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SUPPLEMENT APRIL 22, 1982

1982 Soil Conservation Issue

and

Annual Report



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Supplement to the Tipton Conservative & Advertiser

1982 Cedar County Conservation publication staff: Stuart Clark and Joe Giannini

Clarence Beyer-30 Years With The Cedar County Soil Conservation Service

By Clarence L. Beyer
Conservation Technician

When I came to this county thirty years ago, a large farm was one with more than 400 acres. The average size farm in the United States today is 430 acres.

In 1952 there were many farms in the 120 to 160 range. These farms were farmed with: H & M Farmalls and B & A John Deeres or tractors of equivalent size, 2 and 3 bottom plows (only one person in the county was using an implement similar to a chisel), 10 to 12 foot discs were common, as was the 4 section harrow. Corn planters were nearly equally divided between the 2 and 4 row models, with some people still using the old horse-drawn planter and check row wire. Nearly all of these planters had a 40 to 42 inch row width.

Nearly every farm had milk cows or stock cows, 20 to 30 sows, 100 to 250 chickens, and some farms had 20 to 30 head of sheep. Along with this, most farms had a standard rotation of corn, corn, oats, meadow-or corn, oats, meadow. Soybeans were just starting to become an available source of cash income.

I don't need to remind you of either the size of farms or the machinery used today!

The National Average Yield for corn in 1952 was a little over 40 bushels per acre



Beyer says some of his best memories are those which involve working with children. He was often working with school children in outdoor classrooms and high school students in soil judging contests and other activities. He also enjoyed working with Cedar county farmers and has many who are good friends.

and bean yields were 23+ bushels per acre. The yields of both corn and beans were lower in 1953 and 1954.

The top measured corn yield in Cedar County in 1981 was 205 bushels per acre. The top bean yield was over 65 bushels per acre. There is no doubt in my mind that somewhere, someone in the county exceeded those yields.

Cedar County land has paid a terrible price for all the changes that were made in the last 30 years. We have lost over one-half of our topsoil in Cedar County. This county was originally blessed with 14 to 16 inches of topsoil, and we now have between 6 and 7 inches left. Of the total 6 to 8 inches of topsoil that was lost, I believe 3 to 4 inches were lost in the last 25 to 30 years. The one year that stands out in my mind was 1974, we found soil losses that year that were estimated at 200 tons per acre (this alone was 1 1/4 inches).

Soil Conservation hasn't changed all that much in the last 30 years. Thirty years ago we were staking, surveying, and designing: ponds, terraces, diversions, waterways, tile and structures, windbreaks, laying out contouring and strip-cropping, helping with timber establishments, pasture improvements, and checking conservation practices for the A.S.C. Our main purpose, however, was to plan individual farms and the practices needed on those farms to reduce erosion to acceptable limits.

This sounds simple and reasonable doesn't it? If so, why isn't the erosion controlled or even reduced by half? The basic purpose of the Soil Conservation Service is still the same today as it was when I started; the goal is to reduce erosion to acceptable limits. What happened?

I believe economics, and maybe in some cases just plain greed, have been the cause of most changes and most of the soil loss. I have seen the rotations go, the waterways go, the contouring and strip-cropping eliminated, the terraces farmed down, timber bulldozed out, and I found out our permanent pasture wasn't permanent after all, and I have seen the corn-soybean rotation become popular.

What do I expect for the next 30 years? I have no predictions, but I do know there will be changes and it will be up to the individual farmers to make those changes. I have no desire to see the alternatives which are mandatory controls or starvation.

I must admit I have seen some bright spots the last 2 years. These are increased use of minimum tillage, no-till, and the demand for tile outlet terraces.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those farmers I have worked with the last 30 years. I still think Cedar County farmers are the best in the U.S.

Three Decades of Progress, But There Is A Long Way To Go

Soil conservation has a long way to go in Cedar county.

Clarence Beyer will tell you that and he speaks with authority. Beyer should know—he recently completed 30 years of work with the Cedar County Soil Conservation service as a conservation technician.

The Tipton man has a warning for area farmers. He says time is running out and if more is not done to at least slow down soil losses, the government will step in. Few people want to see that happen, but Clarence Beyer is worried.

Beyer is not just some city slicker who came up through the government bureaucracy to tell farmers what to do. He grew up on a farm northeast of Vinton and he rented a farm for 4 years before buying his own back in 1949.

On the rented farm he saw the results of intensive fall plowing. Erosion was severe on the farm and when he bought his farm in Benton county he asked the conservation service to come out and tell him what he needed to do to reduce erosion.

In the course of his conversation with the conservation people, Beyer was offered a part-time job. He became a full-time employee before coming to Tipton in 1952. He had been offered jobs in a number of other towns, but he said he chose this area because he liked the area and he was familiar with the soil conditions.

Beyer still owns his farm in Benton county and he rents it out. But, for the past 30 years he has been working hard in Cedar county to help farmers preserve the soil.

Over those 30 years, Beyer has seen just about every type of erosion problem Cedar county has. He has also seen some major improvement in farming practices, but he is still very concerned.

"The biggest thing wrong in conservation today is apathy and indifference," Beyer says. "Many people are not seeing the erosion."

Beyer is worried about the current situation because there could be drastic changes on the horizon. Soil conservation is voluntary today, but somewhere down the road it might not be.

What does Beyer think about voluntary conservation? He'll tell you "it isn't working." He says it isn't working because people simply are not doing what has to be done.

"We have, in the course of years, gone to many meetings," Beyer says. "People always say we need more education and more information. That upsets me because we have it. People aren't stupid or ignorant. They are educated, but they're just not doing it."

Beyer admits there is a need for more information on very new practices and products. He also credits many farmers

for using conservation tillage and no-till. He knows it has helped to slow down and reduce a lot of erosion, but he feels much more can be done.

Big steps need to be taken or Beyer feels the farmer will face some type of regulation. "We can't continue to go like we are or there will be some type of rule or regulation." Beyer hopes legislation isn't coming, but he says it is a fact that voluntary conservation has not been successful.

The Cedar county topsoil is some of the best in the world and it is some of the most productive. But every year more of it disappears and Beyer strongly believes time is running out. Every year more and more bare and severely eroded spots appear in fields.

Even after painting such a dismal picture, Beyer isn't completely disillusioned. He says attitudes are changing, many farmers are growing more concerned and conservation practices are gaining acceptance among lots of land users.

Beyer is pleased to see the fertilizer, seed and equipment companies recognizing the need for conservation. He is especially happy with the response of seed corn companies and the fertilizer manufacturers to the needs of farmers who want to do something about erosion control.

He feels the chemical companies have done an "excellent" job of providing good products, while seed corn companies have increasingly allowed their growers to use contour practices. They also use terraces and Beyer says the conservation service has worked with the growers to help the producers build terraces for larger equipment. "We can bend too," Beyer says.

As little as 8 or 9 years ago, Beyer says many farmers felt all crop ground had to be plowed. But now, the use of chisels and minimum tillage are growing increasingly popular.

What did Beyer tell farmers about soil losses? He often said there was no one thing that controlled erosion. He says today that it takes both mechanical and cultural changes to prevent soil loss and the conservation service can help.

"The SCS offers alternatives," Beyer says. It tells farmers what can be done to reduce soil losses to 5 tons or less per acre per year. If a farmer can do that, Beyer feels farming can be maintained in its present form.

On the other hand, if more and more farmers do not start to conserve, Beyer foresees many problems. He does not want to see lawmakers mandate farming practices. "Mandatory practices would be difficult to administer and people play games with rules and regulations," he says.

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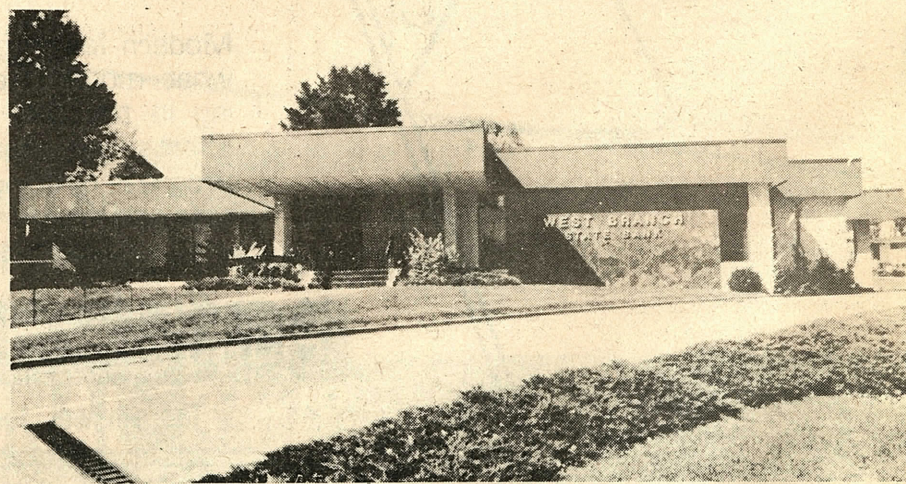
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Today, as he looks at agriculture after more than 30 years he is both optimistic and pessimistic. He is optimistic about the changes he has seen in soil conservation in the past 2 to 3 years, but he is pessimistic about the rate at which the change is taking place.

His advice? "Continue to improve the situation as you can to reduce erosion." He also warns farmers not to be blind to their own soil losses simply because better seed and fertilizer produce better yields.

There is an old saying which Beyer said people in the soil conservation offices used to repeat. He asked that we

lighten it up, but it went something like this—a change in farm operators, by either succession or sale, is the best thing that could happen for soil conservation.

Today, even if that is true, he feels there isn't time. He doesn't believe you can tell a person to change their ways if they won't admit they have a problem. "You've got to admit you have a problem before you can be cured," he says.

Beyer will continue to be interested in soil conservation, but after 30 years in the Cedar county area he has stepped down. He says of his future plans, "I'll do whatever I want to do."



The photo above was taken of Clarence Beyer in 1960. Beyer, 58, retired recently and was honored at a retirement party at the Highlander April 10. During his 30 years of service in Cedar county he received 3 outstanding performance awards. He was also named as an honorary chapter farmer by the Tipton FFA in 1977 and the West Branch FFA in 1978.



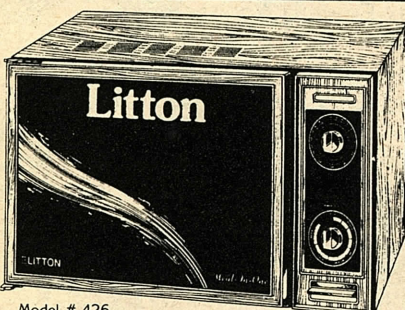
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A new concept in terracing - narrow based terraces

By Judy Hagan
Soil Conservation
Technician

Terracing is not a new concept to this county, but narrow based terraces are. Only one set has been built so far, but more are in the planning stage.

Narrow based terraces have some advantages over broad base or grassed back-slope terraces. They are cheaper to build than either grassed back or broad base because it takes less dirt to build them. The intake pipes are not out in cropland so they don't have to be farmed around.

Narrow based terraces are built so that both the foreslope and backslope are seeded to grass and not farmed. The fill usually takes up the width of equipment being used by a farmer. They usually don't take any more land out of production than a grass waterway would and usually they take out less.

If your reason for not building terraces before was because you didn't want to farm them, then take a look at narrow based terraces. They're the answer to waterway wash outs and erosion problems. For further information on narrow based terraces just contact our office at 1201 North Avenue in Tipton.

Topsoil Belongs In Fields, Not Ditches

Another aspect of good land use and soil conservation practice of agricultural lands is the benefit to our rural roads. Retaining the top soil on the land is far better than filling up roadside ditches and clogging field tile outlets. With the present tight situation of road funding, it is impossible to be recleaning hundreds of miles of silted in ditches. It is futile for the county to spend your tax dollars to clean a ditch when the adjoining landowners aren't using good soil conservation. Even in areas where the silt has not totally obstructed the normal ditch, the road has lost some of its snow storage capacity, and we all know what this means in winter.

Bare ground and fall tilled fields are also a problem for the road system in 2 respects. When vegetative matter is broken down or disked under, there is very little snow retention on the fields, and consequently the snow drifting problem for the roads is greatly multiplied. Also when we get soil loss by wind in the winter, this mixes with any snow present and becomes a more difficult or harder snow to work with.

Most Soil Erosion Occurs During The Spring In Iowa

by Greg Brenneman
Extension Soil, Water & Waste
Management Specialist

With spring in the air, we are approaching the time of year when most of the soil erosion in eastern Iowa occurs. Although some of the effects of soil erosion have been masked by increased fertilizer applications, we can still see evidence of serious erosion. This often shows up in the form of thin crop stands and stunted plants in the eroded areas.

How severely crop productivity is decreased by erosion depends a great deal on the subsoil material. In western Iowa, some locations have subsoils that are favorable for crop root growth up to 100 feet deep.

In eastern Iowa, however, many of our soils have high clay contents in the shallow subsoil. This high clay subsoil is unfavorable to root growth and prepares a very poor seedbed when exposed by erosion. Therefore, eroded soils of eastern Iowa often show yield decreases even when extra amounts of fertilizer are applied.

When soil erosion does occur, not only is topsoil lost but valuable crop nutrients

are also carried away. An extensive study in east central Iowa showed that approximately 4 pounds of nitrogen and 2 pounds of phosphorus are lost with every ton of soil that is eroded. With soil losses on some fields ranging upward of 10 to 20 tons per acre per year, the loss of crop nutrients is costly to the farmer. This showed up in a western Iowa study where it took approximately 65 pounds more nitrogen per acre to produce the same crop on an eroded subsoil as compared to a normal soil.

Although the effects of soil erosion may not appear in one year, they are very real. In fact, approximately 1 to 4 bushels per acre corn yield potential is lost with each inch of topsoil that is eroded.

As we head into the spring planting season, let's work to reduce soil erosion losses in Iowa. This can be done through proper maintenance of grass waterways and terraces, contour planting and leaving protective crop residues on the soil surface after planting. Before making another tillage pass that buries crop residues ask yourself, is this tillage really needed? By carefully protecting our soil resource today, it will continue to produce good crops in the years to come.

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Crock Family Believes In Conserving Iowa Soil

Soil conservation is not a new idea on the Ray Crock farm northeast of Tipton.

The Crock family has been moving forward with soil conservation techniques ever since 1947, when Ray and Don Crock started some contour farming on the family land. Don Crock had just graduated from high school and Ray was still a junior when the boys started contour farming as part of an FFA project.

Over the past 35 years, Ray Crock says contour farming on rolling ground has "just come naturally" and it works. "It takes a little longer, but we will have soil for the next generations," he says. He also points out that yields on the contour ground are just as good as those on flat ground.

The Cocks run a family operation, consisting of 1,600 acres of family owned and rented land. Ray has been in partnership with his brother, Jim, on crops since 1967 and in recent years sons, Steve and Ken, have joined them. Another son, David, will also be included if he doesn't decide to go to college after graduation.

The base for the family farm is the Cocks 200 acre homestead, which is just outside the Tipton city limits. The farm goes back in the Crock family several generations to Ray's grandparents and the operation has been growing ever since.

The Cocks have about 1,300 of their 1,600 acres in row crops and they also raise a large amount of livestock. They finish 1,200 to 1,500 hogs on the home farm every year and the Crock children also raise chickens, turkeys, sheep and cattle. In addition, Ray has a dairy operation, with 70 to 75 head.

The Cocks use very little hired labor and seem to be on the go almost all the time. Ray says that is a good situation,

because equipment is used more efficiently and is paid off quicker.

Because much of the farmland is located in different sections in Cedar county, the Cocks work a variety of soils, ranging from excellent Muscatine soil to extremely sand soil.

Looking back over the years, Ray remembers using the moldboard plow extensively and he remembers soil losses were prohibitive. In fact, when he was a youngster he said he remembered going outside after a heavy rain and uncovering corn which had been covered with silt.

In 1973 Crock stopped using the mold board plow on almost all of his land and went to conservation type tillage. Today he uses a big-plow disc and a disc-chisel combination for most of his field work.

In 1980 he tried no-till and he has continued to use it, although he admits he is still "just feeling his way along."

Crock says he has an advantage in some ways because of his need for hay for his dairy cows. He is able to rotate crops on his rolling ground and he uses a 6 year rotation, following a corn, corn, oats, hay, hay, hay plan.

The Soil Conservation Service has helped the Crock family with grass waterways for drainage on several farms and Ray tries to keep improving drainage with new tile lines.

He is proud of the work he did on 40 acres of ground which was a swamp of bluegrass containing peat bogs and swamp holes. The land was so mushy cattle could not get through it, so a waterway was built and the land now supports a regular crop. Crock says hunters had liked the swamp for pheasants, but he said pheasants weren't making him any money.

Over the years the Cocks have worked



Ray and Margaret Crock stand in front of a wall of pictures showing years of change in their farming operation. The

Crock family has been using some type of conservation method on their farm ground for more than 30 years.

with seed companies on research. This year a seed corn company will have test plots on 13 acres, with over 100 varieties under observation. The family has also worked with chemical companies to try to improve treatment for weeds in fields using conservation methods.

"We believe in our farming practices," Crock says, "and we believe livestock has a place on the farm." He points out that

good farming and good conservation takes good management or it usually won't work.

"Our improvements in conservation have been a challenge due to all of our soil types," Crock says, "but it has also been very rewarding. We used to be happy to get 75 to 90 bushels off of rolling ground, but now our rolling ground equals our flat ground."

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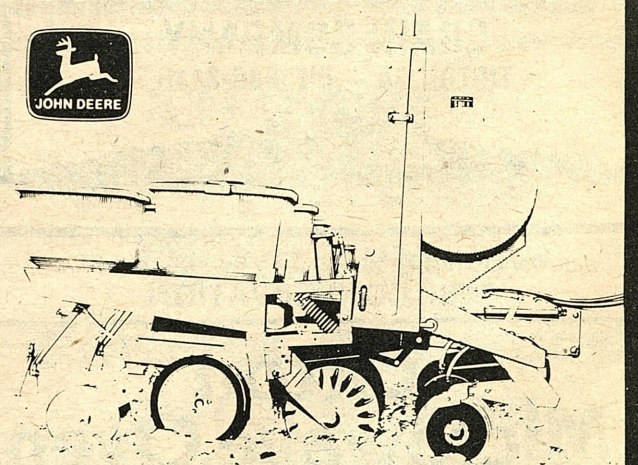
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1981 Soil District Activities

Joel Brown and Robert Niermeyer took their oath of office as Commissioners at the January Soil Commissioners meeting. A public hearing was held to adopt the Land Disturbing Activities Regulations. The election of officers was held: Chairman - William Davidson II, Vice-Chairman - Jim Bowie, Secretary - Ken Muller, Treasurer - Hilda Brown.

A young farmer meeting was held Jan. 7 and the new soil surveys were distributed and explained.

Commissioner Davidson attended a planning meeting for the Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show held at the Five-Seasons Center in Cedar Rapids.

Ken Mather hosted a neighborhood meeting Jan. 15.

Commissioners Davidson and Niermeyer and District Conservationist David White attended Short Course at Ames Jan. 20 and 21.

Bob Jones, D. C. White and Extension personnel conducted a no-till and soil fertility meeting for people in the northwest part of the county.

Commissioner Shaul, D. C. White and Soil Technician Clarence Beyer conducted groups of meetings in the office during February. Three neighborhood meetings were also held in February.

The Districts held their annual banquet March 2. First time no-tillers Dave and Dale Oldham won the 1981 corn

yield contest at 181.89.

Ken Muller and D. C. White taught conservation to 6 classes of 4th, 5th and 6th graders at Lincoln March 9.

The yearly Contractor's Meeting was held in March. On March 10, Lloyd Thien hosted a neighborhood meeting.

Commissioners Brown, Davidson and D. C. White attended the March regional meeting at Iowa City. Assistant Commissioner Glen Waters and D. C. White also attended a planning meeting for the 1982 Eastern Iowa Tillage Show at Cedar Rapids in March.

Assistant Commissioner Darrell Brown attended a tree tour held by the Extension Service in April. Also in April, the District's Annual Report was published.

During May, 4 no-till signs were constructed by Commissioner Shaul. They were painted and placed near well traveled roads.

Two no-till tours were held by the Soil Conservation District and Extension Service June 4. A pasture interseeding and warm season grass tour was also held in June. On June 16, D. C. White and 3 commissioners met with Cedar County Board of Supervisors to discuss siltation of county property.

Another no-till tour was held July 7.

On Sept. 15, Commissioners Davidson, Bowie, Niermeyer, Brown and D. C. White attended the Regional Commissioners

meeting at Iowa City. Sept. 22, Commissioners Brown, Bowie and Davidson, and D. C. White and SCS personnel Clarence Beyer attended the A.S.C.S. Development meeting for their 1982 program.

The annual Soil Judging contest was held Oct. 6. Thirty students participated. First place winner in each school received a plaque.

Assistant Commissioner Brown and D. C. White attended the Annual Conference in Des Moines Nov. 30 and Dec. 1.

Assistant Commissioner Brown, D. C. White, Ken Muller (Extension Director)

and Melanie Schott (Clerk), held an education committee meeting Dec. 3. A representative from each school is active on the committee.

Also on Dec. 3, Commissioner Niermeyer gave a presentation on his no-till system to a farmer meeting at the Clarence Co-op.

Five Commissioners, a County Supervisor, the County Engineer, a County Road Foreman, area landowners and D. C. White held a group watershed meeting Dec. 21 to discuss sediment from the watershed filling the county road ditches.

Many Birds Need Nesting Areas; Farmers Can Help By Providing Cover

By Robert Dolan
Wildlife Biologist

Pheasant hens as well as songbirds and other wildlife, need undisturbed nesting cover. In Cedar county, a lack of such cover is probably one of the primary limiting factors in maintaining high pheasant populations. Practices attributing to the lack of nesting cover include burning, mowing, cropping or grazing roadside ditches, waterways and other odd areas. Roadside ditches, hay and oat fields, railroad right-of-ways, waterways, and other odd areas of undisturbed grasses are selected by hen pheasants as nesting sites. Alfalfa fields are most attractive to hens because legumes are preferred to brome grass as nesting cover.

The need for undisturbed nesting cover for pheasants, quail, songbirds and other wildlife can be met by several small adjustments in a farmer's operation. These include:

1) putting a cover crop on non-productive or erosive acreage. A seeding of alfalfa, red clover, grasses or a heavy

seeding of oats can provide valuable cover for nesting wildlife;

2) elimination of burning, grazing or farming roadside ditches where a good share of our pheasants in this area are hatched.

3) spot mowing of areas for noxious weed control instead of blanket mowing;

4) delaying mowing until July where possible to give pheasants a chance to hatch their clutch of eggs;

5) fencing odd or steep areas to prevent disturbance and overgrazing.

Under intensive farming pressure wildlife need help to survive. Concerned individuals can participate in conserving our wildlife resources by following one or more of the previous suggestions. A wildlife cover cost-sharing program may also be available to qualified farmers who establish such areas.

If you would like free technical assistance on improving wildlife conditions on your land, contact Robert Dolan, Wildlife Management Biologist, Iowa Conservation Commission, 517 Southgate Ave., Iowa City, 52240 or call 354-1074.



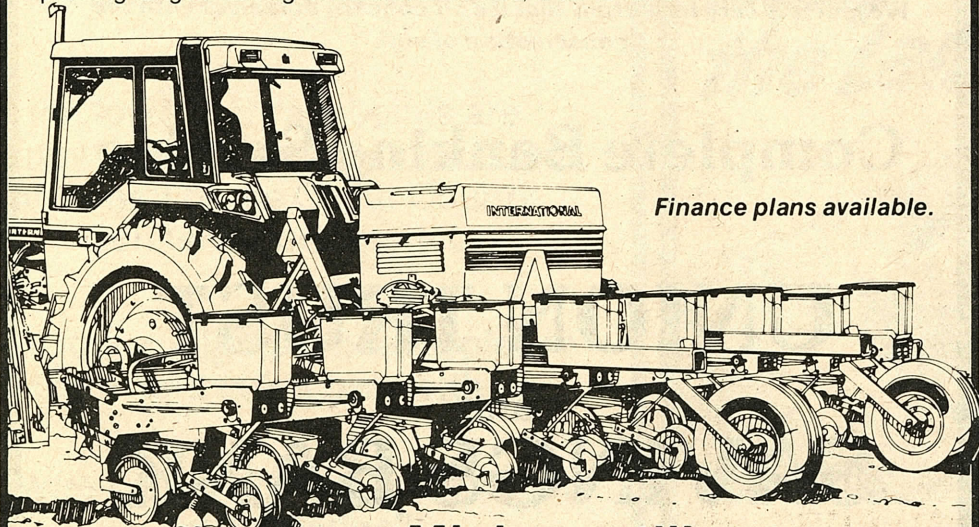
Members of the Soil Conservation District Commissioners are, l-r, Randy Shaul, Bill Davidson II, Joel Brown, Glen Waters, Bob Niermeyer and Jim Bowie.

Not pictured are Darrell Brown, Ray Crock and Ken Muller. Muller is the county extension director and secretary for the district.

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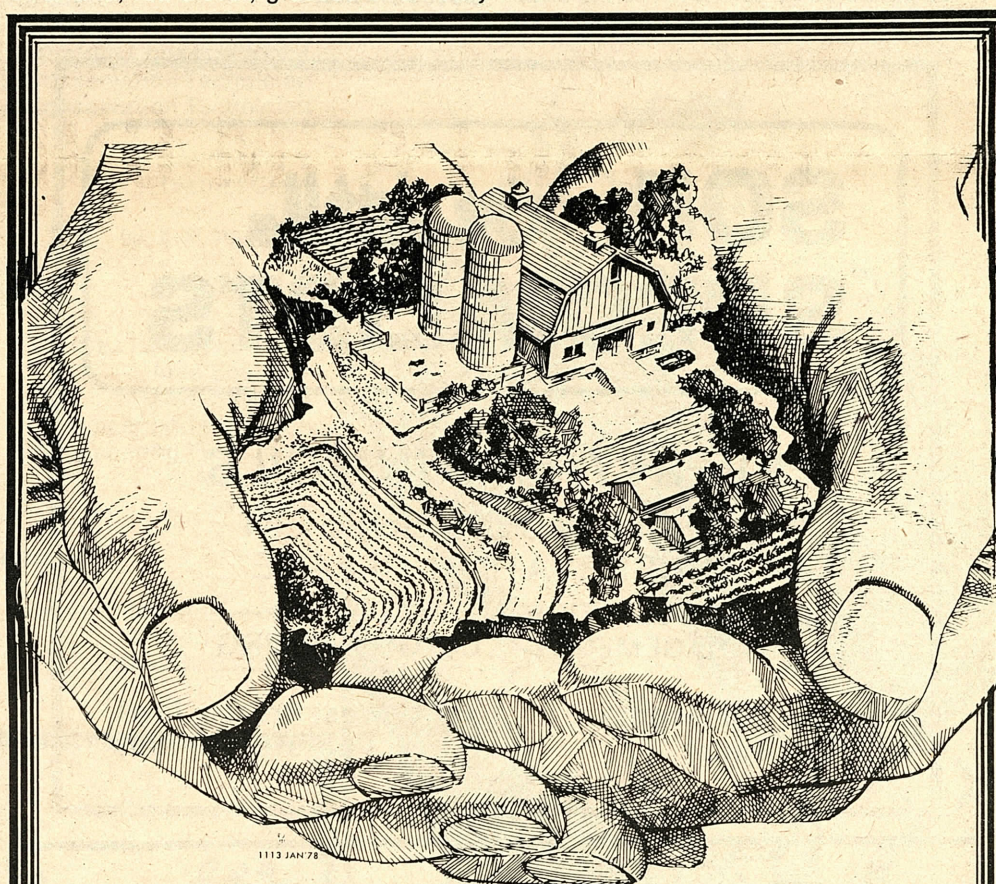
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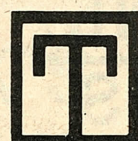
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Atalissa Farmer Uses Conservation Methods, Provides Area For Wildlife

Everybody probably has a different definition of paradise, but for Duane Dotson it might just be a piece of secluded property he owns in southern Cedar county. It isn't fancy, but he loves it and he says it keeps him sane.

Dotson doesn't really fit any labels, he's a farmer-nature lover who is trying to make the land a better place for wildlife. A trip to his farm is a lesson in preserving some wildlife habitat.

The rural Atalissa man apologizes for odds and ends which are scattered around his farm, but he says he has a hard time throwing anything away. But, after walking around his ponds and through his timber, you hardly notice.

Dotson and his wife, Maralee, have about 500 acres of land and they plant crops on about 220 acres. The rest is in grass and hay. They also raise hogs and cattle.

Their crops are about half corn and half beans and Duane reseeds some of his land every once in a while, leaving the land alone for 6 to 8 years.

He gave up using the moldboard plow about 10 years ago and hasn't used it since. He was the first farmer in his area to plant corn in bean stubble and he also plants beans in corn stalks, without chiseling. He discs the land several times, leaving the crop residue in the field, before planting.

Dotson owns about 22 acres of timber near the interstate, which he vows to leave alone. "As long as I live it will remain the same," he says. Trees were probably harvested from the land 60 or 70 years ago and Dotson said some should probably be cut now, but he wants to leave it alone and let the wildlife run.

Dotson feels soil conservation is very important today and he also has no great

fondness for using chemicals. This winter he covered about 70 acres of land with manure and he says it is simply better than throwing it out.

"Ever since I was a kid I've tried to take care of the land," Dotson said. "It's a thing you can't replace." He and his wife are alarmed at farming methods today, in which tractors go fence row to fence row. Dotson leaves a 30 foot strip of grass around his fields and he says many people think he is crazy. But he says he doesn't lose much and those that go from fence to fence "are just a little greedy."

When Dotson isn't farming, he is often tending to his ponds or timberland. He had his first pond built about 30 years ago and added a 2nd within 5 years. He added another about 4 years ago. Two of the ponds are 2½ or 3 acres and the other is about ½ acre. All of them have bass, catfish and bullheads.

Dotson built the ponds "mainly for the wildlife." He has deer, pheasants, quail, rabbits and ducks on his farm, as well as

some unwelcome coyotes. The ducks usually come in for about a month during the spring.

Around the ponds and all over the farm you will find a lot of trees. Dotson loves trees, but he is afraid the time is coming when there won't be any trees left in Iowa. He also thinks hunting will become a thing of the past because people are crowding out the habitat and the animals are disappearing.

Dotson is not very optimistic about any improvement in the situation. In fact, he says it never will get better. "All my life I've said live and let live. Wildlife is a part of me...they are God's creatures. Every time an animal becomes extinct we lose a part of ourselves. When all the animals are gone, we will be next."

But, until that day comes, Dotson and his family and friends will continue to enjoy the natural wonders. The ponds are a gathering spot for social events and they will continue to be as long as Duane Dotson has a say.



Duane Dotson likes to slip away to one of his ponds so he can listen to the birds and other wildlife. He says there are more

birds on his farm than in most other places around.

Land Management

Land management in Iowa has been characterized by intensive agricultural crop production for decades. Consequently, forest land management has suffered, often taking a back seat to agriculture or by being neglected entirely.

The key to future resource availability must certainly hinge on a total commitment to a good land ethic. Total land use will entail a dedication to good land management practices, insuring that each acre of land, forested and non-forested, produces maximum benefits to society.

Iowa's forests are renewable natural resources. Iowa's woodlands produce some of the finest hardwood lumber and veneer products in the world. Other important forest derived benefits include aesthetics, fuelwood, watershed control, recreation, and wildlife habitat. Proper forest land management is the key to the renewability of forest resources.

The most important aspect of forest management is planning. This simply entails determining which benefit or mixture of benefits a given woodlot can best produce. Once the plan has been established, the goal can easily be obtained by applying the proper cultural practices.

Statewide incentives play

a key role in making forest management feasible in Iowa. Iowa's Forest Reserve Law provides a tax incentive for preserving non-grazed forested land. County ASCS offices administer cost share programs for tree planting and timber stand improvement to lessen the economic bur-

den of implementing forest improvement practices.

The State Conservation Commission has 2 foresters in Anamosa that are ready and willing to help you manage your timberland. Requests for forest land management assistance can be made by writing or calling the District Forester, Box 46, Anamosa, Iowa 52205 at 319-462-2768.

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Soil Scientist

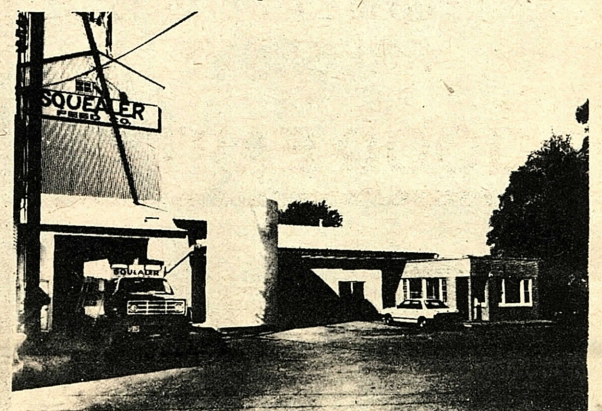
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Soil District Accomplishments

The following indicates the District's accomplishments reported for the 1981 Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 1981:

Tile Outlet Terraces.....	10070 Ft.
Sediment & Water Control Basins	1280 Ft.
Conservation Tillage.....	5382 Ac.
Windbreaks	6 Ac.
Wildlife Upland Habitat	30 Ac.
Pond.....	1
Cropland Benefited.....	5397 Ac.
Pasture & Hayland Benefited.....	102 Ac.
Wildlife Land Benefited	44 Ac.
Other Land Benefited.....	8 Ac.
Cropland Adequately Protected	4418 Ac.
Pasture & Hayland Adequately Protected	95 Ac.
Wildlife Land Adequately Protected	44 Ac.
Other Land Adequately Protected	8 Ac.
Cropland Adequately Treated	1018 Ac.
Pasture & Hayland Adequately Treated	20 Ac.
Wildlife Land Adequately Treated	4 Ac.
Other Land Adequately Treated	8 Ac.

District Cooperators For 1981

Harlan Hanks, Merlin Hulse & Son, Joe Scorpil, Edwin Kroemer, Fred Kahl, Helen Nicolaus, Don Armstrong Jr., Jackson Land Ltd. by Buell Jackson, Buell F. Jackson, Robert Wiedenhoff, Keith Jilovec, Douglas M. Phelps, Keith, Don, and Ron Lamp, Don Lamp, William Donohue, Roxann McNutt, James Bowie, Roger Beuthien, Kenneth Burmeister, Don Lamp and C. L. Hanks, Fred Kaufmann, George Hein, Herbert Platner, Raymond Hart, Laura Meyer, Dallas Rekemeyer, Dave Urmie, James Gaul, Henry Oldham, Bert Kelly, Nick Stolte, Donald Thien, August Amend, Rick Kunde, Norton-Sedlitz (Hertz Farm Management), Eugene Edinger, Erwin Toerber, Martha Kaufmann, James Meyer.

Expenditures of Funds Provided by the State Of Iowa 1980-81 Fiscal Year

I-M Budget	\$ 1,300.00
Commissioners Expenses.....	\$ 630.16
Office Supplies.....	85.82
Prizes for Contests	148.86
Office Expenses.....	271.82
Meeting Expenses.....	59.02
Total	\$1,195.68
Released.....	\$ 104.32

II-M Budget	Allocation	\$13,121.00
Salary	\$10,300.00	
State Retirement (IPERS).....	592.25	
Federal Retirement (FICA).....	659.32	
Health Insurance	543.40	
Disability Insurance	63.80	
Life Insurance.....	60.50	
Equipment	83.50	
Total	\$12,302.77	
Released.....	\$ 818.23	

III-M Budget	Allocation	\$30,000.00
Amount Spent.....	\$ 3,102.35	
Amount Obligated.....	24,366.50	
Released 12-31-81	2,531.15	

PERSONNEL ASSISTING THE DISTRICT District Commissioners

Bill Davidson II, Chairman	Fremont Township
Jim Bowie, Vice-Chairman.....	Center Township
Randy Shaull.....	Red Oak Township
Bob Niermeyer	Fairfield Township
Joel Brown	Pioneer Township
Darrell Brown, Asst. Commissioner ..	Center Township
Ray Crock, Asst. Commissioner.....	Center Township
Glen Waters, Asst. Commissioner	Springdale Township

District Office Staff

David White.....	District Conservationist
Judy Hagan	Conservation Technician
Clarence Beyer.....	Conservation Technician
(retired March 1982)	
Melanie Schott	District Clerk
Hilda Brown	District Clerk
(retired September 1981)	
George Tevis.....	W. A. E. Parttime

Area Office Staff

Eldon Weber.....	Area Conservationist
Tom Brown.....	Area Engineer
Sue Musgrove	Civil Engineer
Stan Simmons	Engineering Technician
Ron Wilson	Engineering Technician
Darlene Lauder.....	Area Clerk
Suzette Betts	Secretary

Other Personnel

Ken Muller.....	County Extension Director
Ed Gardiner	District Forester
Bob Dolan.....	Wildlife Biologist



Richard Pahl, rural Wilton, won the Isaac Walton Windbreak Award. Richard's windbreak consists of 2 rows of Arborvitae and one row of Honeysuckle. Everyone who had a windbreak this winter was very grateful because of the terrific winds and cold temperature we experienced.

RAINDROPS

A single rain drop 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 short of the explosive power of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima!

Iowa's soil needs protection from that kind of destructive force. On cropland, many Cedar County farmers are protecting this soil with conservation tillage. They leave crop residue on top of the ground instead of clean plowing. It saves them time and money, as well as soil. These farmers help keep sediment, our number one pollutant by volume, out of our lakes and streams.



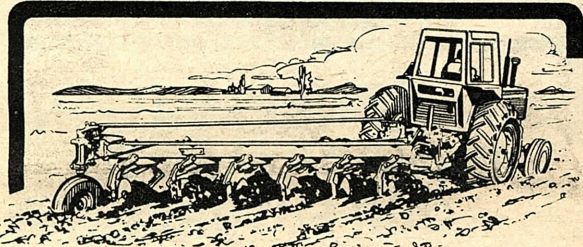
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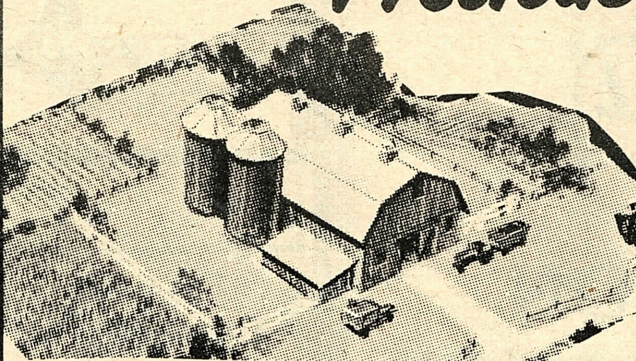
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Environment Changing, Will Never Be The Same

by David L. White
District Conservationist

Recently a farmer called me out to look at an erosion problem he has on a creek that is going through his property. This is one of the most common problems we get called out on. The gentlemen happens to be the third generation of farmers to own this farm. After we got down to the creek, the man started talking about the good old days...

...When he was a kid, growing up on this same farm, he remembered this creek that used to meander through the pasture. He remembered how the water used to be slowed by the curves and bends which would sometimes create a deep hole suitable for swimming. Back then the stream had also provided an ideal place to catch a good mess of catfish. Muskrats swam up and down the stream and many different birds nested close to the water. As a boy he trapped mink, muskrat, and skunks along the creek. He had spent many hours here fishing, trapping, swimming, or just fooling around. he had learned very much about nature's way from this creek and the creatures around it.

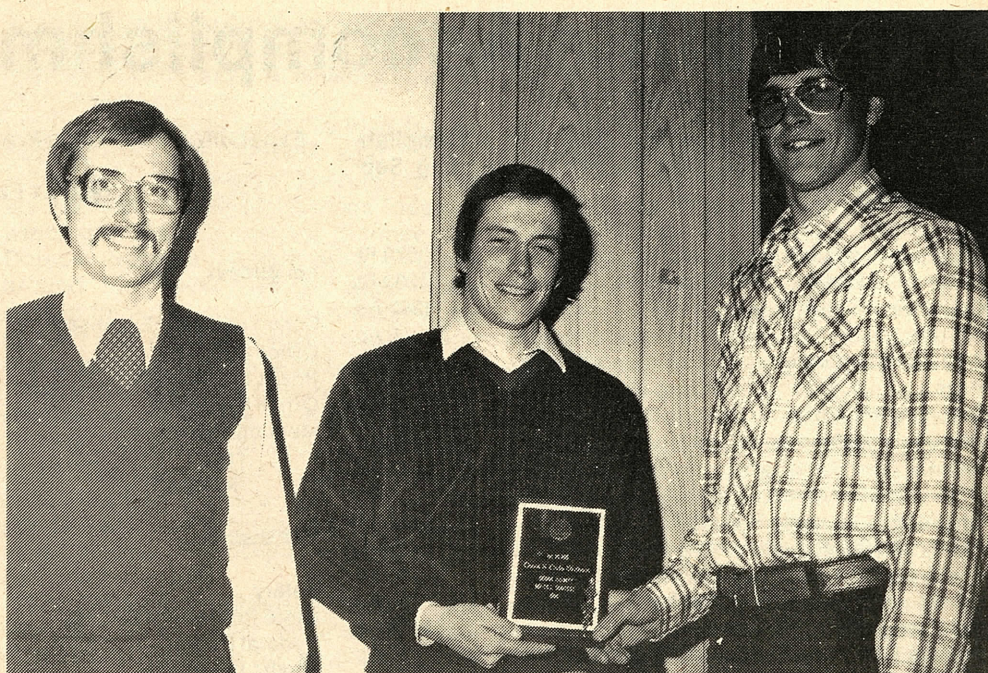
A Cedar grove close to the creek had provided cover for various forms of wildlife. He could remember pheasants that used to stay in this grove all winter long to keep away from the cold temperature and winds. Deer would always use this area to raise their young. Red-

wing-Black Birds, Bob-White, Quail and Meadow Lark nested here. The man recalled listening to these birds sing as he went about his day's activities...

...But now times have changed. The pasture had been plowed up and put into a corn-bean rotation because this was more economical. The creek had been straightened and the Cedar trees cleared out so more acres could be farmed. The old gradient terraces that were built 40 years ago were taken out because they couldn't be farmed with the big equipment. Many "improvements" had been made.

The old creek was no longer clear like it used to be. It was now a passage-way for insecticide, herbicide, fertilizer and silt. Nobody fished or swam in the stream anymore because it was too shallow and polluted. Besides, there are no fish in it. The man had not seen a pheasant or deer around the place in years and the other birds were getting very sparse.

When we returned to the farmstead, the man's grandson came running out of the house. He had been watching television all day and he was ready for some exercise. You could tell that the boy was of great concern to the grandfather. He knew that the boy would never experience nature as he had or even see clear water unless it has been treated with chemical purifiers. The only place that he could swim now would be at the city pool and



Dale and David Oldham, right and center, rural Tipton, took first place in the 1981 no-till contest. This is the first time they tried no-till and it yielded 181.89 bushel per acre. Bob Niermeyer took 2nd place with a yield of 177.75. Other entries in the contest were: Ed Jack - 172.30, Rix FairField, Inc. - 169.64, Jim Bowie - 169.46, Rick Kreinbring - 166.63, Warren Koth -

165.47, Don Walters - 164.52, Don Lamp - 161.82, Wayne Frederick - 161.31, John Powell - 161.29, Harold and Randy Eiler - 158.09, Vern Schroeder - 156.45, Ken Burmeister - 151.68, Merle Burmeister - 150.11, Eiler and Hughes - 144.30, Mike Hogan - 141.92 and Bob Regennitter - 131.44.

the chlorine burnt his eyes. The most the boy had learned about nature was during the hours he spent watching it on television.

After discussing many different alternative solutions to the man's eroding stream problem, he decided to seed down a small strip on both sides of the creek and plant some Pine trees back in that area. He also considered some modern tile-outlet terraces and some no-till to be used with the corn-bean rotation. He finally came to the conclusion though, that no matter what he did, the land could never be the same as it was when he was a kid.

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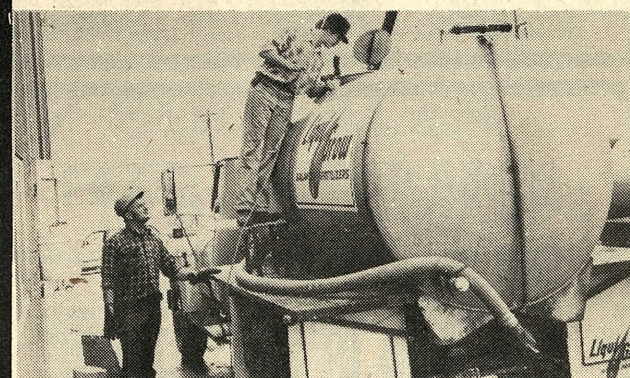
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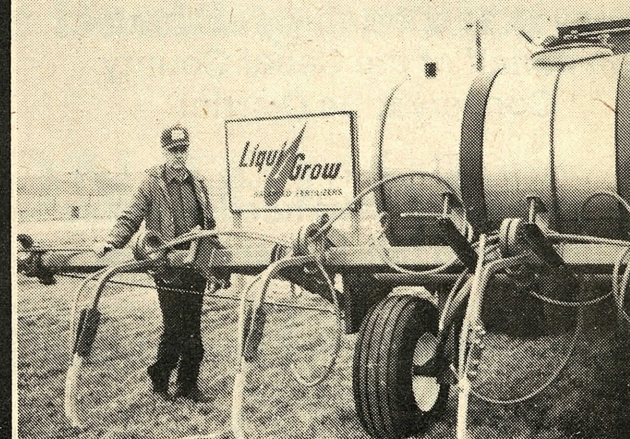
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SCS Figures Soil Losses

Explaining soil losses to people in a meaningful way is not an easy thing to do. What does 10 tons an acre soil loss mean to the average person, for example? In an effort to try to show soil erosion problems in Iowa, the Soil Conservation Service has recently tried to put soil losses in more pictureable terms. The reasoning and facts behind soil loss statements follow.

1) The SCS estimates that our average annual soil loss on unprotected sloping land is 13 tons per acre per year.

The Universal Soil Loss Equation and CNI data support this statement. Agreed, the figure is an estimate, because soils and topography vary considerably across the state. Soil losses can vary, generally, from less than 5 tons an acre to more than 25 tons an acre.

As an example, the soil loss equation shows that an unprotected Clarion soil on a 200', 3% slope is 11 tons an acre per year. The Clarion-Webster soils association accounts for about 1/5 of Iowa's soil. A 3% slope is not a severe slope at all. Soil loss on an unprotected 200', 5% Clarion soil is 18 tons an acre.

2) Average soil losses are 230 bushels of soil per acre per year.

Assuming the rate of 13 tons per year: 13 tons X 2,000 lbs/ton = 26,000 lbs. A bushel of soil (dry weight) varies from 90-110 lbs.

Using 110 lbs. per bushel, 26,000 divided by 110 = 236.

We rounded off back to 230 bushels of soil. This conversion, then, takes into account the heavier weight of soil-had we used lighter soils, there would be even more bushels. The estimate is conservative.

On unprotected land, we're losing 2

bushels of topsoil for each bushel of corn we produce.

Using the 230 bushels of topsoil loss, and figuring average corn yields of 100 bushels per acre, we find that we're losing twice as much soil as the corn we produce.

4) We've lost half our topsoil on unprotected sloping lands in the state.

Proof of how much topsoil we had originally in the state is difficult. However, undisturbed prairie or timber soils give us an indication. Soil scientists say that generally we had 14" - 16" of topsoil across the state in pioneer days. Today, generally, we find 6" - 8" of topsoil. In many cases, of course, there is no topsoil. The soil loss equation and the amount of soil left support each other (shown next).

5) At our current rate of soil loss, the topsoil on unprotected land could be gone in the next 100 years.

In 1860, fewer than a million acres of Iowa land were planted to corn. We can assume, then, that half our topsoil has been lost in the last 100 years. 13 tons of soil loss per acre is equivalent to 1/12" of soil over an acre.

Figure this by:

Assume a cubic foot of soil weighs 86 pounds (same density of soil that weighs 110 pounds per bushel): 86 lb. per cu. ft. X 43,560 cu. ft. = 3,746,160 lbs. per acre foot. One acre inch of soil weighs 1/12 as much as an acre foot, or 312,180 lbs. 1/12 of an acre inch weighs 26,015 lbs., or 13 tons. Thus, a 13 ton soil loss is equivalent to 1/12 inch of soil over an acre.

Losing 1/12" per year, or 1" every 12 years, 8" of topsoil would be gone in 96 years.

Reduced Tillage Revolution Taking Place In Cedar County

by Kenneth D. Muller
County Extension Director

Controlling erosion is an emotional issue--in a category with animal rights, hunger, welfare and military spending. Talk about solutions can excite farmers, legislators, environmental groups and concerned citizens.

There are many proposals for reducing soil erosion. Most, however, turn out to be political. Suggested proposals include: Regulations requiring adoption of practices; zoning to reduce erosion; paying farmers to abandon highly erodible land; tax credits for producers who invest in conservation; incentive payments or loans for soil loss reduction; and requirements that producers use erosion-control practices to be eligible for government benefits.

Amid all this debate, there is a growing revolution of reduced tillage taking place.

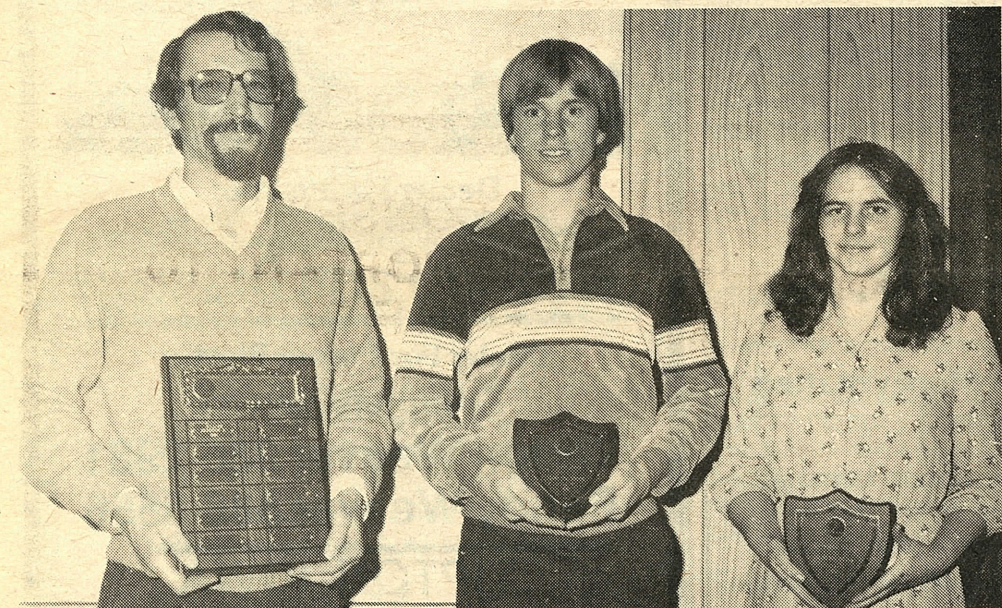
Cedar County farmers are considering the new form of tillage for the times.

Reduced tillage and no-till are becoming the common-sense practice for erosion control. Farmers have observed the loss of organic matter, plant nutrients and applied chemicals.

Erosion control can be teamed with cutting costs through the common-sense tillage methods. Cedar County is far from adequately protected from erosion. Less than 24 to 25% of the row crop land could be considered protected.

Planters, cultivators and sprayers needed to do reduced tillage are being purchased by farmers. The year 1982 should be the year to expand reduced tillage.

The common-sense conservation practices are catching on. Clearly, the advantages are outweighing the disadvantages.



Geraldine Wiese from Bennett community and Nolan Ford from Tipton community schools received first place awards in the District Soil Judging Contest. Bill Davidson, left, Chairman of Com-

missioners, received the Outstanding Commissioner award sponsored each year by the Cedar County Bankers Association.



Each year a soil conservation awards program is held recognizing outstanding farmers. Three divisions are held which include: the owner-operator, the landlord-tenant and the new cooperator. Mike Hogan, left, rural Durant, won the owner-

operator division. Karl Nebergall, right, rural Atalissa, won the new cooperator award. Mark Nash, 2nd from right, rural West Branch, and Ralph Phelps, St. Evanston, IL, won the landlord-tenant award.

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Farmers Home Administration Has Variety of Loans Available

by Ronald W. Abbott
Acting County Supervisor
Barbara A. Edler
County Office Assistant

The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) is the lending branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The basic objective of Farmer Program loans is to provide financial and

management assistance to eligible farmers who cannot get credit elsewhere and need FmHA assistance to start or continue their operation, not to assist other lenders or creditors out of a losing situation or to reduce their losses. In keeping with this objective, loans will only be made to

eligible applicants who meet the following conditions:

1) Applicants must have a reasonable chance for success as determined from realistic 1982, long-time typical Farm and Home Plans.

2) Applicants must have acted in good faith in trying to meet obligations to other lenders.

3) Applicants must be using or agree to use recognized successful production and financial management practices.

A 3 person county committee reviews loan applications to determine loan eligibility. The Cedar county FmHA committee members are Richard L. Fry, Wilton, chairman; Duane Pedersen, West Branch and Quentin Robinson, Mechanicsville.

Some of the FmHA loans are as follows:

FARM OPERATION LOANS: loans are made to qualified applicants to purchase machinery, livestock and for operating expenses. These loans are at 14.25% interest with a 7 year repayment, with a possible 5 year extension. These loans can be made to rural

people who have not farmed previously. Loan limits are \$100,000 insured and \$200,000 for guaranteed loans.

FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS: loans are made to qualified applicants to purchase farm land. Interest rates are set at 13.25%. The loan limits are \$200,000 on an insured loan and \$300,000 on a guaranteed loan.

SOIL AND WATER LOANS: these loans are made to qualified applicants to finance soil and water conservation practices such as ponds, dams, erosion control structures, wells and other items consistent with good farming practices.

RURAL HOUSING LOANS: loans are made to qualified farm and rural residents in areas of 20,000 or less population to build new houses or purchase and/or upgrade existing houses. They are at 13.25% interest rate with an interest subsidy available to qualified applicants.

The Cedar county office is located in Tipton in the USDA Building. Office hours are each Monday from 9 to 12 and from 1 to 3 p.m.



Members of the office staff are front row, l-r, Judy Hagan, Hilda Brown and Melanie Schott. Back row, Clarence Beyer, George Tevis and David White.

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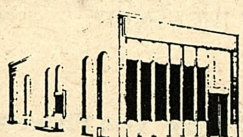
Over the years you've taught us alot about farming. We've made the loans necessary for you to try the new methods and new equipment that have come along. You've made the deposits which have helped us to grow. It's a good relationship.

Recently you may have been hearing alot of advertising about Mutual Money Market Funds. We feel it is our responsibility to let you know that these funds are *uninsured* investments. Their rates may *fluctuate*. An investment in a mutual fund goes out of the community and in many cases is re-invested in *volatile foreign markets* where guarantees are virtually impossible.

The Money Market certificates that we offer are insured by FDIC. There is a substantial penalty for early withdrawal. The rate of return is guaranteed. Your investment with us is made available to our area farmers in ag loans.

You've taught us everything we know about farming. We hope to return the favor with sound financial advice.

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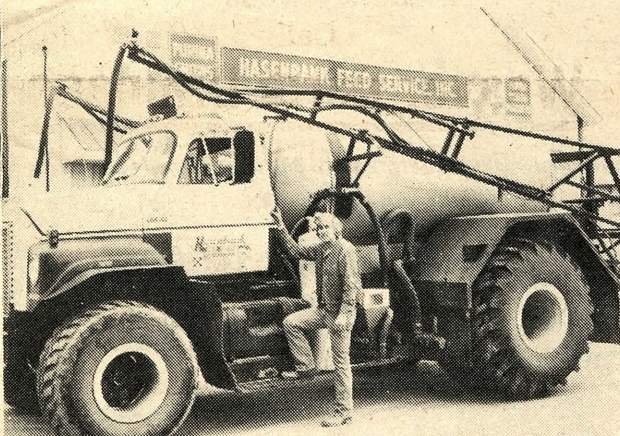
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CLARENCE, IA.

SAVE OUR SOIL

Save our soil, so not to deplete, for future generations will have to eat.

Such a short time we use our land, aren't we lucky our soil is so grand?

After 100 years only half of it remains, the other half went down the river with many rains.

Each raindrop falls with explosive power, with many explosives in each shower.

Residue and cover from the previous crop—help break the fall of each raindrop.

Without this protection to cushion the blow, many tons of soil move with the storm's flow.

Sheet erosion is the hardest for some people to see, but the effects and damages are far from free.

Just look at your fences at the bottom of the hill, are they covered up with unwanted fill?

This silt didn't grow there, it came from the top, and is only a small part

that happened to stop.

The rest went on with the water's flow, cutting a gully, to the Gulf it did go.

Structures and practices cut this loss—S.C.S. is available for assistance, not as a boss!

by Randall Shaull
Soil Commissioner

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believes sooo much in conservation, we think it should be illegal for golfers not to replace their divots!

If we don't keep what soil we have, pretty soon there won't be any.

The only things you should not keep too long are your car, truck, wife or kids!

THEIN MOTOR SALES

"38 years in the community"

Clarence, Ia.

Ph. 452-3133



Money Market Funds

NEW YORK (UPI) — The following quotations, collected by the Association of Dealers, Inc., represent the average of dollar-weighted yields and portfolio maturities over the seven-day period ending Friday, and unrealized gains and losses are not taken into account.

FUNDS	AVG. MAT.	YLD.
AlexB Cash Rsv	32	13.78
Alliance Capital	21	13.36
AllianceGvt Res	19	12.58
AmGn Resrv b	21	14.14
AmLiquid Trust	(z)	(z)
Bobson MonMkt	(z)	(z)
BirrWilson MFD	28	13.60
Boston Co Cash	25	13.81
Boston MgtTr	(z)	(z)
CapCash MgtTr	(z)	(z)
Cap Preservtn	(z)	(z)
Cap Preservtn 2	14	14.06
CardGovt SecTr	10	13.21
CarnegieGov Sec	36	14.20
CashEq Fd MM	22	13.44
CashEq GovSec	20	14.49
Csh MgtTrAm b	28	13.48
Csh RsvMgt bf	(z)	(z)
ChanceGvtSc b	27	13.41
Col Daily Inc bf	26	13.89
Comp CashM bf	(z)	(z)
Current Interest	24	4.03
DailyCashFdl b	26	13.39
Daily Incm Fd	25	13.84
DBL Cash Fund	19	13.96
DBL Cash Rsvr f	15	13.83
Dollar Reserves	38	13.69
DreysLiaAsst f	29	12.52
DrMMKGVSc af	27	13.61
DrMnyMkSer af	69	7.49
DrTaxEx MM e	24	13.55
EatonHow Cash	27	13.59
EGT MMTrust f	33	13.76
Equit MMktAc f	24	13.49
Fahnestock Div	(z)	(z)
FBL MonMk Fd	29	13.91
FedMaster Trst	57	7.29
PedrtTaxFree e	32	13.89
FidelCash Resv	29	13.72
FidelDivIncm c		

FidMM Domstc	29	13.74	RsvFdPrm Prtft	21	13.62
FidMM Govmnt	29	13.48	RowePrPrRes f	26	13.94
FidTxExempt e	(z)	(z)	RowePTaxEx e	83	7.52
FnciDivInc Shr	15	14.18	St Paul Money	20	13.68
FnciPlanFed Sc	5	14.03	ScuddCashInv f	32	13.81
FstInvCshMgt f	20	13.50	ScuddGvtMny a	16	13.24
First Variable	(z)	(z)	ScuddrTaxFr ef	75	6.87
FlaMutIGvt Sec	15	12.58	Secur Cash Mkt	9	13.70
Franklin FedM	10	13.03	Select Mny Mgt	30	13.67
FranklinMnyF b	26	13.47	SentryCash Div f	(z)	(z)
FrnklnMnyF b	16	13.67	ShearGvtAgen f	29	14.03
FundGov Invst	(z)	(z)	ShortTrm Yld b	31	13.04
GovtInvstTrst b	28	13.62	ShortTermYld b	23	13.60
Gradison Cash	14	13.64	Standby Reserv	29	13.15
Hilliard L Cash	35	13.81	SteinRoeCsh Rs	20	13.64
IDS Cash Mgt f	32	13.75	TaxFree Mny e	82	7.22
INA Cash Fund	38	13.84	TemplInvest Fd	29	14.08
InterCap LiaAs	21	13.67	Trnsam CashRs	20	14.08
JohnHanc Cash	29	13.83	TrustCashRes f	30	13.67
JonesDly Pssp f	35	14.27	TrFdUS Agency	(z)	(z)
KemperMonM	30	13.71	TrFd Commrci	(z)	(z)
LeggMasn Csh f	25	14.06	TrFd Obligation	(z)	(z)
Lehman CashM	4	13.48	TrFd FedFd	(z)	(z)
Lehman GvtFdl	24	14.20	TrShTTFed TFD	(z)	(z)
Lex Money Mkt	74	7.59	TrShTer US Gvt	30	13.60
LexTaxFr Daily	19	13.72	TrstUSTrea Obl	31	13.54
LexTaxFr Inc	1	14.17	TuckerA CashM	36	13.53
LiquidCapIt Inc	23	13.76	Union Cash Mgt	32	13.26
LiquidCashTrst	24	13.72	UnitedCshMgt b	23	13.53
LiquidGreen Tr	29	13.73	USAA MutlMM	(z)	(z)
LordAbbet Cash	33	13.58	ValueLineCsh b	26	14.52
LuthBrMonMt c	(z)	(z)	VangdMMFdl f	23	13.52
MIFNtwMnM c	29	13.30	VangdMM Pr	30	13.91
MassCash Mgt	35	13.56	VangdMunMM ef	75	7.43
McDonald MM f	28	13.53	VangdMunST ef	244	7.82
McDonaldFdl b	19	13.15	WebstrCshPre f	26	13.93
MerrLInstFdl	29	13.57	Ziegler MM Tr f	27	13.74
Midwst Incm Tr	28	13.99			
MoneyMktMgt f	26	14.20			
MoneyMkt Trst	25	13.56			
MoneyMkt Asst	63	7.29			
MorganKeegn f	41	7.16			
MuniCashRsv e	23	13.48			
MuniFundInv e	28	13.89			
MtIOMny Mkt	36	13.11			
MtIOMny Mkt c	32	14.05			
NEL CashMgt f	53	7.48			
NRTA AARP f	24	14.16			
NtILiaResrv Inc	30	13.94			
NuveenTaxEx e	22	13.93			
Oppn Mny Mkt	16	13.11			
PaiceWb Cash f	32	14.04			
Phoenix Ch abt	35	13.71			
PIA AsstCash f	13	14.10			
Plimoney Fund					
PutnmDlyDiv b					
Reserve Fd Inc					

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THIS 26 WEEK "MONEY MARKET" CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT MATURES ON _____, 19____
INTEREST TO THE MATURITY DATE WILL ACCRUE AT THE RATE OF _____ % PER YEAR, USING A _____ DAY/YEAR.
ACCRUED INTEREST WILL BE PAID _____

PRESENT THIS CERTIFICATE PROMPTLY AT MATURITY FOR PAYMENT AS IT, IS NOT AUTOMATICALLY RENEWABLE AND NO INTEREST WILL ACCRUE AFTER THE MATURITY DATE SHOWN.

Notify this institution immediately of any change in the above address.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE _____

Before you invest one dollar of your money anyplace else, why not stop in and talk to Mark Forest at 1st National of Tipton. He will be happy to go over a plan that will be just right for you! Whether you invest or not, he will **ENJOY** talking to you!

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