

1972

ANNUAL REPORT

CEDAR COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

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FOREWORD

By Darrel Brown

As we start to make plans for another crop season we have many decisions to make. What crop will I plant on this particular field? What kind of seed? How much fertilizer? Does it need lime? If I make the right decision, what will the yield be?

How many of us really consider the most important decision of all? Will this soil, "the greatest of all natural resources," and all important to our having a good crop, be here for the next season and the next generation, or will it erode and be on the neighbor's farm or in roadside ditches?

We have been tilling the Iowa soil for approximately 125 years. It is estimated there was 15" of top soil at the beginning and now averages 7 inches. On many slopes there is none, even eroding the subsoil and carrying it to the low areas and covering the good soil. If this continues, what yields can future generations expect from their decisions?

There is no law that states you have to use conservation measures. But there is a law that says you are liable to your neighbors if your erosion damages his property, or the county says your soil is filling the road ditches. You will have to change your ways. Why not do it now before someone forces you?

Cover Picture

TOT tour July 1972 on the Leo Shugar farm



Cedar County District Commissioners
 Left to right - Willard Eiler, Elmer Wilke, Ken Mather, Darrell Brown, chairman, and Bill Davidson II.



S.C.S. Office Staff - Jeff Anliker, Hilda Carey, Clarence Beyer

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YOUR Soil Conservation District

**By Jeff Anliker, District Conservationist
USDA Soil Conservation Service**

Conservation Districts are legal sub-divisions of state government, responsible under state law for conservation work and activities within their boundaries. The purpose of the districts is to focus attention on land, water, and related resource problems, to develop programs to solve them, and to coordinate help from all public and private sources that can contribute to accomplishing the districts goals.

The Cedar District is managed by five elected citizens who know local problems. The commissioners are: Darrell Brown, chairman, Ken Mather, Elmer Wilke, Willard Eiler, and William Davidson II. Assisting the district are advisors: Jeff Anliker, district conservationist, Clarence Beyer, conservation technician, Ken Muller, extension director. In Iowa there are state funds with which the commissioners hire a full-time clerk, Hilda Carey. District commissioners are not public employees; they receive no salary.

The commissioners meet the third Monday of each month to conduct District business. These are open meetings and anyone may attend.

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DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS 1972

January:

Raymond Millett attended Commissioners Short Course in Ames. Advertising was sold for the annual report.

February:

Annual meeting was held. William Davidson II and Kenneth Mather were elected for a 6-year term. Dr. Minoru Amemiya, Extension Agronomist, spoke on the commissioner's responsibility in regard to the Conservancy Law. Pancakes and sausages were served by the commissioners and wives to 125 persons. Don Williams retired after 32 years of Government service.

March:

Darrell Brown was elected chairman, Hilda Carey as treasurer, and Ken Muller, secretary.

April:

Jeff Anliker, district conservationist, started work. A conservation tour was held on the Ron Hougas farm for the farm management class from Muscatine Junior College.

The Tipton Outdoor Classroom was planted by the Tipton FFA class. Pamphlets were sent to all ministers in the county for Soil Stewardship Week.

May:

Annual speech contest held. Mary Schnack (1st), Charles Townsend (2nd) and Frank Townsend (3rd)

Mrs. Karen Arbuckle was selected to represent Cedar district in the teacher section of the Des Moines Register and Tribune Contest

Darrell Brown was chosen for Cedar's outstanding commissioner's award.

Sandy Kunde began work in the office for the summer.

June:

An education committee meeting was held at the Tipton Out-door Classroom for selected teachers. Those attending were Francis Abel, Mrs. Lloyd Thien, Mrs. Pat Fankhauser and Mrs. Jeanette Ruprecht. These teachers helped formulate a program for a teacher's workshop in September.

Clarence Beyer received an award for 20 years of Government service.

July:

A tile outlet terrace tour was held on the Ralph Phelps farm and the Leo Shuger farm. Over 35 people attended.

The commissioners, district conservationist and wives along with Hilda Carey and Mary Schnack attended the Regional commissioners meeting and speech contest. Mary Schnack placed 2nd out of 10 entries.

August:

Commissioners discussed and set the Agricultural Soil Loss Limits for Cedar County.

Commissioners and district conservationist attended the Iowa-Cedar River Basin meeting at Marion.

September:

The West Branch Watershed was formed at a public meeting. Over 50 persons attended.

A slide set "Consider the Soil" was purchased for use by towns and schools.

A teacher's workshop on conservation and pollution was held at the Tipton school. Sixteen teachers attended. An education committee was formed with William Davidson II as chairman.

"The Earth-Our Home in Space," a cartoon booklet, was distributed to the schools in the county.

The annual Soil Progress and Review was held September 26-28. Public officials, including the county assessor and Board of Supervisors, attended the first day.

October:

Mrs. Jan Ditzer, Karen Arbuckle, Pat Fankhauser, Janet Van Tatenhove, Jeanette Ruprecht, Georgia Wallace and Loretta Ihms attended the Teachers Conservation Workshop at Strawberry Point.

An Inventory and Evaluation for a school site was made for the West Branch School District.

An Inventory and Evaluation of the watershed was given to the West Branch Town Council.

Ken Mather and Jeff Anliker, D.C. attended a land use policy meeting at Mt. Pleasant.

Sixty students from Lincoln, West Branch and Tipton schools attended the 19th annual soil judging contest. West Branch won.

The Soil Loss Limit Hearing was held October 30th.

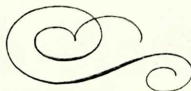
A tile outlet terrace class was given to the West Branch Sophomore class on the Ralph Phelps farm.

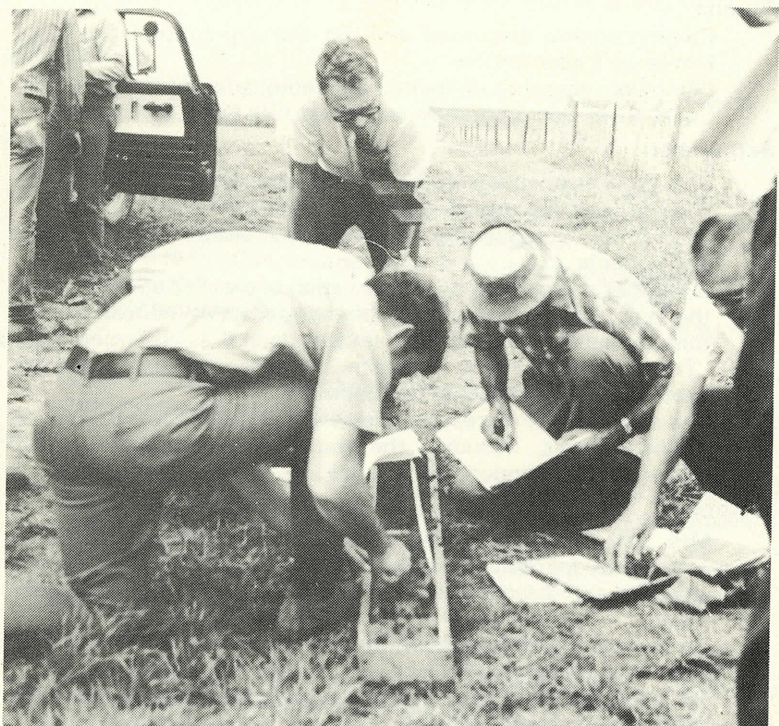
November:

Plans for the 1972 annual report were made.

December:

Advertising was sold for the annual report.





Soil scientists determining the soil type for the standard soil survey during the 1972 soil progress and review.

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SOIL SURVEY

**By Howard Bright, Soil Scientist
USDA, Soil Conservation Service**

The soil survey has suffered in its progress this fall. Just as the farmers have suffered from the plague of bad weather, so have Ed Schermerhorn, Neal Williamson and Howard Bright. We are the soil scientists who are responsible for an accurate soils map of Cedar County.

Three-fourths of the county has been completed. Only a portion of the northern half of the county remains to be mapped. We have come in contact with many farmers and landowners throughout the county and have had excellent cooperation.

Even though the purpose of the soil survey seems clear to us, it may not be obvious to all the people of the county. We have been asked many times, "what are you doing?" "what's this survey good for, and what's its' purpose?" First, we are soil scientists of the USDA Soil Conservation Service. Upon request of Cedar Co. Board of Supervisors to Cedar Co. Soil Conservation District, the Soil Conservation Service agreed to furnish technical assistance in getting a soil survey program underway. That's when we, the soil scientists come on the job. Our job is to walk across each farm and piece of land in the county. As we walk, we determine the different soil types with the use of a hand auger, determine the percent slope with an abney level and determine the amount of erosion by visual observation. All this information is recorded on an aerial photograph. This is what we call soil surveying or mapping. In the winter, we work on the written portion of the soil report. The final soil survey report will consist of the soil map of Cedar County and a written report stating all characteristics, suitabilities and limitations of the soils.

Second, the purpose of this survey is to make soils information available for use by the Cedar Co. Soil Conservation District in making conservation plans for farms and other units of land. A soils map is essential before conservation practices can be initiated. Uses of the soil report are many: an equitable assessment of land values is made possible, farmers and those who work with farmers can learn proper use and management of soils, and engineers and builders will know the soil features that affect their work by using the report.

We hope this soil survey will be used by all those who have either general or specific questions. We also hope that we have served as a friendly and helpful link between the citizenry and the soil conservation service. Thank you for your cooperation and friendliness.

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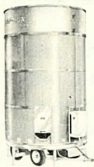
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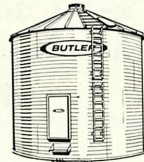
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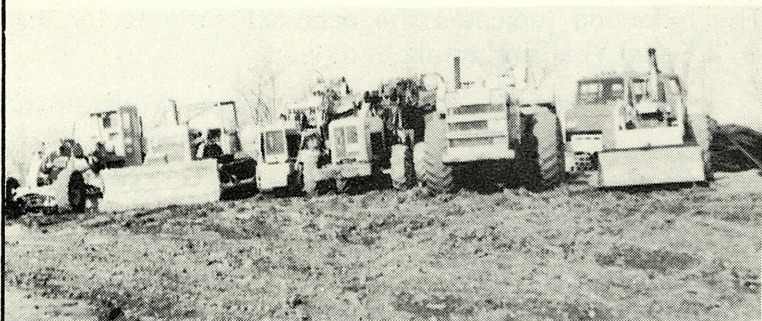


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ACCOMPLISHMENT SUMMARY

The following indicates the accomplishments for the 1972 Fiscal Year and totals to date.

		To Date
Contour Farming	1,821 Acres	59,561 Acres
Strip Cropping	133 Acres	3,575 Acres
Conservation Cropping System	2,749 Acres	98,275 Acres
Minimum Tillage	2,685 Acres	45,081 Acres
Structures & Ponds	7	199
Grassed Waterways	56 Acres	919 Acres
Tile Drainage	240,583 Ft.	5,493,478 Ft.
Detailed Soil Surveys	102,880 Acres	265,890 Acres
Pasture Planting	924 Acres	8,533 Acres
Wildlife Area	77 Acres	840 Acres
Land Adequately Treated	4,101 Acres	54,365 Acres
Units of Government Assisted	6	
Groups Assisted	5	
Windbreaks & Tree Planting	14 Acres	203 Acres
Tile Outlet Terrace	5,259 Ft.	5,259 Ft.
Resource Conservation Plans	20	542

"We feel that either directly or indirectly we are influencing the conservation thinking of every citizen in the county. If we continue to do so, our natural resources will be preserved."

District Cooperators For 1972

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Henry Niermeyer | 17. Dr. J. F. Randolph |
| 2. Ronald H. Hougas | 18. Richard Palmer |
| 3. Ricardo Sanchez | 19. Cecil Mathias |
| 4. Mrs. Howard Fountain | 20. David Litscher |
| 5. Elwood Bunge | 21. Carl Sagert |
| 6. Hershal Gray | 22. Park Albaugh |
| 7. Robert Gregory | 23. Howard Siders |
| 8. Randall Shaull | 24. Eleanor Pasvogel |
| 9. Ruel Wehde | 25. Fritz Pasvogel |
| 10. Vernon Kimberling | 26. Wilfred Ruchotzke |
| 11. Harold Nicolaus | 27. Stanley Maurer |
| 12. William Elijah | 28. John C. Cole |
| 13. George Mountain | 29. Ferd Jensen |
| 14. Harold Toerber | 30. Donald Thompson |
| 15. Marion Billick | 31. Marion Jennings |
| 16. R. D. Sanger | |

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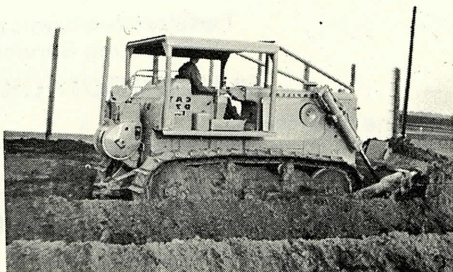
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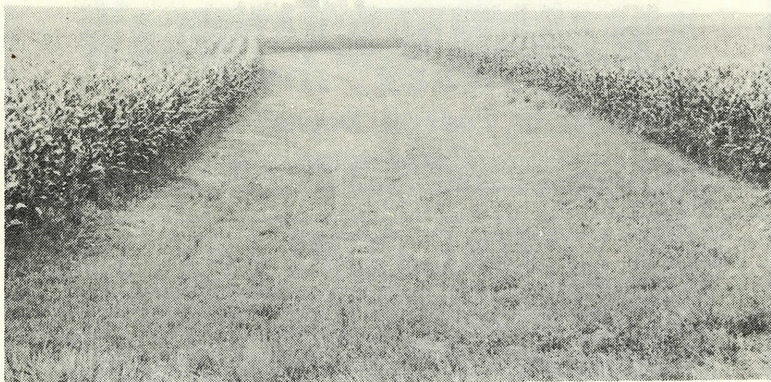
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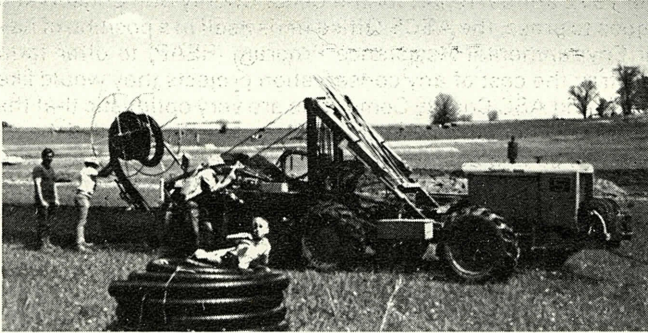
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CEDAR COUNTY ASCS

County Committee: Lawrence Kleppe, Chairman
Richard Pelzer, Vice-Chairman
Forest Johnson, Member

County Executive Director: Donald M. Conrad
County REAP Clerk: Marian B. Thordsen

As the 1972 annual report for the Cedar County Soil Conservation District goes to press, the ASCS Office finds itself in a position of having no Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) to offer farmers to help defray the cost of any conservation projects they would like to do. The staff and ASC County Committee are very optimistic that the 1973 Congress will reverse the Executive Order which cancelled the program and we will be in a position to offer cost-share to those farmers doing conservation work which qualifies under the REAP Program. A letter to your congressman or senator might well be in order so he knows how you feel about the REAP Program and its work.

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MEMBER F.D.I.C.

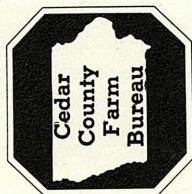


A.S.C.S. Office Staff

Seated left to right - Marian Thordsen, Betty Morris. Standing left to right - Marjean Mente, Don Conrad, CED, Lynda Wright.

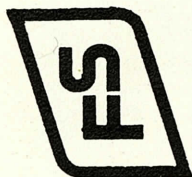


A.S.C.S. County Committee - left to right - Lawrence Kleppe, chairman, Forest Johnson and Richard Pelzer.



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Farmers Home Administration

Kenneth D. Dunn, County Supervisor
William T. Krahling, Assistant County Supervisor

The Farmers Home Administration assists rural families with obtaining financial assistance if they are unable to obtain this assistance at rates and term they can reasonably be expected to repay.

A three man county committee reviews applications for loans and must certify the eligibility of applicants for loans. The Cedar County Committee members are: Neil Glenney, Wilton; Walter Hansen, West Branch, and Hugh Doty, Mechanicsville.

Farmers Home Administration makes loans for many needs in rural areas - some of which are described as follows:

Farm Operating Loans: Loans are made to qualified applicants to purchase livestock, machinery, and operating expenses. Debts can be refinanced if collateral is given. There is a \$50,000 maximum of this loan type. Many young men have been "Scratch Starters" with this loan. This is a 7 year loan which enables a farm family to spread out his overhead and get a good start in farming.

Farm Ownership Loans: Loans are made to tenants to become land owners and operators. The applicant must be in a good financial situation to get his loan. These loans are made in conjunction with loans with other long term lenders. The maximum loan is for 40 years with a total real estate indebtedness of \$100,000.

Emergency Loans: These loans are made to a farmer when a natural disaster strikes such as wind, hail, blight and drought. These are made to keep the family on the farm and give him operating credit at a reduced interest rate and suitable terms. A substantial loss must have been suffered to get this type of credit.

Soil & Water Loans: These loans are made to finance soil and water conservation practices such as ponds, dams, erosion control structures, wells and other items consistent with good farming practices.

The Cedar County Office is located in Tipton in the USDA Building. Office hours are each Monday from 8:00 to 5:00.

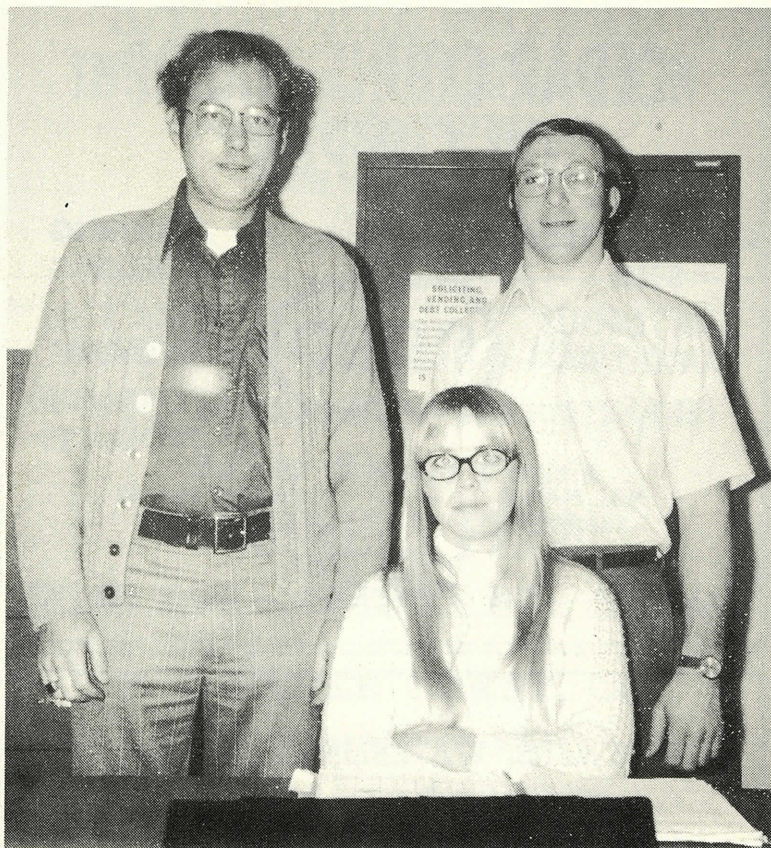
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I-M BUDGET

Commissioner's Expense	\$307.13
Office Supplies	107.35
Prizes for Contest	35.29
Printing	13.50
Office Expense	221.73
Meeting Halls	15.00

TOTAL \$700.00

II-M BUDGET

Salary - Clerk	\$4,864.00
State Retirement	170.24
Health Insurance	144.00
Federal Retirement (Social Security)	252.91

TOTAL \$5,431.15

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A pancake supper was served to people attending the 1972 Bi-annual meeting and election.



Mrs. Karen Arbuckle, 5th grade teacher in Tipton, was selected Cedar district's outstanding teacher. Mrs. Arbuckle is receiving the award from Jeff Anliker, district conservationist.

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EXTENSION SERVICE

Ken Muller

Our thoughts have soared with our explorers in space the past decade. However, our roots remain in the soil of the planet Earth.

The soil is Cedar County's greatest natural resource. It belongs, in a sense, to all people now living as well as to those yet unborn. Thus we are committed to conserve the soil for ourselves and future generations.

The movement of soil particles by water and wind has at least three effects: first, the loss of soil at the original site; second, the accumulation of dust, clay, silt or sand somewhere else; third, the properties of the other particles being carried.

At present attention is focused on the damage caused by the last two effects. The soil loss from the original site is equally damaging in the long run, as productivity is reduced and the land becomes harder to manage.

Today's concern for soil erosion has developed a new land ethic in the establishment of the Soil Conservancy Law for Iowa. However, even with the new law, we may continue the practice of "locking the barn door after the horse is stolen." What happens if public funds for cost sharing are not available at the 75% level? Damage must occur first before a complaint can be filed. The control of the erosion is not based on damage to the land actually being eroded but damage elsewhere.

Voluntary action by those now trusted with the land will still be the most important step in accomplishing soil conservation. Land-use limits will follow if soil loss limits are not observed.



Tipton F.F.A. group planting the outdoor classroom at the west school.

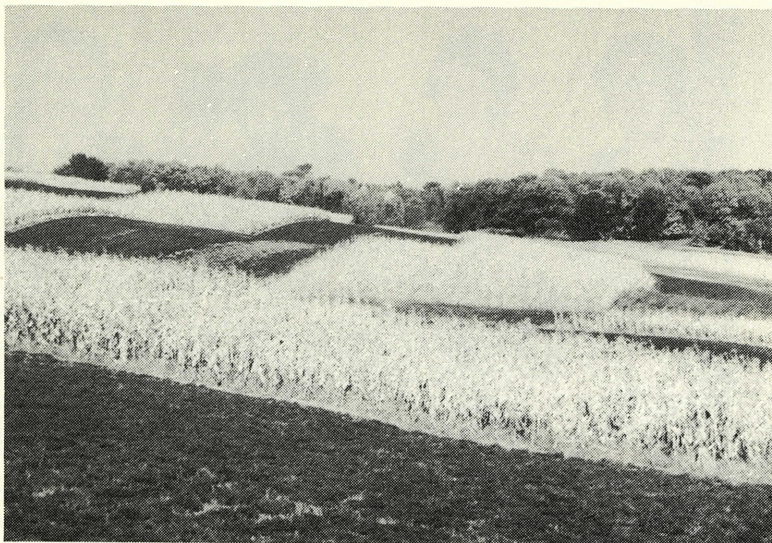
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Strip cropping is a very effective erosion control practice. It has aesthetic value and benefits wildlife by providing adequate cover and food.

Iowa Conservation Commission

Wildlife Management Biologist by Donald Pfeiffer, Box 312, ASCS Office Bldg., Iowa City, Iowa 52240. Biologist assigned to the district which includes Cedar County in March, 1972.

The specific duties of the Wildlife Management Biologist include wildlife management and habitat improvement on both private and public lands. Surveys of wildlife populations are conducted periodically to monitor the surplus by which hunting and trapping seasons are set.

Where problems exist between wildlife and the private landowner, the biologist serves as a troubleshooter to offer suggestions to eliminate the conflict.

After surveying Cedar County, it is clearly evident that wildlife populations could be increased by encouraging two specific practices, since proper nesting cover and adequate winter cover are lacking. There are some areas in each section in which quality nesting cover could be increased. Dense grass is preferred by wildlife for producing offspring. Orchardgrass, fescue, and other species are much better than the existing bluegrass or weed patch. A few shrubs or pines trees in such odd areas as along pasture edge, fence corner, or creekbank would provide protection for pheasants and rabbits during intense winter storms and cover while snow persists.

Encouraging improved nesting cover and promoting tree plantings for

winter cover will increase wildlife both for observing and hunting. These practices can be incorporated without conflict to the farming program.

Those soil erosion practices employed to heal or prevent a gully or slow runoff of excess rainfall can also provide habitat for wildlife.

Iowa Conservation Commission District Forester

By Ed Gardiner

The District Forester is an employee of the Iowa Conservation Commission. The office is in the basement of the Post Office Building in Anamosa. The address is Box 46 and the phone is 319-462-2768. The Forester covers six counties: Linn, Jones, Jackson, Johnson, Cedar and Clinton.

The primary responsibilities are to work with timber land owners in managing their timber for maximum production, marketing the timberland products, and planting trees.

Cedar county has about 24,000 acres of timber, most of it locate along the Cedar and Wapsipinicon rivers.

During the past year the Forester has worked on 550 acres promoting better management and marketing. Four timber sales were conducted for a total value of 5,700 dollars. Land owners in Cedar county ordered over 11,000 trees and shrubs from the State Forest Nursery for planting in the Spring of 1972.

The Forester works closely with the Soil Conservation Districts and the ASCS offices in the above mentioned counties. Requests for assistance are handled by these offices or requests can be made directly to the Forester.

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**By C. L. Beyer, Conservation Technician
USDA Soil Conservation Service**

A few years ago the Soil Conservation Service decided to try a different technique in their terracing program. Although terraces have been built for more than a thousand years in many of the older countries, the service felt we must do something to adapt terraces to our modern machinery and our modern farming methods. The result was what we now call tile outlet terraces.

Tile outlet terraces are relatively simple to build and maintain. They are nothing more than a ridge of dirt designed to store 2 inches of runoff (this is normally a 4 or 5 inch rain) with a tile outlet designed to remove 1 inch of runoff in 24 hours.

Earth is used for the fill because it is readily available, easy to move and is stable. Our terraces can easily have a lifetime of a hundred years or more with a little maintenance. Tile, too, are known to function properly for more than a hundred years.

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Maybe terraces will not fit your farm, but then again maybe they will. Why don't you check with us and find out?

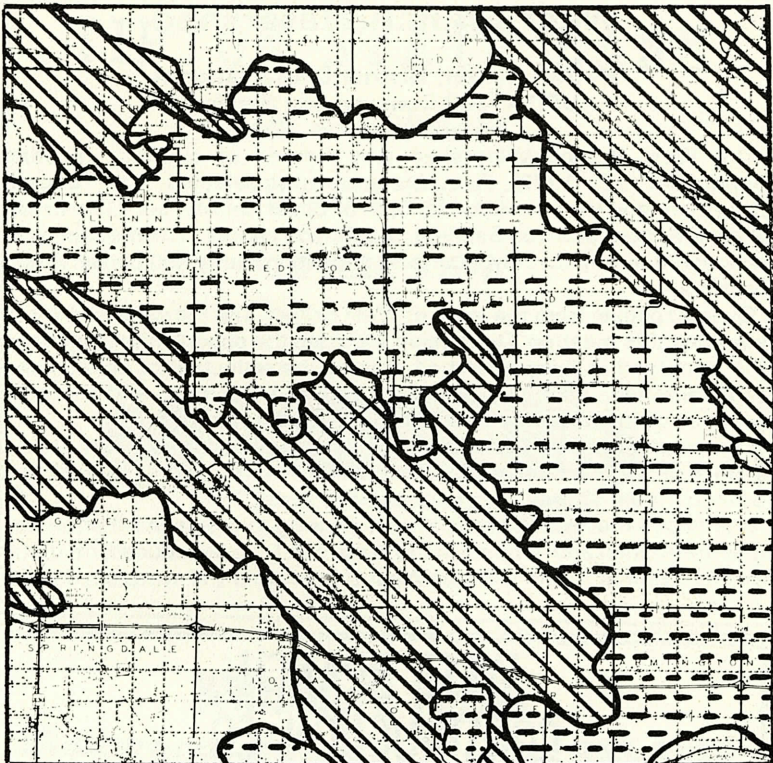
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West Branch Watershed

By Jeff Anliker, District Conservationist
USDA, Soil Conservation Service

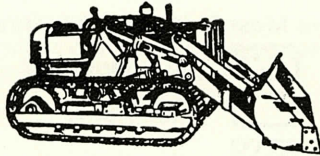
The West Branch Watershed was formed at a public meeting September 12, 1972. Five directors were elected: Carl Sagert, chairman, and Herb Hinkhouse, both of Cedar county; and Gary Ernst, Wayne Rogers and Lee Seigling of Johnson county. The meeting was sponsored jointly by the Cedar and Johnson county soil conservation districts.

Over 50 people from the town of West Branch and the watershed area attended this meeting. Discussion included the opportunity to improve the farm land in this watershed area by the reduction of erosion and sedimentation, improved drainage, reduced flooding, and the possibilities of increased Federal funds for land treatment.

The watershed area includes 4,925 acres which drains into the West Branch of the Wapsinonoc Creek which flows through the town of West Branch. Cedar county's portion is 3,303 acres.

It is hoped that with increased cost-sharing and personnel priorities, that the erosion and flooding of the watershed can be reduced, resulting in less damage to the town of West Branch and the watershed area.

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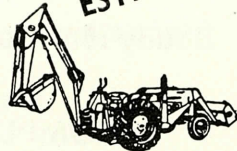
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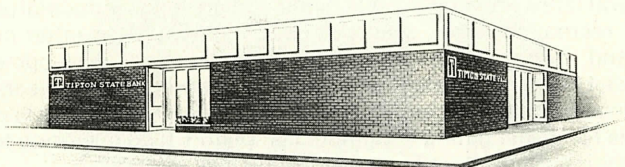


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Iowa Conservancy Law

**By Jeff Anliker, District Conservationist
USDA Soil Conservation Service**

The 1971 Iowa Legislature declared soil erosion a nuisance if it results in or contributes to damage by siltation to the property of another landowner.

Cedar County, at a public hearing October 30, 1972, set the maximum soil loss limits for agricultural lands for the 82 soil types found in the county. The range was from 1 to 5 tons of soil loss per acre per year. The Conservancy Law set the maximum at 5 tons per acre per year on non-agricultural lands (including public parks, urban lands, industrial parks, airports, recreation lands, roads, streets, highways and other public lands) and construction sites (including housing developments, commercial building developments, highways, and other projects).

These regulations as set forth by the 64th General Assembly will serve as a basis for investigating legitimate complaints filed in writing to the district commissioners when sediment damage occurs.

Every effort will continue to be made to make maximum use of voluntary conservation by every landowner in Cedar county. The soil conservation district now involves every acre of land in the county including towns; we stand ready to assist in preventing further land abuse through conservation resource planning.

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The farm management class from the Muscatine Junior College attending a class on conservation planning and management on the Ron Hougas farm.



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Tipton F.F.A. group at the 1972 soil judging contest, held on the Ray Crock farm.



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When the other fellow doesn't do it, he's too lazy. But when I don't do it, I'm too busy.

When the other fellow goes ahead and does something without being told, he's overstepping his bounds. But when I do something without being told, that's initiative!

When the other fellow states his side of a question strongly, he's bullheaded. But when I state a side of a question strongly, I'm being firm.

When the other fellow overlooks a few rules of etiquette, he's rude. But when I skip a few of the rules, I'm being original.

When the other fellow does something that pleases the boss, he's polishing the brass, but when I do something that pleases the boss, that's cooperation.

When the other fellow gets ahead, he sure had the lucky breaks, but when I manage to get ahead, man! it was hard work that did it!

Funny, isn't it- -or is it!

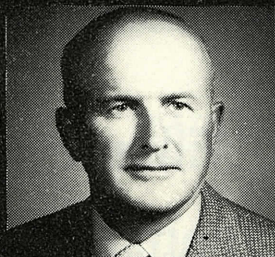
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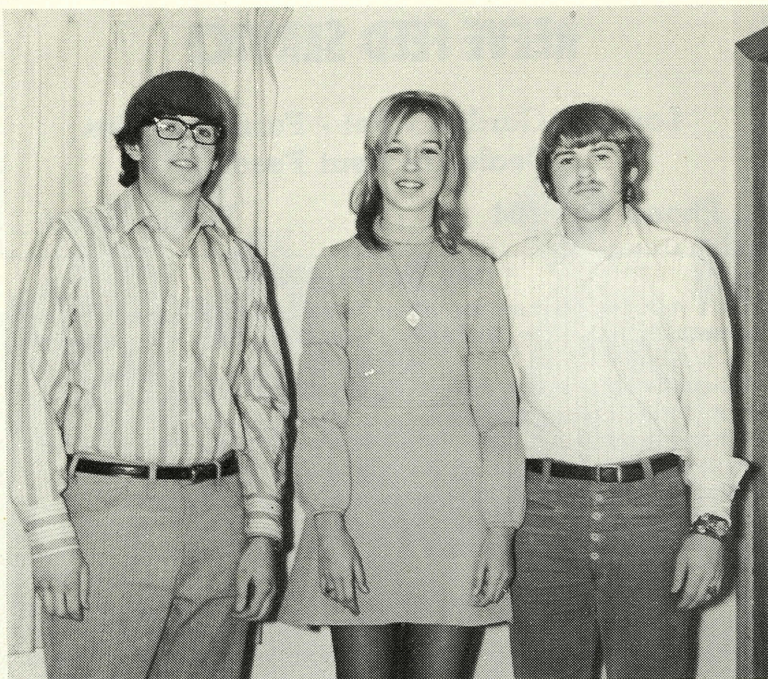
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Cedar District Speech Contest Winners: Left to right - Frank Townsend, 3rd; Mary Schnack, 1st; and Charles Townsend, 2nd. Mary also placed 2nd in the Regional contest for Eastern Iowa.

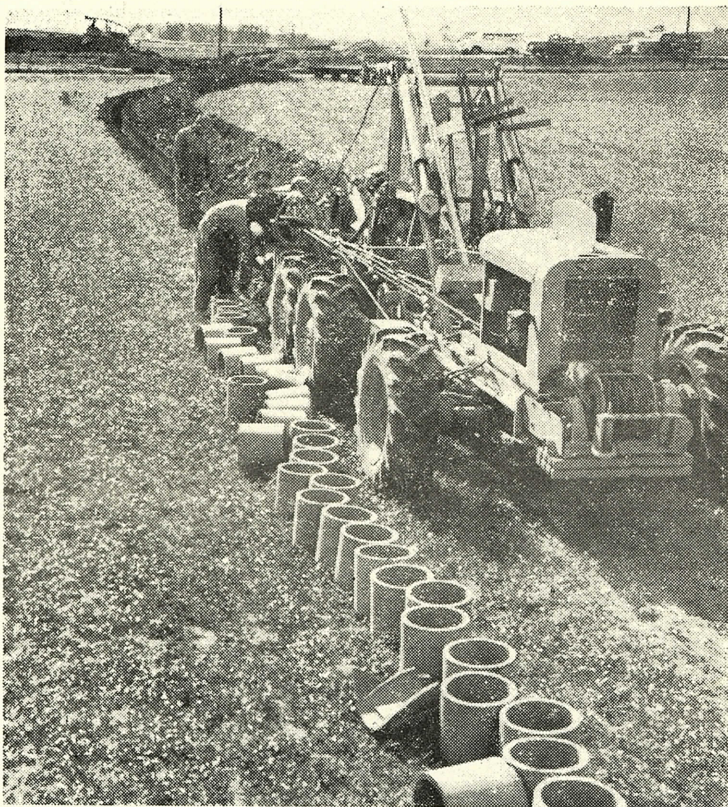


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