,971.00		Disbursed to Farmers		\$55,654.95
Réceipts - Reimbursements	1,173.76		Obligated Funds		16,518.04
Disbursements		2,952.92	Unobligated Funds		2,210.08
Balance On Hand 12-31-78	472.21				\$74,383.07

Interest picks up in soil commissioner races

By Al Swegle
Gazette farm editor

Interest has picked up in races for district soil commissioner in Eastern Iowa.

Contested elections have developed in six of the 15 counties in The Gazette circulation area — Benton, Buchanan, Cedar, Clayton, Linn and Winneshiek. There are no contests in nine other counties.

The most hotly contested election is in Clayton County, where five candidates are running for three different posts.

This is only the second time soil district commissioners have been on the general election ballot. District commissioners administer state soil cost sharing funds which total \$4.72 million statewide. They also handle soil erosion complaints filed under the Iowa Soil Conservancy Law. Some 450 complaints have been filed statewide since the law was enacted in 1972.

Three candidates are running for two posts in Linn County, including Jack Scott, 50, of Marion, the incumbent; Stephen Martin, 30, of Whittier, and Dorothea Lillie, 56, of Alburnett.

Scott, 50, is completing his first six-year term on the board. A past chairman of the board, he served a term on the Temporary Land Preservation Commission and his family received the Cedar Rapids Chamber Farm Family of the Year award four years ago.

Scott raises 700 to 800 head of hogs on his 420 acre farming operation. He had installed 2½ miles of inlet terraces and tile outlet terraces on the land he farms.

"Conservation is a must in this day in agriculture," Scott said. "If we don't keep it here, we won't have it."

Scott and his wife, Mary Alice, are parents of three children: Julie, 22, Sharon, 17, and Jeff, 14.

Martin, seeking the office for the first time, is chairman of the administrative board of the Prairie Chapel United Methodist Church, and serves as a director of the Farm Bureau, the Pork Producers and Brown Township Mutual Insurance Co.

He installed 2,000 feet of inlet terraces three years ago, planted an evergreen wildlife preserve, and installed 80,000 feet of tiles.

"I believe soil is our No. 1 resource and should be protected to the best of our ability," Martin said. "They don't make any more soil anymore, so we should seek to preserve it for future generations."

Martin and his wife, Karen, are parents of three children: Jeanna, 7, Barbara, 5, and Stephanie, 1.

Mrs. Lillie served as district clerk in the soil conservation office for nine years before retiring a year ago. She also served as secretary of the

district commissioners. If elected, she would be the first woman in Linn County to be elected a district soil commissioner.

She is a member of the Marabwa Chapter of the American Business Women's Association and the Christian Church in Alburnett.

Her husband, Paul, farms 255 acres four miles southeast of Alburnett where they have a 30 head purebred Angus herd. Paul believes in crop rotation. Her family includes two sons, Arthur, 30, of Hampton and Barth, 29, of Chicago.

"I think the county supervisors should have enacted the 35-acre homesite proposal into law in Linn County, because we need to preserve our prime agricultural farmland," Mrs. Lillie said.

"We need to preserve the soil we have because we don't know how well off we are here in Iowa."

Here's a listing of the soil commissioner elections in other counties in The Gazette circulation area:

Allamakee County (2 to be

elected): Kenneth Kerndt, Waukon; Maurice Simmonds, Lansing. Both are candidates for re-election.

Benton County (2 to be elected): Roman Gardner, Garrison; Don Weichman, Atkins; Mrs. George Grovert, Shellsburg. Gardner and Weichman are the incumbents.

Buchanan County (2 to be elected): Mrs. Brian Forster, Aurora; Karel Rawson, Hazleton; and Carroll Bantz, Rowley.

Cedar County (2 to be elected): Bill Davidson, Stanwood; Russell Voss, Bennett; Randall Shaul, Tipton; and Robert Kruckenberg, Lowden. Davidson is an incumbent. Another incumbent, Kenneth Mather, Springdale, is not seeking re-election.

Clayton County (3 to be elected): Bernard Hanson, Elgin; Wayland Frederick, Strawberry Point; Gary Johannimgmeyer, Garber; Darryl Anderson, Gunder; and Steve Waters, Strawberry Point. Waters is running against Frederick. Hanson is running against Anderson. Johannimgmeyer

is unopposed. Hanson, Frederick and Johannimgmeyer are the incumbents.

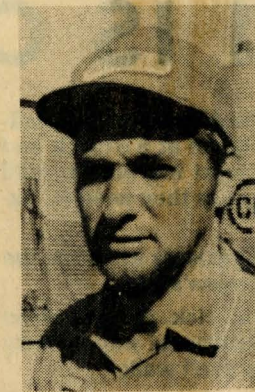
Delaware County (2 to be elected): Paul Gienapp, Hopkinton. Gienapp is the incumbent. Herb Pribeg of Manchester, an incumbent, is not seeking re-election. David Eibey of Manchester is a write-in candidate for Pribeg's post.

Fayette County (2 to be elected): Leslie Anderson, Castalia, incumbent, and James Burrack, Arlington. Paul Schuchmann Jr., Arlington, an incumbent, is not seeking re-election.

Iowa County (2 to be elected): Larry Wetjen, Marengo, and David B. McCartney, North English. The incumbents, Keith Enochson, Conroy and Vernon Sandersfeld, Homestead, are not seeking re-election.

Johnson County (2 to be elected): Kenneth Cuhel, Swisher, and Everett Winborn, Kalona. The incumbents, Don Gringer, Iowa City, and Bob Lovetinsky, Iowa City, are not seeking re-election.

Jones County (2 to be elected): Paul Waggoner, Onslow, and Lyle



Martin



Lillie



Scott

Beherends, Monticello. Waggoner is an incumbent. The other incumbent, William Hacke of Center Junction, is not seeking re-election.

Keokuk County (2 to be elected): Dale Stanley, Sigourney, and David Flint, What Cheer. Both are incumbents.

Poweshiek County (2 to be elected): Loren Roorda, Montezuma, and Mrs. Delmar Ford, Brooklyn. Roorda had been appointed to fulfill an unexpired term vacated by Charles

Fenner, Grinnell. Mrs. Ford is running to fill two years of Roorda's term.

Tama County (2 to be elected): Robert Fontinel, Tama, and Harry Scurr, Gilman. Both are incumbents.

Winneshiek County (2 to be elected): Richard Geving, Decorah; Wilbur Stoen, Decorah; David Roslein, Decorah. The incumbents, Andrew Hemesath, Calmar, and Clayton Wangness, Spring Grove, Minn., are not seeking re-election.

Few Respond To Land Preservation Hearings

Six people other than committee members or associated workers attended a hearing called by the land preservation commission Feb. 16 at the Iowa county courthouse, Marengo.

A two hour discussion of questions proposed to the public by the commission ended on the recommendation that the commission respond to the state legislature that it be the responsibility of each county to establish a commission and provide it with policy powers and authorization to accomplish the needs of the individual county. The committee would determine the needs.

Greg Misbach, chairman of the commission charged with formulating recommendations to send back to the legislature, commented that the legislature itself had considered the subject for several years before handing it to individual counties to come

up with recommendations in six months.

He explained that after the second hearing in Williamsburg Feb. 23, the commission would meet to consider the input from the two hearings and make a second draft of their recommendations. A third public hearing would then be held with a final report going to the legislature in June.

Problems To Consider

Ed Shima, county supervisor's chairman, pointed out that there are a number of problems for consideration by the land preservation commission. Is it one of soil erosion, impure water, a question of correcting this, enforcement or what he asked in pointing out the problems the commission has had with the task delegated by the legislature.

There are three basic ways to initiate or enforce policy, he continued. These include that it be voluntary and that education provide

the impetus for land preservation to be done or not.

Paying or not for preservation (soil conservation) was another. That is expensive, he said. Based on 368,000 acres in the county and using 350,000 acres as an easy figure, one would need to consider what it would take per acre for adequate control. That figure could be \$200 to \$300, he continued. At \$100 per acre it would cost \$35,000,000, he said, at \$200 the figure would be \$70,000,000 and \$105,000,000 for the higher amount. If land owners are paid to do the work, where does the money come from, he asked?

The third consideration is what he termed police power or fine.

Supervisor Bernard Elwood noted that the angle of land use was the question the commission was considering. What works for Iowa county won't for Polk, he continued.

In opening up discussion initially Marengo mayor Otto Maas commented that as one goes through the state, trees have been cleared off river banks and left along the way. Subsequently there are problems, as at the old river bridge on North Court avenue, Marengo, where trees have blocked two-thirds of the channel. Water runs out over the adjacent land when it is high as a result, Maas continued, and doesn't preserve farm land.

Q-10 Rainfall

John Jailor, Marengo councilman, asked for clarification of terminology in the questions posed for consideration by the commission. A Q-10 rain, he was told, is one that occurs once every ten years for the amount of rain in a given length of time.

Misbach explained that farm practices to hold such a rainfall where it is received on the land is a goal. How that it is to be imple-

mented, he continued, is the consideration. Soil conservation service has been furnishing sharing funds to accomplish this.

Misbach said there had been talk of 90 percent government grant for such work as diversion terraces, etc., with the rest a 10 percent loan to the farmer. Should the farmer do more or less he asked? Jailor commented he felt 75-25 split would be better.

Larry Beyer answering a question from Nell Shima on how many farms are now prepared to handle a Q-10 rain, said that 10 percent were. Misbach said that below a Q-10 rain was what SCS was trying to accomplish. This would be five tons per acre or less soil loss. That rate is now 11 to 12 tons per acre.

At the rate of the last 20 years, it would take 120 years at 50 percent cost sharing.

Mrs. Shima then questioned who such proce-

dures were helping - the farm operator, the future taxpayer, the clean water enthusiast?

Beyer explained that the federal government under the clean water act is requiring a plan from the state. Iowa recommendations would go to the environmental protection agency (EPA) next fall.

One recommendation from the SCS and the Iowa county resource coordinating committee sent to Des Moines was for water to be held on the land from a Q-10 rain. That is a goal within this county he said. It is not in Cerro Gordo county, for example, where it is very flat, and they try to get rid of surface water as quickly as possible.

Conservation procedures sound like a lot of money, Beyer continued, but EPA is giving grants for sewage and cleaning up the air.

Williamsburg Meeting
Consideration of whether

the policy of holding a Q-10 rain was better than the present state law requiring a five ton per acre loss limit was one of the main topics at the Feb. 23 hearing in Williamsburg.

Misbach said he believes holding the Q-10 rain for 24 hours is a better policy than limiting soil loss, as it equalizes the burden on all land-owners; the burden is not left on those downstream.

Misbach pointed out that hilly land in continuous pasture would not sustain a soil loss much over the five ton per acre limit when rains run off it. Lower lands that might be continuously row cropped would be subject to a heavier soil loss from the runoff from the hills.

He said if the structures to temporarily contain the water were built on higher lands, less extensive ones would be needed. This might benefit secondary roads as smaller bridges or culverts would be needed.

He added he felt administration of this policy should be in the hands of the soil conservation service at the county level. "I can't tolerate the DEQ (department of environmental quality) telling us how to farm."

Shima commented the area of soil conservation was one where he favored regulation, an exception to his general policy of not wanting them. He felt the advantages of soil conservation were to society and posterity, so society should pay for it. He would favor paying farmers to undertake soil conservation, with a little fine to make sure they did.

Those attending the Williamsburg hearing seemed to generally favor the commission's proposal that the state or federal government cost share 90 percent of the improvements with the farmer pay-

Land Use. . .

(Continued from page 1)

ing 10 percent, financed through long term low interest loans.

John Cox, North English, commented at the SCS's present rate, 50 percent cost sharing, it would take 200 years to get the improvements done. Stuart Blythe, Williamsburg, added that the 50 percent financing was dubious as there is a \$2,500 limit on projects.

Soil commissioner Fred White said, however, that they had been able to get all the money from the state they had been able to spend. He added though that the actual percentage spent on work done for farmers was 34 to 35 percent, as farmers would often have more done when tilers were on the farm doing the work.

County extension director Lowell McKean, who serves as secretary for the temporary commission, said he liked the approach of holding a Q-10 rain, saying if water was held upstream, it would help alleviate problems on the flood plain.

Asked by his wife how much it would cost to do measures to control rain run off, on their property, Shima said he thought \$300 per acre was low and to do it properly would cost about \$250,000. It would take a lot of terraces and many dams or at least several large dams. Mrs. Shima countered she couldn't imagine anyone paying that on their kind of land. "It would be very impractical," she added.

Shima answered another question that about 5 percent of Washington township, that in which they live, is completed for soil conservation.

Misbach pointed out that he disagreed with the corps of engineer approach to control water flow with such structures as the Coralville dam. "It should be stopped on the hills rather than there."

Elwood said it would take 20 generations to pay off the cost of paying for such projects if done for the common good and prosperity.

Rural Housing

Another question considered was whether restrictions should be plac-

ed on residential houses built in the country. George Martin, rural Norway, commented he felt non-farm residences should be discouraged from the country. One of his main concerns was with city people moving to the country and then complaining about the smell of a feedlot nearby.

Asked how he would discourage them, Martin suggested requiring a minimum land purchase of 40 to 80 acres in order for a house to be built.

Shima responded it would be unrealistic to chop farms up into 40 acre sections with fences around each. He commented, building in Iowa county has only occurred on land "that isn't worth \$.05 for farming." He added if a restriction such as Linn county had put on limiting houses to a ten acre tract, this would end in people taking land out of production and putting in a big backyard. Martin added there was no problem now, but there could be.

White encouraged the commission's policy alternative that no residential construction be permitted on class I, II or III agricultural land, rather than putting acreage limits on where a residence could be built.

Williamsburg mayor Robert Jones added many people move to the country for a better family life and said he'd hate to see town residents prohibited. Jones suggested the commission consider county zoning. He said Williamsburg did not have the best zoning ordinance, they could regulate agricultural building. "If the county doesn't do something, the state will," he said. One advantage, he said is that zoning can be amended as needed.

Shima said, however, that at the present time, agricultural land is exempted from all state zoning ordinances.

Martin agreed with Jones that housing could be set up in zones on poorer land.

Misbach also asked what should be done to make up the difference in value between what a farmers land would be worth to build houses on and for farm land. Martin suggested a time limit could be set up, after which it would be too late for development.

Cox commented he would like to see discouragement of residential building on

class I, II and III land, but he'd like to not see any county zoning. If there is no problem now with residential building in the country, he said he'd rather see no policy, calling that the lesser of two evils.

White asked how persons felt about a restriction against houses being built on flood plains. Beyer said the main concern was that a few houses might be built and then owners would ask for federal aid to build a levee or clean up after a flood.

Jones supported rather a present government policy which he said allowed building on flood plains but at the owner's own risk. He added that several buildings had been built on the flood plain in Williamsburg. This had been good, he said as they had built the ground up high enough to clear up swampy areas.

Jailor said he thought a proposal for land use policy to prevent urban encroachment on class I and II ag lands should be two miles instead of one.

Cattlemen

Letters were also received for the record from the Iowa County Cattlemen's association, Iowa Limestone Producers association and American Professional Geological scientists.

In the cattlemen's letter, they stated concern over the cattle industry's future because state and federal water laws already indirectly restrict where feedlots can be built. Disposal of manure from feedlots is regulated with DEQ permit and nutrient loads are specified. Recent odor regulations of the air quality commission are another example of indirect land use regulation, the letter said.

More direct regulation will be found in soon to be enacted DEQ permit system for anaerobic lagoons, the letter continued. If regulations are enacted, as proposed, it would probably result in no more beef anaerobic lagoons being built as the size required would be too expensive to build and separation distances are impossible to meet, the letter said.

Existing and proposed county zoning ordinances and comprehensive plans which preclude feedlots are a continual problem, the letter continued.

The cattlemen requested that the county report emphasize feedlots of all sizes need to be preserved and encouraged to grow and that care be taken to control rural residential development and urban expansion so as not to inhibit the livestock industry.

"If people are to be protected from feedlots, feedlots also need to be protected from people, especially non-farming people living on country acreages. The letter also stated that feedlots are a prime market for grain and if row crop ground were preserved for grain farming, but feedlots are taken away, a disservice will be done to everyone.

The cattlemen recommended any county or state land use plans be coordinated with non-point pollution rules, so there is only one set of rules for producers to follow.

Pasture lands should be defined as renewable resource lands and protected

for use as forage lands, the letter suggested.

They recommended local control for land use decisions, as soil type and topography of each county needs to be considered. They also recommended a local referendum be a feature of any state land use plan through which a 60 percent favorable vote would be required before any land use controls developed by the state would be enforced at the county level.

The limestone producers association recommend that the state land preservation law provide for current usage and development of any commercial sized mineral deposits either known or to be discovered.

The geological scientists recommended that any land use law include inspection, endorsement and interpretation of land use planning proposals by qualified geologists. Their concern is that mineral bearing lands might be

identified and protected and that uses be discouraged that would preclude mining of them.

The committee also asked for comments on whether the Iowa department of transportation should lower road standards, particularly lessen widths of right of ways, to conserve land. The only comment received was from Martin who said wider ditches mean more weeds to cut.

He and Cox also commented road builders should be just as responsible for holding water as farmers. To this, Shima commented that the county has allocated \$50,000 revenue sharing money for conservation projects to be built into new road projects, but they are having trouble with the DOT as "they don't know how to let us do it."

Asked what level should have the responsibility for land preservation, Jailor said municipal/county while Shima said

Newspapers of Iowa County 2-09-78

More Cost-Share Funds Are Available At SCS

The Iowa county soil conservation district has received word that additional state cost-share funds are available to do conservation work in spring 1978.

Funds are allocated on a first come first serve basis for priority practices that will be completed before June 30.

Anyone interested in building terraces or sediment basins should contact the local soil conservation service office in Williamsburg, across from the post office, as soon as possible.

Takes A Look At Fuel Savings - -

Agronomist Tells Area Farmers Advantages Of Conservation Tillage

By Doris McCartney

"We have come the full circle in land cultivation, from scratching the soil and planting to the new one step tillage operation," Minoru Amemiya, professor of agronomy and extension agronomist at Iowa State university, Ames, told a class of farmers recently.

Meeting in the Williamsburg city hall, for more than two hours, the farmers were on hand to be brought up to date on conservation tillage.

"Iowans, who continue to use their productive soils and take advantage of favorable climate to help meet domestic and world agricultural problems, must count on prudently using their land resources," the agronomist cautioned.

"Row crop acres have doubled in the past 35 years

at the expense of hay, small grains and pasture," he continued.

"As a result, this has increased the erosion hazard because land not suited for intensive row cropping has been put to such use."

He predicts row crop acres will continue to increase, thus the erosion hazard grows.

Reducing soil losses has to be done with conservation tillage, Amemiya observed.

Discusses Tillage

He defines conservation tillage as "any tillage system that reduces loss of soil or water compared to unridged or clean tillage." These systems leave a soil surface after planting that protects the soil against wind and water erosion.

"This means a rough soil surface, a mulch of plant

residue on the surface or both," he explained.

In the past crop producers have relied on the moldboard plow, followed by one or more diskings and harrowings, to prepare the fields for row crops.

Iowa has more land in agriculture production than any other state in terms of population," the agronomist noted.

"However," he added, "crop producers are not getting their fair share of the attention from Congress. Urban interests predominate on the national level."

"Congressman must take a good look at ag programs in order to benefit the entire nation," he observed.

He continued stressing that conservation efforts

are necessary when one notices some farmers work at "full throttle ahead."

"Those farmers who continue to use the moldboard plow are reducing their secondary tillage either in degree or number of trips. In the past ten years, use of tillage systems that do not involve the moldboard plow has increased.

"Erosion control has to

be practiced," he urged, recalling a devastating period in ag history in 1974 when five days of rain eroded much soil throughout the state.

New Tillage Use

"Erosion is costly, therefore new tillage methods to save soil, time and costs are influencing more farmers

(Please turn to page 8C)

INTERESTED IN DOING SOIL CONSERVATION WORK IN 1978?

Attend an information meeting about cost-sharing and conservation practices on Monday, February 27 at 7:30 p.m. in Williamsburg City Hall.

Iowa Co. Advertiser
2-23-78

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The Iowa County Farmer

Thurs., Jan. 26, 1978

Tillage - -

(Continued from page 7C)

to change their programs," he continued.

"New systems are till planting, slot planting rotary tillage and chisel plowing."

"Till planting is a system which permits row cropping with a limited soil disturbance. Till planting, regarded as one-pass tillage and the planting system, has been especially successful in western Iowa."

"The till planter consists of a wide sweep that runs shallow, clearing a path through the row area of the previous crop. Deflector rows mounted behind the sweep allows plant residue, including corn stubble to be moved out of the planting area and into the row middles.

"Seed is placed in soil formed by a runner-opener, located behind the sweep and pressed by a narrow, semi-pneumatic press wheel covered by the disc or drag chains."

For some farmers, the till planter is a one-pass secondary tillage and planting tool on fields disced the previous fall.

Another one-pass tillage and planting operation is slot planting. The agronomist describes this method as planting seed in a slot created by a colter in an otherwise undisturbed soil surface. Sometimes this system is called no till or zero till.

"Slot width vary from more than three inches for units with a fluted colter to less than an inch for those with a smooth colter."

"Sufficient weight must be provided to assure colter penetration through plant residue and undisturbed soil, the agronomist added, after viewing fields where experienced farmers have started this system."

Seed Cover

"Poor seed cover is found if insufficient penetration results. In contrast, excessive colter penetration may result in a slot depth far deeper than desired planting depth, causing poor germination and emergence," he cautioned.

One of the advantages of slot planting is found in planting row crops in sod without plowing. Sod serves an erosion control function.

"This allows row cropping on slopes too steep for such use with clean tillage. For slot planting there, use of both contact and residual herbicides is necessary for weed control."

Discussing the merits of rotary tillage, Dr. Amemiya said these machines are used in secondary tillage operations, but their fuel and power requirements are high and may be combined with other operations.

"Powered rotary tillers are versatile tools, used for full width and strip tillage. Most machines are equipped with knives which rotate in a vertical plane around a horizontal axis."

"Used at the proper depth, rotor speed and ground speed, powered tillers produce satisfactory seedbeds."

In stressing tillage methods, the agronomist mentioned, water runoff starts earliest after using a moldboard plow.

He added this advise, "In the spring be patient when planting time arrives."

"A lot of problems develop in the soil when you go into wet fields and sock it in deep. Right there is a potential compaction problem."

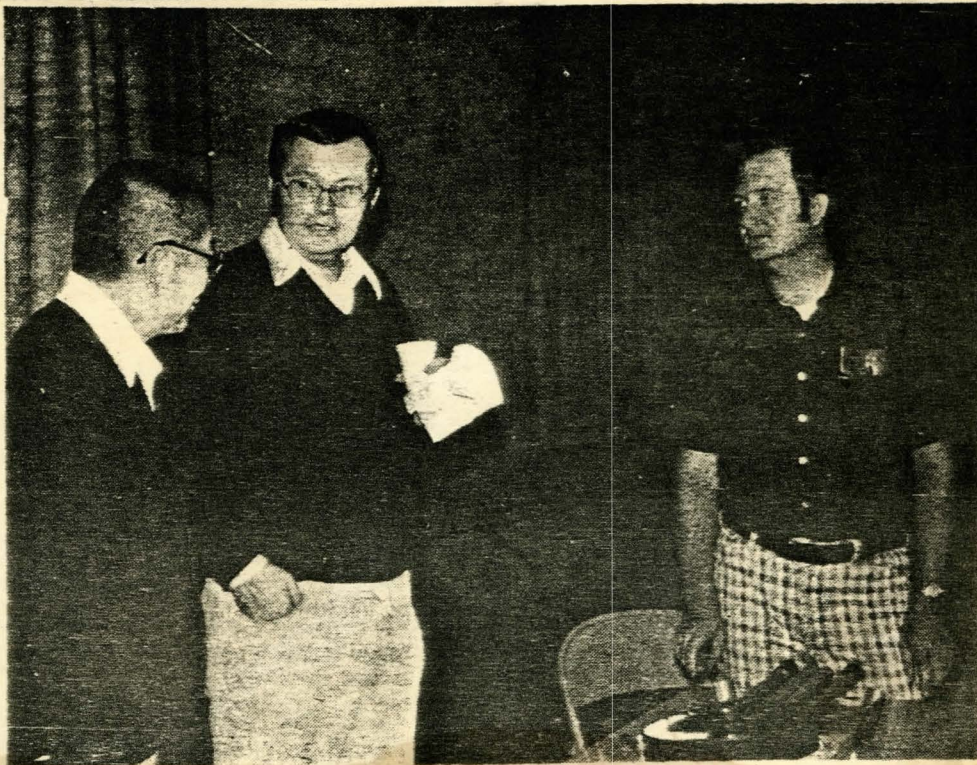
He praised the chisel plow, saying, "This tool offers tremendous opportunities for manipulating the soil while leaving residue on top."

"The chisel plow can also serve as a rake, reducing number of trips across the fields," he added.

In machinery management, he also asked for soil temperature consideration before starting early planting.

"If stands are adequate, early planting can produce increased yield." He noted there are considerable temperature difference between a ridge and a row. This depends on the time of day and row direction, another necessity to ponder when beginning field operations.

"Erosion hurts us as producers because it costs," Dr. Amemiya said.



TALK CONSERVATION TILLAGE — Min Amemiya, extension agronomist, Iowa State university, Ames, visits with George Wheat, Kirkwood college staff member, Cedar Rapids, and

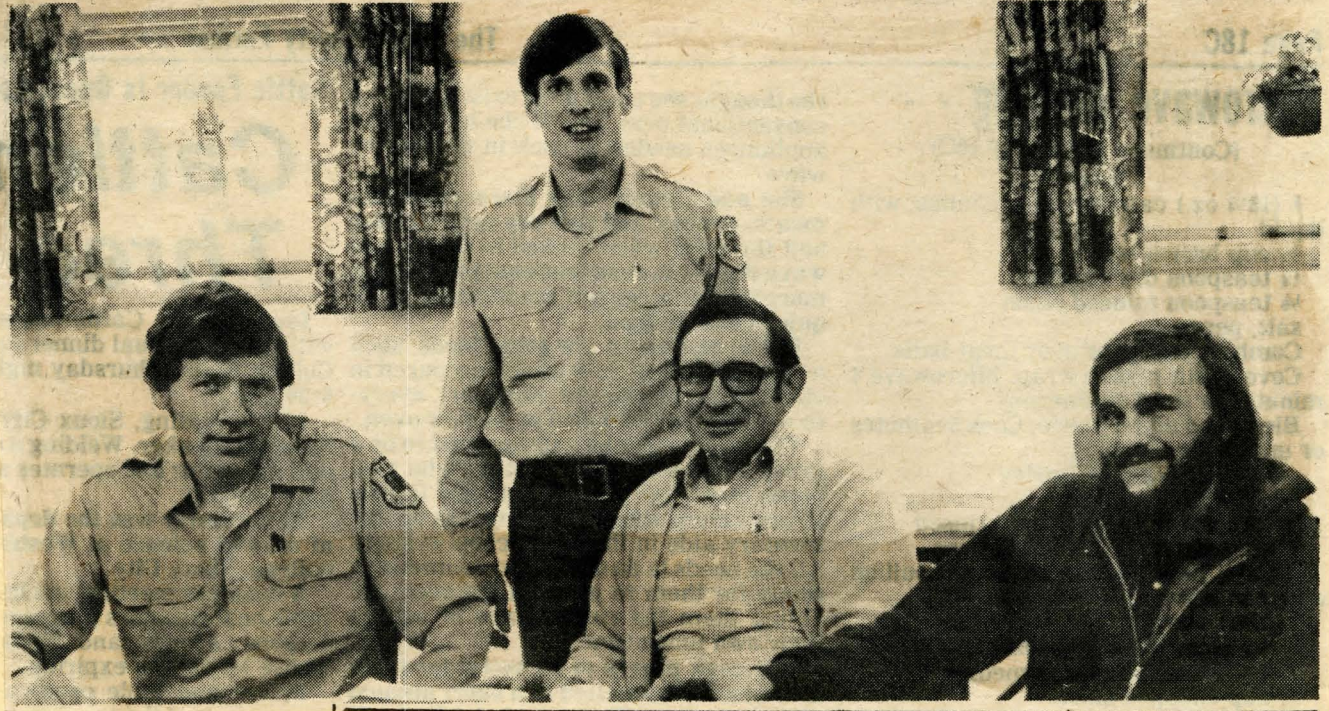
Gerald Gogan, Cedar Rapids, crop production specialist, at a recent ag instruction class at city hall, Williamsburg. Wheat is instructor of veterans' classes at Williamsburg this winter.

Thurs., Jan. 26, 1978

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Page 17C

TALK TREES — County residents who wished to discuss tree planting or developing wildlife habitats or any of a number of related topics were invited to come to the ASCS office Jan. 12 and visit with state forester Bob Hibbs and wildlife biologist Bob Kurtt. The two reported that because of the snowy weather that day few people came than anticipated. Left to right are Kurtt, Hibbs, soil conservationist Harry Bryant, Williamsburg, and Amana Society forester John Hinners, Marengo.



Has Drawn Interest - -

Security Seed Experiments With No-Till Methods

Most people agree that keeping up with trends in agriculture can be a fulltime job. Going one step further, predicting what tomorrow's trends will be, is something just short of a monumental task. That's what representatives of Security Seed company, Williamsburg are attempting, however.

Security Seed is conducting extensive research with their different varieties of corn and soybeans to see how they work with no-tillage production as compared to conventionally tilled production. According to Security Seed representatives, more than 1,250 people walked through their 40 acre test plot last summer to see the no-till operation.

"We're interested in no-till farming because we've seen a lot of dry years in Iowa recently," Don Shepard, regional sales manager for Security Seed company said. "We want to see how our hybrids respond in given situations. We believe that weather patterns will influence agricul-

ture during the next few years, in the way of an increase of no-till."

Shepard explained that several things were done on their 40 acre test plot last summer. One thing they did was plant each variety of corn they sell, with the rows split in the center of the field - one side being conventionally tilled and the other grown with no-till methods. "We ran four rows of each variety the length of the field," Shepard said. "That way, each variety was exposed to both types of crop production."

They also did research to see how different herbicides and herbicide combinations performed with their different varieties of corn and soybeans.

Yields Recorded

Shepard noted that one basic conclusion was that no-till produced corn and soybeans will yield as high as conventionally produced ones. In this trial, for instance, the no-till corn yielded slightly higher on the average.

When 40 different varieties of corn, averaged a yield of 73.7 bushels per acre and the conventionally tilled corn averaged a yield of 55.1 bushels per acre, and the conventionally tilled corn averaged a yield of 55.1 bushels per acre.

All of the corn was stunted because of exceptionally dry conditions in eastern Iowa during the early part of the growing season, but the no-till corn seemed to fare better under this stress, according to Shepard.

"This is a thing that really made the no-till corn look good in this trial," he said. "We had a definite lack of moisture last year. In May, June, and July we had a total of five and three quarter inches of rain, and over half of that came after July 20. I'd say that most of the rain came too late to help the corn crop, except maybe the late varieties."

Security Seed also compared different herbicide tank mixes. They noted how well those mixed worked in different planting situations, and how the varieties of seed performed in conjunction with them.

Unlike the corn, all of the soybeans in this trial were planted with the no-till method. "All of the beans were planted into corn stalks," Shepard said. "All that was done to those stalks was chopping, no disking. I was pleasantly surprised at how well the beans did."

TALKS ABOUT NO-TILL — Don Shepard, regional sales manager for Security Seed in Williamsburg, said his firm has been experimenting with no-till methods of planting at their facility north of Williamsburg. Shepard said the yields with no-till were as good as conventional methods.



The herbicide tank mixes used for weed control in soybeans included Paraquat, Lasso and Lorox; Paraquat, Surflan and Lorox; Paraquat, Dual and Lorox; Paraquat, Dual, and Sencor; and Paraquat, Lasso and Sencor. Ortho Paraquat CL is a nonselective contact herbicide that's used to burn down existing vegetation prior to emergence of the crop.

That allows reduced competition for light and moisture, and because Paraquat leaves no biologically active residue in the soil it can't affect germination of seedlings when applied as directed. The herbicides mixed with Paraquat, such as Lasso, Lorox, or Sencor, are residual herbicides which provide control of weeds that germinate after planting.

The result of this portion of research was that nearly all of these herbicide combinations provided good weed control in no-tillage beans, though some combinations were more suited to the specific weed problem, soil type and other conditions at hand.

The range of yields that was experienced with these herbicide combinations was from 36.4 to 49.7 bushels per acre, despite the extremely dry weather that damaged the crop. The highest yield was experienced when Paraquat, Lasso and Sencor were applied. The herbicides were applied early in this instance, and the soybeans were planted in 19 inch rows. All of the soybeans in this trial were corrected to a moisture level of 12 percent.

No-Till Corn

The herbicide combinations used for weed control in no-till corn included Paraquat and AAtrex; Paraquat, Prowl and AAtrex; Paraquat, AAtrex and Bladex;

(Please turn to page 13C)

Paraquat and Bladex; and Paraquat, Bladex and Lasso.

These herbicide combinations were all competitive for effectiveness of weed control, though some combinations were more effective with the specific conditions. The combination of Paraquat, AAtrex and Princep recorded the highest yield of 116.6 bushels per acre. In that case no-till corn was planted into fallow ground.

The one no-till plot that probably caused more interest than any of the others was the planting of corn into alfalfa sod with no previous tillage. The sod was sprayed Apr. 21 with two different herbicide programs, one was AAtrex and Paraquat, the other was AAtrex, Princep and Paraquat.

The corn was planted on May 4 and sprayed again May 5 with Banvel. The yields on this ground ranged from 90.1 to 101.1 bushels per acre, when other official yields in the area were much, much lower.

While this trial didn't answer every question that Security Seed personnel had about no-till crop production, it was a valuable experience, according to them.

"If farmers can get at least as good a yield with out working the ground, I think they'll go with no-till," Shepard said. "With this trial, we even got better yields with our no-till corn."

Students sound warnings about soil

LITTLE AMANA — Doug Engstrom, 15, of Garrison was named the first place winner in the Region Seven Soil District speech contest here Thursday evening.

"Soil conservation goes through three stages — 'it can't be done,' 'it can be but it isn't practical' and, finally, 'Hey that was a good idea,'" Engstrom said in his speech.

Engstrom noted the various ancient civilizations that experienced soil erosion — Biblical Caanan, the "land of milk and honey"; Syria, with over 100 dead cities on dead land; and China, whose 50-foot-high dikes along the Yellow River failed.

"History can repeat itself," Engstrom said. "In all eras, soil erosion, unless checked, brought empires to ruin."

The speech judges asked Engstrom what a beginning farmer could do to control soil erosion on a limited budget.

"Strip cropping doesn't require anything but the ability to drive around the hill," Engstrom replied.

Engstrom, a sophomore, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Engstrom.

The second place regional speech winner, Peggy Bhalla, 13, of Iowa City described soil as beautiful.

"It's existence means the perpet-

uation of life," she said, noting that all citizens must be involved in preserving the soil.

"This thought can be joined together by the sayings of Woody Guthrie and Abraham Lincoln. Woody Guthrie's 'This land is your land, this land is my land' is 'for the people, by the people, and of the people,' as Abraham Lincoln put it."

Miss Bhalla is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. R.C. Bhalla. Dr. Bhalla is a professor of anatomy at the University of Iowa.

Here are excerpts from speeches given by the other contestants.

Ken Roberts, 17, of Clinton, the third place winner representing Clinton County: "Federal soil money is not getting to the people who need it. Iowa started a soil funding program because federal money was not getting to where it would do the most good."

Burt Lang, 16, of Concord, Mass., representing Cedar County: "Soil represents six inches upon which rests the future of Iowa. Crops can't be grown in the absence of soil." His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Lang.

Karen Timm, 15, of Marion, representing Linn County: If soil erosion continues, it ends up downstream. "I don't want my Dad to end up farming the ocean instead of the land." She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Timm.

Kathy Krafka, 17, of Dysart, representing Tama County: "Sports-minded Americans know that soil, subjected to punishment, is like sending a football player into a game without protective gear." She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Krafka.

Jack Schlichting, 15, of Muscatine, representing Muscatine County: "Conservation tillage can save a farmer \$8 to \$16 an acre in costs, as well as soil and moisture in dry years." He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Schlichting.

Ed Chabal, 17, of Wellman, representing Washington County: "We lose topsoil at a rate of one inch every 20 years. It takes nature 250 to 1,000 years to make that one inch of

soil." He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Chabal.

Jeff Folkmann, 16, of Marengo, representing Iowa County: "Should farmers pay the full cost of conservation? Tax dollars spent on conservation yield dividends for everyone." He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Folkmann.

Larry Shalla of Riverside, the regional commissioner, commended those who helped man soil displays at the Farm Progress Show at Washington in September.

"If the Farm Progress Show were held now, we'd have three good days

to work in the field," Shalla said, referring to the fact that the show was blessed with good harvest weather, but it has rained since then.

Shalla presented awards to Wallace Farmer magazine for allowing the region to have soil conservation displays at the show.

Miles B. Clayton of Brooklyn was recognized as the outstanding soil commissioner of the region. Clayton has contoured 147 of the 231 acres he farms. He's also installed 5,000 feet of diversions on the farm. He is a treasurer and past chairman of his soil district.

Agriculture



—Gazette photo by Al Swegle

The top two winners in the Region Seven Soil Conservation speech contest were Peggy Bhalla, 13, of Iowa City, left, who placed second, and Douglas Engstrom, 15, of Garrison, who placed first.

IOWA COUNTY NEWS



Cite farmers, landowners for conservation in county

Conservation awards were presented to Iowa county farmers, landowners and a teacher Wednesday, Oct. 26, at The Colony Market Place, South Amana. Larry Beyer, Marengo, was master of ceremonies for the awards banquet.

Recognized for a soil conservation program in the landlord-tenant division were Clyde Black, owner, with his tenants, Delmar and Larry Wetjen, all of Marengo, the latter a father-son team. More than a mile of terraces have been installed on the 160 acre Black farm. The Wetjens have been his renters for 8 years.

David McCartney, rural North English, was cited for land improvements on his 415 acres during the last 24 years in the owner-operator division. A mile of terraces, contour farming, sediment basins, 4,000 feet of tiling and crop rotation are among the soil conservation practices McCartney has developed on some hilly land.

The Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award, the first given in Iowa county, went to Sylvester Sherman, 91, Ladora, a retired farmer. Sherman planted a windbreak of Douglas fir and Norway spruce 41 years ago, which are still flourishing on his 160 acre farm in Honey Creek township.

Mary Welsh, Williamsburg Elementary Principal since 1959, was cited by the soil conservation district for her contribution to conservation studies and programs in recent years. Miss Welsh also serves the district as an assistant commissioner. Soil Conservation — Lifeline to Continued Prosperity, the winning district conservation speech by Jeff Folkmann, was a highlight of the program. Folkmann, an Iowa Valley student, advanced to the regional speech contest on Thursday, Nov. 3, at the Seven Villages Restaurant, I-80-Amana exit.

Dan Becker, a sixth grade teacher in the Williamsburg Community School, told of his experiences at the conservation education workshop this fall at Camp Ewalu, near Strawberry Point, which he attended with his wife, Ruth, a third grade teacher.

Presentation of awards was made by Commissioners Greg

Misbach, Marengo; Keith Enochson, Conroy; and Larry Beyer, Marengo, and District Conservationist Harry Bryant.

Scandinavia was the film shown by Louis Winborn, Williamsburg, of the 46 day trip he and his wife took to those countries this summer.

Other district commissioners and Soil Conservation Service personnel are: Commissioners Fred White and Vernon Sandersfeld, Conservation Technician Clem McBride, Conservation Aide Millen Sandersfeld and State Clerk Lennis Doehrmann.

THE IOWA COUNTY

Advertiser

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VOLUME 13 NO. 2

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1977

PUBLISHED BY BULLERS' LITHO

FOR SALE

1 IOWA COUNTY FARM

(TOP HALF WASHED AWAY — SOME CAN BE SEEN AT THE SAND BAR IN THE IOWA RIVER. THE GOODY WENT ON TO THE MISSISSIPPI AND THE GULF OF MEXICO.)

ALL FIELDS SUITABLE TO WASH

This Farm has been handled on a Corn, Corn, Soybeans, Corn, Popcorn rotation.

- 7 Iowa bridges make all fields accessible (by Pack Mule).
- 17 Medium-to-large Gullies - doing fine - will be larger by time of sale.
- 1 Empty House, doors and windows missing, lean-to, 2 rooms and a path.
- 1 Leaning Barn to be moved on account of lack of storage for manure.
- 77 Bales of Mixed Grasses, mostly Tickle Grass.
- 72 Bales of Rag Weed, Sour Dock, Cocklebur Hay. (No Rain)
- 4 Mineral Deficient Cows. They are gentle, used to being tailed up in the winter. Guaranteed to have rickets and no calves.
- 2 Springing Heifers — Would spring over the barn to be fed.
- 1¼ Mile of Fence with plenty of baline wire for repairs.
- 1 Sow and 2 Pigs; would eat anything.
- 17 Hens, used to roosting in trees.

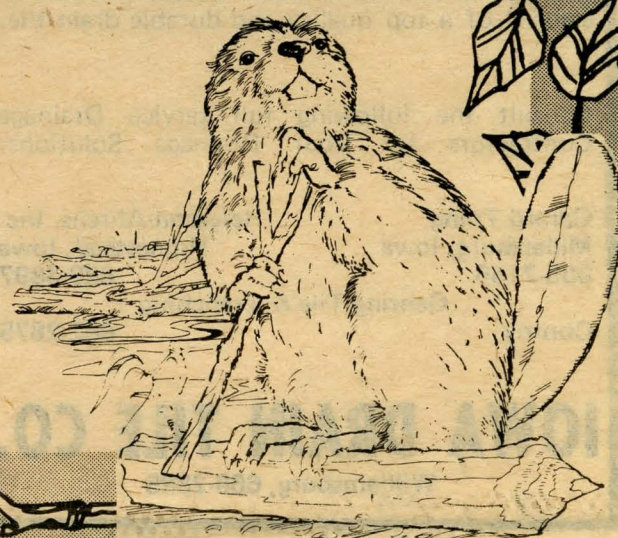
Other articles too worthless to mention.

Reason for selling: Owner going to work for a CONSERVATION FARMER who has taken care of his soil.

WILL YOUR FARM EVER BE IN THE SAME CONDITION AS THE ONE DESCRIBED ABOVE? WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO SOMETHING TO STOP THIS DESTRUCTIVE WASTE OF OUR MOST PRECIOUS NATURAL RESOURCE THE SOIL?

JOIN HANDS WITH YOUR
Iowa County
Soil Conservation District

CONSERVATION DOES NOT COST — IT PAYS!





HONORED FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS — Recognition was given to these Iowa county residents for efforts in conservation programs at a banquet Wednesday night, Oct. 26 at the Colony Market Place, South Amana. David McCartney, North English, front row, received the owner-operator award for work in the past 24 years on his farm; Sylvester Sherman, a retired Ladora farmer, was given the Izaak Walton league award

for a shelterbelt planted in 1936; and Mary Welsh, elementary principal at Williamsburg, received a citation for her conservation studies program. In the back are Delmar and Larry Wetjen who rent the farm owned by Clyde Black, far right, all Marengo. They were winners in the landlord-tenant category for land improvements.

Izaak Walton Award Given -

Farmers, Land Owners Cited For Conservation

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"Lifeline to Continued Prosperity" a winning county conservation speech by Jeff Folkmann was a highlight of the program. Folkmann, an Iowa Valley student, will advance to the regional speech contest, Thursday, Nov. 3 at Seven Villages restaurant, interstate 80 at the Amana interchange.

Dan Becker, a sixth grade Williamsburg teacher, told of his experiences at a weekend conservation workshop this fall at Camp Ewalu, near Strawberry Point, which he attended with his wife,

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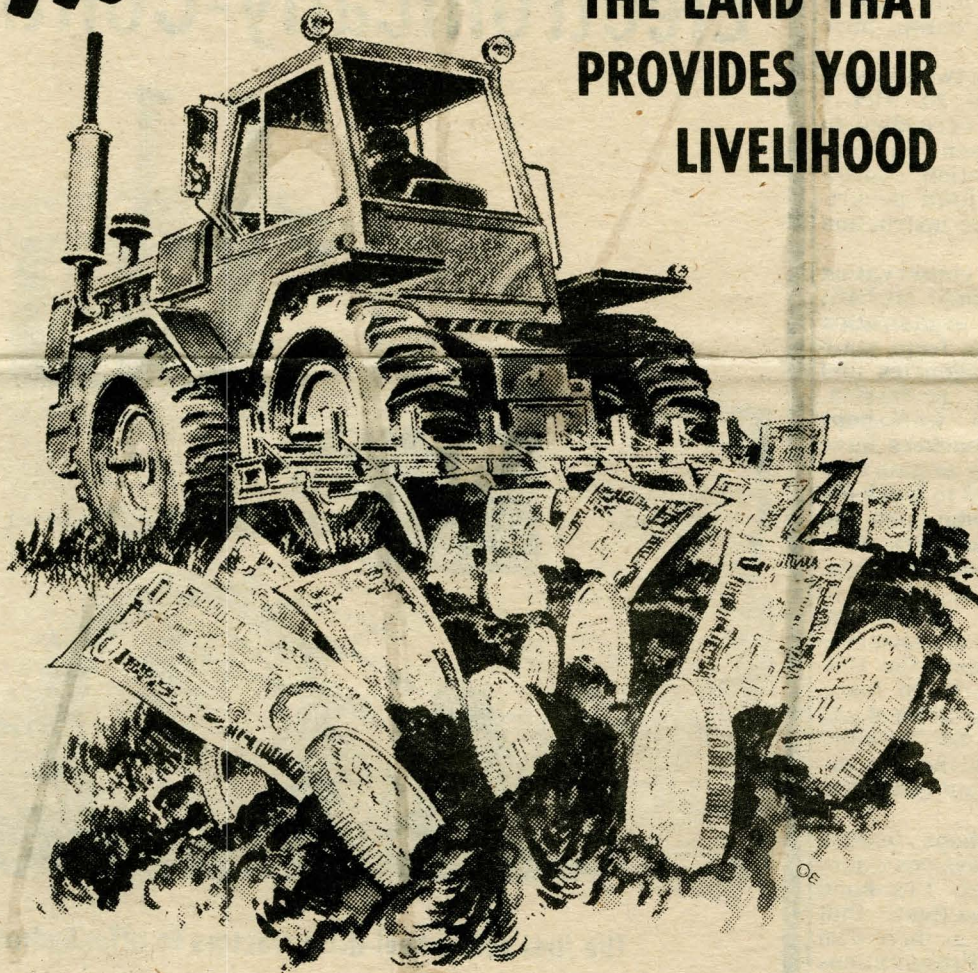
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"Scandinavia" was the film shown by Louis Winborn, Williamsburg, of the 46 day trip he and his wife took to those countries this summer.

Also planning the program were other district commissioners, Fred White, Parnell; Vernon Sandersfeld, Homestead; and Clem McBride, conservation technician. Milen Sandersfeld, Williamsburg, is an aide for the SCS, while McCartney is an assistant commissioner.

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Cedar Rapids Gazette 10-14-77

Speech winners

WILLIAMSBURG — Lynn Petersen of Williamsburg and Jeff Folkmann of Marengo topped the Iowa County soil conservation district's speech and essay contest here Tuesday evening.

Petersen received a \$10 top prize for winning the essay contest, while Folkman received a \$20 top prize for winning the speech contest. Petersen is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Petersen, and Folkmann is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Folkmann.

The essay contest is for those in seventh and eighth grades, and the speech contest is for those in high school.

Brian Enochson of Conroy and Warren Jordan of Deep River placed second and third respectively in the essay contest. Lamar Shima of Marengo and David Dermody of Williamsburg placed second and third in the speech contest.

Cedar Rapids Gazette 10-16-77

Marengo FFA tops contest

PARNELL — Arlan Karsten of Marengo and Neal Dietz of Keota earned individual honors in the three-county Future Farmers of America soil judging contest here Thursday.

Karsten topped the senior division with a 250 point total, while Dietz topped the junior division with a 277 point total.

The Iowa Valley FFA chapter at Marengo won the team title in both the junior and senior division.

Marengo FFA members placed first, third, fourth and fifth in individual competition in senior competition. Marengo FFA members Ken Ward place third, Scott Stanerson placed fourth and Lamar Shima placed fifth.

Fifty FFA members participated in the soil judging contest on 13 junior teams and 5 senior teams. The contest is held for FFA chapters in Johnson, Iowa, and Washington counties.

Has First Conservation Practices In County - -

Sylvester Sherman Was A Soil Conservation Innovator

By Doris McCartney

A shelter belt of Douglas fir and blue Norway spruce trees hand planted 41 years ago on the 160 acre Sylvester Sherman farm, four miles northwest of Ladora, is still flourishing.

Straight and full, the trees reach 60 to 75 feet and are two feet in diameter. Planted at little cost, their asset to the farm is three fold: as a windbreak, wildlife habitat and to enhance the farm scene.

Sherman will receive the first Izaak Walton league award for his shelter belt, at the annual soil conservation service awards banquet Oct. 26.

The windbreak, running 20 rods east and in equal length west, screens the century old farm house from barn lots in a setting

along a gravel crossroads in Honey Creek township.

During 1936 in the midst of the great drought years, the Shermans regularly watered the trees by hauling barrels in a skid at least twice each week.

"Sounds like a lot of work to folks today, all that hand labor, but we wanted the trees to get a good start", Sherman, now 91, reflects.

His wife, the former Gertrude Klein and now deceased, was his dependable helper in watering that shelter belt. Regular cultivating for weed control also was a key to establishing the windbreak.

Through the years, Sherman has continued to cut out undergrowth and weeds among the trees, which border the house yard on the west along a gravel road.

Sherman was not only

successful with early tree planting, but also in the first soil conservation measures he introduced in Iowa county. According to records at the soil conservation office, Williamsburg, Sherman was the first SCS cooperator in Iowa county.

As a soil conservation innovator, Sherman planted the first alfalfa field in the county in 1925.

"Some of my neighbors suggested I had planted quack grass," Sherman recalls with a grin.

Land Improvements

His early land improvements were planting brome grass, contouring, building terraces and an attempt to strip crop.

He is credited also for being the first county farmer to try phosphate fertilizer and to drill in corn, instead

of using the earlier method of check-wires.

Back in 1936 Sherman also installed 3,150 feet of terraces. From the gravel road, the twin terrace lines are still evident, where this fall, cattle are grazing.

All his conservation improvements were done with horse power or were by manual labor. Sherman waited until 1940 to buy his first tractor.

Almost every day in good weather, the retired farmer makes a trip to his farm to do some work. He gets about with a cane. Once at the farm he either walks or rides the tractor he maintains there to head to weedy spots, digging them up with a spade or cutting them off.

According to soil conservation service files, around seven miles of terraces

have been built on the Sherman farm over the past 40 years.

A large grade stabilization structure built by works progress administration (WPA) workers is still functioning well today.

About seven acres of grassed waterways have been established and maintained throughout the years. All fields are contoured also.

The Sherman farm was the scene of one of the earliest soil conservation tours in this area in the early 1930's. A report reveals, "On this farm the tour members had the opportunity to see terraces, strip-cropping, contour drilled corn and the results of the use of phosphate fertilizer."

Plans for the land im-

provements on the farm were drawn in 1937 and started the following spring. Strip-cropping began in an old meadow. The three terraces were begun in the fall of 1936.

Planted On Contour

Beginning in 1938 corn fields were planted on the contour so the cooperator could develop his program more rapidly.

Before the law authorizing soil conservation districts was passed, the east central soil conservation association was organized with the extension service and Farm Bureau providing the leadership some 40 years ago.

Other agencies or companies assisting with the SCS were Tennessee Valley authority (TVA), agri-

(Please turn to page 12D)

Sherman - -

(Continued from page 5D) cultural adjustment administration (AAA), farm security administration, the county board of supervisors, Quaker Oats company, Cedar Rapids; and Smith-Hughes instructors.

Allan B. Kline, who later became the state and then American Farm Bureau president, headed the soil conservation association at that time.

Paul M. Burson was the assistant extension soil conservationist when the Sherman improvements were started.

Farm History

As he works, Sylvester remembers the history of the farm and how he hopes still another generation in the future will have the opportunity to farm his place.

His father was seven when the first Shermans arrived from New Hampshire to settle in Iowa county in 1850.

When Sylvester was 19, his father died. For the next six years, he operated the place with his mother before striking out in farming alone.

Beginning in 1911, he farmed this 160 acres until seven years ago, when he rented it to his son, Harold,

who now lives at Victor. Now Harold plans to retire so the Dean Wards, Ladora, will take over the farm operation.

For the past year, Sylvester has made his home with the Wards. Naomi Ward is his granddaughter. Her mother, the Shermans daughter, is deceased. The Wards, who live two and one-half miles northeast of Ladora, farm 520 acres.

"They are hard workers," Sherman comments about his granddaughter and her husband, who raise hogs and work long days.

"Some nights they don't eat supper until 10 p.m., but they take good care of me," he adds with a smile.

The one mistake Sherman readily admits in his early soil conservation efforts was in allowing the planting of black locust trees.

"They were supposed to control gully erosion, but once we planted them, we couldn't get rid of them. They keep spreading. It's a constant battle to chop out the locust," he says.

The Douglas firs are his favorite trees in the windbreak, they are fuller and more colorful. He would have preferred to have had all firs, but a few Norway

spruce were mixed into the order. The trees were shipped in as seedlings from Ames.

Started Alfalfa

In the early years, seeding clover and timothy for hay crops was the general practice. Those grasses, however, did not survive for more than one growing season.

Sylvester found alfalfa produced three cuttings of hay, while clover provided only two cuttings.

While he has always been a firm believer in soil conservation programs, Sylvester never served on the county board. His son Harold was a long time member of the Iowa county soil conservation service and served as board chairman.

Back in 1927 when Sylvester tried that first

alfalfa and shortly after that when he planted brome grass, he took some ribbing from the neighbors.

In the dry years, he wasn't too satisfied with the strip-cropping instituted on the farm. "The grasshoppers were thick in the alfalfa and the land couldn't be grazed then."

Sherman says his education was limited to ten grades. He went to the Ladora high school as youth, after completing rural school.

"I was a good student in all subjects but spelling, but I've always kept reading to keep up my education," he comments. Sherman served on the first Maringo night school council, long a popular program for adults.

Originally, he joined

Farm Bureau when the organization started and missed membership only during 1921-1924 when he lived in Colorado. He

initially joined 4-H when the clubs formed in Poweshiek county because there were no sheep or lamb projects in Iowa county.



CITED FOR SHELTER BELT — Sylvester Sherman, 91, retired Ladora farmer, will be cited Oct. 26 by the Iowa county soil conservation service for a tree shelter belt he hand planted 41 years ago.

Uses Chisel Plow - -

Picked Up The Tab For Many Of His Conservation Projects

By Doris McCartney
Soil conservation practices have solved a lot of problems for David McCartney who has farmed the past 24 years in Iowa county.

After moving near Millersburg in 1954 from the level lands in Washington county, he had to adapt his farming methods to rolling hills.

As a result, when the soil conservation service (SCS) issues annual awards later this month, McCartney will receive the long time co-operator recognition for projects installed on his 340 acre farm in addition to another 75 acre farm nearby.

Initially terraces were installed by his own efforts in 1955 on a hilly pasture. He plowed and disked for the terraces to prevent hillside washing.

Seeding the pasture was done three successive years during a drought in the 1950's before the grass flourished.

When this effort was successful, a former owner of the farm, the late Dr. Harry Dougherty, suggested the land would support a cow-calf herd with proper management.

Dr. Dougherty had owned the place in the 1940's and had cleared a lot of the land for improvements.

As McCartney began planning for a cow herd, he designated natural ravines to be left intact to hold the soil and for cattle and wildlife shelters the year around.

In 1955 William Gahring was hired to build the first small pond on the west side

of the farm, and another pond was added later.

Ponds are back up water supplies for the streams, which cut through the farm and are kept ice free all winter for the cows.

Contour Method

Hills are farmed on the contour to prevent runoff.

Grass strips on the side hills have been left untouched to halt ravages of erosion. A three year crop rotation is maintained.

About 14 years ago, McCartney established the first terraces on the farm planned by the SCS, and which through the years have extended to nearly a mile.

In May, 4,000 feet of tile were installed to terraces as a major project. These were open at waterways to route water underground with a link to new dry ponds. Dry ponds are also called sediment basins.

The tile outlet terrace system is a decided advantage in reducing sheet erosion on cropland fields, McCartney comments. On the east farm, tiling was established four years ago.

A chisel plow, purchased three years ago, has replaced his moldboard plow for soil management.

"I use the chisel plow to leave the soil surface rough, and the crop residue remains on the surface to reduce the force of rain," he says.

"No fall plowing is done since the stock herd has winter grazing on all fields," he adds. "This helps leave a good mulch from the harvested crop on the land surface as long as possible."

For the past two years he has not raised any soybeans, a crop which tends to loosen the soil for erosion.

Paid For Improvements

McCartney has paid for many of his bills for land improvements, including the installation of a third pond built July 9 this year on the east farm in a natural spot.

Another improvement this year was the clearing of dead trees and old brush on 30 acres to renovate a pasture.

"The cleared acres were then sub-soiled deep on the contour to prevent soil loss in the event of heavy rains."

"Reseeding on pastures was completed before late summer rains," he mentions.

For more than 20 years, McCartney and Kristin regular bulldozing has been

done for various land improvements, he notes.

For land improvements, he cultivates across the slopes and on the contour; doesn't plow drains or extremely steep slopes and provides sod waterways where needed.

Three years ago, he established a dry pond at his own expense in a pasture east of the buildings to remedy another washing area.

Most of the pastures on the farms have been reseeded to what McCartney feels is a more desirable mixture of orchard, brome and oats, which also proves to be better pasture cover in reducing erosion.

Corn was planted on 80 acres this year. Nearly 80 acres in hay was packaged into large bales for the first time, with his own equipment this year.

A custom operator had been hired in the four previous years to create the large bales, while McCartney harvested a supply of small round bales.

He has never sold any hay, believing that cows are kept in better shape by feeding extra winter rations.

Cow-Calf Herd

He counts on his son John, North English, for some part time help and occasionally has exchange help from a number of neighbors.

His crossbred cow-calf herd, Hereford-Angus-Simmental, is the hub of the farming operation. Calves are generally fed out at market weights.

While McCartney was in the hog business until three years ago, he quit because of the lack of up-to-date facilities. At one time, he sold purebred Hampshire hogs.

The cow-calf herd is checked twice daily most of the year and kept on range. The cows are not kept at the buildings.

He believes the herd remains in better health, when they are sheltered in natural protection on pasture during storms and finds a decided advantage in that manure is left on the fields.

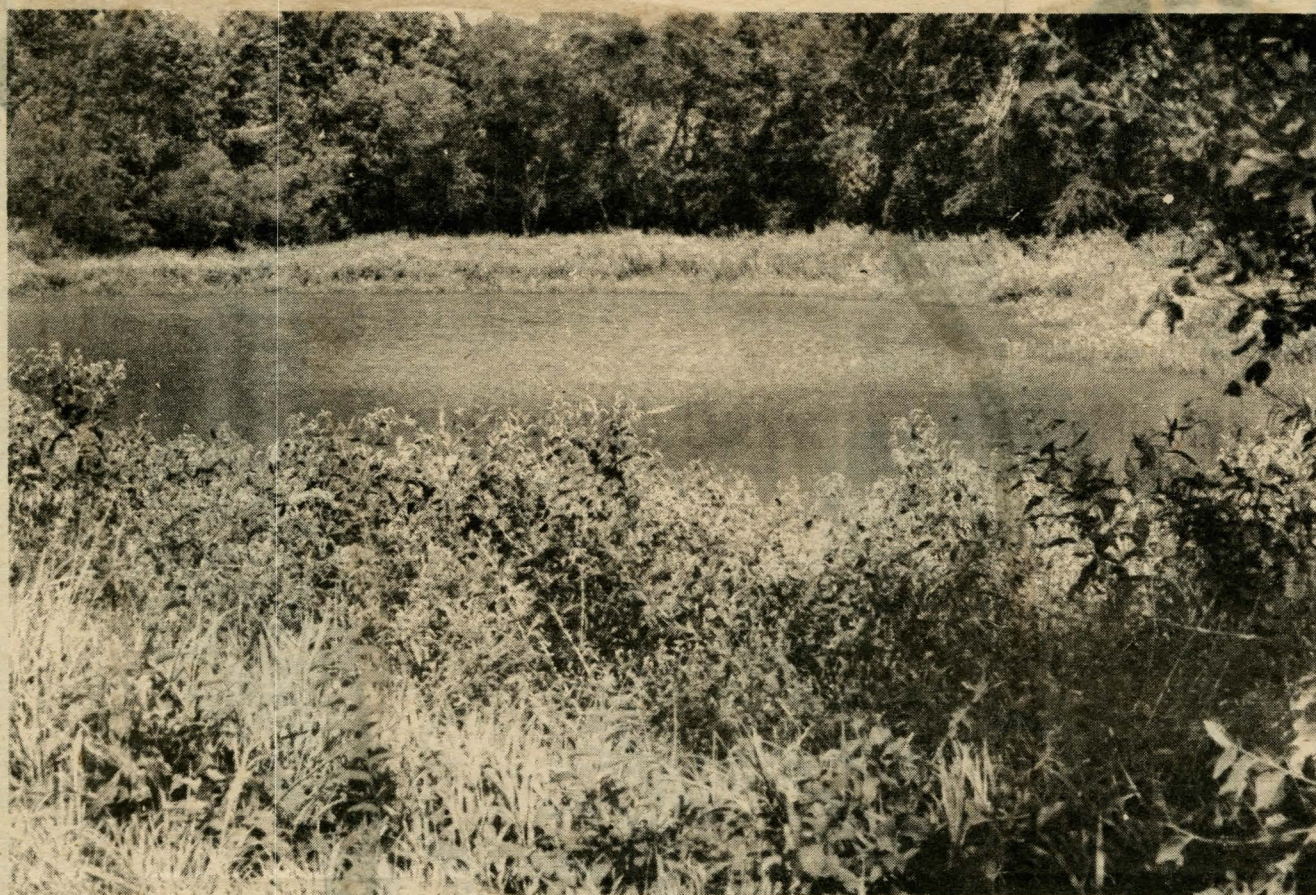
McCartney, who has served as an assistant commissioner for the Iowa county SCS since September 1969, was a Dayton township 4-H leader nine years and has been active in the Farm Bureau for 20 years. He is a charter member of Iowa County Cattle-men's organization.

His family also includes his wife, Doris, a daughter, Mrs. Dennis (Elaine) Clarke, Waterloo; two other sons Joe, Cedar Rapids; and Eric Larson, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and two granddaughters, Kerry and Kristin Clarke.

FARMS HILLS — With soil management practices, hills in Dayton township produce good crops as evidenced by this scene on the David McCartney farm.

BUILT PONDS — Three ponds are among the conservation projects installed by David McCartney, rural

North English, on his farms in Dayton and English townships.



Named 1976 Conservation Contest Winner - -

Pence Encourages Land Conservation

By Jodi DeMeulenaere

"This land is all we have, it's something we can't manufacture. The land belongs to everybody and is everybody's concern," said Russell Pence, rural Keota on the type of attitude he feels everyone, farmers and townspeople alike, should adopt toward conservation.

Pence, who since 1955 has been steadily working to improve conservation of his land, was named the over-

all winner of the Iowa county soil conservation service conservation contest, an annual contest set up by the state department of soil conservation for each county in Iowa.

According to records in the Iowa county SCS office, Pence was named the 1976 winner having completed the following conservation measures on his 412 acre farm: 147 acres contour farming, three acres grass waterways, 247 acres terrace crop land, two ponds, 54,000 feet drainage tile,

9,000 feet open ditch drainage and use of conservation tillage on crop land.

Much of the problem in conservation lies in the government, according to Pence. Rural area residents compose only about 6 percent of the voting public and, since they compose such a small minority, politicians "don't have anything to get on the box about" regarding needs of the rural population.

Cost Share
Pence feels that the

POND IS CONSERVATION MEASURE — Russell Pence, the 1976 winner of the Iowa County Soil Conservation Service contest, dredged two ponds on his land as soil conservation measures. Pence has been involved with conservation projects on his farm since 1955.

Many farmers, however, made a living, and so can receive less than that. Pence received \$2,500 or 10 percent cost sharing funds for a \$25,000 terracing project on his farm.

One of the ironies of government funding, according to Pence, is that thousands of dollars are allocated for flood walls and dredging projects for the Mississippi river, money, according to Pence, that would not have to be spent if means were taken to "have the soil where it should be."

Flood prevention should start on the farm, Pence stated. If the government could provide funds for landowners to implement conservation programs, the "rain drop could be stopped where it falls" and hence significantly halt the heavy flow of water to the Mississippi.

There is no excuse so far as Pence is concerned, for failing to implement conservation measures. The problem is becoming severe enough that he thinks laws should be passed to force farmers who refuse to take conservation measures to do so.

For farmers whose excuse is the high cost of implementing conservation measures, Pence explains, there are long term Farmers Home administration and bank loans in addition to government cost sharing programs.

One additional benefit is that conservation measures increase yield. Land on Pence's farm on which terracing measures were taken has shown a 10 percent yield increase.

Pence believes that if farmers take measures now to conserve their land, there should never be a problem with food production. The land, along with fertilizer, will survive.

"We can't get them (the government) in the notion of spending this money for these programs," Pence continued.

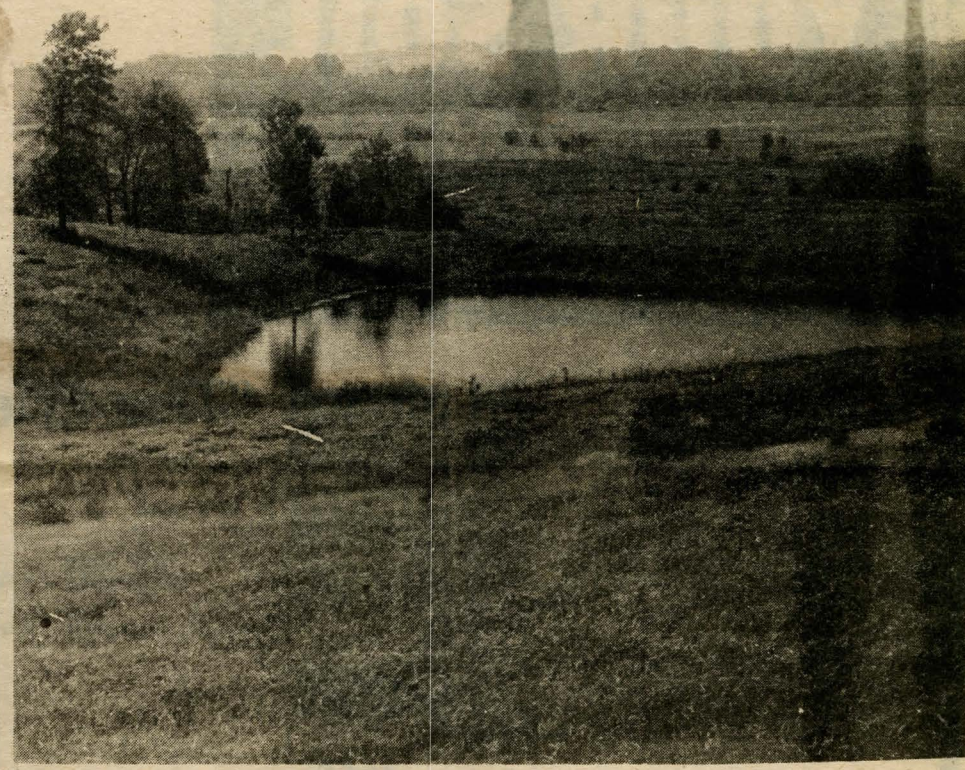
According to the Iowa county SCS office, farmers can get up to 50 percent cost sharing from the government for conservation projects, with the average percentage of cost sharing running at about 35 percent.

The problem lies not solely with the government, however, Pence added. Landowners sometimes simply refuse to take conservation measures, some whose reasoning is "My father and grandfather farmed this way and no reversal.



WAS RECOGNIZED — Russell Pence, rural Keota, was the 1976 winner in the Iowa county soil conservation contest in the owner-operator division. He

looks over the land on which he has practiced conservation methods 22 years. He now rents out the land.



BUILDS POND — The construction of two ponds on the Russell Pence farm in Greene township were part of the reason he won the Iowa County Soil

Conservation Service contest last year. Pence has been involved with conservation projects on his farm for 22 years.



STRIP FARM — Larry Wetjen, in foreground, and his father, Delmar, both rural Conroy, alternate rows of corn and oats on land they rent, in background, from Clyde Black, also rural Conroy. The strips of oats intermingled with the corn, help cut ero-

sion and hold moisture in that the grass holds back water that would run over the dirt in which corn is planted. They also contour all their corn, so that moisture runs along the sides of hills, rather than washing soil to the bottom.



TERRACED LAND — Clyde Black, owner of a 160 farm rented by the Wetjens, terraced the land several years before the Wetjens rented it. Black rents the land for a lower rate which according to Larry Wetjen, allows

them to conserve the land and still make a profit. Black is concerned about conservation, and believes one day, all farmers will have to put conservation practices into effect.

Use Terracing, Strip Farming - - Good Neighbors Win Conservation Award

By Alan Sieve

A New England farmer once said "good fences make good neighbors," but for Delmar and Larry Wetjen and Clyde Black, all rural Conroy, tearing down fences and working together to conserve cropland has been beneficial to both.

Black and the Wetjens have won the 1977 Iowa county soil conservation award in the landlord-tenant category.

Fences were taken off of a 160 acre farm Black owns in section 20, Hilton township and nearly one mile of terraces were built, according to Harry Bryant, soil conservation service, Williamsburg. Renting the farm, the Wetjens have further worked to conserve the land by strip farming, alternating corn and oats, contouring, rotating crops and keeping grass water-

sidehills, mainly to prevent erosion, Larry Wetjen, Delmar's son, explained. On top and bottom, continuous corn is grown. Having strips of oats alternating with the corn prevents water from washing soil downhill as it might with the bare dirt in which corn is planted. All corn is contoured so that water will follow rows rather than wash soil away.

Having the strips of oats provides straw too for the bedding in the Wetjen's farrow to finish hog operation where they raise an estimated 2,000 head per year, and When oats are harvested in mid-July, Wetjen said they can get the field ready for corn the next year before this year's corn is out. He and his father haul manure and chisel plow the field in the fall. Each year, strips where oats were planted are rotated to corn and vice versa.

Their landlord is willing to charge them less rent than many others. Larry Wetjen said, allowing them to make a profit while using the conservation techniques. When a landlord is charging a rent of \$90 to \$130 per acre, the renter can't afford to be a conservationist and maintain the land, Wetjen said. He has to put in enough crops to get enough out to pay the rent and make a profit, he added.

Black agreed that he could probably get more rent for the land, but said it's worth it to him to receive less rent and have the land kept in shape.

Bryant added it is hard to find a landlord and tenant who are willing to partici-

Thurs., Sept. 15, 1977

Conservation - -

(Continued from page 19)

Where they're rotating corn and oats, a weaker herbicide must be used, which increases the weed control problem, he continued. Pests are a problem too. He cited that pheasants hide in the grass on terraces, and dig up and eat newly planted seed corn in the spring.

Maintenance

Terraces must also be mowed and maintained; if dirt is washed out of a terrace, it must be fixed right away, lest the benefit of the terrace be lost he said.

In spite of the problems of maintaining terraces and strip farming, there are advantages to the conservation practices, although they are long run, Wetjen said. He discounts any major difference in yield, at least in the short run. A difference can be seen in 10 to 20 years, in that less topsoil is lost. By keeping a layer of black dirt on top of the clay, the ground is mellower and more fertile with which to work, he feels. For the owner, the value of the land increases, and the land is saved for future generations, he adds.

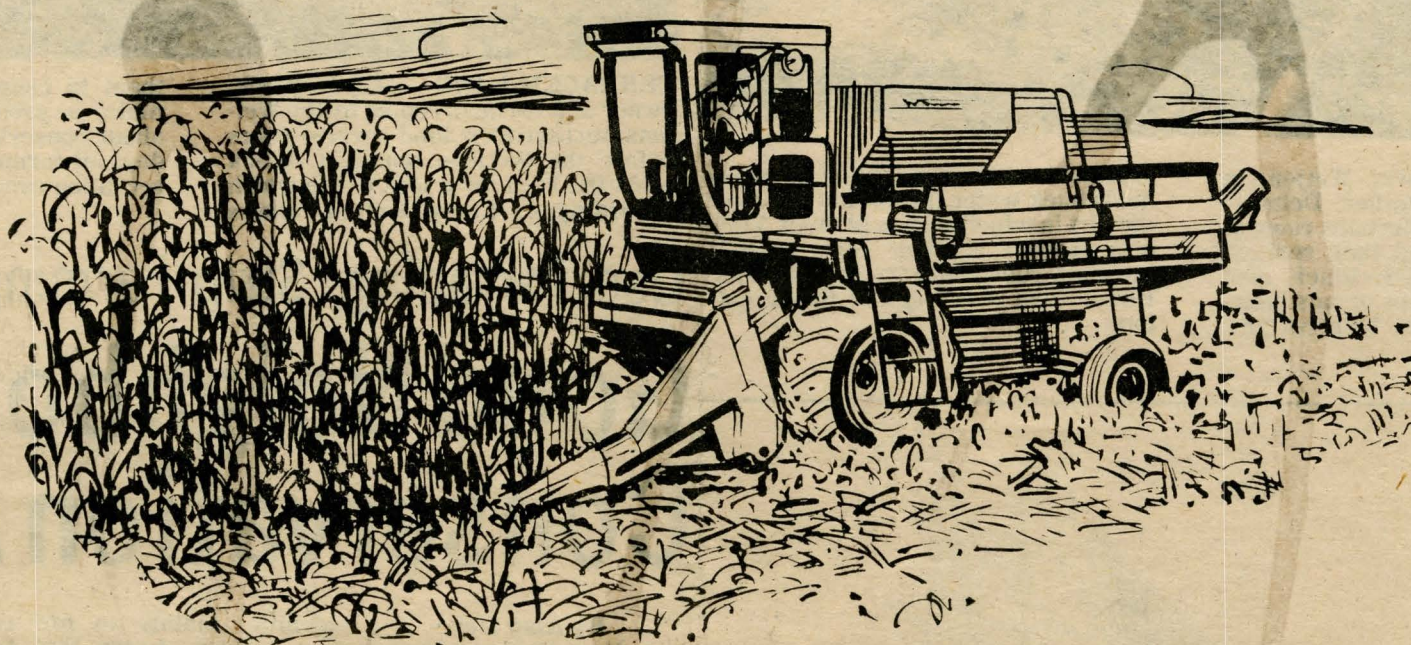
The ground might not need as much fertilizer with the conservation, Wetjen said, but farmers would probably not decrease the amount they apply. There probably would be more nitrogen, potash and organic matter in the ground.

On other land, the Wetjens contour all corn and have constructed two ponds, one from which water is piped into their farrowing house. Last spring, they constructed two dry ponds. All of the ponds were constructed with assistance from the soil conservation service. If more money were available in the county, Wetjen feels perhaps more persons would become interested in undertaking conservation practices.

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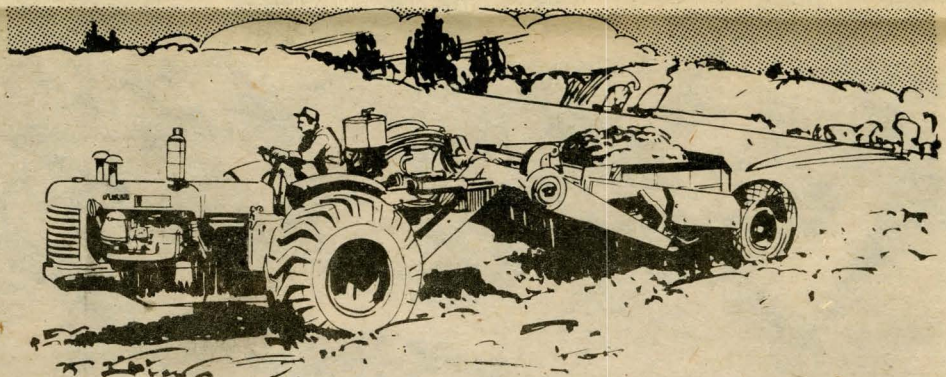
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PERFORMED COUNTY FLIGHTS — Three planes were in the air over Iowa county Sunday so farmers could observe crop conditions and land improvements. Flights were sponsored by the Iowa county Soil Conservation Service, Williamsburg. Greg Misbach, Maren-go, was chairman of project when 84 registered to fly.

Pilots were Tom Kinzenbaw, and Dick Archer, Williamsburg; and Edgar Folkmann, Conroy. Planes were grounded one hour in the early afternoon because of a thunder storm. Flights originated from the Folkmann air field. Photos by Doris McCartney.

Will Conduct Meetings - -

Iowa County Watershed Selected For Study

Fred White, Parnell, chairman of the Iowa county resource coordinating committee, has announced a special watershed study to be conducted in Iowa county later this year. This is part of non-point pollution planning activities required by section 208 of the federal water pollution control act.

The 19,744 acre Old Man's creek watershed northwest of Williamsburg was selected for special study because it closely typifies soil, climatic and topographic features for most of a large portion of east central Iowa.

The Iowa department of soil conservation will conduct watershed meetings and interviews with farmers in order to gather information about cropping systems, soil and water conservation practices, pesticide use and other characteristics of the watershed.

Farmers' reactions to proposed methods of pollution control, officially termed best management practices (BMPs) as well as their plans for the future of their farms are sought. Meetings and interviews will require the cooperation of area landowners, according to White, because information obtained reflect conditions as they exist.

Data obtained from the

detailed watershed studies will provide citizen groups such as the Iowa county resource coordinating committee with the information necessary to formulate recommendations for BMPs and other means of dealing with nonpoint pollution. Each recommendation will be a part of the overall water quality management program developed for Iowa through the 208 process.

Section 208 requires each state be responsible for developing plans to control pollution of water resources. The required water quality management program considers separately those water pollutants that originate from a point source, such as an outlet from a sewage treatment plant, those that are non-point, such as agricultural runoff.

All of Iowa's 99 counties have organized coordinating committees like the one in Iowa county, White said. The local groups were organized with a series of open meetings last year. Officers and representatives elected by participants serve as spokesmen for the county groups and

call additional public meetings as needed. Input from the county level is channeled up through a series of conservancy district and basin level advisory committees.

All of Iowa county lies in the Iowa-Cedar river conservancy district, one of six major river basins in the state. The western Iowa and the Iowa-Cedar river conservancy districts are the only two for which in-depth studies are being completed during the 208 planning process.

The Old Man's creek is one of six watershed areas in Iowa selected for detailed study. The other five are East Soldier river, Crawford county, northwest of Denison; Spring creek, Franklin county, north of

Hampton; Cold Water creek, Cerro Gordo county, south of Mason City; Unnamed creek in Lyon county, west of Rock Rapids; and Montgomery creek, Clay county, south of Spencer.

For more information about watershed studies contact either the Iowa county soil conservation district or the Iowa department of soil conservation, Des Moines. Information about the 208 planning program is available from all local soil conservation district offices.

Farmers whose land is within the boundaries of the watershed study are encouraged to attend a meeting at the Farm Bureau office, Williamsburg, July 27 or Aug. 4 at 8 p.m.

Is In English Township - -

Koehns Use Farm Pond For Conservation And Recreation

By Loretta Hanson

Nestled in a hollow in the western part of English township is the pond Ed Koehn says he "always dreamed about".

He explains that until he purchased the farm on which the pond is located in 1970, he didn't have any land with the proper formations to build a pond; however, the land purchase enabled him to build the pond in 1973.

The pond was cost-shared by the county soil conservation service (SCS) and is primarily, Koehn said, "a soil erosion control device." It sees service, too, as a family recreation area.

The total cost of the pond, he added, was about \$12,000 with the (SCS) paying about \$2,500 of the total.

"It ended up more expensive than I thought," he remarked.

Conservation Aid

The land on which the pond is located was not farmable, Koehn continued and after talking with the SCS officials, he decided to use the two gullies and the natural springs in the area to aid in building the pond.

The pond, Koehn said, contains about four to five acres of water and is about 32 feet deep at the deepest part. It drains 80 acres;

Koehn remarked that SCS recommends each acre of water in a pond drain 20 acres of land.

Koehn commented that erosion into the pond has been stopped by two dry ponds on either side of the pond and a slough. Plastic tile has also been laid near the pond and covered over to aid in slowing down the water.

All the conservation devices aid in slowing down the water and forcing the silt to drop before it gets into the pond.

Koehn added there are three to four inches of silt in the dry ponds and points out that silt would be in the pond if the dry ponds hadn't stopped it.

"There is a tremendous hold back on the silt," he remarked.

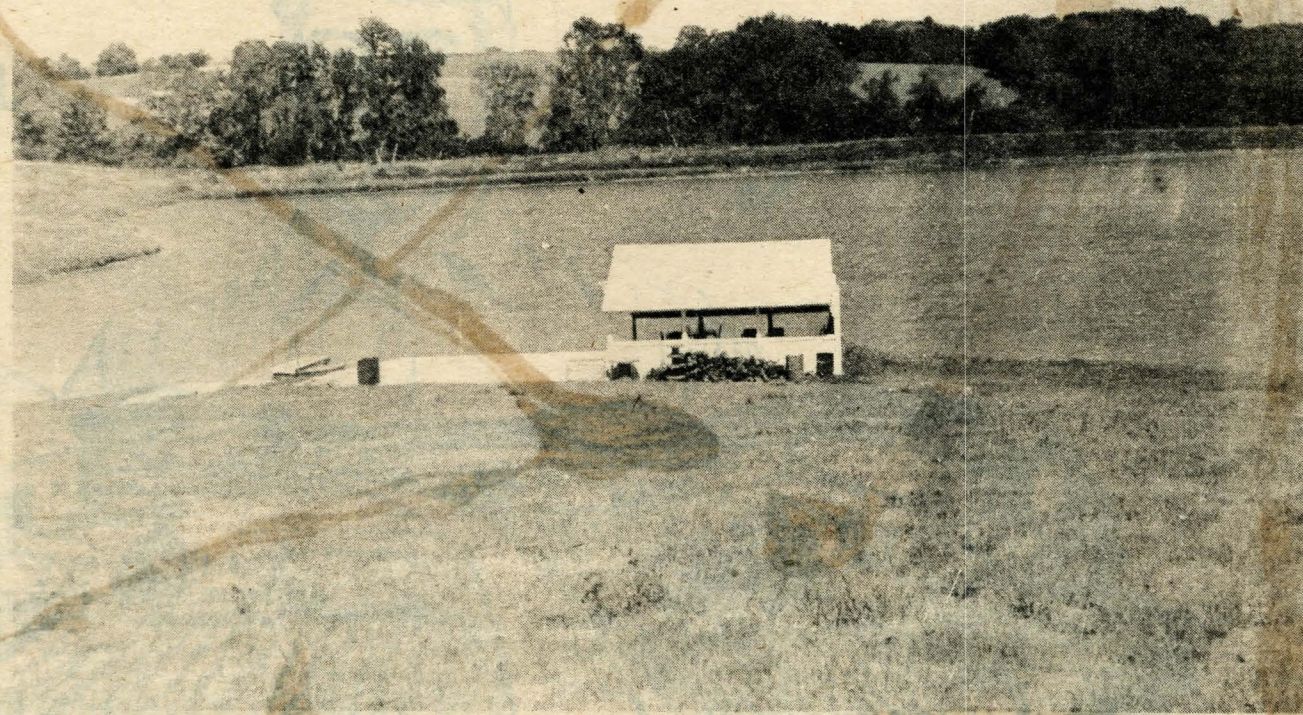
A hard clay bottom in the pond, Koehn said, keeps the pond looking clean and the water a sparkling blue-green. "You won't get a muddy-tasting fish."

"I'm proud of it," Koehn commented, adding he has seen what erosion can do in silting in a pond.

He commented that farmers "are guilty of plowing up so much" and creating erosion problems on the land.

Recreation

The Koehn pond is used



OVERLOOKS POND — A hillside overlooking the Koehn pond has been planned as a wildlife habitat for pheasant, quail and rabbits. Koehn enjoys hunting in addition to swimming and fishing. The pond is nestled in a hollow in English township.

as a recreation facility by the family and their friends. Koehn's wife, Virginia, and their children, Carmen, 14; Gina, 13; Kendall, 11; and Stacy, 9, fish (Please turn to page 6C)

Pond - -

(Continued from page 3C)

and swim in the pond as well as use the area for parties and get together.

Koehn continued he has been allowing others to use the facilities at the pond, but fears he may have to curtail that. Vandalism, he said, could become a problem although there has been none thus far.

"It would only take once, though," he commented.

The pond was stocked by Koehn with 1,200 catfish, running about six to 10 inches, along with bass and crappies.

Although, he said, he does enjoy fishing in his spare time, the catfish have been in the pond just two years and are not yet really big enough to catch, and the bass population is still not at the level Koehn hopes for eventually.

A sand beach extends along one side of the pond, and Koehn noted one positive aspect of the dry weather is that he has been able to work the sand down into the pond's edge. This, he added, will give a firmer base under the swimming area.

"It has taken tons and tons of sand," Koehn commented, to form the beach area.

Add Shelter

Behind the sand beach is the shelter Koehn built with the help of Tanke construction after the other daily farm work was finished. He commented that the pond project had to be done after the chores were finished and that, Koehn said, "takes quite a bit of organi-

zation and the aid of his wife and children.

The shelter sits on a concrete slab 50 feet by 25 feet and the shelter itself is 25 by 25 feet. A basketball hoop has been mounted at one end of the shelter and the unenclosed portion of the slab can be used for a basketball court.

The shelter has seating for about 30 people. Koehn commented that the tables and benches came from the Marengo Legion hall. A friend, he said, heard the Legion planned to throw the tables and benches away, and Koehn decided they would work well in the shelter.

July 3, he added, he and his wife hosted a pig roast for 130 people at the pond. Koehn has devised a cooker from an old milk cooler, and he roasted the pig in it.

Since he enjoys hunting Koehn has kept the hill behind the shelter planted in cover to encourage a wild-life population. He said he has pheasants, quail and rabbits living on the hillside and the cornfield on the top.

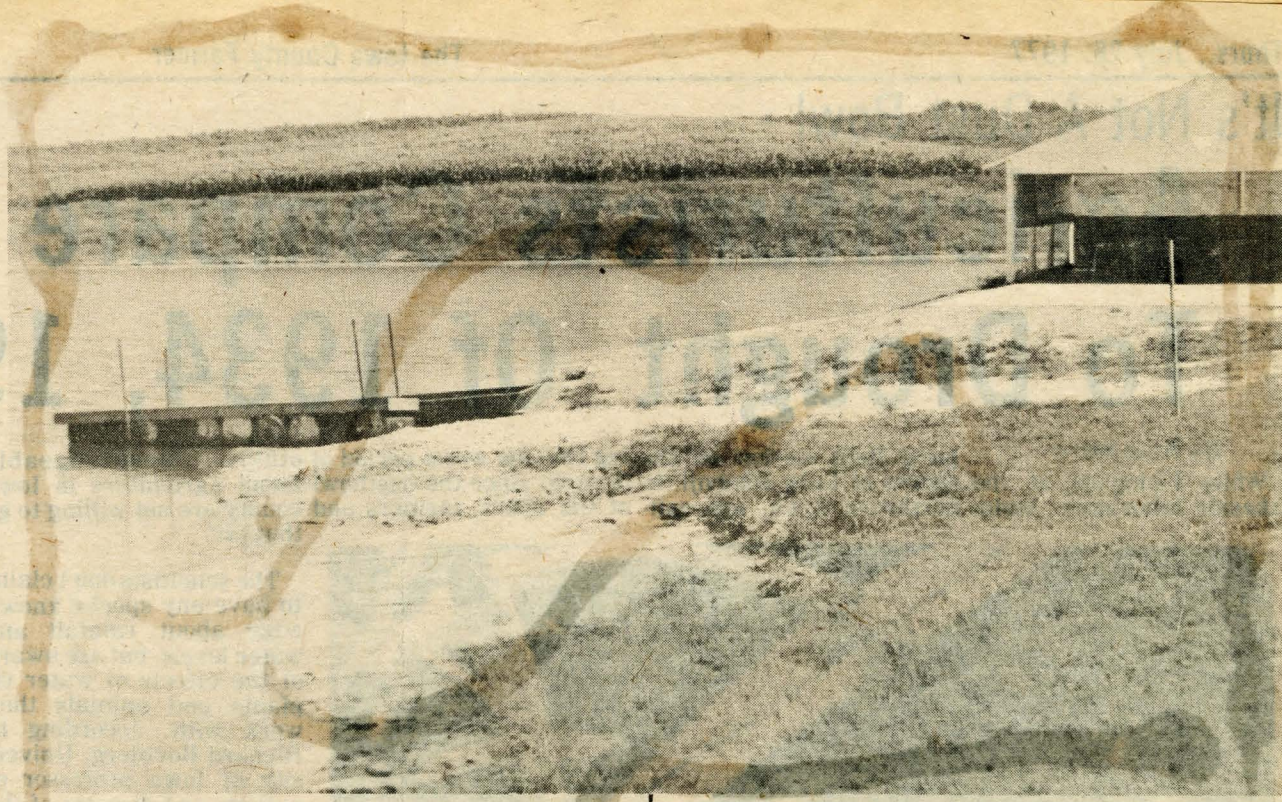
He has also built rest-rooms at the pond in time for the July 3 party.

Koehn farms 825 acres which includes 425 acres of corn, 220 acres of beans and about 30 acres of oats.

He also raises between 1,000 and 1,200 hogs a year and has stock cows.

Some dry weather damage has occurred to his corn, Koehn said. Kernels in some cases haven't set on the ends of the ears, and there are vacant places further down on the ear. The

(Please turn to page 10C)



HAS SAND BEACH — The Ed Koehn pond in English township has sand beach which Koehn said took "tons and tons of sand" to implement. The dry weather has allowed Koehn to work the sand down into the water's edge to provide a firmer base for the beach.



ENJOY THEIR POND — Ed and Virginia Koehn enjoy the facilities offered by their pond. They are the parents of four children, Carmen, 14;

Gina, 13; Kendall, 11; and Stacy, 9. The shelter house was completed last summer and July 3 the family hosted a pig roast for 130 people.

Pond - -

(Continued from page 6C)

beans, however, are looking good.

The dry weather has also affected the pond. It's down about three feet, and Koehn said he thinks the water table from which the springs feed the pond must be down because last winter the water over the spring froze for the first time.

The three inches of rain into the pond the weekend of July 16 did help in restoring some of the water loss, Koehn said.

"It's kind of relaxing to come here," Koehn commented, as he looked out over the blue water riffled by wind and sparkling in the sun.

Watershed Study For Iowa County

WILLIAMSBURG — Fred White of Parnell, chairman of the Iowa county Resource Coordinating committee announced this week that a special watershed study will be conducted in Iowa county later this year.

The effort is in connection with pollution planning activities required by the federal water pollution control act.

The 19,744-acre Old Man's Creek watershed northwest of Williamsburg was selected for special study because it closely typifies soil, climatic, and topographic features for most of a large portion of east central Iowa.

The Iowa department of soil conservation will conduct watershed meetings and interviews with farmers in order to gather information about cropping systems, soil and water conservation practices, pesticide use and other characteristics of the watershed.

Farmers' reactions to proposed methods of pollution control, as well as their plans for the future of their farms will be sought.

Meetings and interviews will require the cooperation of area landowners, according to White, as it is important that the information obtained reflect conditions as they exist.

Data obtained from the detailed watershed studies will provide citizen groups, such as the Iowa county Resource Coordinating committee, with the information necessary to formulate recommendations for farm management practices and other means of dealing with pollution. Each recommendation will be a part of the over-all water quality management program developed for Iowa by the federal government.

The water control act requires that each state be responsible for developing plans to control pollution of its water resources. The required water quality management program considers separately those water pollutants that originate from a point source (such as an outlet from a sewage treatment plant) and those that are nonpoint (such as agricultural runoff).

All of Iowa's 99 counties have organized coordinating committees like the one in Iowa county. The local groups were organized with a series of open meetings last year. Officers and representatives elected by participants serve as spokesmen for the county groups and call additional public meetings as needed. Input from the county level is channeled up through a series of conservancy district and basin level advisory committees.

All of Iowa county lies in the Iowa-Cedar river conservancy district — one of six major river basins in the state. The western Iowa and the Iowa-Cedar river conservancy districts are the only two for which in-depth studies are being completed.

Old Man's creek is one of six watershed areas in Iowa selected for detailed study. The other five are East Soldier river in Crawford county, northwest of Denison; Spring creek in Franklin county, north of Hampton; Cold Water creek in Cerro Gordo county, south of Mason City; Unnamed creek in Lyon county, west of Rock Rapids; and Montgomery creek in Clay county, south of Spencer.

County Land Commission Formed, Officers Elected

A temporary county land preservation policy commission is being organized under the state land preservation policy act passed by the Iowa general assembly and signed into law by Governor Robert D. Ray late last month.

The county commission is to develop a land preservation policy for Iowa county and to submit recommendations for a state policy, according to Lowell McKean, county extension director, with the Iowa State University's Iowa County Extension Office. The ISU Extension Service is assisting in the organization of the county commission.

Over-all intent of the new legislation is to develop a land preservation policy for the consideration of the General Assembly through participation and recommendations of citizens and local government, McKean said. Specific goals of the

policy will be to provide for the orderly use and development of land and related natural resources in Iowa, and to preserve private property rights and prime agricultural land for agricultural production.

In addition, the state policy goals are to guide the development of critical areas, key facilities and large-scale development. The policy should also provide for the future housing, commercial, industrial and recreational needs of the state, the legislature said.

The county commission is to be composed of three members appointed by and from the district soil conservation commissions; three members appointed by and from the county board of supervisors; and three appointed by and from mayors and council persons. The soil conservation and county commissioners have selected their representatives and a county convention of mayors and council members was held July 28 to select those representatives, McKean said.

Representing cities and towns in Iowa county are Richard Pugh, Williamsburg mayor, Walker Whitmore, Millersburg mayor, and Marvin Miller, Marengo councilman. They will serve with county supervisors Bernard Elwood, Williamsburg, Leonard Thys, Hartwick and Ed Shima, Marengo. Representing the district soil conservation commission are Fred White, Parnell, Larry Beyer, Marengo, and Gregory Misbach, Marengo. Misbach was elected chairman of the commission at the organization meeting of the commission July 28. Pugh was elected vice-chairman. McKean will serve as secretary of the board. Meetings will be held as necessary on the last Thursday of the month.

The new law requires that the temporary county commissions be organized by Sept. 1 of this year. The commission also is to conduct public hearings so citizens can suggest content of the county and state land preservation policy. Recommendations for the state policy are to be made by July 1, 1978.

In addition, members of the county commission are to elect representatives to a congressional district convention which will select members of a temporary state land preservation commission. The state commission is to have until Mar. 1, 1979 to make its recommendations to the legislature, McKean concluded.

9-15-77
Newspapers of Iowa Co.

Land Preservation Commission Will Meet Thursday

There will be a land preservation meeting at 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22 in the courtroom of the Iowa county courthouse, Marengo.

Representatives on the commission include supervisors, soil conservation commissioners, representatives from cities and towns in the county. The commission meets in accordance with a new state law.

Greg Misbach is chairman, Richard Pugh, vice chairman, and Lowell McKean, secretary.

Tiling Contractor Suggests Farm Green Belt Areas

By Doris McCartney

Dry ponds and small terraces are paying off as conservation methods for Iowa county farmers, according to Wendell Gerard, Millersburg, tiling contractor.

Gerard, who began in the business, working for Walter Reinhart, Ladora, has seen a lot of acres changed into productive land with conservation measures since 1966.

"Biggest advantage of any tiling is to stop water run off. By installing tile at depths from four to six feet there is better drainage.

Gerard believes long range planning is a good idea for any land owner, taking into account not only the terraces, ponds and crop rotation to be considered, but allotting areas for wildlife habitats.

"Some large operators are tearing out fence rows and investing in super conservation programs, without planning for green belts.

"We need green areas for shelter belts and sanctuaries for birds and small

wildlife native to this community," he mentions.

Projects

For uphill running on a project, Gerard doesn't need any engineering assistance.

However, installing tile on the flat lands, Gerard seeks resource people called from regional tiling companies to chart the sites.

Gerard Tiling, formed in 1972, is a husband and wife business. His chief assistant is his wife, Nadine.

Liberated from housework on a tiling job, Nadine enjoys this challenge; despite going home grimy after a day of jumping into ditches.

Her job is to connect clay tile, drive the machine or any other task her boss assigns.

The machine is 36 feet long, so it takes a little skill for a driver to navigate, especially on the traveled highways.

"Business is more competitive now," Gerard admits. When he began working with Reinhart, there was one other company in business, locally.

Now he can name at least seven other tiling contractors.

Costs

He became Reinhart's partner in 1970, eventually buying out the machine. Discussing costs, Gerard estimates a new machine at \$120,000. An electronic laser beam, a new accessory, is an additional \$25,000.

Tiling costs are \$.67 per foot for clay and \$.82 for plastic. Installation ups the project cost by another \$.23 per foot on the average.

On a good day, Gerard believes he can install about 3,000 feet of plastic tiling. He cites the advantages of clay tile as bigger, heavier and cheaper.

However, land owners note the disadvantages of clay, since they are obligated to transport the tile to the project sites.

"Most farmers and owners are too busy to be bothered with moving tile, so they opt for the faster installation with plastic."

The Gerards said a highlight of their tiling career was project for a Cedar Rapids golf course two years ago.

"We were finishing the of tiling contractors. In project on the same night a Canada, licensing for tiling television station was operators has been man-carrying a program of the dated.

crowning of Kim, their He has taken schooling a daughter, as a Williams-number of times at com-burg queen contestant. We pany sponsored sessions to took along a portable set to keep up to date.

watch on a work break." In a third year of declin-Less Rain ing rainfall, Gerard sees a Gerard notes that Iowa host of advantages for has not required licensing farmers tiling sloughs and chine.

through low areas, to es-tablish more land in pro-duction.

He observes there are im-mense satisfactions in his business. "I deal with a lot of great people."



IOWA COUNTY ADVERTISER Williamsburg, Iowa Thursday, July 7, 1977



CONSERVATION AIR TOUR

Sponsored by: IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Sunday, July 17, 1977

9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Rain Date: Sunday, July 24, 1977

\$6/person

EDGAR FOLKMANN FARM -- 2 miles east and 1½ miles south of Conroy, Iowa

Not Responsible In Case Of Accidents



as otherwise
a ditch job



CONSERVATION AIR TOUR

Sponsored by: IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

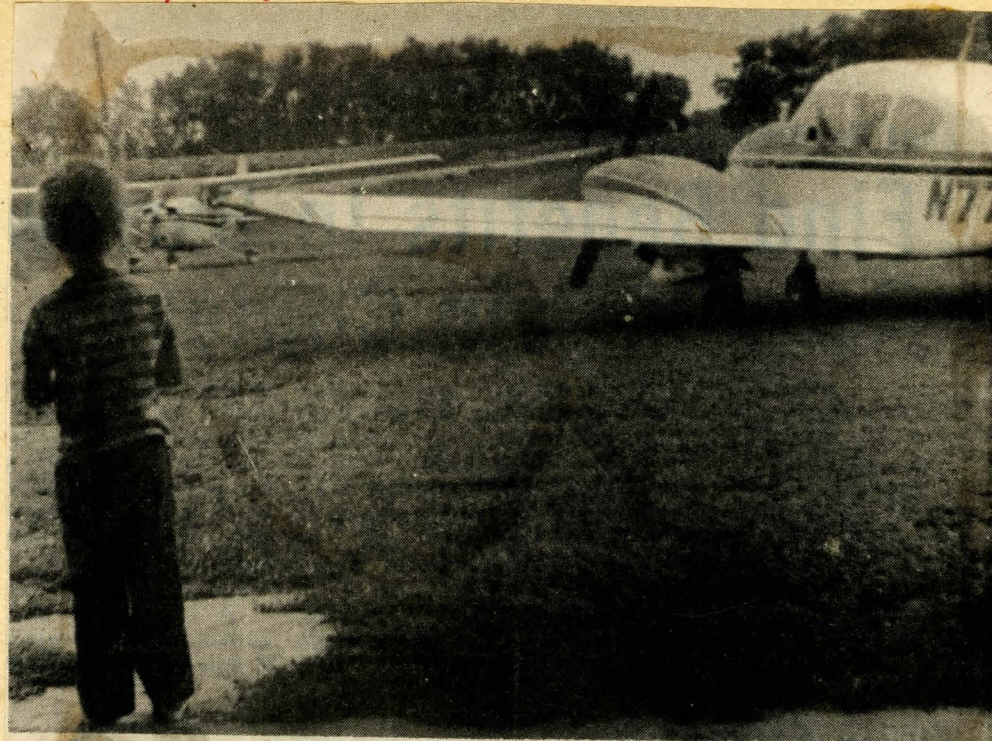
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EDGAR FOLKMANN FARM
2 miles east and 1½ miles south of Conroy, Iowa
Not responsible in case of accidents



WATCHES FLIGHTS — A youngster observes a plane load taxi off on the Edgar Folkmann runway Sunday morning, east of Conroy, while other

pilots wait to load. Conservation flights were taken all day Sunday over farms of owners to check crop progress.



Thurs., July 21, 1977

The NEWSpapers of Iowa County 7

FLIES FIRST TIME — Mrs. David Fetzer, Marengo, prepares to fly for the first time, accompanied by her husband and son, Jamie and another two passengers. Pilot Edgar Folkmann, Conroy, directs the seating

from the wing of his twin engine plane. Sunday air trips were sponsored by the Iowa county Soil Conservation Service so farm owners could check progress of land improvements this summer.

Walt James Grew Up In Business - -

Farmers Are Spending For Land Improvement Projects

By Doris McCartney

Spending for conservation practices by Iowa county farmers for out-of-pocket improvements is keeping land improvement contractors busy this season.

Walt James, Millersburg, who has been in the "dozer business" most of his life and self employed five years, finds farmers intent on preserving and increasing the value of the high priced land.

"A number of farmers who cannot afford to buy more acres are increasing crop production by spending for terraces, dry ponds and clearing brushy hills.

"The big operators have been dozing down fence-lines, undergrowth and other areas which had not been in crop acres. They find it pays good returns. "The smaller farmers are aware of the advantages for conservation projects as a result.

"Business began picking up in 1972. Until the mid-1960's, I can't say land improvement contractors were always holding down a steady job," James admits.

Working hours rose from 800-900 average hours a few years ago on the dozer to about 1,500 hours in the past year.

"I'm booked up fairly far ahead this year, working about eight to ten miles from Millersburg.

"Guess I'm happy in this business. I like machinery and there are positive results. I try to check back about three or four years later and look at the project during the growing season.

A dozer operator never create a picture in his mind

and build to suit that design.

Has Help

James owns a bull dozer and two scrapers. Jerry Pope, Millersburg, operates for him as a sub contractor. To date, licensing is not a state requirement.

The price tab for his services are linked between the yards of dirt moved, size of plan, location and hours on the job.

"My mental computer is operating when I'm running. If I see the job is going to be higher than first estimates, I better figure how to move faster, change the operation or methods."

When he was 19 James began his on-the-job-training. He has worked all over the state. "I figure a good dozer operator starts with a stick and needs an educated foot."

What kind of jobs has he held?

"This is the route up the ladder in this business," James says with a slow smile. "With dirt contractors I began first on the survey rod, worked on the foot roller, operated a scraper, next a dozer, ran an auto patrol before being promoted to foreman's job and finally to superintendent of a project."

"When I made it to the top I quit to start my own business."

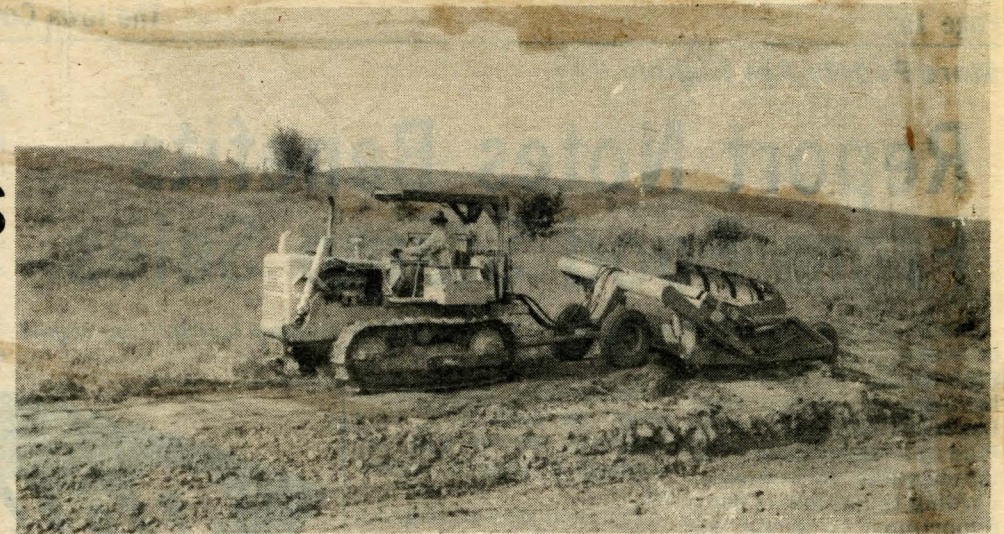
In addition to a number of dry ponds, James has constructed two or three wet ponds this year, but to date, little water is available in them for the livestock.

Both Kirkwood Community college, Cedar Rapids, and Indian Hills college, Ottumwa, have offered courses for land improvement.

"Happened in a split second when I was moving dirt. But I managed to get straightened around and bring it on down the mountain the proper way."

Projects on which he contracts are either farmer-planned or approved by the Soil Conservation Service.

Either way, James views his work as building for progress.



STARTS DRY POND — Walt James, Millersburg land improvement contractor, built a conservation project on

the Clarence Huedepohl farm west of Millersburg, earlier this month.

Iowa County Advertiser 6-09-77 SOIL CONSERVATION FUNDS AVAILABLE

Applications are now being taken for State of Iowa cost-sharing on permanent soil and water conservation practices. The Soil Conservation District Commissioners of Iowa County, who allocate the funds, have set first priority on terraces and second priority for erosion control dams. Priority will also be given to those farmers who have ground they can start on this summer.

Farmers who receive cost-sharing will be responsible for the maintenance of the practice for a minimum of ten years.

The rate of cost-sharing is 50% of the estimated cost or 50% of the actual cost, whichever is smaller.

Farmers who get cost-sharing must be interested in developing a conservation plan for their entire farm and must be district cooperators. For more information contact the Soil Conservation Service office in Williamsburg at 600 Court Street.



Testifies At National Hearings - -

Campaigns For Water Impoundment To Conserve Land, Replenish Aquifers

By Doris McCartney

"Iowa county farmers have a unique opportunity to study and supply input into the national program 208 study committee for water quality, yet a majority have been apathetic."

This is the assessment of Ron Gahring, Williamsburg, a land improvement contractor. Gahring, speaking with missionary zeal about the need for water impoundment, sees this project as an option Americans presently have to survive.

Other options in the proposed land use bill seem far less feasible to the average American, he said.

Gahring, who is a member of the national Land Improvement Contractors of America, has in the past four years been active in the local chapter and now serves on a national committee. As a result of continued research, he has become an outspoken supporter of the acute need to conserve water.

There are 2,600 national members with 553 Iowans belonging to LICA. One of the major reasons for such high state support is because 23 percent of the prime land in the country is within Iowa's boundaries.

LICA is supporting the water impoundment program for numerous reasons, Gahring cites. "First as a result of containing the water, aquifers are replenished and increased crop production results.

"Studies have proven this also relieves secondary bridge problems. By controlling the waters, large bridges are unnecessary in many instances. For instance, in section 31, Lincoln township a nine-foot diameter tube would not have been needed if a water impoundment program was in effect.

"Instead, the county could have installed for one-tenth of the cost, a 30-inch tube.

"However the Department Of Transportation (DOT) ordered a large drainage culvert. Half of the bridges in the county could be replaced with small culverts or pipes with water impoundment plan in effect.

"Another vital reason for the plan is to stop flooding. By controlling surface water, the flow does not gather enough momentum to flood bottom lands.

Funding

"Congress has budgeted 10.3 billion dollars to fund point pollution, which means to maintain rigidity of all flow from pipes.

"For instance, locally, both Ladora and Williamsburg had to replace outlet pipes because of this law.

"Point pollution, translated, means flow may be traced to its source. "However, non point means pollution cannot be traced to a source and thus is uncontrollable.

"Of the funds Congress has budgeted, eight percent is allotted for non-point pollution, while 92 percent of the monies is for point pollution."

Citing other statistics, Gahring says Congress had budgeted 190 million dollars.

Mandated

In 1972 water quality was mandated and the program is to be in effect by 1983.

"I don't see how this is possible," he exclaims.

By 1978 a plan is to be submitted on water quality on how to control the surface water to the highest practical degree.

In Iowa county, a pilot project, Old Man's creek, covering about 19,000 acres of land, owned and operated by some 250 title holders or their tenants, is considered as one program of the Iowa-Cedar river basin.

The watershed will extend from approximately the Victor rest stop to the Iowa county care facility.

One of the advantages, Gahring stresses in talking of water impoundment, is the need to stop soil erosion where a mixture of one product, such as fertilizers, chemicals or insecticide washes in the flooded soil and is carried into streams.

"Actually, those chemicals cling to the soil, when conservation practices are not implemented and vast sums waste away."

Last year, Gahring testified before Senator Dick Clark's committee at Council Bluffs on the need for water impoundment and soil conservation practices in regard to 208 study committee.

Earlier this year, he spoke at the national LICA meeting at Orlando, Fla., at length one evening on the program, urging more and total support throughout all the 31 or 32 states in which members reside.

Spoke Four Hours

Asked to speak before officials of the Caterpillar company also in Illinois, Gahring said he would keep his remarks to an hour, but instead, encouraged by his audience expanded on

water impoundment over four.

A number commented they were reluctant to break up the meeting even at that point.

Next month, he is scheduled to testify on a policy level meeting in Washington, D.C. which is being arranged with officials through the Secretary of Agriculture.

In a series of five meetings held in Iowa county, Gahring says the decision local farmers make here may eventually effect national policy. Other speakers in the series besides Gahring have been Steve Probst, Linn county; Harry Bryant, Iowa county conservationist; and Dan Lindquist.

In tracing the facts of the present water situation, Gahring mentions that 20 years ago this area was also afflicted with less rainfall for about three or four years.

"Underground, there is a network of lakes, streams and probably rivers tied together throughout the central part of nation. There has been a significant lowering of the Jordan aquifer. The Jordan stream originates in Minnesota and as rainfall leaches down into the soil this sub soil supply increases.

A good water supply is a real asset to a farm. But even so, now that researchers believe the Jordan is much shallower, we wonder if our water supplies will be filled for the next 100 years.

Water Policy

Diminishing water supplies will certainly create changes in the state's water policy as well as in the nation. This month the state is more aware of an acute water problem as town and city wells are pumped dry.

Geologists have been researching the trend and hope that the water shortage and need to solve the problem will begin to seep into the public's mind.

Monitoring underground the surface water supplies has been a task undertaken by the geologists and hydrologists, but the average farmer and urban dweller is probably unaware of the amount of water used through his pipes.

The average reaction to water impoundment has been apathy and ignorance, but faced with the need for clean waters, senate committees and officials in industry have been eager to listen to Gahring's findings for soil conservation for non point pollution.

"Instead, what we need for positive results is ten percent of that public funding for water impoundment to contain surface run off.

"Iowa State university research indicates soil erosion is cut by 90 percent with proper tillage, application of nutrients with impoundment of water. Less nutrients are required in the following years when fertilizer attaches to the soil instead of washing away. A considerable money savings is evident there.

"With proper planning water impoundment could cure most of the nation's water problems, all for an equal share of that public money.

"That's why LICA considers the national water impoundment plan worthwhile.

"Few farmers apparently are studying, understanding and are even wanting to support the program. There are a few courageous farmers backing the project, but we need the majority to support the cause," Gahring comments.

With Iowa ranking high in prime land, the 208 study committee has been seeking opinion of local farmers. A series of meetings on water quality began in the county in February will be resumed in July.

Conservationists believe that in Iowa county one-eighth of an inch of top soil is lost each year. With water impoundment and strong voluntary soil conservation program, the aquifers can be replenished, fertilizers will not wash

away in flooding and the water tables will rise.

"In a period of high land prices, owners should be more concerned about water and soil conservation beyond family fence-lines."

About 40 years ago the per person water consumption was 16 gallons daily, but last year rose to an average of 45 gallons.

In some areas, researchers found the per person average recently has been 60 gallons daily.

Gahring concludes: "We've seen a critical energy crisis and heard predictions to conserve for future.

"Insulation and blankets may warm an individual, but there is no substitution for water when stricken with acute thirst."



PROPOSES WATER IMPOUNDMENT — Ron Gahring, Williamsburg, land improvement contractor, comments Iowa county farmers have a unique opportunity to supply input

for a water impoundment plan needed for implementing the 208 study committee, which has been federally mandated.



SERVE DISTRICT — Personnel of the Iowa county soil conservation service district office attended the Eastern Iowa Tillage show in Cedar

Rapids Jan. 26. Left to right are: Harry Bryant, conservationist; Ted Oswald and Rhonda Glandorf.



Cedar Rapids Gazette 5-11-77

Winners

WILLIAMSBURG — Two Williamsburg students, Lynne Petersen and Darrell Schwartz, placed first in the Iowa county soil conservation art contest.

Lynne placed first in the junior division, while Schwartz topped the senior division. The winning pictures will be on display at the Iowa county soil conservation district office in Williamsburg.





TAKE JUNIOR DIVISION — Winners in the junior division of the county soil conservation art contest which was judged May 6 were left to right, Cathy

Doehrmann, third; Lynne Petersen, first; and Becky Witte, second. The girls are all students at Lutheran Interparish school in Williamsburg.

Are Art Contest Winners

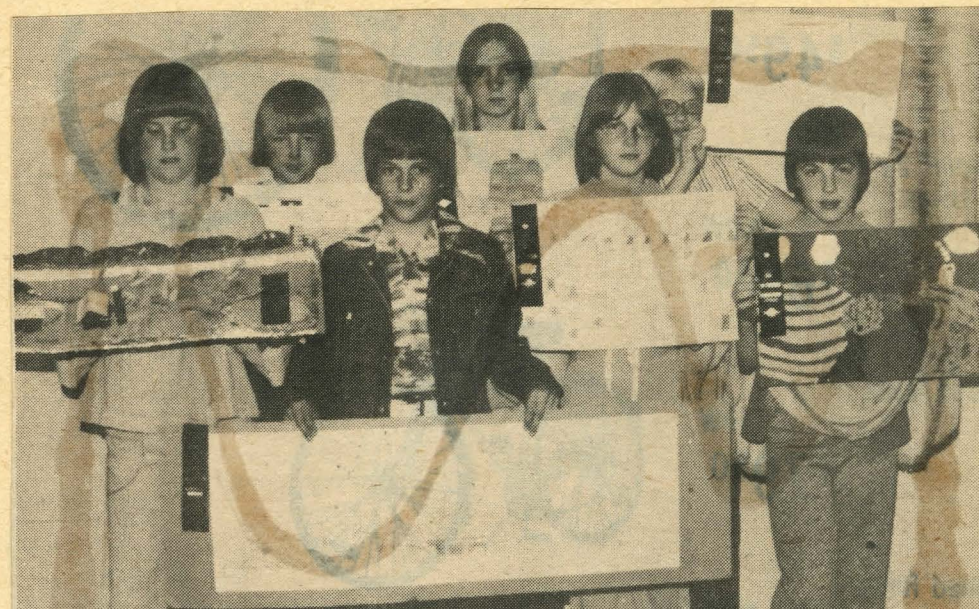


WIN ELEMENTARY DIVISION — Mary Wetjen, left, won first place in the elementary division of the county soil conservation art contest held May 6 in Williamsburg. Second was Sonya

Heitshusen, center, and Don Lindhart, to the right, took third place. Wetjen and Lindhart are students at Williamsburg community and Heitshusen at Lutheran Interparish.



WINS FIRST PLACE — Darrell Schwarting, a sophomore at Williamsburg high school, took first place in the senior division of the soil conservation art contest. The works done for the contest are on display at the Soil Conservation Service office in Williamsburg.



GET HONORABLE MENTION — Receiving honorable mention in the county soil conservation art contest were, not necessarily in the order shown, Rhia Fry, Lutheran Inter-

parish; Doug Keiser, Williamsburg community; Nicki Newberry, Jeri Knipfer, Kelly Bouslog, English Valleys, and LaDawn Stratton, Netti Coast, Amy York, HLV.

Also Fulfills Other Functions - -

SCS Is Aiding With
Old Man's Creek Project

By Loretta Hanson
Meetings will start in July, according to county soil conservationist Harry Bryant, with farmers whose land is included in the Old Man's creek watershed pilot program.

The program, which will involve 20,000 or so acres in Pilot, Sumner and parts of Lincoln and Hartford townships, is hopefully going to determine water quality in Old Man's creek and show the state department of environmental quality (DEQ) what kinds of pollutants are showing up in its waters downstream.

Bryant said participation in the study by the 118 landowners involved is "strictly voluntary."

The area is one of three in the Iowa-Cedar river basin area chosen by DEQ for such a study. The others are in Cerro Gordo and Franklin counties and, according to Bryant, involve about the same number of acres.

Erosion Area

Bryant said the 20,000 Iowa county acres were selected because they are located in a highly erosive

area, subject to severe erosion and soil loss, and because the acreage contains soil types which DEQ wants to study.

Bryant added the interstate runs through the area which will come under study and that, too, was one of the reasons the area was chosen.

The area was selected to cover a number of uses, including the effect of a heavily traveled road running through it. Roads often contribute to sediment in streams, Bryant noted. The study is slated to be completed in 1978; however, Bryant said, there are no plans to implement the study's findings at the present time.

Bryant said he expects meetings with farmers involved in the Old Man's creek project to begin in July. He added the meetings will be open to the public; however, only those landowners directly involved will be notified.

Thus far, Bryant went on, persons from DEQ have flown over the watershed (Please turn to page 19)

ARE TERRACES — County soil conservationist Harry Bryant has reported the construction of over 110,000 feet of terrace in the county in the last six months. These terraces are located on the Larry Yoder farm along highway 149 near its junction with highway six.

conservation. An art con-
test is also held each year.

Thurs., June 30, 1977

The Iowa County Farmer

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SCS - -

(Continued from page 17)

area in a helicopter, that took place last week, and DEQ staffers have been in the Old Man's creek project area to study present land use.

Steve Probst, coordinator of the 17 county Iowa-Cedar river basin plan implementation, is in charge of the Old Man's creek project and will call the meetings, according to Bryant.

Meetings were held in Williamsburg Mar. 24, Apr. 6 and Apr. 13 to discuss water quality standards proposed by various state and federal acts. The meetings were chaired by county soil commission chairman Fred White.

At the meetings, which were called as county resource coordinating committee meetings, but to which anyone interested was invited, local farmers were informed about the Iowa-Cedar river basin plan developed to reduce plan and standards of water

quality under the 1972 federal clean water act.

Develop Plan

Probst attended the Apr. 6 meeting to discuss with county landowners the Iowa Cedar river basin plan.

He told them a plan must be developed by November, 1978, in order to implement the federal act which calls for waters that are fishable and swimmable by 1983. He added the plan will need input from farmers to succeed.

Some dissension did surface at the meetings about how the implementation of the plan is to be paid. Some county farmers feel that since stopping soil erosion will benefit not just individuals, but all persons, the state and federal governments should finance any necessary projects 100 percent; others, however, feel 100 percent funding would result in 100 percent federal control.

A resolution passed at the Apr. 6 meeting did call for 90 percent funding in any plan developed to reduce non-point pollution.

Non-point pollution includes most soil and agricultural run-off as opposed to point pollution which is that which can be identified and a source located.

Iowa Senator Dick Clark has introduced legislation that would authorize a new voluntary soil conservation cost-sharing program designed to help farmers and rural areas meet the requirements of the state and areawide water quality plans, according to the "Iowa Soil Conservationist" publication.

The bill would authorize the secretary of agriculture to develop and implement a nation-wide program of voluntary cost-sharing and technical assistance to farmers and other rural landowners with priorities given to pol-

lution causes of greatest significance, the publication states.

Provisions of the bill would call for an expenditure of \$130,000,000 in 1979 with an increase to \$1 billion by 1983 and a continuation of the \$1 billion level for the next seven years.

The county soil conservation service (SCS) is working with Probst and others involved in the basin plan and the Old Man's creek watershed project; however, the SCS office also works with county farmers to work out individual soil conservation plans for various conservation measures.

Work On Projects

Bryant said one out of four farmers in the county ask the SCS office for help

each year - and will apply for soil conservation practices.

The office operates on a July to July year so that plans for the 1977-78 year are just now in the formative stages. In the next year, Bryant estimates, 120,000 feet of terraces will be constructed in the county along with 300,000 feet of waterways and terrace tiles and 20 plus ponds in addition to 30 acres of grassed waterways.

The office assists with writing new conservation plans for individual farms and with revising ones already in existence.

During the year almost completed the Iowa county office had \$60,000 in cost sharing funds available to be divided among those requesting funding.

In the last year, Bryant added, about 114,000 feet of terrace and 275,000 feet of terrace and waterway tile were installed and 30 acres of grassed waterways done.

Nine erosion structures and ponds have been done; however, Bryant added, there will probably be about 20 more ponds done yet this summer since construction on them is just getting started.

He went on that 50 sediment and water control basins have also been constructed in the last six months.

The SCS office also offers the technical assistance necessary to the federal agricultural stabilization and conservation service (ASCS) office in carrying

(Please turn to page 21)

SCS - -

(Continued from page 19)

out that agency's soil conservation projects.

In addition to aiding directly in the soil conservation process the SCS office also carries on educational programs designed to make soil conservation relevant to both adults and children.

Workshop

Each fall the office sponsors a conservation workshop at Lake Iowa for teachers in the county, so they can learn more about conservation and be better able to teach it.

The office also sponsors a field day for sixth grade students at the county lake during which the children may visit with both plant and wildlife conservationists and observe the ecology of the park.

Although the program is open to all schools in the county only Williamsburg community has taken advantage of it.

A speech contest for older youngsters is held under the auspices of the SCS office. The entrants speak on subjects dealing with conservation. An art contest is also held each year and is open to students throughout the county.

In conjunction with Johnson and Washington counties the Iowa county SCS office holds a soil judging contest each fall which gives county vocational agriculture students a chance to test their skills.

The contest will be held in Iowa county this fall. Last year it was near Kalona in Washington county.

In the winter, Bryant said, his office gets together with conservation contractors in the area to alert them to changes in various programs and to "improve working relationships."

July 17 the county SCS office will hold its annual air tour of the county. It will be based on the Edgar Folkmann and son farm southeast of Conroy.

Last year, Bryant said, 100 people came out to Folkmanns for the chance to see their farms from the air.

The tours will be available from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. If it should rain that day, the tours will be held July 24.

In October farmers and landowners deemed to have done outstanding work with soil conservation on their land are honored at a banquet.

The winners of the awards are chosen by the county soil commissioners after the commissioners look over the work done.

A teacher is also chosen and honored at the banquet for his or her work in teaching conservation.

The county winners are then entered in the state contest where Bryant says, the competition is much greater than at the local level.

Have Held Series Of Meetings - -

Look For Water Quality Input

By Loretta Hanson

An area of about 30 square miles near the upper end of Old Man's creek northwest of Williamsburg has been approved as a pilot project to test various kinds of conservation measures designed to slow runoff from farm fields.

The project will involve 127 landowners in the area.

The pilot project is part of a proposed statewide water quality plan mandated by the federal "clean water" act of 1972 which stated the nation's water should be fishable and swimmable by 1983.

A series of meetings of the Iowa county resources coordinating committee and chaired by county soil commission chairman Fred White, Parnell, have been held in Williamsburg this spring to discuss the proposed water quality standards and their effect on the county.

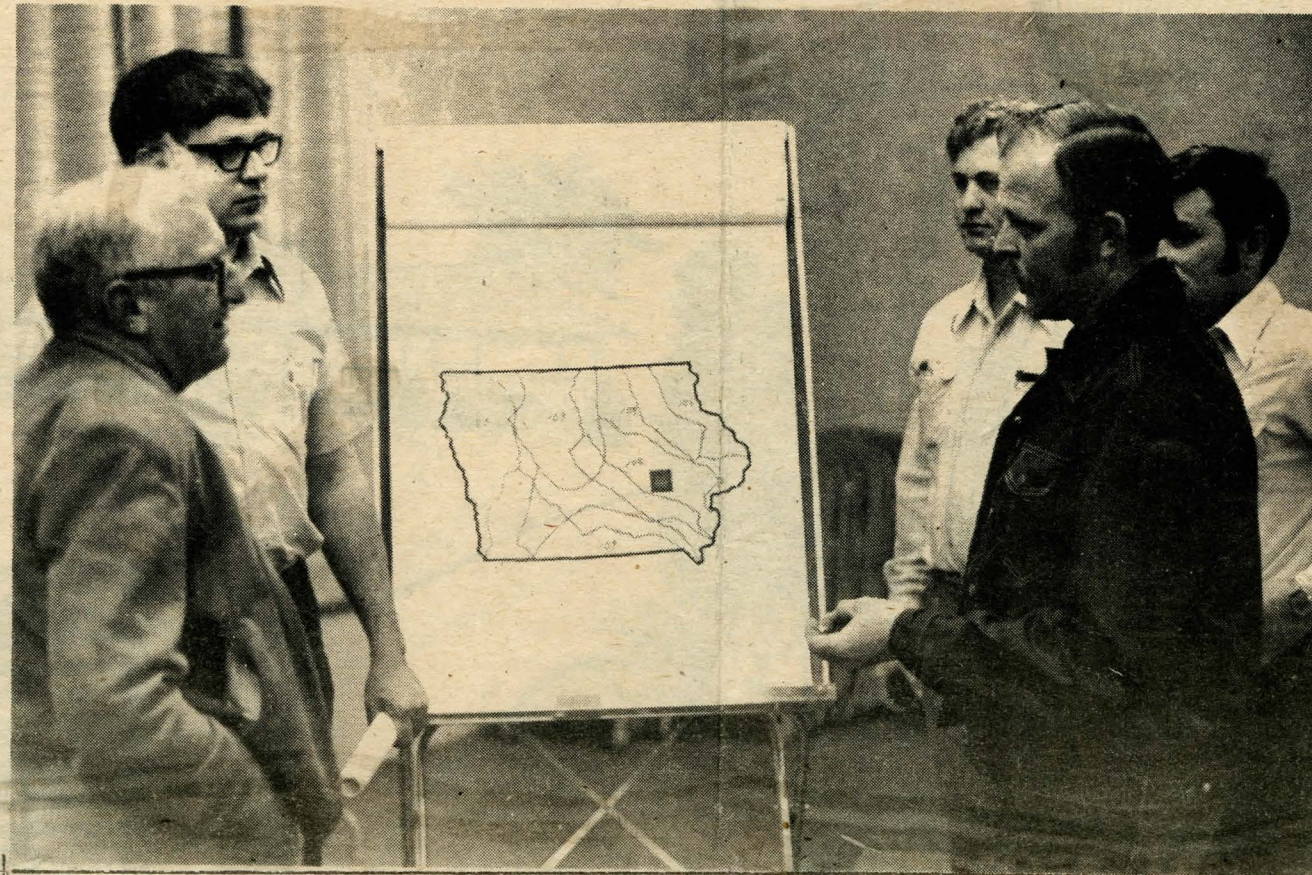
Pollution Control

Under the 1972 act the environmental protection agency (EPA) is directed to coordinate all the pollution control measures while departments of environmental quality (DEQ) in the states were to handle point pollution and state soil conservation services non-point pollution.

Point pollution is that which can be traced directly - as from industrial plants or city sewage disposal plants.

Non-point pollution is primarily agricultural runoff, and feed-

mission would decide the amendments to the bill had been drawn up by college in Cedar Rapids in executive director of the department of environmental quality regarding the changes in the water quality standards document: Those attending the Williamsburg meeting voted to go on record as sending the



—replacing section 16.1 (1) which named the water quality commission as the governing body of soil conservation practices, and replacing it with the state soil conservation committee to read: "Best management practice (BMP) means a practice or combination of practices that is adopted by the state soil conservation committee as a rule after problem assessment, examination of alternative practices, and appropriate public participation to be the most effective, practicable (including technological, economic and institutional considerations) means of preventing or reducing the amount of pollution generated by nonpoint sources to a level compatible with water quality goals."

—amending section 16.1 (2) to include the department of soil conservation as the specific department with which the water quality commission would work regarding conservation measures, to read: "Continuing planning process (CPP) means the continuing planning process, including any revision thereto, required by sections 208 and 303 (e) of the federal water pollution control act as amended (33 U.S.C. ss1288 and 1313 (e)) (for state water pollution control agencies. The continuing planning process is a time (Please turn to page 7C)

Page 8C

The Iowa Cou

Water Basin - -

(Continued from page 7C)

man of the Land Improvement Contractors of America 208 study committee, but said he wrote the letter as a "concerned citizen of the state of Iowa."

The letter continued that "in order to have meaningful public participation in the planning certain technical guidelines must be established by persons with technical knowledge and understanding of the current problems and a practical sense of a reasonable solution."

Need For Planning

"If in fact," he went on, "we intend to continue with meaningful planning, I would think reasonable men must now sit down and come up with reasonable and practical goals that will improve our water quality."

"These goals should be clearly defined so that the public can understand what

Probst if a soil conservation plan for the county would be "pushed through like the interstate was". Probst reiterated that the plan is not yet written. "Individuals haven't had input into such plans up to now - now they have an opportunity."

Probst said, "We're trying to come up with standards so DEQ doesn't set them." As a group, he said, farmers could exert "a lot of power and influence."

Asked why Old Man's creek watershed was chosen as a pilot project, Probst said 21 creek basins in the Iowa-Cedar river basin were considered and Old Man's creek was found to be typical of creeks in that area.

He added Williamsburg was a consideration as was the interstate going through the watershed area.

Erosion Potential

White noted Iowa county was chosen from the creek

waterways in that part of the county through which the ribbon of concrete slices they continued.

A member of the audience remarked that tile lines were broken when the interstate went through and haven't been replaced adding to erosion problems in the Old Man's creek basin area.

"DOT has gone their merry way for years and years," Probst said, "farmers have to get together and yell" about problems with the interstate.

"There's a real chance to get measures done you have wanted to do," Probst commented, "if the plan is written right."

Probst said the cost-sharing factor is not yet set for the water quality plans.

Public Benefits

A resolution passed by the coordinating committee at the Apr. 6 meeting which had been introduced by Gahring stated funding for projects should

Two Lyon Family Traditions Alive and Well

By Al Swegle
Gazette Farm Editor

TOLEDO — The first registered Jerseys showed up on the Lyon farm some 50 years ago this fall when the late Robert Lyon came home with a cow and four heifers.

Since that time, the word "Jersey" has almost become as synonymous with "Lyons" as the words "soil conservation." Both have become a tradition with the family through three generations of Lyons and 17 generations of Jerseys.

The name "Lyon" shows up twice in a 1937-38 annual report of the East Central Iowa Soil Conservation Assn. for Benton, Iowa, Poweshiek, and Tama counties.

Robert and Earl

One entry was for Robert Lyon and another for Earl Lyon. They were brothers and partners in the Jersey dairy business.

Robert Lyon served as a committeeman with the association in Tama county. Three pages of the 250-page report were devoted to a soil management demonstration conducted on Robert's farm. Another page was

Soil conservation has been a tradition of most farm families in Eastern Iowa, as indicated in this two-part series carried in The Sunday Gazette during soil stewardship week.

The series is based on a 1937-38 annual report of the East Central Iowa Soil Conservation Assn., which pioneered soil work in Benton, Iowa, Poweshiek and Tama counties.

A number of other prominent farm families were mentioned in the report besides the two families featured in this series — Allan Kline of Vinton and the Lyon family of Toledo.

The vice-president of the association was the late Henry J. Grunewald of Blainstown. His sons, Henry, jr.,

and John, continue to practice soil conservation on their father's original farm north of Blainstown.

One of the Benton county committeemen in 1938, Elmer Santman, continues to live at Dysart, although he no longer farms. Santman, 72, started bottling milk in 1940 and marketed milk, cottage cheese, and ice cream under the name, Elsan Dairy, in Dysart, Garrison and Clutier through 1956.

Others mentioned in the report have died, but their sons are carrying on the traditions.

The report was discovered by Harry Bryant, Iowa county district soil conservationist, last winter while arranging files in his office in Williamsburg.

devoted to a grassway demonstration project on Earl's place.

The 1937-38 report had this to say of Earl's grass waterway project:

"There is very little to report on this grassed waterway demonstration for 1938 because this demonstration is under complete control and the waterway is now permanently established."

The author was right — the waterway was permanently established.

Last week Earl stood with other members of the Lyon family in that same waterway 40 years later. One of the family was mowing a bumper hay crop in the middle of what was a deep gully in the 1930s.

Nothing has been done to that waterway project in the last 40 years. Yet, the erosion on the hillside had been controlled. The only change in the waterway has been the silting in of a pond on the lower end.

"A Good Job"

"They did a good job," Earl, now 81, said as he looked about the field.

Earl and his brother, Robert, started strip cropping, contour farming, and a crop rotation program. Before Robert died in 1947, he had the distinction of serving on both the first soil district and first federal farm program committee in Tama county.

Their sons have continued in the tradition.

Robert's son, Russell, 58, has been the executive director of the Tama county Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation service since 1955. The ASCS appropriates money to farmers to help pay the cost of soil conservation programs.

Another of Robert's sons, Earl, 59, was a district soil conservationist with the Soil Conservation service during the 1940s and 1950s. He is now an agriculture instructor at Area One school at Calmar.

Earl's two sons, Howard, 52, and Joe, 48, both have served as Tama county soil district commissioners.

Sons Follow

The Lyon family tradition of farming in partnership has also car-

ried on down. Russell, Howard and Joe are partners in various farming ventures. Howard and Joe are partners in Lyon Jerseys on Earl's home place. Russell and his son, Bob, 27, are partners in a separate Jersey operation on Russell's farm.

All totaled, Russell, Howard and Joe have 170 head of Jerseys in their milking herd on 1,680 acres north of Toledo. All but 160 acres is owned by family members, and all the land is under some type of soil conservation care — contouring, terracing, crop rotation and grassed land.

Earl has lived in Toledo since 1960, but he makes it out to the home farm now and then. Until five years ago, Earl was known as the "main cultivator" on his sons' farm.

"I cultivated the crops with a tractor and two row cultivator until they and I both gave out," Earl quipped.

"I can't say as though Dad ever has quit farming," Joe quickly added.

The Lyons first became interested in Jerseys when Robert Lyon worked as a financial secretary for Toledo Heights, an Indian institution which had a registered Jersey herd.

Dairy Partnership

Robert and Earl formed a dairy partnership in 1921, shortly after Earl came home from the navy. Robert purchased the first registered Jersey stock in 1926, including one of the calves which his sons, Russell and Earl, showed in 4-H the following year.

"If you do a little figuring, you'll note that I was only 8 years old at the time, but you have to remember

that 4-H officials were not as particular about the age requirements back then as they are now," Russell noted.

"I don't remember how we placed that first year, but I do remember we won our first purple ribbon (a championship ribbon) at the National Dairy Cattle Congress in Waterloo in 1930."

Russell and his brother were later named the top Jersey 4-H showmen in the state. The award was a calf, which later became one of the top cows in Russell's herd. The cow's offspring produced three champions at the National Dairy Cattle Congress and two at the Iowa State fair.

Five other members of the Lyon family later received the same top 4-H Jersey project award, "and we've been called on to donate a couple of calves as the prize, too," Russell added.

Russell's brother, Earl, still has three cows which are descendants of the original Jerseys purchased by their father in 1926. Those cows are of the 17th generation.

Jersey Offices

Joe served as president of the American Jersey Cattle club from 1970 to 1973. He currently serves as president of the National All-Jersey Milk program, whose objective is to market specially identified Jersey

Agri-culture

milk in principal markets.

Joe is also a strong advocate of protein pricing of milk, rather than pricing milk on the basis of butterfat content.

"Back in those days, Dad was really out in left field, taking out fences to strip crop," Joe said. "But he left the soil in better shape than when he got it."

Russell built a set of conventional terraces on 120 acres of his father's original farm in 1948, 1950, and 1952. The last five years he's constructed tile inlet terraces on an additional 240 acres of land.

"I believe in it (soil conservation)," Russell said. "If we don't do it, what are our grandchildren going to have?"



Gazette photo by Al Swegle

Members of the Lyon family stand in the middle of a waterway constructed on this site 40 years ago. The structure has controlled soil erosion ever since. The farm was owned at that time by Earl Lyon, 81, right. Other family members are, from left: Front, Larry Lyon, 26; Russell Lyon, 58; Bob Lyon, 27; Back, Pete Lyon, 21; Joe Lyon, 48; Howard Lyon, 52, and Earl. Howard's son-in-law, Don Williams, 27, is in the tractor cab.

Meetings Are Held - -

Work Toward Water Pollution Control

Fred White, chairman of the Iowa county resource coordinating committee reports that work is well underway toward preparation of the pollution plan to be completed by November 1978.

White stated the plan is mandated by Congress under public law 92-500, also known as the federal water pollution control act amendments of 1972. The law calls for restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's streams.

The plan to be developed must deal with both point and non-point sources of pollution. Point source pollution includes the inputs to the streams from pipes and other specifically identified sources, while non-point source pollution in-

cludes the background pollution which reaches the streams in surface runoff from urban, agriculture, mining, and timber lands, explained White. He stressed that everyone in Iowa county will eventually be affected by the plan and urges all interested citizens to become involved in the planning process.

Leonard Thys, Iowa county representative to the Iowa Cedar conservancy district advisory committee, reports that the committee met Mar. 31 in Marshalltown to discuss the non-point pollution planning progress. He said information is being gathered to determine the type, extent and location of non-point pollution in the various areas of the state.

He pointed out to the con-

servancy district members that funding should be brought into line with the planning and programming in the Iowa Cedar project. One of the items originally slated to be considered in these hearings - S. 106, the land and water conservation act - has now been passed by Senate. Testimony on this bill is still welcome, since the House has not yet considered this bill, Thys said.

The focus of hearings now will be soil conservation problems generally and new legislation which Senator Dick Clark is introducing to provide cost sharing and technical assistance for farmers who must comply with the EPA water quality regulations in the future. Comments to legislators are important Thys said.

As non-point pollution assessment proceeds, efforts will also be directed toward developing possible alternatives for control of these problems. Thys and White agree that the help of everyone in Iowa county is needed to determine alternatives.

Some of the non-point planning activities to date include: a report tabulating current rural land use and cropland soil erosion hazards for 34 major watersheds of the state, a

compilation and location of existing local plans, rules, or regulations having non-point pollution ramifications; collection of soils and cropping data for individual counties to be used in calculating gross erosion potential; and most recently the mailing of an owner/operator questionnaire in each county seeking farmer advice on soil conservation and water quality.

Other planning activities to be undertaken include: detailed study of six smaller watersheds located in western Iowa and Iowa-Cedar river basins; assessment and control needs of mine related pollution; and preparation of a map classifying the relative erosion potential of all watersheds located in the state.

White feels that participation by people of Iowa County is necessary to develop the plan. Both White and Thys urge anyone interested to contact them or Bernard Elwood, BAC member, for information.

An area involving about 30 square miles of Old Man's creek has tentatively been chosen as a study area for water quality pertaining to the nonpoint pollution. Informational meetings are being held on the subject including one scheduled for Apr. 6.

Pioneer-Republican 3-31-77



CONCERNED ABOUT STANDARDS

— Ron Gahring, Williamsburg, told a group attending a water quality standard for the Iowa river basin last Thursday night, that he felt local, county input should go into setting up standards immediately instead of all regulations being set by the state through the department of environmental quality. Iowa county soil commissioners have proposed that an area at the upper end of Old Man's creek

northwest of Williamsburg be utilized as a pilot project to test methods of lowering non point pollution to meet regulations. Another meeting of the Iowa Cedar river basin will be held for the public next Wednesday, Apr. 6, at 8 p.m. at Williamsburg city hall. Water quality standards will be discussed and Steve Probst, coordinator for the Iowa-Cedar river basin work for the DEQ and SCS will be present. Mary Welsh, serving as secretary is at right.

Pioneer-Republican 4-28-77

Consider Water Quality In Iowa County

Several meetings have been held and more are scheduled on water quality standards in Iowa County.

A law passed by Congress in 1972 requires that all waters be capable of sustaining aquatic life and be swimmable in 1983. Sometime ago Iowa was divided into a number of water basin districts, in this area the Iowa-Cedar basin. From there the workings began for plans to eliminate non-point water pollution. Most of the planning, to date, has been done on the state level which is causing increasing concern on what will be mandated for compliance on the local level. It is for that reason that county meetings are being held so there will be input into the state document. An article on page 5C in the Iowa County Farmer section describes some of the meetings that have been held since Mar. 24.

About 30 square miles in the Old Man's creek watershed has been chosen for a pilot project by the state. This area will be used to test water quality standards on what is being done now, problems in that area, ways to solve them and whether it can be done in a practical way.

One of the major problems with this project, as with any other contemplated to meet the water quality standards act, is the non-point source water pollution or that which is uncontrolled by any person. It results from precipitation, natural flooding, snow melt or is not traceable to a definite source as a facility or industrial process.

For example, the rains that inundated the southwest part of the county in 1974 taking out and weakening many bridges in the area would be a non-point source. One phase of the law requires containment on each individual farm of what they are calling a Q 10 rain, the average rain over a ten year period.

One of the major problems, and one in the Old Man's creek area, has been caused by Interstate 80. One county soil conservationist noted at a meeting the interstate is one of the worst polluters

in the county. Road salt to keep the highway safe in winter washes off into the ditches and on into streams away from the road.

Cutting the road through the county altered many of the natural waterways and caused many new waterways to be established. Of course, the highway takes care of those waterways immediately within the right-of-way but that fails to account for them beyond the fence line today.

Harry Bryant, Iowa county soil conservationist, thinks that soil erosion may be controlled down to four tons per day in a manageable way. Control beyond this will be even more costly.

There is little doubt as much as possible should be done to control soil erosion loss. The soil conservation service, an agency long working in this field, is the proper one to handle it rather than a state department of environmental quality or other agency, particularly setting up a new one to do so. We are much opposed to a new agency.

We do see some problems for the individual landowner faced with need for compliance. At this point funding is up in the air and it seems clear that the farmer will be footing part of the bill at least. There is increasing talk for the public to pick up most of the bill through taxation because the overall advantage to maintain soil levels at present rate and to increase the water quality is a public concern.

Even so the local farmer is going to have to pick up a sizeable tab for the work. It will conserve the ground, but those practices do not always increase production. The opposite may occur, or those areas require more time in the process of doing field work. That's a distinct disadvantage for the farmer, and actually for the public.

Area farmers, as well as the general public, need to be aware of the proposals and to add their input into planning for the water pollution abatement. Further meetings are planned by the county resource coordinating committee on this.



Ron Gahring gave his presentation on Waste Water Treatment at the Farm Bureau board of directors' meeting.

FB board votes to support resolution

Ron Gahring visited with the Iowa County Farm Bureau board on waste water treatment. A slide presentation on Section 208 of the 1972 Water Pollution Control Act was also presented.

Larry Beyer made the motion we support the following resolution. Keith Erb seconded the motion. Approved. The following is the resolution:

Whereas, the Congress of the United States in passing PL 92-500 did establish water pollution abatement as a national priority and

Whereas, Section 208 of PL

92-500 mandates public participation in the development of plan to reduce nonpoint pollution of the waters to the best practical level and

Whereas, the temporary containment on each individual farm of a Q10 rain, along with other management practices best determined by the individual farmer or landowner working with the local conservation district commissioners, represents the highest practical level of abatement and

Whereas, the decision of how such containment on each farm should be accomplished can best be determined by the individual farmer or landowner working with the local conservation district commissioners, and

Whereas, the cost-benefit ratio of such containment favors the completion of such practices, and

Whereas, the general public and future generations will be the prime beneficiaries of such practices, and

Whereas, the landowners will be required to maintain the needed structures once they are completed,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that we, the undersigned landowners of Iowa County, Iowa who were in attendance do hereby request that the Water Quality Commission be directed to establish standards and goals for water quality and pollution abatement which embrace the principles set forth in this document; and furthermore that the 208 planning committee on every level be directed to begin planning procedures which will give effective timetables, approximate cost-benefit ratios, practical implementation procedures and appropriate economic and environmental impact statements of complying with such standards and goals.

Since the general public is the prime beneficiary of this program, measures should be taken to provide funding from public funds for 90 percent of the initial cost of construction and arrangements for long-term low-cost government loans to be made to landowners to cover the balance of the costs.

4-15-77 Farm Bureau spokesman

Are Proposals - -

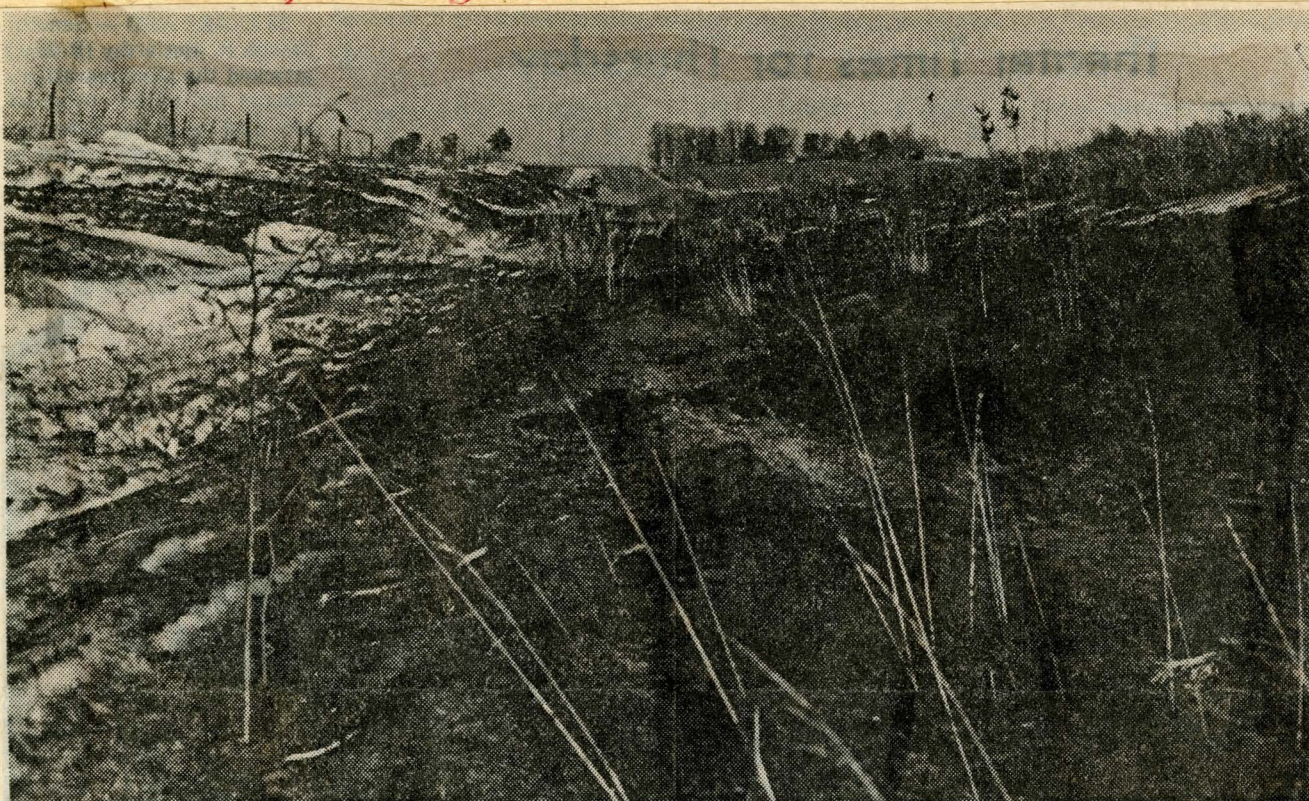
Will Air Basin Water Standards

Fred White, chairman of the Iowa county resource coordinating committee, announced that Thursday, Mar. 24, at 8 p.m. at the Williamsburg city hall, Williamsburg, there will be a public meeting on the proposed water quality standard for the Iowa river basin.

This is an opportunity for local people to have an input into the standards of water quality that are re-

quired by public law 92-500 enacted by Congress in 1972. This law pertains to the pollution of lakes, rivers, and streams from water entering them from industrial, municipal and farming operations.

White encourages anyone interested to attend this meeting and hear the proposed water quality standards and voice their opinions.



—Gazette photo by Al Swegle

Winter's normally pure white snow had a pronounced charcoal tinge in the last storm in Eastern Iowa. Winds carried snow and dirt from fall-plowed fields across the state and deposited a black blanket in roadside ditches and ravines. This photograph was taken near the Cedar Rapids airport.

Snow Melt Helps, If There Is Any

By Al Swegle
Gazette Farm Editor

The question today is: Will moisture from the melting snow soak in?

The answer is: The snow is melting in the ground, if it hasn't blown away. The ground is so dry that the frost line apparently isn't hampering the downward movement of the moisture.

The only problem is that Eastern Iowa didn't get as much snow in the last storm as East Coast regions, where people there have so much snow they don't know what to do with it.

The snow melt is occurring because mild temperatures have again returned to Eastern Iowa after a noticeable absence. Farmers are also finding that quite a bit of real estate in the form of blown topsoil changed hands during the winter storm of a week ago.

As a result, the Soil Conservation Service has asked local offices to file a report by next Tuesday on the wind erosion problem.

"The ground is so dry here that some of it is bound to soak in," Harry Bryant of Williamsburg, Iowa county soil conservationist, said Wednesday.

Steve Probst of Marion, Linn county soil conservationist, said snow is providing more moisture in fields

that have had no fall tillage or fields that have had conservation tillage.

"There isn't any snow left on fall-plowed fields to soak in," Probst said. "The snow and topsoil have all blown away."

"Snow was caught in four- to five-inch drifts between the rows of stalks during the storm and now is soaking in."

Probst said most of the black layer of dirt found on snow in Eastern Iowa all came from fall-plowed soils. The fields are now barren, and the melting snow is providing no moisture, because there isn't any snow there to melt.

Bryant and Probst, both conservation promoters, say this is a good reason why

farmers should use conservation tillage methods in the fall rather than fall plowing.

Crop experts believe more moisture will be needed to rebuild subsoil moisture levels for this summer's crops. Rainfall last spring provided enough subsoil reserves for crops to make it through a prolonged summer dry spell without a major crop disaster. Farmers will be looking for the same this year.

Subsoil moisture levels in east central and northeast Iowa were at the lowest point last fall since extension crop specialists first started recording subsoil moisture readings back in the 1950s.

The wind erosion problem apparently is occurring statewide, said Rollin Swank, as-

sistant state soil conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service in Des Moines.

Swank said he is concerned about the wind erosion which may occur within the next month, which is typically the most severe wind erosion period.

"About the only thing farmers can do is pray for snow cover to hold the soil," Swank said. "This is a serious problem this year, because we estimate that as much land was plowed this year as last when we had the most severe wind erosion since 1968."

"We are just as concerned about water erosion, because it does more damage totally than wind erosion traditionally does in Iowa."

'Revolutionary' Ideas Worked

LADORA — Sylvester Sherman, 90, got out of the house one day last week for the first time since Thanksgiving to show visitors some "revolutionary" ideas he tried some 40 years ago.

Sherman was one of the first in Iowa county to try alfalfa, to try brome grass, to try contouring, to build terraces, and to try strip-cropping. He was one of the first to try phosphate fertilizer and to drill corn instead of using the old-fashioned check wires.

All those "revolutionary" ideas back then are commonplace today.

Sherman talked about them all as he showed visitors the legacy he is leaving to the future on his 160-acre farm four miles northwest of Ladora.

The windbreak he planted around the now century-old farmhouse in 1936 still stands. That same year he installed 3,150 feet of terraces. The twin terrace lines can still be seen on his back forty from the gravel road in front of his old homestead.

The conservation improvements were all done with horsepower. He didn't buy a tractor until 1940.

The land around Ladora is rich in tradition for Sherman. His father was seven years old when the first Shermans came from New Hampshire to settle in Iowa county in 1850.

Sherman was 19 years old when his father died. He farmed with his mother for six years before starting out on his own in 1911. He farmed the same 160 acre farm up until seven years ago when he rented it to his son, Harold, now 65, also of Ladora.

Now he lives with his granddaughter, Naomi, and her husband, Dean Ward, on a farm two-and-a-half miles northeast of Ladora, but he still gets out to work on the Ward's 520-acre farming operation during the summer-time.

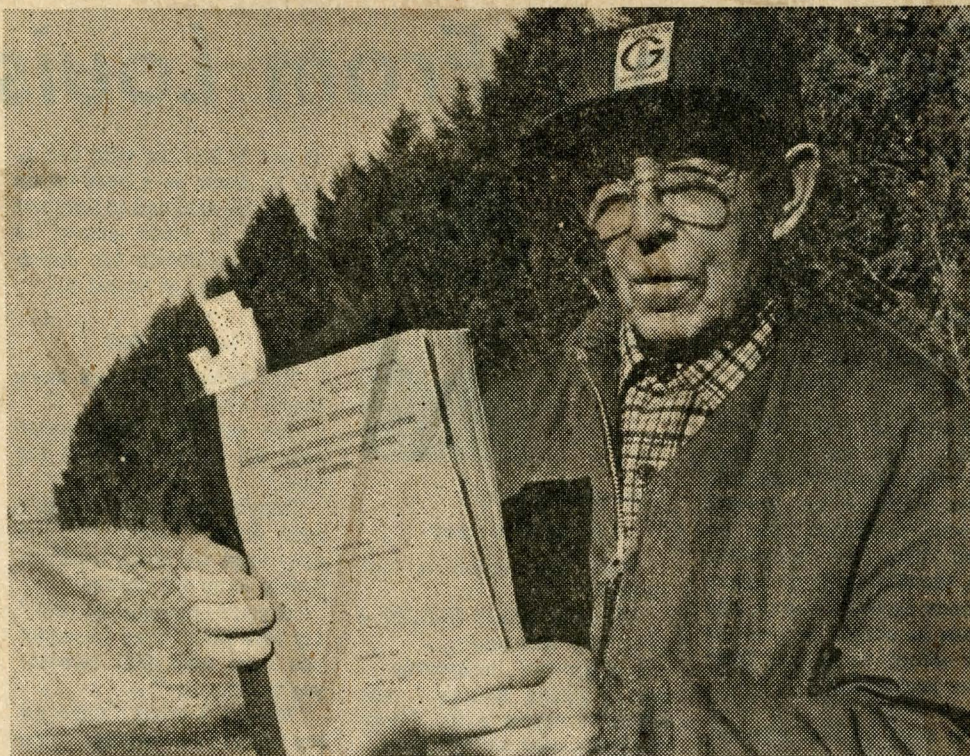
"You can't keep him inside," Mrs. Ward said.

Sylvester gets around with the help of a walker, but he's retained his sense of humor.

"You want to know why I've stayed around so long?" Sylvester asked while touring the countryside. "They haven't decided which way I should go — up or down."

Harry Bryant of Williamsburg, the Iowa county soil district conservationist, told Sylvester he thought Sylvester should attribute his long

Sylvester planted the black locusts back in the 1930s, and Bryant pointed out that soil conservationist have since



— Gazette photo by Al Sweagle

Sylvester Sherman's lengthy exploits as an innovative Iowa county farmer were written up in a 1937-38 soil conservation annual report, which he holds. A windbreak he planted in 1936 is pictured behind Sherman.

abandoned the idea. "Not all our (soil conservation) ideas worked, but at least we tried," Bryant explained.

The windbreak he planted in 1936, however, was certainly a success by soil conservation standards, because the trees are still full and erect. Sylvester said he would have preferred to have planted all Douglas fir, but a few Norway spruce got mixed in the order.

Dean Ward uses strip-cropping on his farm, as his wife's grandfather tried some 40 years ago. But Sylvester said he wasn't really satisfied with the way strip-cropping worked back then. "You couldn't graze the land, and the grasshoppers got in the alfalfa so bad," he added.

Sylvester took some ribbing from his neighbors, too, when he tried alfalfa back in 1927 and brome grass shortly after that.

"One of my neighbors said he thought I planted quack-grass when he first saw my brome grass," Sylvester joked.



Agriculture

First of Three Farm Pages

Up until then, farmers seeded clover and timothy for hay crops, which generally did not survive more than one growing season. Farmers also got an extra cutting from the new alfalfa crop. Alfalfa produced three cuttings of hay, while clover provided only two cuttings.

His son, Harold, was a longtime member of the Iowa county soil commission. Sylvester himself was never on the boards because "you don't make much money doing that," he quipped.

"Grandfather wasn't afraid to try things that sounded reasonable," his granddaughter

ter, Naomi, said, "but he made sure the things were reasonable before he tried them."

Besides keeping his sense of humor, Sylvester still demonstrates a great deal of family pride.

When he arrived back home, he was eager for his visitors to see the new hog finishing facility on his granddaughter's farm, but Naomi said they, like most farm families, are concerned about visitors spreading swine disease at farrowing time.

Sylvester was asked if he thinks soil conservation pays. "You bet," he replied.

THE IOWA COUNTY Advertiser

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VOLUME 12 NO. 19

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1977

PUBLISHED BY BULLERS' LITHO

31st ANNUAL REPORT - 1976

IOWA SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WILLIAMSBURG, IOWA

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Major Practice	Unit	1976
Contour Farming	Acre	1,054
Diversion Terraces	Feet	13,400
Ponds	Number	11
Erosion Control Structures	Number	8
Grassed Waterways	Acre	29.4
Terraces	Feet	140,770
Tile	Feet	339,591

Other Services

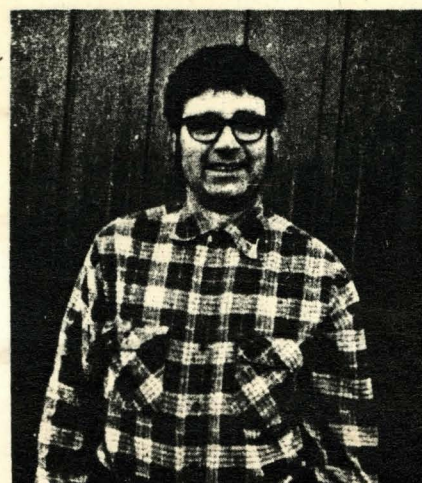
Individuals & Groups Assisted	Number	329
Individuals & Groups Applying	Number	169
Practices		
Referrals Served	Number	111

Planning Practices

New District Cooperators	Number	59
Basic Conservation Plans	Number	37
Revised	Number	10



LARRY BEYER
Commissioner



GREG MISBACH
Commissioner

FIELD OFFICE PERSONNEL

Harry Bryant, District Conservationist
Clem McBride, Conservation Technician
Lennis Doehrmann, State Clerk
Millen Sandersfeld, Conservation Aide

AREA OFFICE PERSONNEL

Keith Glandon, Area Conservationist
Marvin Parmer, Civil Engineer
Francis Vos, Civil Engineer Technician
Wilma Kimball, Area Clerk
Lorne Nestrude, Soil Scientist

WILDLIFE AND BIOLOGY SPECIALISTS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Larry Beyer, Chairman
Greg Misbach, Vice-Chairman
Keith Enochson
Vernon Sandersfeld
Fred White

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

David McCartney
Mary Welsh

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Gary Drefke, Lutheran Interparish
Mary Welsh, Williamsburg Community
Corrine Tandy, Deep River-Millersburg
Pauline Reed, English Valley
Mildred Kinzenbaw, HLV Community
Andy Rowe, Iowa Valley
Norbert Wenzel, St. John's Lutheran
Robert Van Cleave, Amana Community



KEITH ENOCHSON
Commissioner

NEW DISTRICT COOPERATORS FOR 1976

Leroy Bral
Iva Lillie
Hugh O'Meara
Ron Gahring
Dean Border
Harold McClenathan
Dean Eggert
Joe Wolfer
Dick Mouchka
Leo McKenna
Charles A. Lortz
Larry Schaffbuch
Martha Story
Michael & Dick Elwood
Bernard Himmelsbach
Gordon McCaw
Stuart Blythe
Daryl Wagner
William Lewis
Myron Rathjen
Mrs. Eugene Peak
John DeSmet
Dean Schropp
Robert Walker
Dwight Gildemeister
Dean Wyant
Gerald & John Greene
Wayne Schaffbuch
Robert Fant
Bill Zimpleman
Orlo Collingwood
Mildred Koehn
Kenneth Davis
Ben Vercande
William Wyant
Orrin Ward
Estella Brimmer
Ann Miller
Thomas McKenna
Louis Kaplan
Monte Root
R.W. Richardson
William Blythe
Norman Axmear
Raymond Heitman
Ronald Mohr
Richard Wagner
Dave Fetzer
Don Gingerich
Truman Schmidt
Richard Meyer
Gerald Carlson
Ken Boeke
John Hacker
John O'Brien
Leo Haack
C & M Farms, Inc.
Ed Konicek

Harold Bender

BASIC CONSERVATION PLANS FOR 1976

Dennis Sandersfeld
Eugene Teggatz
Glenn White
Hugh O'Meara
Wilfrid Lillis
Harold Iburg
John Rush
Iva Lillie
R. W. Richardson
Don & Ed O'Brien
Jerald McCaw
M. G. Heitman
Alma Heitman
Mildred Koehn
William Roemig
Milton Maack
Thomas McKenna
Paul Rudin
Don O'Brien
David Horras
Lyle Root
Raymond Heitman
Robert Iburg
Estella Brimmer
Charles A. Lortz
Leo McKenna
Truman Schmidt
James Baldwin
Kenneth Davis
Dick Mouchka
Leonard Collins
Wayne Meade
Orrin Ward
Ronald Mohr
Dave Fetzer
C & M Farms, Inc.
First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Vernon

BASIC CONSERVATION PLANS REVISED FOR 1976

Dan Miller, Jr.
Russell Pence
Dwight Slaubaugh
Garland Haselhuhn
Howard Webb
E. J. Schmuecker
Dairy Grimm
Lowell Luhman
Mary Slaubaugh
William Blythe

FINANCIAL REPORT

I-M Budget	Receipts	Disbursements
Allocation	\$ 1,475.00	
Commissioners Expenses		\$ 382.30
Office Supplies		457.11
Printing		253.20
Prizes for Contests		136.98
Office Expense		206.35
Meeting Expense		29.50
Total Expended		\$ 1,465.44
Released		9.56
II-M Budget		\$ 1,475.00
Allocation	\$ 9,250.00	
Clerical and Technical		\$ 8,537.02
Travel		101.08
Equipment		447.76
Total Expended		\$ 9,085.86
Released		164.14
		\$ 9,250.00

We wish to thank the following people and businesses for their contributions to the financial support of the Iowa Soil Conservation District.

Cedar Valley Distributing Co.; Patron's Mutual Ins.; T.I.P. Rural Electric Helen Donahoe; Chris Swartzendruber; Harold Sherman; Dick Mouchka; Ron Ahrens; Raymond Murphy; Ches Freshour; Rudolph Hagen & Son; Dan E. Miller, Jr.; Ronald Mohr; Edwin Yoder; Levine Co., Inc.; Duane Schwarting; Duane Bloome; Marengo Elevator; Millen Sandersfeld; Elwood Bros.; Delmar & Larry Wetjen; Leo Kelly Co.; Rick Gates; Donald Baker; Richard Wetjen; Gahring Construction; Iowa County Farm Service; Beyer Farms; Harold Koehn; David Horras; V.R. Points; Roy L. Yoder; Swartzendruber Lumber; Leonard Thys; Rhinehart's; David McCartney; Dietrich Construction; Pauline Lillie; Ralph Leigh; John Maxey; Amana Society; Lloyd Rank; Funk Seeds International; Citizens State Bank; Farmers Trust & Savings Bank; Security Savings Bank; Iowa County Savings Bank; Wellman Savings Bank; Farmers Savings Bank, Victor; Farmers Savings Bank, North English & First Trust & Savings Bank.



Seated L to R: Harry Bryant, District Conservationist and Lennis Doehrmann, District Clerk. Back Row L to R: Clem McBride, Technician and Millen Sandersfeld, Conservation Aide.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- JANUARY**
- * Contractor-Farmer Meeting held January 8.
 - * Commissioners Meeting held January 13.
 - * Commissioners Short Course at Ames held on January 20 and 21.
- FEBRUARY**
- * Tree & Wildlife Information Meeting held February 13.
 - * Commissioners Meeting held February 17.
 - * Iowa Soil Conservation Resource Coordinating Committee Meeting held February 19.
- MARCH**
- * Contribution Letter Mailed.
 - * Annual Report published March 11 edition of the Iowa County Advertiser.
 - * Commissioners Meeting held March 16.
 - * Education Committee met March 22.
 - * Regional Commissioners Meeting held at the Highlander Inn, Iowa City on March 24. Commissioners Dick Mouchka and Fred White, District Clerk Lennis Doehrmann and District Conservationist Harry Bryant attended.
- APRIL**
- * Commissioners Meeting held April 20.
 - * Tour to pick winners for the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program was held April 21.
- MAY**
- * Annual Art Contest was held May 7. Winners were: Senior Division; 1st. - Darrell Schwarting, 2nd. - Kevin Doehrmann, 3rd. - Greg

III-M Budget (1975-76)

Allocation	\$28,000.00
Additional Allocation	4,173.38
Disbursed to Farmers	\$32,173.38

III-M Budget (1976-77)

Allocation	\$41,000.00
Additional Allocation	\$18,800.00
Disbursed to Farmers	\$48,295.66
Obligated Funds	2,900.00
Unobligated Funds	8,604.34
	\$59,800.00

Revolving Fund

Balance on Hand 1 - 01 - 76	\$ 412.92
Receipts - Contributions	1,590.28
Receipts - Reimbursements	1,236.03
Disbursements	
Balance on Hand 12 - 31 - 76	287.85
	\$ 2,952.38



FRED WHITE
Commissioner

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

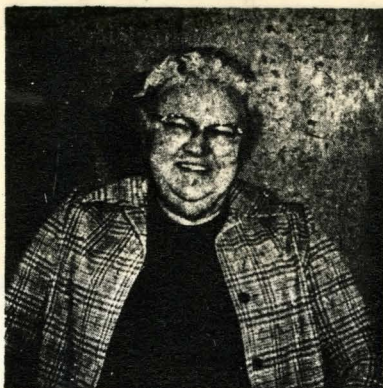
OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER



VERNON SANDERFELD
Commissioner



MARY WELSH
Assistant Commissioner



DAVID MCCARTNEY
Assistant Commissioner

Gaines; Junior Division: 1st. - Becky Witte, 2nd. - Doug Teggatz, 3rd. - Brenda Arp; Elementary Division: 1st. - Mary Wetjen, 2nd. - Paul Werner, 3rd. - Warren Jordon.

* District Newsletter published May 13 edition of the Iowa County Advertiser.

* Commissioners Meeting held May 18.

* Mary Welsh was appointed as Assistant Commissioner.

* A conservation tour of completed projects in the county was held for the commissioners and their wives with supper following at the Landmark Restaurant on June 2.

* Commissioners Meeting held June 15.

* Special Commissioners Meeting held July 7 following annual picnic at Lake Iowa.

* Warm Season Grass Tour to Creston, Ia. was held July 15.

* The district sponsored an air tour July 18.

* Commissioners Meeting held July 21.

* Commissioners Meeting held August 17.

* Iowa County Teachers Conservation Workshop was held August 25 at Lake Iowa.

* Conservation Tour for ASCS Committee and Office Personnel was held August 26.

* Training Session held at the Ironmen Inn was held on September 8. Attending were District Conservationist Harry Bryant, Technician Clem McBride and District Clerk. Lennis Doehrmann.

* Commissioners Meeting held September 21 with election of officers being held. Elected were: Chairman, Fred White; Vice-Chairman, Keith Enochson; Secretary-Treasurer, Lennis Doehrmann.

* Fall Teachers Workshop at Camp Ewalu was held October 3 & 4. Attending from Iowa County was Kathy Stewart, Williamsburg Elementary School.

* District Speech and Essay Contest was held October 6. Winners were: Speech Contest, 1st. - Lamar Shima, 2nd. - Arlin Karsten, 3rd. - Kenneth Ward; Essay Contest: 1st. - Angela Bendorf, 2nd. - Twinkle Dawson & 3rd. - Brenda Arp.

* Soil Judging Contest was held October 12 in Johnson County. Contest was sponsored by Iowa, Johnson & Washington Soil Conservation Districts.

* Commissioners Meeting held October 19.

* Annual Conservation Awards Banquet was held October 20 at Middle America Restaurant. Winners were: New Cooperator Division, Kenneth Davis; Owner-Operator Division, Russell Pence; Owner-Tenant Division, F.W. Tomasek-Richard Bean and K-8 Teacher Division, Laurena Hammes.

* Regional Commissioners Meeting & Speech Contest was held at the Highlander Inn, Iowa City November 8. Lamar Shima placed second in the regional speech contest.

* Special Commissioners Meeting held Nov. 7. Annual Commissioners & Clerk Conference was held November 29, 30 & December 1.

* Commissioners Meeting and Christmas Party was held December 16 at the Highlander Inn Iowa City.

Eight Counties Name New Soil Commission Chairmen

New chairmen were elected by soil commissioners in eight counties in The Gazette circulation area in elections this month.

New chairmen head the soil programs in Benton, Buchanan, Delaware, Fayette, Iowa, Johnson, Keokuk and Linn counties. Soil officers were re-elected in Allamakee, Cedar, Clayton, Jones, Tama and Winneshiek counties.

Soil officers for the coming year are listed below:

Allamakee county: Chairman, Lloyd Meehan, Harpers Ferry; vice-chairman, Leon Schoh, Dorchester; secretary, Mrs. Mary Winters, Waukon; and treasurer, Dennis Byrnes, Dorchester.

Benton county: Chairman, Roman Gardner, Garrison; vice-chairman, Henry Lyphout, Vinton; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Connie Lange, Vinton.

Buchanan county: Chairman, Glen Burrows, Brandon; vice-chairman, Dan Fangman, Monti; secretary, Janice Devens, Independence; treasurer, Jim Walker, Independence.

Cedar county: Chairman, Elmer Wilke, Tipton; vice-chairman, Kenneth Mather, West Liberty; secretary, Ken Muller, Tipton; and treasurer, Mrs. Hilda Carey, Tipton.

Clayton county: Chairman, Eldon Kruse, Elkader; vice-chairman, Bernard Hanson, Elgin; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Mary Carnes, Elkader.

Delaware county: Chairman, Larry Knipper, Hopkin-

ton; vice-chairman, Paul Gienapp, Hopkinton; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Pat Maker, Manchester.

Fayette county: Chairman, Paul Schuchmann, jr., Arlington; vice-chairman, James Stewart, Oelwein; secretary, George Halstead, West Union; and treasurer, Frank Thyer, Randalia.

Iowa county: Chairman, Larry Beyer, Marengo; vice-chairman, Greg Misbach, Marengo; and secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Lennis Doehrmann, Williamsburg.

Johnson county: Chairman, John R. Lindemann, Iowa City; vice-chairman, Fremont Isaacs, Iowa City; and secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Jan Duwa, Iowa City.

Jones county: Chairman, Max Specht, Monticello; vice-chairman, William Hacke, Center Junction; sec-

retary-treasurer, Mrs. Rose Marie Austin, Anamosa.

Keokuk county: Chairman, David Flint, What Cheer; vice-chairman, Don Milliken, Hedrick; secretary, Mary Glentzer, Sigourney; and treasurer, Laurena Hammes, Sigourney.

Linn county: Chairman, David Booth, Central City; vice-chairman, Jack Scott, Marion; secretary, Dortha Lillie, Alburnett; and treasurer, Morris Neighbor, Marion.

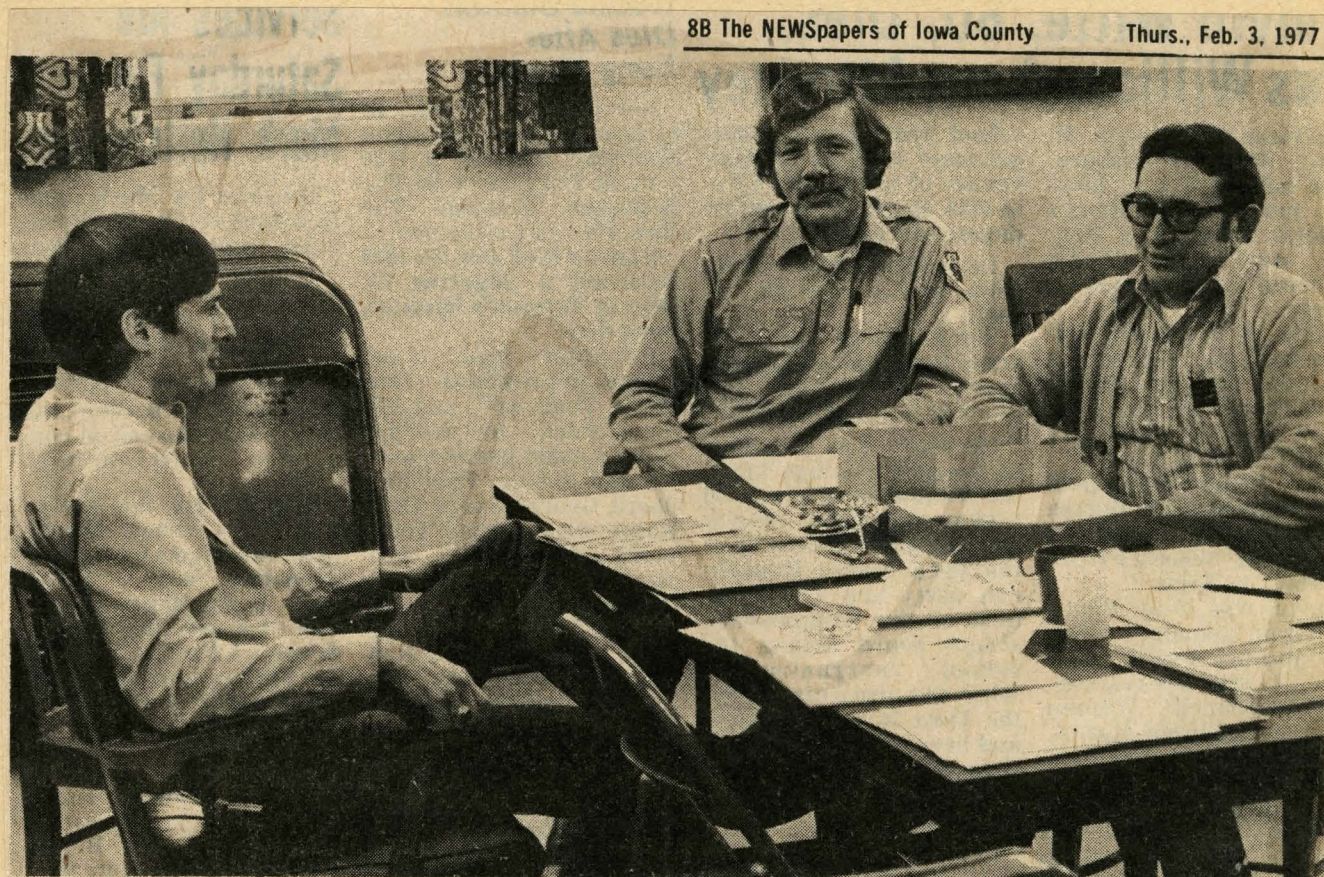
Tama county: Chairman, Kenneth Bruene, Gladbrook; vice-chairman, Harry Scurr, Gilman; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Audrey Wheeler, Toledo.

Winneshiek county: Chairman, Harris Buvold, Decorah; vice-chairman, Andrew Hemesath, Calmar; secretary-treasurer, Obert Sacquitne, Mabel, Minn.

IOWA COUNTY RESOURCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Iowa County Resource Coordinating Committee has scheduled a meeting for Thursday, January 27, 1977 at 7:30 p.m. in the Soil Conservation Service office in Williamsburg.

We have progressed to the point where some important decisions must be made that will affect all of Iowa County. Your attendance is urgently solicited.



SIGNING UP — Bob Hibbs, district forester; Bob Kurtt, area wildlife biologist and county soil conservationist Harry Bryant waited for more customers Jan. 24 at the ASCS office in Williamsburg. People interested in planting trees or developing wildlife areas were invited to come to the office where order forms were avail-

able for those wishing to make orders for trees or shrubs, and other printed materials such as how to attract birds to your home was also available. The men said they were busy with persons interested in the programs during the day.

THE IOWA COUNTY

Advertiser

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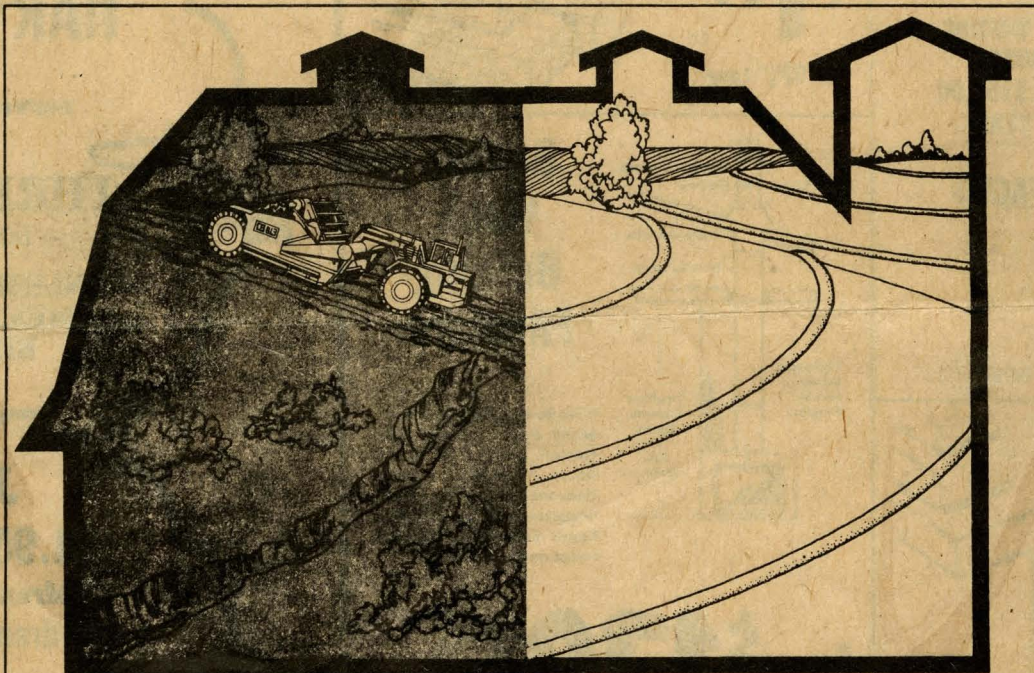
VOLUME 12 NO. 15

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1977

PUBLISHED BY BULLERS' LITHO

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**Give your land the shape
you'll love to farm...**



and boost your profits!

Information Meeting on Conservation Work for 1977 and how to qualify for cost-sharing. Attendance at this meeting could qualify you for priority in construction and cost-sharing. SCS Technicians, ASCS Personnel and Contractors will be available to answer questions.

**MEETING WILL BE IN THE WILLIAMSBURG CITY HALL
MONDAY, JANUARY 31 at 7:30 P.M.**



IOWA COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

MEETING SPONSORED BY



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