

1968

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SOIL CONSERVATION COMM.
STATE OF IOWA

TWENTY - SIXTH

Annual Report

TAMA COUNTY SOIL
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TOLEDO, IOWA

PHONE 484-2702

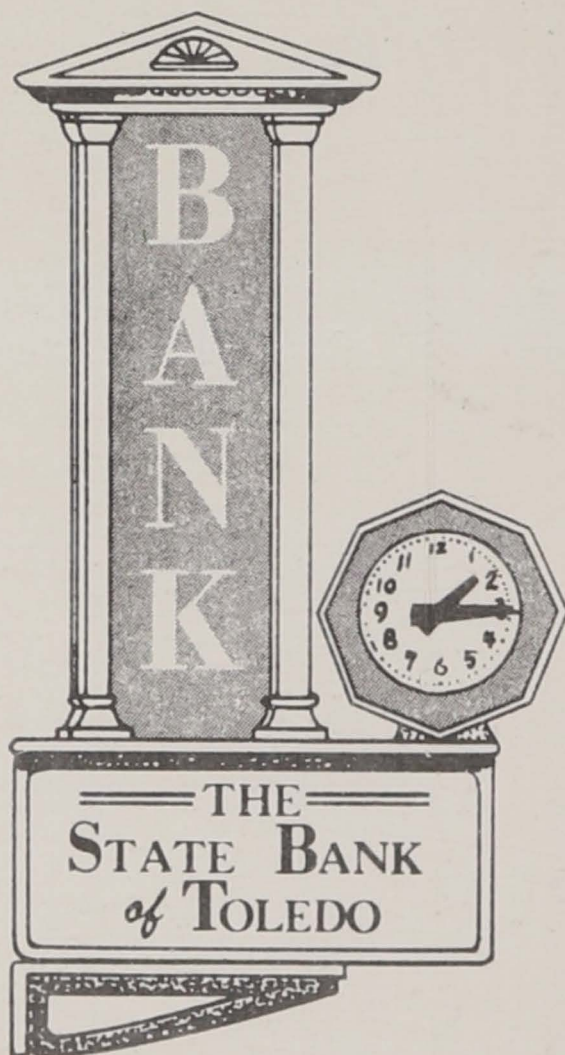


*Contour stripcropping on Gerald Hobbs farm
in Highland Twp.*

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Tama County Soil Conservation District Commissioners are seated left to right: Joe Lyon, Toledo; Harold Higgins, Traer; Lester Lenhart, Tama. Standing left to right are assistant commissioners Robert Wiese, Gladbrook; Harry Scurr, Gilman; Welby Dixon, Toledo.

Each new year brings with it new challenges to Soil and Water Conservation. Changes in labor saving farm equipment, increased population along with Urban expansion and new demands for recreation facilities, multiplies the problems facing rural America.

The problems of maintaining maximum production and at the same time preventing loss of that irreplaceable top soil and keeping our streams from becoming polluted are now problems facing both the rural and urban population.

It is my hope and that of my fellow workers in Soil and Water Conservation that these problems can be solved on a voluntary basis before we are required to by mandatory orders.

Commissioner - Harold Higgins

Many people share in a challenge to preserve our good soil and help to keep our water clean. We need everyones help to meet this goal.

As a farmer, a steward of God's land, I find it a necessity to improve and conserve the soil and water that generations to come may also prosper. It is indeed a privilege to participate in soil conservation practices offered by our district soil conservation service.

Commissioner - Lester Lenhart

Soil Conservation, like motherhood, receives the platitudes of most every American. But it seems that motherhood has many more participants than does conservation. Lip service is not enough, we farmers must take active participation in conserving our soil, not only is it our duty but it is just plain good economics. What can help your yields more than stripcropping and-or-terracing which keeps both soil and water working for you? How much value per acre can you add to your farm by controlling the waterways? Is continuous corn on problem land more profitable than a good rotation and livestock program? Yes, practice soil conservation, it will mean money in your pocket.

Commissioner - G. Joe Lyon

Siltation is the leading cause of pollution of the rivers and streams in the state of Iowa.

Much of this siltation is caused by erosion of farm fields. To correct this situation there is great need for more contouring, stripcropping, and erosion control practices or structures.

In years when moisture is in demand these conservation practices also perform to slow water and allow it to soak into the soil.

Wind erosion indirectly adds to the siltation problem. Drifts of topsoil fill ditches with valuable topsoil on its way to the siltation of some body of water.

As responsible citizens we should try to control erosion. In the near future there most certainly will be demands before Iowa's legislature for the control of pollution of the rivers and streams. Siltation remains the leading offender.

Assistant Commissioner - Harry Scurr



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SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT PERSONNEL

*Standing left to right Robert Malin, Burdett Bennett:
Seated Audrey Wheeler, John McCleary*

John McCleary and Burdett Bennett are employed by the U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service. Audrey Wheeler and Robert Malin are employed by the State Soil Conservation Committee.

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1968

July 1, 1967 - June 30, 1968

	(UNIT)	(AMOUNT)
New Cooperators	No.	54
Basic Farm Plans	No.	39
Revised Farm Plans	No.	22
Farms Serviced	No.	411
Sod Waterways	Ac.	95
Farm Ponds	No.	11
Grade Stabilization Structure	No.	14
Contour Farming	Ac.	2576
Stripcropping	Ac.	871
Terraces	Lin.ft.	14,600
Tile Drainage	Lin.ft.	281,581
Open Drainage	Lin.ft.	12,920

State Budget of the Tama County Soil Conservation District

1M & 1M-A BUDGET

Commissioners Mileage	\$ 36.10
Office Supplies & Expense	510.20
Printing	28.89
Meeting Expenses	52.81

2M BUDGET

State Clerk & Planner Aid	\$8,679.61
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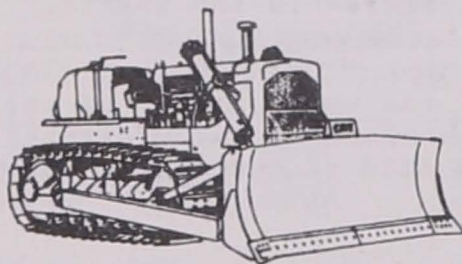


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DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS ACTION FOR 1968

JANUARY -

An award luncheon was held at Dick's restaurant in Toledo for Register & Tribune award winners in the county. Award winners were given certificates of merit for their work in conserving soil and water on their farms.

FEBRUARY -

Commissioners provided 500 Food and Land booklets to all fourth grade students in the county. All ministers in the county were provided with material for Soil Stewardship Sunday observances.

MARCH -

Speech contest information was distributed to all schools in the county.

APRIL -

Meeting held with Tama County Conservation Board in which the new county lake site was discussed and ways to prevent this lake from becoming silted up in a short period of time.

MAY -

Mr. Dale Mask and Mrs. Forrest Hill attended Conservation Camp at Springbrook State Park with the tuition paid by the Tama County Soil Conservation District.

JUNE -

Two farms were entered in the Register & Tribune Awards contest. These farms were Dielia Bruene - owner, Kenneth Bruene operator and Charles Balloun, owner-operator. Ray Dostal of Traer was named winner of the local Soil Conservation Speech contest. Ray presented his speech at a Regional contest held at the Amana Colonies.

JULY -

Commissioner Lester Lenhart was entered in the outstanding commissioners contest as a representative of this District.

AUGUST -

A planning picnic was held with present & past commissioners and their families. A total of 67 people attended this function.

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

Soil Conservation workbooks were distributed to all interested 6th grade classes in Tama County schools.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

Plans were formulated to hold an information meeting in the Union Grove Lake watershed area to instill interest in conservation practices to keep siltation from this Lake area.

CHAS. A. GARY

FEEDS AND SEEDS

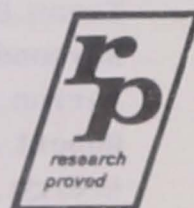
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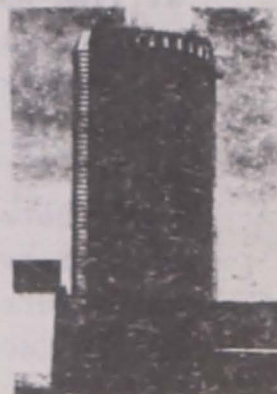
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BASIC FARM PLANS
FOR FISCAL YEAR OF 1968

Mussig Farms	Jerry Abbe
Martin C. Bruene	Fred J. Kajer
R. W. Wietzel	Jim Snow
Stanley Sebetka	Robert Barr
Glen Sash	Virgil Bidwell (2)
Rex Cobet	Leroy Thomsen
Iowa State Conservation Commission	Lester Musel
Carmel Davis	Margaret Hoover
Fritz Viering	Virgil Stanley
Albert Dierks, Jr.	Russell Backen
Matt Moore	Paul Manfull
Tomas Bros.	Forrest Thomas
Raymond Lorenzen	Leola Twedt
Marion Berger	Elmer Starck
Robert Harder	Wilbert Stueck
George Goos	Gerald Hobbs
Roy M. Keller	Robert Doyle
Norman Behrns	Walter Wait
Roy Albers	Kenneth Bruene

Revisions of Basic Farm Plans
for fiscal year of 1968

William Shuler	Kenneth Fricke
Mrs. Charles Plett	Pete Raymond
Ray Hooper	Mary Hauptert
Lake Park Corp.	J. C. Scurr
Walter J. Smith	Joe Lyon
Elsie Betz	Alvin Chalupsky
W. H. Gary	Russell Lyon
Randy Currens (2)	Kenneth Bruene
Philip Kucera	Franklin Earley
Floyd Stevenson	Mrs. A. A. Sears
Fred L. Kajer, Jr.	

NEW COOPERATORS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF 1968

Lowell Peters
Lyle Lage
Leland Sealock
Burdette Moeller
Rex Cobet
Fritz Viering
Edward Whitmore
Gerald Hobbs
B. H. Benjamin (2)
Vernon Parizek
Louie Knudson
Matt Moore
Martin Buckmeyer
Lester Musel
Gary Lamb
B. L. Anderson
R. V. Leo
Darwin Lynch
Elmer Starck (2)
Dean Vint
Fred Hushak
Jerome Velky
Robert Hempy
Henry Wrage
LaVern Hand
Jay Paxton (2)

Willard Balfour
Irwin Dowd
Adrian Doyle
R. L. Flamme
Murray Monroe
Glen Sash
Keith Wilkinson
Albert Dierks
Rex Sells
Gerald W. Eernisse
Henry Abrams
Charles Zmolek
Robert Stonewall
Alfred Thomsen
Leonard Mason
Robert Huhn
Elwood Miller
Jerry Harris
Jerry Thiessen
Emil Hansen
Louis Kacer
Raymond Lorenzen
Carroll Moyer
C.D.H. Partnership
Robert Barr

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AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

by Russell Lyon, Office Manager, A.S.C.S.

Recently I sat in a meeting and heard the speaker talking about improving pastures and showing slides to illustrate his points. He talked about an alfalfa yield of 6 ton to the acre. He was making a case for his company's seed and fertilizer, I grant, but I got to thinking of the value of hay or 300-400 pounds of beef. Six ton of hay at \$15.00 per ton makes \$90.00 gross per acre. 350 pounds of beef at \$25.00 per hundred makes \$87.50. Looks to me like that is getting close to corn and beans on a net basis.

In 1968 the County ASCS offered a special practice to improve permanent pastures. This consisted of 80% cost-shares for seed, needed limestone, phosphate and potash and \$3.00 per acre for seedbed preparation. We had nine farmers take advantage of this program to reseed 221 acres. There were ten additional farms that could not qualify for the 80% rate because they either owned more than 320 acres or did not reside on their farms, but they did get 70% cost-shares. These farmers reseeded 398 acres. This only scratches the surface as far as permanent pasture that needs reseeding in Tama County is concerned.

The County Committee wants to encourage farmers to increase the carrying capacity of their pastures. The Committee will consider an application for pasture improvement as a priority practice in 1969 which means that all applications for pasture seeding will be approved. Other preferred practices are contour, stripcropping, and terraces. These will be approved before ACP funds are allocated for other practices just as has been done in the year 1968.

Most farms in Tama County need some conservation work. Perhaps the county ACP program can help. We urge all farmers to come and investigate.

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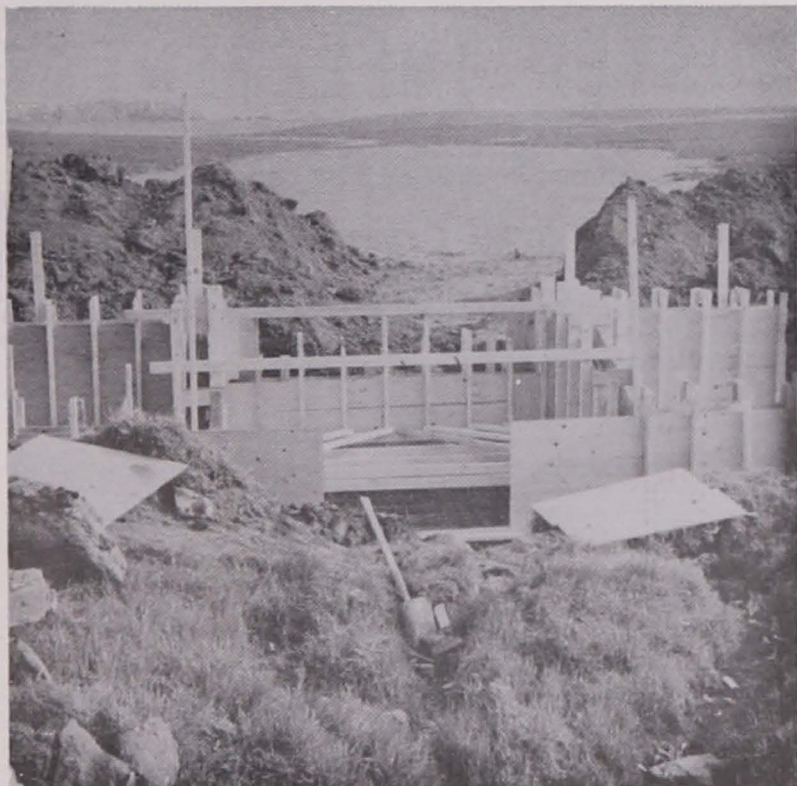
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Pictured above is the reinforced concrete structure in the construction stage on the Mussig Farm in Spring Creek township.



Completed structure on Mussig Farm. This structure controls the outlet of a sod waterway and provides a good tile outlet.

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A deep and wet ditch on the Chester Coffman farm in Salt Creek township was an "Eye Sore" and made it very hard to farm the field that the ditch cut through.



After tile were installed, the ditch was shaped into a sod waterway on the Coffman farm.

"BE BETTER STEWARDS"

by John P. McCleary

We of the Soil Conservation Service continue to look ahead for inroads to the conservation of our two greatest natural resources, soil and water. Along with this great challenge, to control waste of these resources, we are faced with another problem that continues to rear it's ugly head. This is the constant pollution problem that this county and for the most part our nation faces. Probably more publicity has been given to the problem of air and water pollution than any other problem of this nature in the last decade.

I wish to express at this point that I feel that it is a great problem that can be controlled if people will just help themselves so that they are not contributing to this problem. If each farmer would plant his rowcrop on the contour, install terraces on the sloping land of his farm, stripcrop the very steep cropland and control grazing in the pastures of the county very little soil would be lost to the streams and rivers thus keeping them clear of silt and other materials eroded from farmland.

Legislation has been enacted to control feedlot runoff in the State and we of the Soil Conservation Service are and will be involved in solving some of the problems with feedlot runoff.

I see a State owned lake in the county that is becoming "silted full" of good rich farm land that should be producing corn rather than kill-

ing fish and filling the lake with unwanted silt. This siltation problem has become a great concern to many people using this lake and they want something done about it. It becomes increasingly evident what could happen if enough people become concerned about the siltation problem in our streams and lakes.

Legislation that controls feedlot runoff, could also control cropland runoff if enough people feel that this problem is not being controlled by individuals. I hope this never comes into being, because I feel that the individual farmer should make the decisions on his farm, but that he above all others, should be concerned about erosion of his farm land because this is his livelihood and that of his future generation.



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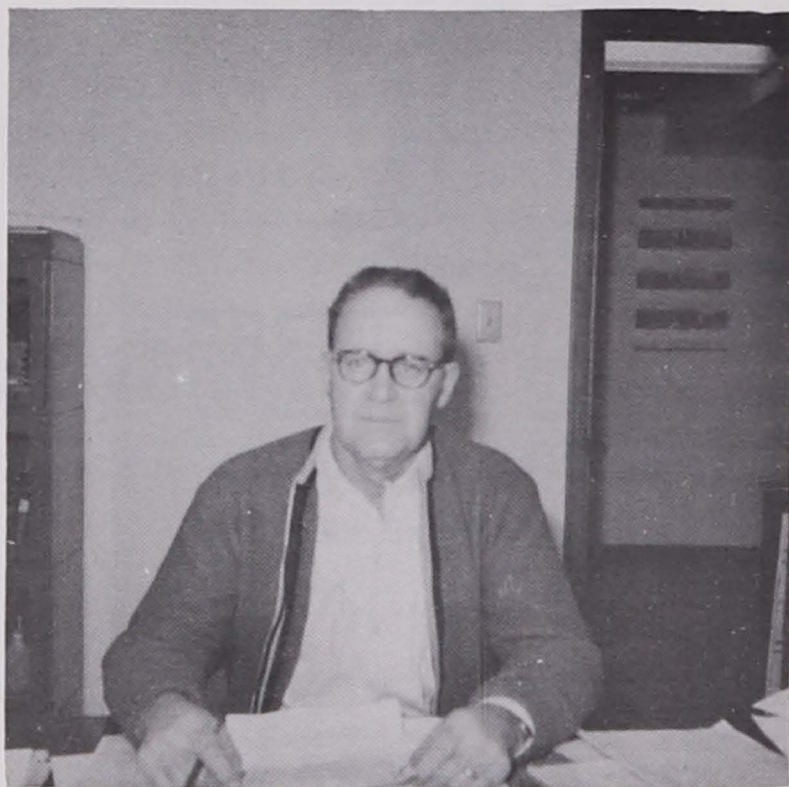
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WINDBREAKS

by Gress Rogers, County Extension Director



County Extension Director, G. Gress Rogers

PLANNING AND PREPARATION

Federal cost-sharing payments for windbreak establishment are available through the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP). However, costs will be shared only on satisfactorily performed conservation practices for which federal cost-sharing was requested by the farmer before the conservation work was begun.

The choice of species to use will depend largely on the soil and locality. It is wise to plant more than one species. If one species should be damaged by insects or disease, the effectiveness of a multi-species windbreak is not completely lost.

Small trees and shrubs should be in the outer rows and at the ends of the windbreak. They are used primarily to maintain desired density at low heights above the ground.

Generally, the center row or rows should be evergreens. Evergreens are best because they hold their needles throughout the year, and thus maintain their efficiency in breaking the wind during the winter. Some sites, however, are not suitable for evergreens. Examples are areas receiving barnyard drainage, or areas with heavy, tight soil having poor drainage. Broadleaved trees should be planted on such areas. Since these trees lose their leaves in winter, a broadleaf tree windbreak should have at least four rows to give satisfactory protection.

NUMBER OF ROWS

A farmstead windbreak must have at least three rows to be effective. At least two rows must consist of trees; the remaining row or rows can be shrubs or small trees.

SPACING

The recommended between-row and within-row spacing depends on species used and topography.

PLANTING STOCK

In selecting evergreens, a choice among balled-and-burlapped, potted and barerooted trees must be made. Of these, balled-and-burlapped and potted trees require care for a shorter time after planting, usually have much higher survival rates, and will produce a beautiful and effective windbreak 2 to 3 years sooner than bare-rooted stock. However, they are more expensive.

If broadleaved trees are being considered, bare-rooted seedlings or rooted cuttings are preferred. Additional care is not required when trees up to 5 feet in height are planted.

PLANTING TIME

Spring is the best time to plant windbreak trees. Plant as soon as the frost is out of the ground. At this time the soil is moist, the climate is mild and humid, and the trees are dormant. When placed in the soil, the rootlets are ready to start growing as soon as the soil becomes warm enough for plant growth.

CARE AFTER PLANTING

Survival and rapid growth of a newly planted windbreak depend a great deal on adequate moisture and freedom from weeds and other competing plants.

Cultivation is usually the surest way to control weeds and grasses in tree plantings. Three to five cultivations per season are normally required for new plantings. Cultivation should continue for 4 or 5 years after planting or until the trees reach a height of 6 to 8 feet. Cultivation should never ridge soil against the trees. Trees should not be cultivated as closely as corn. Small trees cannot tolerate much mechanical damage or covering up of their tops and branches. Cultivate just deeply enough to kill weeds and grasses -- no deeper than 3 to 5 inches.

Herbicides, when used as directed, will control weeds and grass. Be sure that the chemical is used only on species recommended by the manufacturer.

After the decision is made to plant a windbreak file an application with the ASCS for cost-share if desired. Then visit with the County Extension Director or Soil Conservation Service for recommended species for your soil type, site, drainage, row spacing, etc.

Bulletins are available at the County Extension Office, Toledo on windbreak planting. A postal card or phone call will bring one to you.

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Dysart, Phone 476-5736

Ronald Emerson, C.U.
Toledo, Phone 484-3569

Dennis Lass, Adjuster
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Mrs. Joanne Yuska
Office Asst. Toledo, Iowa

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Tama County ASCS committee are left to right: Albert Kaufman, Tama; Merle Cavanaugh, Chairman, Reinbeck; Russell Lyon, office manager; Lyle Moeller, Gladbrook.

RAY VAN NORDEN CONSTRUCTION

BULLDOZER & SCRAPER WORK

Terracing

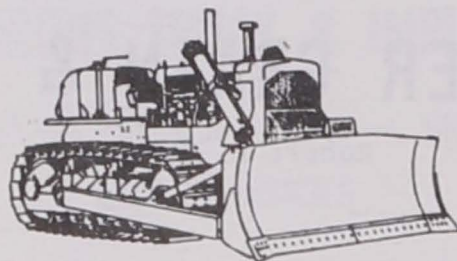
Landscaping

Waterways

Tree Removal

Ponds

Surface Drainage



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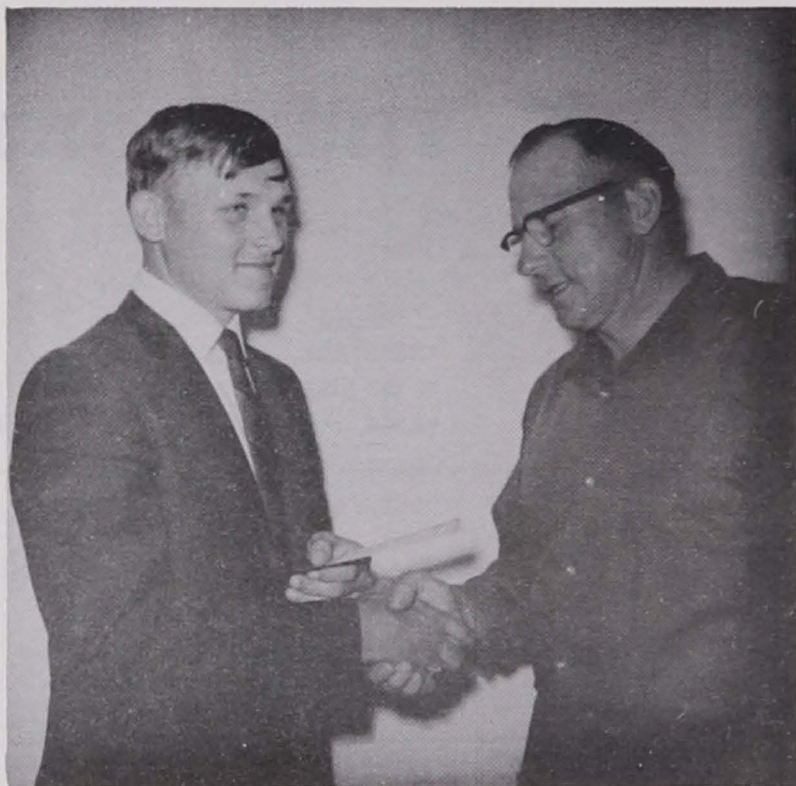
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District Commissioner, Lester Lenhart, presenting Ray Dostal of Traer with a United States Savings Bond for his Soil Conservation Speech presentation which won the district contest.



Soil Conservation workbook winners Jason Else & Dianna Moulton with their teacher Mrs. Zimmer. Both winners attended St. Patrick's Catholic school in Tama.

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by Edwin Higby, County Supervisor, F.H.A.

The Farmers Home Administration established an office located in the city of Toledo, Iowa June 1, 1967. This was accomplished to better serve Tama and Marshall Counties. Edwin A. Higby was appointed County Supervisor, and Mrs. Karlene Foreman, Toledo, office clerk. All inquiries regarding loan programs in these two counties are handled through the office in Toledo. The loan program includes a County Committee of Merle Cavanaugh, RFD Reinbeck, Charles Svoboda, Clutier, and Evan Boldt, Garwin. This committee meets once a month to assist rural residents in obtaining loans.

The Farmers Home Administration has approximately seventeen different kinds of loans to assist rural residents and farm people that live in towns of 5500 population or less and in open country.

Some of these loans are: Farm Ownership Loans, Emergency Loans, Rural Housing Loans, Economic Opportunity Loans, Soil and Water Loans, Recreation Loans, Sewer and Water Loans and others that are useful in assisting rural people. Office days for these counties are every Monday, 8-12 for Tama County, held at 128½ East High, Toledo and every Tuesday 10-12 for Marshall County held at the ASCS office in Marshalltown.

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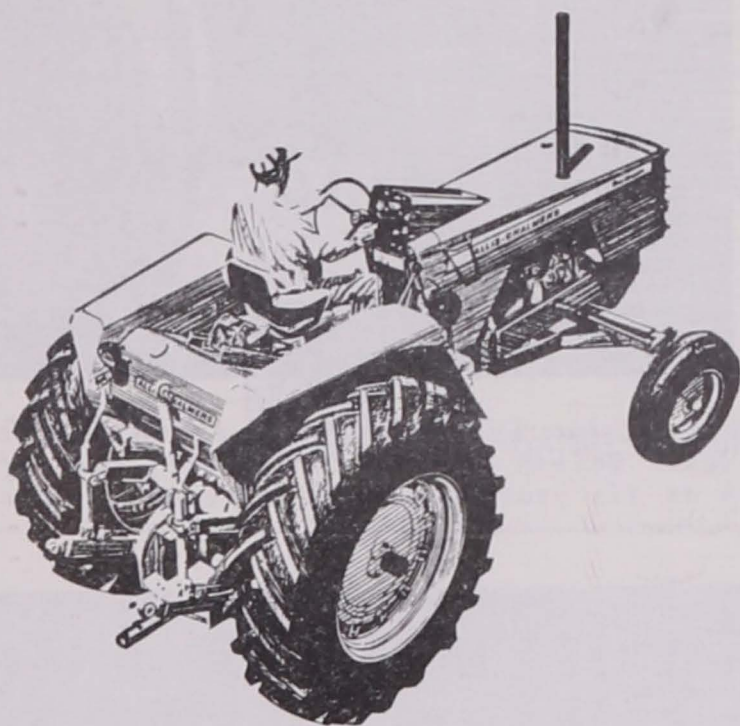
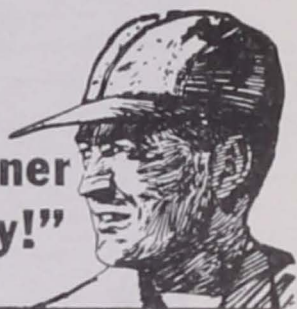
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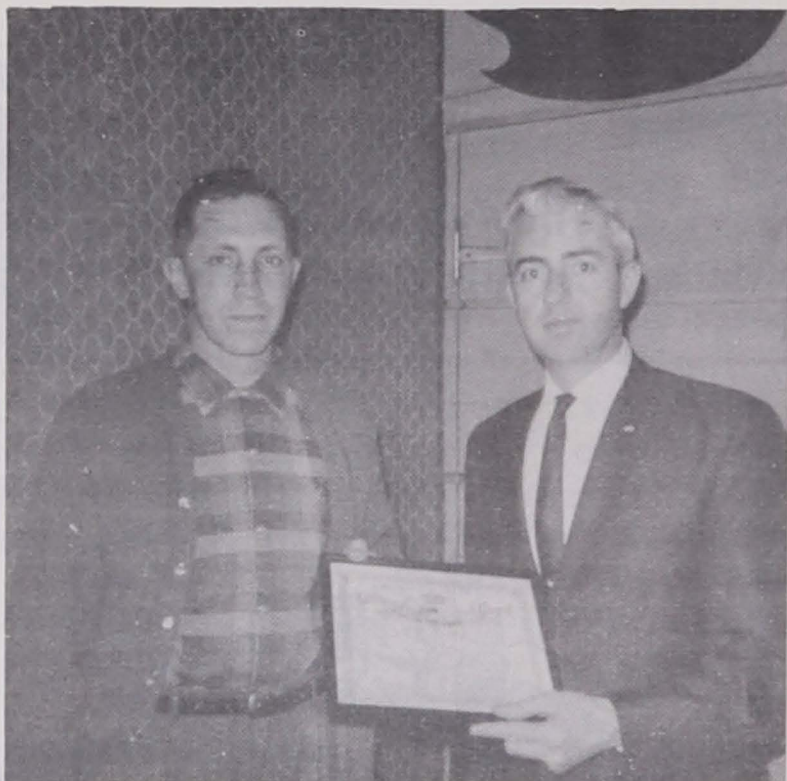
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Commissioner Joe Lyon, left, is shown presenting past commissioner Melvin Kupka with a certificate of award for his work as six year member of the commissioners board.



Pictured from left to right: William Shuler, Dean Mauderer, Richard Shaw, Floyd Lacina who were all District winners in the 1967 Des Moines Register & Tribune contest for Conservation Achievement.

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District winners in the 1968 Register & Tribune Conservation Achievement contest were left: Charles Balloun, Toledo and Kenneth Bruene, Gladbrook. These men were presented award certificates and pen sets by the Tama County Soil Conservation District.

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Above picture shows the entrance of Shady Hills Campground operated by Mr. & Mrs. Harold Stump of rural Tama. This campground attracts hundreds of campers each year.



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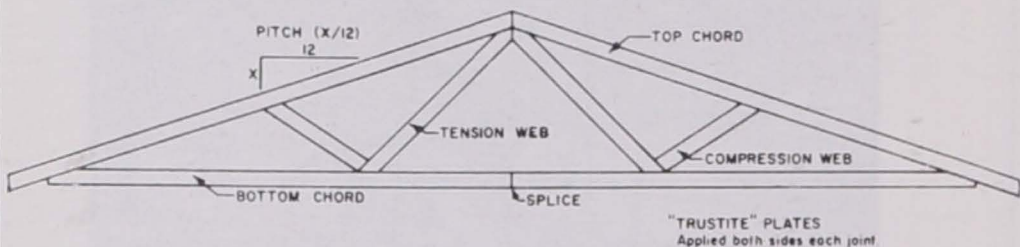
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This winter scene shows the contour rows on this field filled with snow. This field will retain the moisture and will not erode away with the spring thaw.

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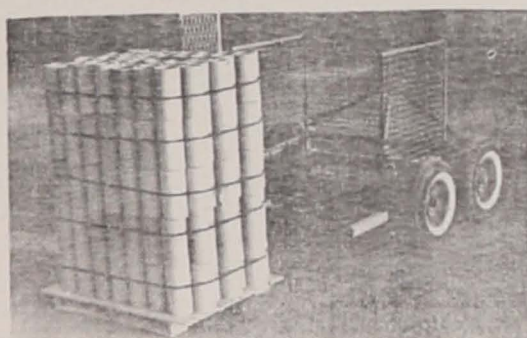
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