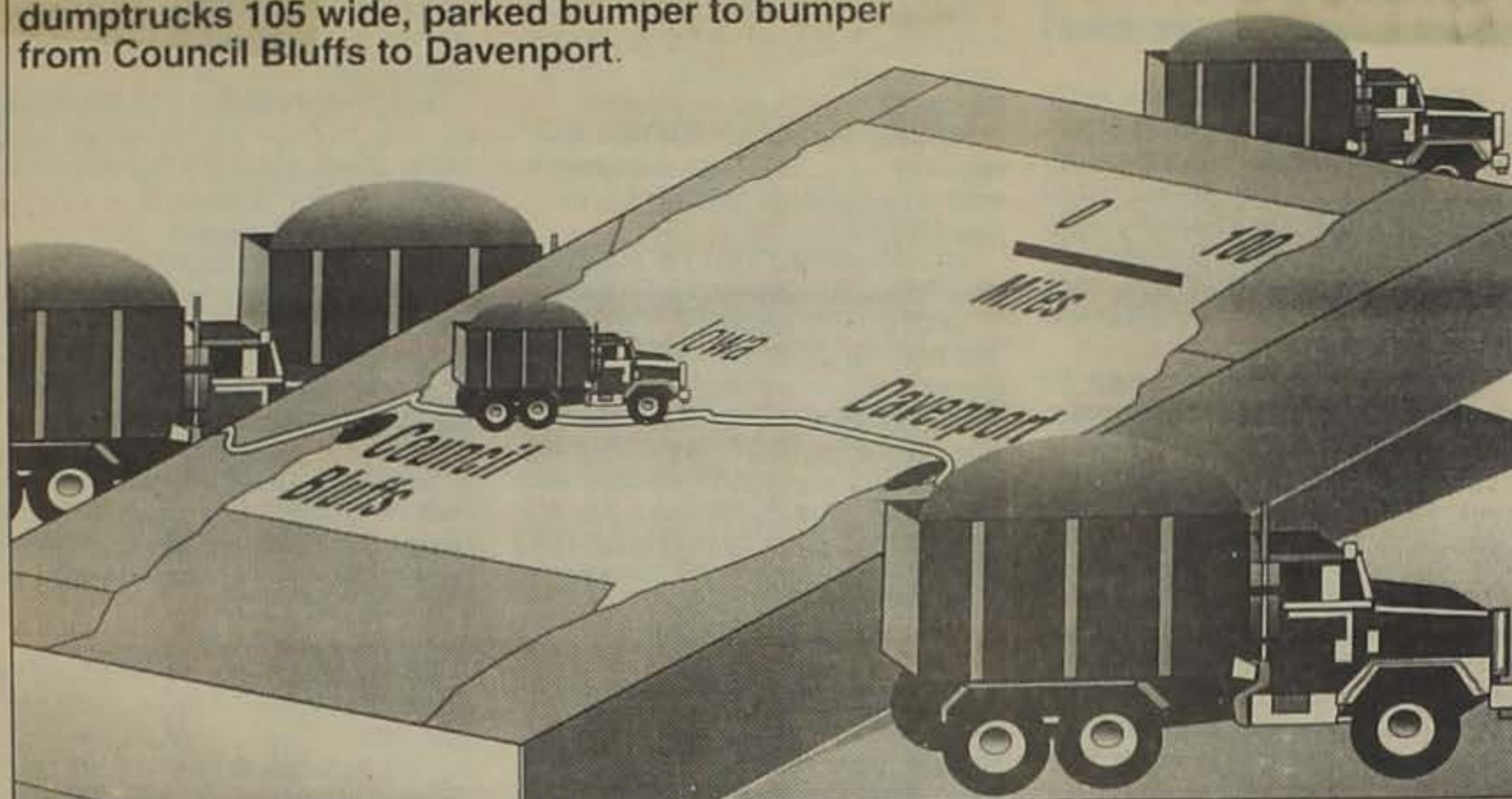


March 23, 1995



Scrapbook Memories

By 1992 Iowa farmers applied conservation practices to save 100 million more tons of topsoil than in 1982—enough to fill a convoy of dumptrucks 105 wide, parked bumper to bumper from Council Bluffs to Davenport.



Iowa farmers praised for soil conservation progress

As groups close to agriculture celebrate Ag Week, drawing attention to the contributions of Iowa agriculture to everyday life, a conservation agency is

ume now that we can say Iowa farmers are changing the face of the landscape. It's visual now-- you can see the difference grass is making on the land, in contour buffer strips, grassed waterways, and field borders,"



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These weekly messages are sponsored by the following citizens and businesses.

Good W

WOODBURN CHRISTIAN

Crawford, pastor, 449-3574. Regular Church Services, Sunday-9:45 a.m.-

Wednesday-9 p.m.-Confirmation class, 7:15 p.m.-Lenten Worship.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
March 23, 1995



Bob Scrivner was the recipient of the following awards and scholarships at Clarke Community High School's Awards Day: \$150 Three Chapters of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, \$300 Woodburn American Legion, Herndon/Oehlert Post 157 Scholarship, \$200 Osceola Optimist Club Scholarship, \$250 Clarke County Sheriffs Posse, \$200 Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation Auxiliary, Chamber of Commerce Senior Recognition Award and the Clarke Area Arts Council Recognition Award for Drama. Scrivner is a graduate of Clarke Community High School.

1995 District Scholarship Winner

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
July 13, 1995

Indianola, Osceola transfer case loads

USDA reorganization not big deal in Clarke County

Reorganization of federal farm offices, intended to make services "farmer friendlier" will take place Oct. 1.

The change will not be drastic in Clarke County where all federal agencies dealing with farm programs were already consolidated in one building at 709 Furnas Drive.

One change will be in case loads of the former Farmers Home Administration (FmHA).

The agency, now named Rural Economic and Community Development, will have housing case loads for Clarke County transferred to Warren.

Warren County farm case loads will be transferred from Indianola to Osceola.

It is contemplated to have housing staff in Osceola one day a week; farm staff from Osceola in Indianola one day a week.

The Farm Service Agency will also include the former Soil Conservation and Stabilization Service.

"Having the farm credit team in our office should make it easier both for the farmer and for the staff," said Bart Griffith, acting director of the Farm Service

Agency in Osceola.

There will be cross training so technical staff has more knowledge about farm credit programs, he said.

Across the hall at the Osceola agriculture building the Soil Conservation Service has been renamed Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Curt Donohue, district conservationist, said many of the changes in that agency dealt with a reduction in staff "at upper levels."

There were not many changes at field offices like Osceola, "where we are the first line of assistance to the farmer," Donohue said.

More reorganization will occur — especially to increase the "farmer-friendliness" of the programs, he said.

That reorganization is currently waiting passage of the 1995 farm bill by Congress.

Other area changes involve Farm Service Agency offices in Decatur and Wayne counties transferring case loads much like Warren and Clarke counties. Decatur will get all the farm cases, Wayne, the housing cases.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
September 21, 1995

Grazing conference planned

The Second Annual Grazing Management Conference will be Thursday, Jan. 25 at Southwestern Community College in Creston. The conference will take place in the Instructional Building from 9:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Grow Pastures for All They're Worth will emphasize the economic benefits of pasture improvement practices and how producers can adjust their own systems to increase profits.

Jim Gerrish, grazing expert from the Forage Systems Research Center, Linneus, Mo., will be the keynote speaker. Gerrish will focus on increasing pasture productivity and profits by utilizing natural cycles to manage land.

According to Gerrish, "Sunshine and rainwater are free inputs into the feed value of every blade of grass in your pastures. You should think of your farm as one giant solar collector and water harvester. The higher the number of green leaves in a pasture, the more solar energy and rainwater that are harvested." Understanding this concept is the first step toward establishing a grazing system that takes advantage of those "free" inputs.

The conference will address a variety of pasture improvement methods. Breakout sessions will offer choices on topics.

An exhibit area will show the latest innovations in grazing technology. Displays from area grazing projects will illustrate new technology and innovative methods used to improve existing grazing systems.

Registrations will be taken at the door. The \$5 registration fee includes the cost of lunch provided by the local cattlemen's association. For further information call your local extension or NRCS office.

The grazing conference is sponsored by the soil and water conservation districts of Adair, Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Madison, Ringgold, Taylor and Union counties; the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture; ISU Extension; Southwestern Community College Adult and Continuing Education and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
January 11, 1996*

USDA accepts 683,000 acres into reserve

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman has announced 683,390 acres have been accepted into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

The CRP provides rental payment to farmers who retire environmentally-sensitive acreage from crop production.

In Clarke County, nearly 40,000 acres are enrolled in the program.

The Clinton Administration plans to continue supporting this highly successful conservation program and emphasize higher environmental standards on land accepted for enrollment.

"The bidding and enrollment processes for this signup were modified to ensure that only the most environmentally-sensitive lands were accepted," Glickman said.

Among changes was the top ranking of acreage offered for windbreaks, waterways, shallow water areas for wildlife, filterstrips and shelterbelts. In addition, bids involving filterstrips and buffers received a 10 percent higher bid cap.

These practices are especially important because of their role in protecting and enhancing water quality and providing wildlife habitat.

"The results of using this incentive exceeded our hopes, and I am especially pleased that more than 33,900 acres of filterstrips have been enrolled," Glickman said. This is an increase of more than 2,700 percent above the 1,227 acres enrolled in the 12th signup. Also, about 75,000 acres of trees will be planted, and over 2,000 acres will be devoted to wildlife habitat.

State Farm Service Agency offices had authority to develop a flexible selection process on evaluating CRP bids to ensure that maximum environmental benefits are obtained.

In addition, unlike past signups, producers were notified of the bid cap before submitting bids.

In Iowa there were 4,066 bids. There were 1,728 contracts accepted with an average rent of \$92.70 per acre.

Grazing workshop held here in February

A planned grazing workshop will be held at the Clarke County 4-H building Feb. 6 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and lunch will be served by the Clarke County Cattlemen's Association. Registration and lunch are free.

The workshop will address Management Intensive Grazing. Local area farmers' topics will include watering systems, fencing practices, streambank stabilization, pasture carrying capacity and record management. Jim Gerrish of the research center at the University of Missouri will be speaking on paddock design and pasture management.

For more information contact project coordinator Becky Harris at 515-342-2917.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
February 1, 1996*



Clarke County FSA Office Shares Information On Planting Windbreaks

by Liz Abney

Windbreaks protect buildings and yards from wind and snow. They also protect fruit trees and gardens, and they provide shelter for wildlife.

In addition, environmental plantings help to beautify and screen houses and offices as well as lessen noise.

If you are interested in putting in a windbreak or environmental planting this spring, one of your first stops should be the Clarke county FSA office where free research information is available.

"Our office has soil survey information that we provide to

the public and we will help them interpret it before they plant windbreaks," said Tim Doran, soil conservationist.

This information should always be used under natural soil conditions, and doesn't apply to areas where the soil is brought in such as some subdivisions.

Before planting trees or shrubs, home owners should check to make sure the soil doesn't have too much clay to insure proper drainage, said Doran.

"Trees need proper soil conditions just as much as the right climate and weather,"

Doran said.

The FSA office will also help identify soil PH problems and potential tree-growth problems.

For example, if a windbreak area is planted near a feed lot or ground that has had feed lot drainage, there will be too much nitrogen in the soil.

This results in a nutrient build up making the soil too toxic for tree growth.

When planting a windbreak at least three rows of low and high broad-leaf and coniferous trees and shrubs will provide an area with the most protection.

Rows should allow for 12 to 20 feet per row and the windbreak should be offset 50 to 100 feet from whatever it is planted to protect.

This allows for snow to fall and accumulate without damage to buildings and for tree growth.

"People need to remember that windbreaks are dynamic in nature and will continue to grow," said Doran.

Tree growth can be maintained by pruning until the tree reaches maturity.

Eventually windbreak maintenance becomes replacement of trees that are damaged or dead.

Iowa has two cost-share programs available to assist the public in applying conservation practices through planting windbreaks.

The REAP or Resource Enhancement and Management Program is administered by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. It will provide a 75 percent cost share

not to exceed \$700.00.

The IWIP or Iowa Financial Incentives Program is also state wide and will cost share 50 percent.

Both programs are required to be maintained for a 20 year period of time.

Tracts of land used in both cost share programs must be for agricultural production of over 10 acres, and must have \$2,500 of agricultural products sold from them annually.

Windbreaks planted under these two programs need to follow state criteria which specifies a minimum of three rows with at least two rows in

trees.

The Clarke FSA office also provides soil survey information to the public prior to putting in septic tanks, or building foundations.

In addition, they will help interpret information regarding land slope, water drainage, and soil type for people interested in building berm homes.

"We highly recommend that the public check these surveys before purchasing land for any of these intended purposes," said Doran.

For more information call the Clarke county FSA office at 342-2162.

Seventeen earn awards at Murray

Seventeen students were honored for their achievements during the school year at the annual Murray High School Award Night, last Tuesday.

The recipients and their awards: Misty Boles, soil conservation scholarship, AIB Alumni and Friends scholarship and the Republican Women scholarship; Charlotte McCleary, Furnas scholarship, senior social studies award, senior math award and senior English award; Amy Mullins, Southwestern Community Education Foundation Award; Chris Gibbons, Xi Eta Rho Sorority scholarship and the senior science award; Laurie Dinham, Business Horizon's Award and the Critics Choice Award; Josh Shields, artist of the year award; Jessica Leibold, best actress (fall musical); Nik Werner, best actor (fall musical); Tabitha Hill, best actress (Thespian Night); Brandon Aschan, best actor (Thespian Night); David McNichols, best thespian and honor thespian. Lauren Flaherty and Misty Boles were honored as best crew members.

Elizabeth Adair and Josh Shields tied for the high school math exam award.

Typing awards went to Josh Hamilton, Bruce Tracy, Cindy Roush and Jacki Kerns.

(#200 scholarships awarded by Clarke SWCD Comm.)

Clarke seniors receive awards

Senior Awards Day for Clarke Community High School graduating seniors was May 23 in the high school gym. The recipients of scholarships, awards and recognitions that were given out are as follows:

Nancy Bartell: \$75 F.H.A. Scholarship.
Sara Becker: \$500 Jack Jeffreys Scholarship, \$200 Pizza Hut Scholarship, \$200 Louise Fleming Scholarship, \$100 Osceola Eagles Lodge No. 3495, \$150 Osceola Masonic Lodge, International Honorary Society for High School Journalists.

Rose Bish: \$500 John Waller Memorial, \$200 Dave Bell Memorial, \$150 Osceola Eastern Star, \$250 F.F.A. Scholarship.

Joe Bowden: \$2,500 Christina Hixson Opportunity Award.

Tafi Brown: Outstanding Senior Speech Award, Outstanding Senior Drama Award, Clarke Area Arts Council Recognition Award for DRAMA, Clarke Area Arts Council Recognition Award for SPEECH.

Amanda Collins: Clarke Area Arts Council Recognition Award for VOCAL MUSIC.

Walen Collins: National Honor Society.

Susan Crawford: \$250 + First Christian Church Memorial, \$300 Blake Bequest Fund, \$500 Missouri Western College Cheerleading Scholarship.

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Jaime Fulton: Head Start Volunteer Award.

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Nick Goos: \$250 Osceola Lions Club, \$100 Beta Xi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, \$1,700 Waldorf College Academic

Scholarship, \$6,000 Waldorf College Football Scholarship, Presidential Academic Award.

James Hart: Active Military — Navy — AC.) \$14,998 Montgomery G.I. Bill for continued post-secondary education.

Megan Hartman: \$500 Rotary Club National Honor Society.

Mike Haub: \$500 Clarke County Hospital Auxiliary, \$500 Clarke County Cattlemen's Association, \$400 Osceola Drug, \$400 Osceola Optimist Club, \$200 Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners L.L.

Auxiliary: \$1,000 Creston Wal-Mart, \$4,500 Drake University Presidential Scholarship, \$1,000 Drake University Outstanding Academic Achievement and Leadership Award, \$1,400 Furnas Foundation, American Bar Association Good Citizen Award, Presidential Academic Award, Top 10 in High School Class, Outstanding Senior Drama Award, National Honor Society, Clarke Area Arts Council Recognition Award for DRAMA, Clarke Area Arts Council Recognition Award for SPEECH, \$250 Head Start Scholarship, \$90 American Legion Oratorical Contest.

Jessica Hobbs: Clarke Area Arts Council Recognition Award for BAND, \$4,200 University of Dubuque.

Misty Jackson: \$2,040 AIB Alumni and Friends Scholarship for Top 15 percent of High School Class, Presidential Academic Award.

Sandra Kellogg: Presidential Academic Award, Top 10 in High School Class, National Honor Society, Clarke Area Arts Council Recognition Award for DRAMA, Clarke Area Arts Council Recognition Award for VOCAL MUSIC.

Laura Langholz: \$100 T.T.T. FZ Chapter.

Janet Leahy: International Honorary Society for High School Journalists, \$2,445 Graceland Grant.

Chris Lewis: \$100 Clarke County Republican Party, \$4,000 Central College Grant.

Clint Loghry: \$250 FFA Scholarship, \$200 Woodburn Masonic Unity Lodge No. 212, \$500 Savings Bond Clarke nominee for Servi-Star All-American Vocational Student, Dwayne Farmer Recognition Award.

Erin Lower: U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar/Athlete Award, Presidential Academic Award, Top 10 in High School Class.

Ryan Lundquist: \$300 Subway Scholarship, \$1,000 Routh Scholarship, Presidential Academic Award, National Honor Society, Clarke Area Arts Council Recognition Award for DRAMA.

02701	22.00	KLINE, DENNIS & VICKI
**55122		
2484	69.00	MADDISON, BILLIE
02779	10.00	MONEY, BARNEY R. SR. & LIL
02785	12.00	MYERS, CARLENE S.
**02698	63.00	MYERS, DAVID E.
**052924B	195.00	MYERS, IVAN
02694	160.00	PARMER, DON E & RAMSEY,
**02802	50.00	SMITH, CHARLES

02760	51.00	SMITH, KENNETH E.
02820	91.00	SPIDLE, RICHARD & BRIDGE

Iowa Junior-Senior Scholarship, Presidential Academic Award, Tandy Technology Scholarship as Outstanding Mathematics, Science & Computer Science Student, Top 10 in High School Class, Clarke Area Arts Council Recognition Award for BAND.

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Staci Petersen: \$250 Osceola Lions Club, \$1,000 Routh Scholarship, \$1,500 Mount Mercy College Trustees Leadership Grant, \$4,750 Distinguished Honor Scholarship from Mount Mercy College, Presidential Academic Award, National Honor Society, \$250 Clarke County Sheriff's Posse.

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Discussion followed water drainage, the width of the cul-de-sac project and within the easements for sewer question as to the lot was being platted at by Council Membered by Council Member the preliminary plat Plat 1 with the following water main along the extended to the east division with an easement.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
May 13, 1996

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
June 6, 1996

Two SWCD positions available in November general election

A pair of new Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Commissioners will be elected in November. The term of Terry L. Boles, Doyle Township, will expire Jan. 2, 1997, and the term of Dan Johnson, Washington Township, will expire Nov. 5.

Any qualified elector residing in the SWCD is eligible for the office of commissioner. Candidates seeking the office of commissioner must file nomination petitions in the same manner as for other elective positions at the general election:

Nomination petitions can be obtained from the County Auditor. These petitions, signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the County Auditor at the Clarke County Courthouse no later than 4:30 p.m. Aug. 28.

County seeks soil and water commissioners

The terms of two Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners expire this year.

Individuals interested in seeking the office of soil and water conservation district commissioner can obtain nomination petitions from the County Auditor's office. The nomination deadline is Aug. 28.

For further information about the responsibilities of a commissioner, contact the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District office, 709 Furnas Drive, Osceola.

*Osceola Sentinel Tribune
August 22, 1996*

*Osceola Sentinel Tribune
August 1, 1996*

Osceola water takes another PR hit

Despite compliance with Federal rules, study claims atrazine levels unacceptable

BY KEITH ISLEY

Despite meeting Federal water quality guidelines, the city of Osceola's water supply took another public relations hit last week, with the release of a study that named Osceola, as well as other communities, as having "unacceptable" levels of farm pesticides.

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) study, entitled "Tough To Swallow," deals with selected municipal systems across the Midwest, and with collected test results from government and pesticide industry sources.

Osceola's water system is mentioned as part of a reference table on page 33 of the report, which indicates an annual average concentration of atrazine (a popular crop herbicide) of 1.45 parts per billion in local water.

However, that level is well within federal Safe Water Drinking Act guidelines, which allow up to 3 parts per billion—twice the annual level measured in Osceola.

In other words, according to established federal guidelines, Osceola water is safe to drink and does not violate any regulations for pesticide contamination.

What the EWG study does is create a new "one in one million" cancer risk standard, using a different federal law, the Food Quality Protection Act.

Under that guideline, EWG claims the maximum allowed exposure for atrazine should be 0.15

parts per billion.

IMPROVEMENTS MADE

What the EWG study does not show are the efforts that have been made over the last several years to reduce pesticide residues in West Lake.

From 1991 to 1995, the West Lake Water Quality Planning Project pursued a multi-pronged approach to reducing runoff of soil and pesticides into the reservoir.

Funded by an Environmental Protection Agency grant, the project offered financial incentives to landowners near West Lake if they added erosion control and conservation practices.

According to project coordinator Vickie Flaherty, pesticides bond to soil particles and can be washed, through erosion, into a lake or reservoir.

Once there, they eventually break loose from the soil and infiltrate the water supply—so if erosion is slowed, so is the rate of pesticide contamination.

Besides the financial incentives, the project offered public education sessions for both landowners and the general public.

These efforts, in conjunction with changes already taking place through federal farm and conservation programs, made a measurable difference in pesticide levels.

Testing done from 1991 to 1995 shows a significant drop of atrazine levels in both raw (untreated) and

finished water.

In 1991, for instance, atrazine levels in treated West Lake water ranged from 3 to 8 parts per billion. By mid-1993, those levels had been cut roughly in half.

And the addition of a granulated activated charcoal treatment system in 1994 dropped the atrazine levels even further, to no more than 1.5 parts per billion.

THM LEVELS ADDRESSED

Osceola Water Board officials have defended the quality of Osceola's water supply, while at the same time taking steps to address recent contamination issues.

To reduce the excessive trihalomethane (THM) levels that generated controversy in late July, the Osceola Water Department has replaced its chlorine-based disin-

fecting system with one based on "chloramines," a combination of chlorine and ammonia.

The new system is slated to go on-line sometime in mid-August.

Chloramine-based systems are commonly used in municipal water systems, and are approved by the Environmental Protection Agency as a way to reduce THM levels.

Because of the different chemical composition of chloramines, local residents were warned in a recent mailer not to use chloramine-purified water in fish tanks or dialysis machines.

However, water produced by the new system is completely safe for drinking, bathing, watering plants, or any other normal use.

For more information on chloramines, call the Osceola Water Department at 342-2206.

*Osceola Sentinel Tribune
August 21, 1997*

Seventeen earn awards at Murray

Seventeen students were honored for their achievements during the school year at the annual Murray High School Award Night, last Tuesday.

The recipients and their awards: Misty Boles, soil conservation scholarship, AIB Alumni and Friends scholarship and the Republican Women scholarship; Charlotte McCleary, Furnas scholarship, senior social studies award, senior math award and senior English award; Amy Mullins, Southwestern Community Education Foundation Award; Chris Gibbons, Xi Eta Rho Sorority scholarship and the senior science award; Laurie Dinham, Business Horizon's Award and the Critics Choice Award; Josh Shields, artist of the year award; Jessica Leibold, best actress (fall musical); Nik Werner, best actor (fall musical); Tabitha Hill, best actress (Thespian Night); Brandon Aschan, best actor (Thespian Night); David McNichols, best thespian and honor thespian. Lauren Flaherty and Misty Boles were honored as best crew members.

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Jennifer McElvogue: \$3,000 Graceland College Basketball Scholarship, \$1,750 Graceland Academic Grant.

Rebecca Miller: Presidential Academic Award, Clarke Area Arts Council Recognition Award for VOCAL MUSIC.

Erica Miller: \$500 Clarke County Hospital Auxiliary, \$200 Woodburn Masonic Unity Lodge No. 212, \$150 Osceola Eastern Star Scholarship, \$500 Rotary Club, \$375 IFWC, Iowa Women's Club District Scholarship, \$410 State of Iowa Scholar, \$500 American State Bank Club 22, \$1,400 Furnas Foundation, \$2,470 University of Iowa Tuition Scholarship, Presidential Academic Award, Tandy Technology Scholar as Outstanding Mathematics, Science and Computer Science Student, Top 10 in High School Class, Clarke Area Arts Council Recognition Award for BAND.

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Foundation, \$2,250 Graceland College Academic Scholarship, \$1,000 Graceland College Leadership Award, \$1,800 Graceland College Instrumental Grant, U.S. Marine Corps Academic Scholastic Excellence Award, Nominee for WOI TV 5 "Best of the Class", Presidential Academic Award, Tandy Technology Scholar Academic Top 2 percent of Class, Top 10 in High School Class, National Honor Society, Clarke Area Arts Council Recognition Award for BAND, \$1,000 Iowa Assemblies Scholarship.

Jason Rowe: U.S. Marine Corps Athletic Award.

Scott Ruth: Active Military — Army — \$14,998 Montgomery G.I. Bill for continued post-secondary education.

Matt Rychnovsky: \$150 Three Chapters of Beta Sigma Phi, \$200 Octagon Club, \$1,000 Iowa Assemblies Group Dekko Scholarship Program, \$5,100 Simpson Grant, Presidential Academic Award, International Honorary Society for High School Journalists, National Honor Society.

Jodie Scott: \$75 FFA Scholarship, \$200 Osceola Women's Club, Clarke Area Arts Council Recognition Award for VOCAL MUSIC.

Shane Selsor: \$250 FFA Scholarship.

Mike Stover: \$100 Southwestern Community College Education Foundation.

Courtney Taylor: \$400 Clarke Area Arts Council Scholarship, Presidential Academic Award, Top 10 in High School Class, National Honor Society, Clarke Area Arts Council Recognition Award for ART, Clarke Area Arts Council Recognition Award for BAND.

Kelley Utley: \$1,975 AIB Founder's Tuition Scholarship, \$2,600 AIB Alumni and Friends Scholarship being in Top 10 percent of High School Class, Presidential Academic Award, Top 10 in High School Class, Clarke Area Arts Council Recognition Award for BAND.

Jaydee Van Ahn: \$500 Rotary Club, \$250 Osceola Lion's Club, \$1,000 Furnas Foundation, \$6,500 Simpson Grant, U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar/Athlete Award, Presidential Academic Award, National Honor Society, Clarke Area Arts Council Recognition Award for DRAMA.

Tom VanDyke: \$250 Osceola Hardees Scholarship, \$300 Bayard Shadley Memorial, \$200 Osceola Mat Club, \$5,500 Waldorf College Football Scholarship.

Ryan White: \$200 American Legion Woodburn Herndon/Oehlert, Post 157, \$100 Osceola Eagles Lodge No. 3495.

Mike Wilkins: \$200 Osceola Mat Club, \$325 Iowa State Images Grant.

Jaime William: \$500 Osceola

Chamber of Commerce, \$250 Osceola Hardees Scholarship, \$100 Clarke County Fair Bureau, \$1,200 Furnas Foundation, \$2,000 AIB Alumni and Friends for being in Top 15 percent of High School Class, Presidential Academic Award, International Honorary Society for High School Journalists.

Any Williams: Active Military — Army — \$14,998 Montgomery G.I. Bill for continued post-secondary education.

Justin Wise: National Honor Society, Clarke Area Arts Council Recognition Award for BAND.

Any Quinn: in the SW office of co seeking th er must fi in the san elective p election.

Nomina: obtained fr These peti gible elect the County County Co 4:30 p.m.

Osceola: August

(#200 scholarships awarded by Clarke SWCD Comm.)

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
May 13, 1996

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
June 6, 1996

Grasshoppers destroy farmers' soybean fields

BY RUBY DITTMER

Two Clarke County farmers have lost a part of their soybean crop due to an infestation of grasshoppers.

George James and Dwayne Iiams, who farm near Murray, planted soybeans in mid-June in fields that they had harvested one nearly 450 acres with his father-in-law, noticed the problem about three weeks ago. Since then grasshoppers have destroyed most of his 35 acre field.

James said he would have done something about this, but he thought it was just dry and the beans were going to grow. He did not realize the grasshoppers were causing the problem.

Monty Chew, of Pioneer seeds, who sold James the soybeans seed, said James' field is a 100 percent loss and the grasshoppers will continue eating until they are killed by a frost.

"It's the worst I've ever seen in late soybeans planted on sod," Chew said.

Chew said the grasshopper eggs were probably deposited in the hayfield and when they hatched, the beans had begun to grow and be-



DAMAGED PLANTS-- George James holds a destroyed soybean and a healthy plant side by side.

came the grasshoppers' source of food. The grasshoppers eat the beans from the bottom leaves up and eventually they eat the stems

and pods as the plant starts to dry up and deteriorate.

Chew said the high number of grasshoppers can be attributed to the dry weather conditions. He said moisture causes them to grow a fungus on their bodies that kills them.

"It's just been an extremely good year for grasshoppers," Chew said.

An insecticide, Malathion, is available to spray for grasshoppers and Chew said a few in the area used the chemical, however now it would not be wise economically for George or Iiams to do this, as the costs would be more than the outcome from the yield of the beans.

Dan Bailey, field agronomist with Pioneer Seeds, said the situation is unique because not many farmers no-till soybeans after taking a cutting of hay off the field.

"It's the worst insect problem I've ever seen," Bailey said.

He said the problem could have been corrected if the farmers would have noticed the nymphs before planting the seed and sprayed with an insecticide.

Bailey said it is best to spray when the insects are small.



GRASSHOPPER INFESTATION—This soybean field owned by George James is being destroyed by grasshoppers. The light patches indicate the areas the insects have been eating. The grasshoppers are working their way to the corners and edges of the field destroying the vegetation.

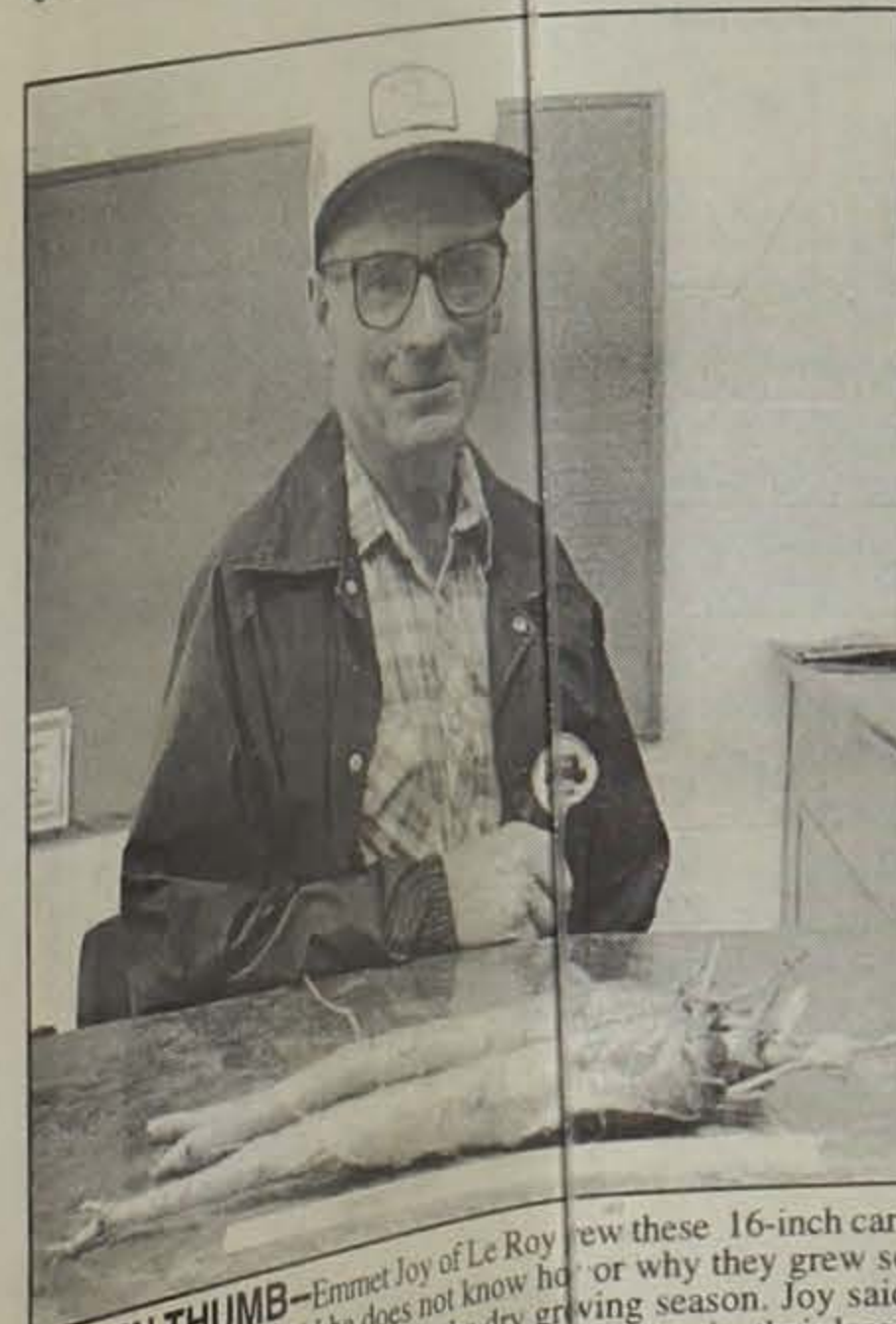
Water conservation district provides cost-share funds

The Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District has received a supplemental allocation of cost-share funds from a state program administered by the Soil and Water Conservation District board of directors.

The funds are available for the construction of a variety of conservation practices including grassed waterways, terraces, grade stabilization structures, windbreaks and water and sediment control basins.

To receive the funds farmers should sign up at the SWCD office. A technician will meet with them and develop a plan and cost estimate that must be approved by the governing board. If approved, the practice is to be implemented according to the plan specifications. Once the project is completed, the farmer turns in the related bills and the practice is inspected. If the practice passes the inspection, the farmer will be reimbursed for a cost-share percentage of the total cost.

Upon reimbursement, the farmer is required to sign a maintenance agreement. For more information about the program, call 515-342-2917.



GREEN THUMB—Emmet Joy of Le Roy grew these 16-inch carrots in his garden. He said he does not know how or why they grew so big as he did not water them during the dry growing season. Joy said the carrots were planted from seed from a nursery and despite their large size, they still taste good.

Scraper available for area farmers to rent

The Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District has a 5-yard earth scraper available for rent to area farmers who are planning on making conservation improvements to their land.

Fall is a good time to work on waterways. The scraper could also be used for removing sediments from terraces, building and repairing small dikes and dams, cleaning out feedlots, filling in small ditches and leveling old fence lines.

The scraper can be pulled by equipment with horsepower rating from 75 to 150. For more information about how to rent the machine call 515-342-2917.

Sign-up for 16th Conservation Reserve Program begins Oct. 14

Sign-up for the 16th Conservation Reserve Program begins Oct. 14. Farm Services Agency Director Bart Griffith said the sign-up will be similar to the last one with environmental indexes used in determining the land that is accepted into the program. Once again there will be a bid cap with each soil type accepted at a certain price.

Griffith said he is in the process of getting Clarke County's bid cap raised to bring it up with that of surrounding counties including Wayne, Lucas and Union.

"Soil types just don't end at county lines," Griffith said.

Loans available for beginning farmers

The Farm Service Agency provides direct loans for beginning farmers who are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources.

There are two types of loans available, the farm ownership loan and an operating loan.

The Farm Ownership Loan is available to a beginning farmer who has operated a farm for at least three years, but not more than 10 years. The person must not own farm property totaling more than 25 percent of the average county farm acreage and if the applicant is a business entity, all members must be related by blood or marriage and all stockholders in a corporation must be eligible beginning farmers.

To be eligible for an operating loan, the person must have operated a farm for five years or less and must also be related by blood relative or marriage as in the farm ownership loan.

The maximum loan amounts are \$200,000 for a direct operational loan and \$400,000 for a guaranteed operational loan. Direct farm ownership loans can not exceed \$200,000 and guaranteed farm ownership loans have a maximum of \$300,000.

The Farm Service Agency also has a down payment farm ownership program to assist beginning farmers in purchasing a farm from retiring farmers.

The program requires the applicant to make a cash down payment of at least 10 percent of the purchase price. The FSA may provide a maximum amount equal to 30 percent of the purchase price or appraised value. The loan extends for 10 years at a four percent interest rate. The purchase price of the land may not exceed \$250,000.

Applications for these programs are available at the FSA. For more information call 515-342-2162.

GOOD NEIGHBORS -- Many friends of Merlin Newman spent a couple days making hay just south of the Newman home near Osceola. Newman was getting ready to cut the hay when he fell and bruised his spine. For a time he was paralyzed but he is starting to get feeling back. He will be hospitalized for some time however, as he can not yet stand.

He is being treated at Younkers Rehabilitation Center at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines. His wife, most appreciative of all the help, said the family is "very encouraged" with Newman's progress. Cutting hay, above, are Don Eddy and Darrell Mateer.

Artwork collection demonstrates veterinarians working with animals

A collection of prints, drawings and photos of veterinarians caring for animals is on display at the Clarke County Courthouse.

The exhibit, "The Gentle Doctor," is sponsored by the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association Foundation and contains 23 different works. The exhibit is in memory of Dr. Joseph H. Krichel Sr. and is a tribute to his son, Dr. Joseph H. Krichel, Jr. who has carried on the family tradition of medical and

community leadership for 40 years. Doctors Don Miller and Michael A. Klausner are underwriting the exhibit. Both practiced veterinary medicine with the Krichels.

"They took us under their wing and taught us what they knew," Klausner said.

He said the purpose of the exhibit is to draw attention to what veterinarians do in their practice.

Mary Ellen Kimball, public relations consultant for the Iowa

Veterinary Medical Association, gathered the photographs and prints for the exhibit. The works are from a wide range of artists including veterinarians themselves to famous artists like Norman Rockwell. In all it took her three months to comprise the collection.

The exhibit has been traveling throughout Iowa for one year and is booked through 1999. It has been displayed in libraries, art galleries and veterinarians' offices.

Fair board sets days for 1998 county fair

CORYDON—The Wayne County fair board has scheduled next year's fair for July 22-27 1998 by the fair board, Paul Koch was elected fair board president; Tom Swearingin was elected vice president; Randy Roe, second vice president; Leroy Perkins, executive secretary/fair manager; Cheryl Thompson, assistant secretary and Page Mitteness will continue as

treasurer, assisted by Joyce Brown.

Harvest Days set for this weekend

LAMONI—Saturday the Lamoni Annual Harvest Days Arts and Crafts Festival kicks off. Highlights include displays by local and area artisans, arts and crafts demonstrations, a vintage car show as well as food vendors. Coordinators of the event are Allie Byrn and Joyce Hynden.

Historic Mormon Trail dedication Wednesday

Dedication of National Park Service Interpretive Panels along the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail will take place near Garden Grove at 1 p.m. Wednesday.

Kay Threlkeld, Interpretive Planner for the park service, will be the featured speaker at the site one-mile west of Garden Grove.

The event is sponsored by the Decatur County chapter of the Iowa Mormon Trails Association. The public are invited to attend. For more information call Paul Gunzenhauser, 515-443-2161.

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BELOW SCHEDULE
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SEPT. 26 - OCT. 2

THE PEACEMAKER
GEORGE CLOONEY (R)
FRIDAY 4:40, 7:00, 9:25
SAT-SUN 2:00, 4:40, 7:00, 9:25
MON-THURS 4:40, 7:00 Only

THE EDGE
ANTHONY HOPKINS (R)
FRIDAY 4:50, 7:10, 9:35
SAT-SUN 2:10, 4:50, 7:10, 9:35
MON-THURS 4:50, 7:10 Only

IN & OUT
KEVIN KLINE (PG-13)
FRIDAY 5:20, 7:20, 9:20
SAT-SUN 2:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20
MON-THURS 5:20, 7:20 Only

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4th Annual Fire Fair

SPONSORED BY OSCEOLA FIRE DEPARTMENT AND AUXILIARY

Thursday, October 9 • 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Osceola Fire Station

Local Firefighters will be available to answer your questions and teach fire safety tips.

New and Exciting Demonstrations!

This is a family learning opportunity - an evening that could prevent you from experiencing a disaster!

All children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult.

CHILI SUPPER

\$3.50 per person • Serving from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Served by Osceola Firefighters Auxiliary • Proceeds to the Firefighters Cairns Iris Fund

Conservation reserve meeting Tuesday

An informational meeting regarding the 16th Conservation Reserve Program sign-up will be held Tuesday, 9 a.m. in the 4-H building at the Clarke County Fairgrounds.

Items to be covered include eligibility criteria, environmental benefit index changes and cost analysis items.

Anyone who had a previous bid that was not accepted or has current contracts that will expire in 1997 or 1998 are encouraged to attend. Land that has never been in the program previously may also be eligible to participate.

For further information contact the Farm Service Agency at 709 Furnas Dr.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
October 2, 1997*

For Rent

Earth moving scraper for rent from the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District. \$100 per day usage. Fix those erosion problems quickly and easily. To be used with 75-150 horsepower tractor.

For more information, call 515-342-2917

*The Advertiser
October 21, 1997*

CRP sign-up began Oct. 14

The current CRP sign-up will run October 14 to November 14. Bids will be made on a competitive basis says Ralph Mayer, Iowa State University Extension Farm Management Specialist. They will be ranked nationally by an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) similar to that used last March. To maximize your EBI points, work with your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff.

Lands which can be offered for enrollment in this sign-up are 1) re-offers of contracts expiring 9-30-97 which were not accepted in the 15th sign-up, 2) existing contracts which will expire 9-30-98, and 3) new land not previously in CRP which meets eligibility requirements. There will be no extensions of contracts expiring 9-30-97. Landowners holding CRP contracts scheduled to expire 9-30-98 are encouraged to use this enrollment period to re-enroll if they so desire as there is no assurance there will another sign-up before the expiration of those contracts.

Eligibility for enrollment is determined by NRCS. Essentially land to be eligible must have been cropped in two of the five most recent years, have an Erodibility Index (EI) of 8 or more, be a cropped wetland, be subject to scour erosion, be located in a conservation priority area, or be associated with non-cropped wetlands.

Contracts will be for a minimum of ten years.

Several changes have been made in the program since the last sign-up says Mayer. These include increased emphasis on improving wildlife habitat and increasing CRP's cost competitiveness.

The effective date of new contracts for acreage currently under contract, but scheduled to expire 9-30-97 will be the month following approval or 10-1-98. New contracts on all other land will be 10-1-98.

To make application for enrollment into CRP, contact your local Farm Service Agency office.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
October 16, 1997*

Rick Oshel receives Council award

Rick Oshel of Osceola will receive the Iowa Farm-City Council award that recognizes individuals for their efforts to increase understanding and cooperation among rural and urban Iowans.

Oshel will be honored for his work in promoting agriculture to the residents of Clarke County.

His service to various community groups includes: Cattlemen's Association board of directors, Clarke County representative on the area Resource Conservation and Development, Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner and agricultural committee for the Iowa

Banker's Association. Oshel also serves on the Southwestern Community College agribusiness advisory committee where he was instrumental in developing the college's two-year agricultural business degree. On the Oshel family's farm south of Osceola, he promotes conservation practices by hosting pasture walks and farm tours for area residents.

Also honored by the council is the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce for their farm to business exchange, Steve Daughery of Des Moines and the Raccoon River Watershed project.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
November 27, 1997*

1998

Murray students were enthusiastic about helping with stream bank stabilization project

Editor's Note: The following, written by Becky Harris of Osceola, appeared in Land and Water magazine. Harris is an environmental specialist with the Clarke County Soil & Conservation District.

Hartman Farms, located in Osceola, are operated by Dan and Donna Johnson.

The Johnsons wanted to decrease the erosion along the stream that runs through their field and pasture ground. The erosion along the stream had degraded the bank which held the water gap between their pasture and their neighbor's pasture. They also noticed erosion in their field. This erosion had increased since 1992.

The stream bank was to be used as a demonstration site for willow plantings. Sponsors for this project were Clarke County Soil & Water Conservation District; Division of Soil Conservation; Iowa Department of Natural Resources; Environmental Protection Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service. The project was initiated on March 27, 1997.

The Murray Sophomore Vo-Ag class and FFA club members were enthusiastic about being involved in a stream bank stabilization project. After discussing the proposed willow planting project with Marla Shifflett, Murray Schools Vo-Ag Instructor, we set the time and place to meet.

On April 17, the students met me at noon at the demonstration site and I explained the planting design and how the willow stakes would be installed...

I had put flags out in a diamond design along the stream bank. I instructed the students that a willow stake would be installed at each flag. We had 150 willow stakes to plant. Each student was given a rubber mallet to pound the stakes in. The rubber mallets were used because they are less likely to



Murray students working on stream bank stabilization project.

damage the willow stake. Stakes were approximately four to five feet in length. They were driven into the ground two to three feet deep.

Planting the 250 willows took about three hours to complete. We had six people working constantly with one ten-minute break. The plant material was derived from a willow stand in Decatur County.

The willows were about two to three inches in diameter. A chain saw and hand saw were used to cut the willows into four to five foot stakes. The students carried the stakes to the stream bank and planted each stake where a blue flag had been. The students wore gloves provided through the project...

In late May, the students and their instructor revisited the demonstration site. They were ex-

cited to see the willows were leafing out. They plan to return at different times to check out the progress of the trees.

Problems later realized were that some of the stakes were planted with the buds pointing down. It is recommended that the stakes be planted with the buds pointed up. We will examine those plants in the fall to see the differences between those plants between those and other willows planted with buds pointed up. In the future, we will want to eliminate the weed stand at the planting site, if possible.

The cost for the project was minimal: a few refreshments for the students; gloves; and rubber mallets. The labor was intense for cutting, hauling and planting the willows. All labor was voluntary. The District Conservationist from

Decatur County located the willow stand and aided in cutting the willow material.

The students learned about tree planting, stream bank stabilization and planned grazing systems. They also did an excellent job working as a team. It was extremely hard work and everyone worked diligently to accomplish the plantings.

Marla Shifflett commented that the students would like to participate in more stream bank stabilization practices. Two of the students commented they would like to install willow posts on their parents' eroding stream banks at home. Two other students have their own cattle herd and were interested in a Planned Grazing System and fencing their streams to limit livestock access.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
March 12, 1998

Trees Forever picks Clarke stream site

Area near Interstate 35 to demonstrate buffer program, paddock grazing

BY KEITH ISLEY

A stream bed near Osceola is one of just 20 sites chosen for a special water quality protection program, sponsored by Trees Forever this year in Iowa.

The land, which is owned by Richard Sargent of Des Moines, is located west of Interstate 35 near its intersection with Iowa 152, northwest of town. Currently used for livestock pasture, the site has a stream which has eroded steep banks up to 15 feet deep.

About 4,000 feet of the stream's length will be affected, according to environmental specialist Becky Harris, who works with soil and water conservation projects in Clarke County.

Harris said some areas of the stream bank will be reshaped to a more modest slope, and will be planted with grass, shrubbery, or trees to retard erosion. In some severely-eroded areas, riprap (large rocks to prevent soil from washing away) will be added.

She added that local youth service groups,



IOWA Buffer Initiative



such as the FFA and the Boy Scouts, will be contacted with the hope of enlisting volunteer help.

Reshaping the bank, however, is just part of the plan. Harris said that livestock grazing on the site will be revamped, with a "paddock" grazing system put into place.

Paddock grazing is a planned system

where the pasture is split up into several smaller areas with fencing. The cattle are then rotated from area to area, forcing them to utilize the pasture more completely.

Harris said that, as far as the project goes,

there's an added advantage. "This project limits livestock access to the stream corridor," she said, which keeps them away from the banks and helps prevent further erosion.

Trees Forever, a statewide nonprofit organization that promotes tree planting and conservation efforts, accepted the site as one of its Iowa Buffer Initiative demonstration sites last week.

The Iowa Buffer Initiative is designed to show the effectiveness of maintaining trees and grasses as buffer strips along waterways.

Sponsors for the program are Novartis Crop Protection and the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation.

As one of the 20 Iowa Buffer Initiative sites, Harris said, the Clarke County location is eligible for a cost-sharing plan that covers half the expense. The other half will be borne by the owner or producer.

Harris says work on the site will begin as soon as the ground can handle the earth-moving equipment required. A field day to demonstrate the changes will probably be held in late June or early July.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
March 19, 1998*

Cost-share funds available from USDA

The Four-Mile Creek watershed area in Clarke County will receive cost-share funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Incentives Program this year.

The funds will be used to help producers control soil erosion, improve water quality, develop better animal waste systems, and improve grazing lands. Signup for the program is now underway, and continues through May 15. Assistance can total up to 75 percent of the total cost.

For more information, call the Clarke County Natural Resources Conservation Service office at 342-6084.

Projects to be discussed at RC&D meeting

Past, present and future projects will be topic of the 27th annual meeting of the Southern Iowa Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) this evening (Thursday) at the Knotty Pine Family Steak House west of Afton.

There will be a social hour at 6 and dinner at 6:45. The meeting was originally scheduled in March but postponed because of a blizzard.

Six projects will be featured at the meeting. Two projects, Ag Connect, which helps young

farmers purchase farms, and Cow Herd Improvement projects, have expanded to statewide programs.

Two present projects are a three-county youth entrepreneurship pilot program and a project designed to increase wood-based businesses ten percent in 15 southern Iowa and northern Missouri counties.

Two future projects on the drawing board, one of which will be partially funded through a challenge grant from a county board of supervisors, will be discussed.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
April 9, 1998*

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
April 2, 1998*



EMPLOYEE OF MONTH — Lois Manchester of Osceola (left) has been named State Employee of the Month for March. She is employed by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship/Division of Soil Conservation. She works out of the office of Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service at 709 Furnas Drive. Manchester, a state employee for 18 years, is secretary of the district. State Field Supervisor Cathie Graves, (right) presented Manchester with the award at a ceremony honoring Manchester for her years of dedication and service.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
April 9, 1998*

New lake in our future?

Water board looks at site northwest of Osceola

It may be 10 years or more in coming, but preparations are underway to create a major new source of drinking water for Osceola, city officials told the Clarke County Board of Supervisors April 8.

The plan, as outlined in a one-hour meeting, would require the creation of a new reservoir northwest of Osceola. The new lake, built around the Squaw Creek watershed, would be located in rural Washington Township, with possible overlap into Madison, Ward and Troy Townships.

The reservoir would cover an estimated 650 acres, double the size of West Lake, Osceola's current water supply, and similar to the size of the Twelve-Mile Lake project in Union County.

The map on page 12 shows the maximum possible reach of the reservoir—an area about three times its expected size. According to City Administrator Brad Wright, the larger estimate is useful to determine which property owners might be affected.

Wright also said that funds do

not now exist to build such a reservoir.

However, the Osceola Water Board has been working with engineering firm Howard R. Green Co., the Natural Resource and Conservation Service and the Resource, Conservation and Development office in Creston to put together a first look at what might be required.

A public meeting will be held in the next few weeks to answer questions from affected landowners, and to begin seeking permission for more detailed surveys of the reservoir area.

An initial count shows 50 Clarke County landowners would be affected, with three or four houses in the projected reservoir area. Two county roads would be flooded by the lake, another might need to be raised, and a fourth would need to be altered to pass around the dam.

In addition, two bridges would be closed and a third would need to be rebuilt to handle a heavier volume of traffic.

The Washington Township site

Water would be piped to present treatment plant

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

has been under consideration since 1990, when a study of several potential reservoir sites identified it as the most promising. Another, more recent look at alternate water sources (including piping water from Des Moines) verified this as the most cost-effective option, Wright said.

The area has twice the watershed of West Lake, and much less tillable ground due to its more rugged terrain. The lack of farmland in the watershed is an important concern, in view of West Lake's continuing struggles with pesticide levels caused by farmland runoff.

Mark Duben, an engineer with Howard R. Green Co., said a lake of this size could support a water withdrawal of three million gallons per day. That's more than double the 1.3 million maximum offered by West Lake, and enough to supply the entire county's water needs, he said.

An abundant supply? Yes. But it may be needed sooner rather than later.

According to Osceola Water Board member Bob Horton, the city plant is currently pumping in excess of one million gallons per day, due in part to the water needs of Osceola Foods and

other industrial clients.

"With the commitments we have now, we are nearing the withdrawal capacity of this lake," Wright said. "If we had another large industry come in now, we would be hard pressed to tell them we could supply water into the future."

Without the demand of a new industrial client, Horton said he believed the city had enough capacity to keep pace for another 10 to 15 years.

As part of the Washington Township reservoir plan, the capacity of the city water plant also would be expanded from its current 1.6 million gallon-per-day maximum. Duben said moving the entire plant to the new lake would probably not be cost-effective. Instead, water would be piped from the new reservoir to the plant.

OTHER SIDE EFFECTS

Wright indicated that right now, with West Lake the primary water supply, controlling development is a major concern.

He said the city has been working with the county board of health to control septic tanks in the area, and that he hopes the county will use

zoning to control the density of future development.

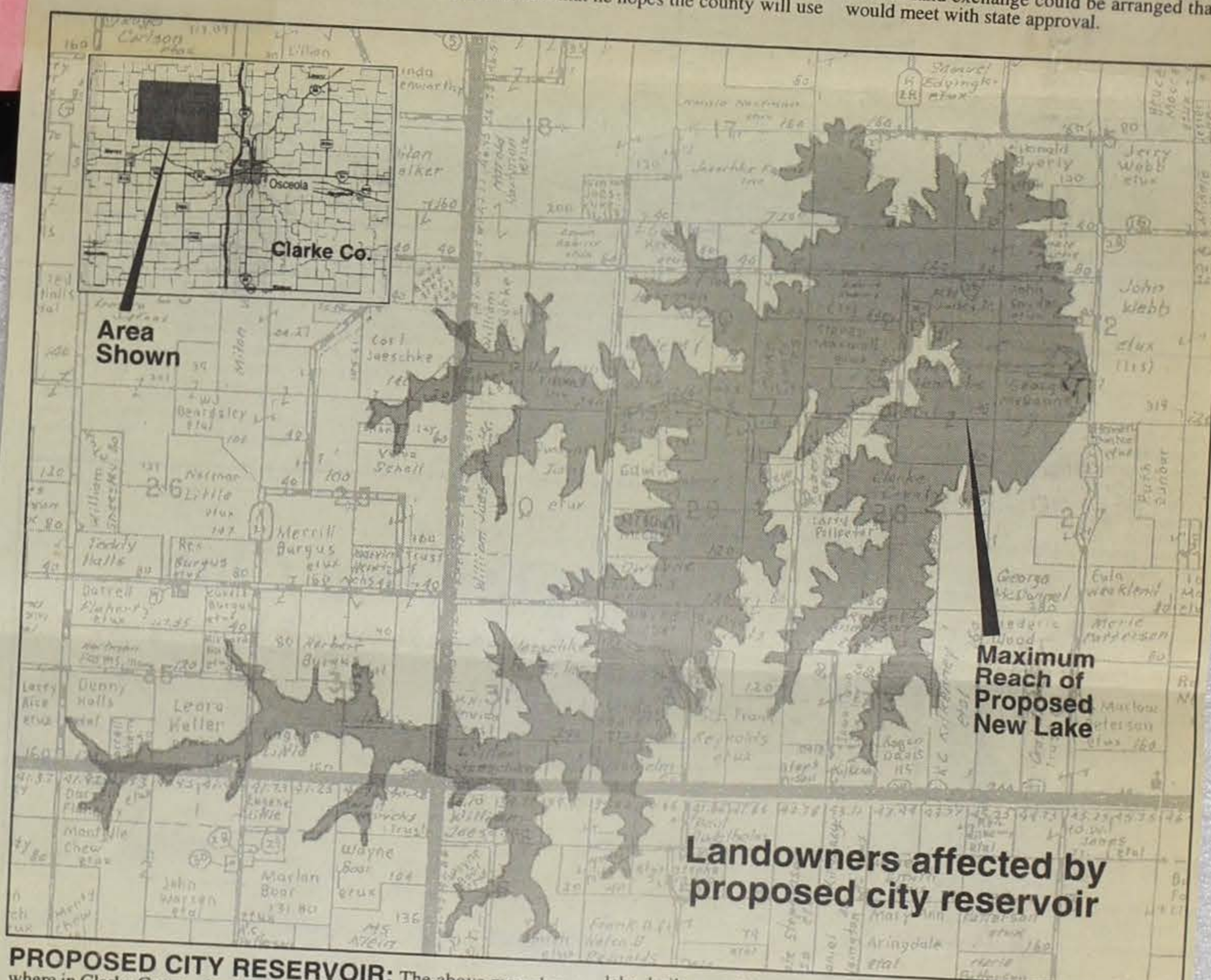
"If West Lake were zoned residential (and) we get that kind of density, we've got some concerns there," he said.

But if the proposed Washington Township reservoir were ever built, West Lake would become a secondary water source. That might open up some recreational and development uses that aren't appropriate now, Wright noted.

Another side effect of a new reservoir would be additional public-use land along its borders. City officials said they hoped the county conservation board would be open to managing some of that shoreline for wildlife habitat and recreation.

The reservoir's proposed location would claim one county-owned conservation area, the Coyote Canyon preserve. Conservation Director Anita Foland asked how that would be handled, since the land was purchased with state habitat stamp funds.

Duben and Wright said they believed some kind of land exchange could be arranged that would meet with state approval.



PROPOSED CITY RESERVOIR: The above map shows where in Clarke County the proposed city reservoir would be located and which landowners in the area would be affected. It may be more than 10 years away from happening, but plans are already underway. The new

lake, built around the Squaw Creek watershed, would be located northwest of Osceola in rural Washington Township. The reservoir would cover an estimated 650 acres, double the size of West Lake. The reservoir would create a major new source of drinking water for Osceola.

Area beef producers experiment with paddock grazing

Several Clarke County beef producers are experimenting with "paddock grazing," a forage system that promises more efficient use of available pasture, says Becky Harris of the Clarke County Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Instead of allowing cattle to roam over an entire pasture, paddock grazing plans fence off a pasture into several sections, or "paddocks," each with its own water supply.

The livestock are moved into a paddock until the forage there is exhausted, then are moved to another one. In the meantime, the paddocks that have been heavily grazed have a chance to recover.

In the process, the land is used more efficiently; over and under-grazing can be better controlled. Weeds and brush are controlled naturally because paddock land is grazed more intensively. And there's a more even distribution of manure across the pasture, which helps soil fertility.

In addition, paddock grazing generally allows the producer to put more cows on the same amount of land—and that increases the farm's productivity.

According to Harris, three county producers began a paddock grazing system last year. At least three more plan to put systems in this year.

There are some challenges connected to paddock grazing, however. The process requires some careful management, and more labor and time than just turning cattle out into a pasture.

Part of that is monitoring the height of the forage so cattle don't overgraze.

The general rule of thumb: if you can't see the cow's eyes, the grass is too tall. If you can see her nose, it's too short. Beyond that, producers have research-based guidelines which help them decide when to move cattle to a different paddock.

There's also some cost involved. Splitting a pasture into paddocks requires extra fencing, and some arrangements need to be made to allow cattle access to water, no matter which paddock they graze.

Reservoir study moves ahead

Water board inks \$77,740 pact for first look at watershed site

The Osceola Water Board has approved \$77,740 for a preliminary engineering study of the Squaw Creek watershed northwest of town, the Clarke County supervisors learned Friday morning.

The watershed has been mentioned as the possible site of a new reservoir which could supply Osceola's water needs well into the next century.

The study is the first step in the process, essentially placing a plan on the shelf in case funding for such a project ever becomes available.

Dennis Hilger, coordinator of the Creston-based Southern Area Resource, Conservation and Development, said the survey "[is] going to tell you a lot of things about that site."

The preliminary study will be done by Howard R. Green and Associates, a private engineering firm in Creston, in conjunction with the Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS).

Hilger said the NRCS will be providing additional expertise, worth as much as \$50,000 to the project, at no cost.

Some of the NRCS expertise will be historical, Hilger indicated, with archaeologists surveying the area to look for Indian artifact sites that might be affected by the project.

A meeting with landowners in the watershed area has been tentatively set for early June. If all goes well, the preliminary survey should be completed within a year.

Currently, funding does not exist to build a new reservoir, which Hilger said would cost \$7 million in today's dollars.

However, having the preliminary study ready would be important if state or federal funds ever became available for construction.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
May 14, 1998*



Iowa Governor Terry Branstad and Terry Boles

Terry Boles honored for volunteer work

Terry Boles of Grand River has been selected by the Iowa Department of Education to receive an award for his outstanding volunteer service to the state of Iowa.

Boles received his award at the Governor's Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony May 7 at the Iowa Guard Recreation Hall at Camp Dodge in Johnston.

He has performed volunteer work for the Murray School in helping with the Murray Athletic Boosters, band boosters, after Prom activities, Prom, class concessions, Adult Appreciation Day and in several other ways. Boles is also active in the Lions Club, church activities and community improvement activities in the Murray and Grand River area.

Governor Terry Branstad has declared 1998 as the Year of the Volunteer in Iowa and handing out this award was one of the year's activities.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
May 7, 1998*

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
May 28, 1998*

*(Terry is chairman
of Clarke SWCD
Commissioners)*

Landowners learn how proposed lake would affect them

Land needed will be less than first outlined, water board says

A proposed new reservoir in northwest Clarke County would probably require less land area than originally thought, representatives of the Osceola Water Board said in a public meeting June 3.

Around 50 people, mostly landowners with property in the proposed watershed, attended the meeting at the Osceola fire station. The water board had invited all affected property owners to come and ask questions.

The reservoir site falls along the Squaw Creek watershed in rural Washington Township, six miles northwest of Osceola. Right now, the reservoir is little more than lines on paper; water board officials hope to do a preliminary study that might qualify the site for state or federal funding in the future.

Even at best, officials say, construction of such a reservoir is probably 10 years away.

Early estimates of the lake's land needs, as published in the Sentinel-Tribune in mid-April, assumed a maximum lake height 40 feet above a revised outline shown at last Wednesday's meeting.

That means some of the landowners notified for the June 3 meeting won't be affected at all.

"I don't think there's any need or intent to acquire all of this property," said Mark Duben, an architect with Howard R. Green Co. of Creston.

In fact, Duben said only a few landowners will need to open their land to surveys and soil borings to prepare the preliminary study. That study will calculate a rough cost estimate for the reservoir and will determine the final height of the dam—which, in turn, dictates the

maximum reach of the lake.

That study will be done by November, he said.

The local Natural Resources and Conservation Service office will assist Howard R. Green with the preliminary work, reducing costs for the water board and taking advantage of the agency's past research.

Most of the questions at the June 3 session focused around whether the lake would affect a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

More on proposed reservoir

Future of lake may depend on crisis funding

CONTINUED FROM FRONT
particular property owner's land.

Following the meeting, several landowners crowded around the revised lake drawing to see for themselves.

NEEDS ARE GROWING

Osceola City Administrator Brad Wright, speaking on behalf of the water board, said the Squaw Creek watershed had proved itself, over several years of study, to be the best alternative for a new water supply.

Because the Osceola water facility supplies water to a number of rural customers, any new reservoir would benefit the entire county, Duben added.

Duben said West Lake, a 300-acre reservoir, has a maximum daily withdrawal of 1.3 million gallons. Recently, the city has been pumping in excess of 1 million gallons per day, and could begin to bump up against that maximum daily limit.

The proposed new reservoir would be 650 acres in

size, and would handle the county's water needs for the foreseeable future.

Duben said West Lake could still be held in reserve, if necessary, with inlets from both lakes feeding to the water treatment plant.

Wright also said the new site would be away from interstate highways and railroad tracks, both of which increase West Lake's potential for contamination from an accidental spill.

Both Duben and Wright said there were no plans to develop building sites or other development around the new location.

Instead, it is likely the land surrounding the site would be managed for wildlife conservation and recreation, possibly through a joint agreement with city, county and state agencies.

Ironically, the funds to build a new reservoir may never become available unless a natural disaster, such as a drought, strikes. Duben said that was the impetus in the late eighties which resulted in the construction of Three Mile Reservoir, in Union County.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
June 11, 1998*

NRCS poster winners named from Clarke and Murray schools

Winners were recently announced in the Clarke County Natural Resources Conservation Service poster contest for Clarke and Murray schools.

There were 45 participants from Clarke and Murray had 86 entrants. The contest was open to children in third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade.

First-place winners in their division went on to the Regional competition. Ricquel Eddy, a third-grader at Clarke, won her Regional compe-

titition for Division 2. Also winning her Regional was Bethany Peterman, a fourth grader at Clarke in Division 3.

Everyone who participated in the contest received gift certificates from McDonald's and the top three place-finishers in each division received a check.

The contest was sponsored by the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District.



CLARKE DIVISION 2 POSTER WINNERS:

Winners in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) poster contest from Clarke in Division 2 (third grade) were, from left: Blakelee Haines (second place), Travis Rinner (third place) and Ricquel Eddy (first place). Pictured with the winners is Dora Guffey, District Conservationist of the Clarke County NRCS.



MURRAY DIVISION 2 POSTER WINNERS:

Winners in the Natural Resources Conservation Service poster contest from Murray in Division 2 were, from left: Kaitlin Ashenfelter (second place), Katie Eckels (third place) and Nicole Simmerman (first place).



MURRAY DIVISION 3 POSTER WINNERS:

Winners in the Natural Resources Conservation Service poster contest from Murray in Division 3 were, from left: Stefanie Kirk (third place), Justin Rhode (second place) and Edwin Snyder (first place).



CLARKE DIVISION 3 POSTER WINNERS:

Winners in the Natural Resources Conservation Service poster contest from Clarke in Division 3 (fourth and fifth grade) were, from left: Vanessa Hewlett (fifth grade, second place), Danielle Freeman, (fifth grade, third place) and Bethany Peterman (fourth grade, first place). Pictured with the winners is Dora Guffey, District Conservationist of the Clarke County NRCS.

Conservation booklet offered

A free 28-page backyard conservation booklet is available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the National Association of Conservation Districts and the Wildlife Habitat Council.

The booklet shows how to use smaller-scale versions of conservation practices that have been used on American farms for decades. These include terracing, tree planting, composting, mulching, ponds, nutrient and pest management, and others.

Call 1-888-LANDCARE to receive a copy. A backyard conservation Web site is also available at www.nrcs.usda.gov.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
June 25, 1998*

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
June 25, 1998*

Fuller, Foland at state conclave

Adrian Fuller, delegate, and Anita Foland, alternate, represented Clarke County at the semi-annual Congress for Iowa's Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program in Des Moines July 10, 11.

The REAP program is in a pinch for money, Fuller said. Legislation authorizes \$20 million be allocated for Iowa each year but appropriations — from state and federal tax funds and license plate sales — have been about \$9 million the last three years.

Clarke County Soil District, of which Fuller is a commissioner, has one operating REAP program, pasture renovation and stream crossing.

The Clarke County Conservation District, of which Foland is director, applied for a grant for campground development, but Clarke was not selected.

Most of the approved grants this year were for major land acquisition projects, Foland said.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
July 23, 1998*

Detail soil resources programs in brochure

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has released a 16-page brochure that outlines programs available to landowners.

The brochure, available free, from NRCS offices in each county, is intended to help landowners improve the diversity of their land and its vital natural resources.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
July 23, 1998*

Soil and Water Commission

Interested in conservation? Want to get involved? You might be a good candidate for the Clarke County Soil and Water District Commissioners.

The seats held by Dale Chidester of Weldon and Dan Johnson of Murray will be up for election Nov. 3.

Town and rural residents from Madison, Washington, Fremont, Liberty, Troy, Ward, Jackson, Doyle and Franklin townships are eligible.

Candidates must file nomination petitions with the Clarke County Auditor's office between Aug. 3 and Aug. 26. The petitions must be signed by at least 25 eligible electors.

The election is non-partisan, and commissioners serve volunteer four-year terms.

For more information, call the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District office at 515-342-2917.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
July 30, 1998*



Fuller, Foland at

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Osceola Sentinel
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Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
July 30, 1998

T.J. Laing, son of Ed and Flo Teegarden Laing was born September 25, 1915 near Millerton in Wayne County, Iowa and departed this life August 1, 1998 at the Scottsdale Memorial Hospital North in Scottsdale, Arizona at the age of 82 years.

He attended school in Millerton and graduated from High School there.

T.J. was united in marriage to Lois Goltry January 25, 1941 in Maryville, Missouri and one daughter, Kay was born to this union.

T.J. and Lois moved to Osceola in 1952 where T.J. was a Soil Conservation Technician with the United States Department of Agriculture and a member of the United Methodist Church. They moved to Des Moines in 1988 and then to Scottsdale in 1996 so to be closer to their daughter, Kay.

He was preceded in death by his parents and seven brothers.

He leaves to mourn his passing; his wife, Lois of Scottsdale, Arizona; daughter, Kay and husband Leon of Scottsdale, Arizona; granddaughter, Kelsey Miller of Scottsdale, Arizona; brother, Kermit Laing of Chariton, Iowa; two sisters-in-law, Lillian Laing of Des Moines, Iowa and Lois Laing of Rockwell City, Iowa; and one brother in law, Elwood Thomson of Arlington, Virginia, many nieces and nephews as well as other relatives and a host of friends.



SERVICES FOR

T.J. LAING

September 25, 1915 - August 1, 1998

SERVICES HELD AT

Kale Funeral Home
Osceola, Iowa

1:30 P.M. Thursday, August 6, 1998

OFFICIATING

Rev. James Louk
Osceola, Iowa

ORGANIST

Pennie Gonseth

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

"Beautiful Isle of Somewhere"
"God Will Take Care of You"

CASKET BEARERS

Neale Laing	Wendell Laing
Weston Laing	Scott Railsback
James Cooper	Duane Goltry

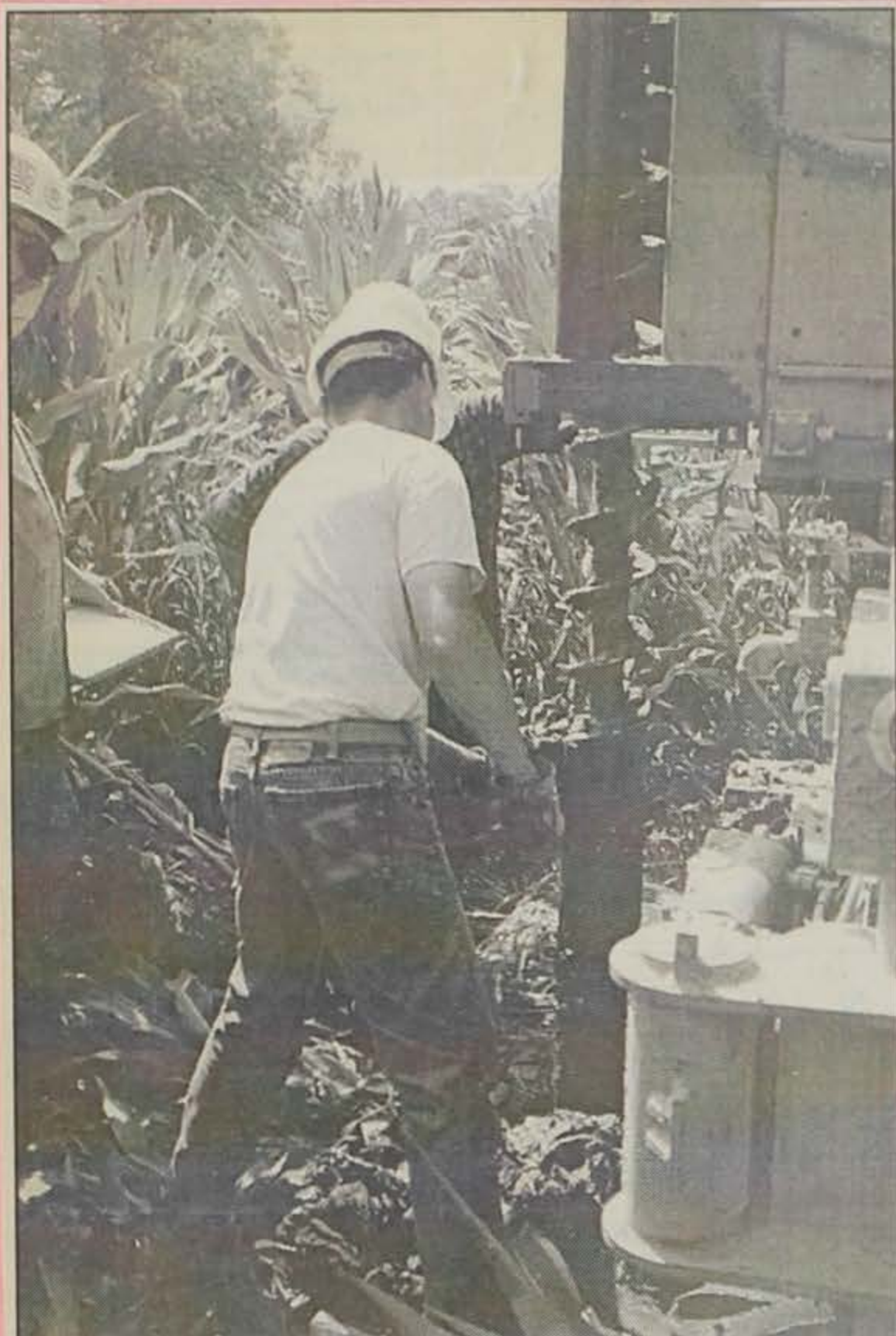
HONOR BEARERS

Dale Chidester	Adrian Fuller
Gerald Garner	Frank Townsend

INTERMENT

Maple Hill Cemetery
Osceola, Iowa

*T. J. was the
Federal Technician
in the Osceola
Field Office --
Retired in 1980.*



DRILL RIG — The Natural Resources Conservation Service Drill Rig and NRCS Staff Geologist were at a proposed lake site in Clarke County recently. The rig was doing some preliminary soil borings and several other tests which will help determine if the site is suitable for the proposed dam site.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
August 27, 1998*

Coyote Canyon wildlife area grasses at their peak

The restored prairie at Coyote Canyon, a 287-acre wildlife area in Clarke County is at its peak with some grasses eight feet tall.

Coyote Canyon is a primitive area that the Clarke County Conservation Board obtained in 1986.

Long-stemmed, warm-season grasses were planted at the site.

These grasses grow so thick and tall they force out weedy competition, just as they did in Iowa's virgin prairies, says Scott Kent, park ranger with the Conservation Board.

The grasses also provide shelter and nesting for a wide variety of game and non-game wildlife.

Some 200 years ago Iowa was covered with tall prairie grass. However, the deep organic soils formed by the cyclic degradation of prairie roots left a rich soil attractive to farmers. As a result 99.9 percent of the original prairie in Iowa was plowed.

Coyote Canyon is defined as a restored prairie, not a native prairie. Periodically the grasses are burned, duplicating natural prairie fires that gave a fresh start to the grasses. One of the controlled fires will be done next year, Kent said.

In addition to the restored prairie, Coyote Canyon includes about 40 acres of dense timber.

The grasses at Coyote Canyon include switchgrass, big bluestem and Indiangrass.

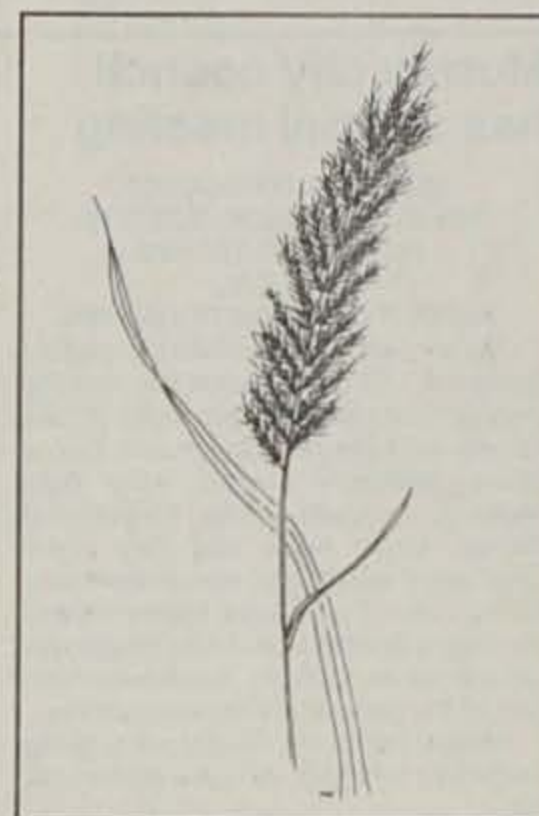
Switchgrass grows to 4-5 feet and is winter-hardy with feathery, open heads.

Bluestem is the "king" of native grasses because cattle like it so well. After frost, this sod forming grass turns light reddish purple with a turkey-foot head.

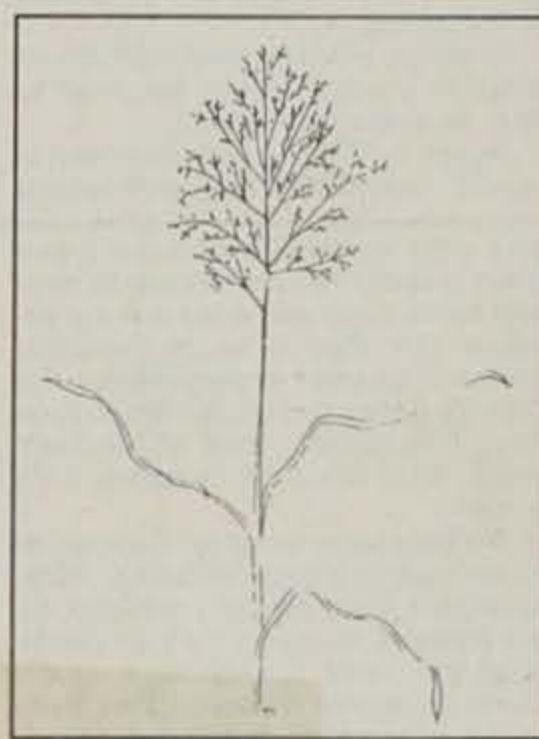
Indiangrass has a golden, plume-like head in the fall, making it one of the most beautiful of the grasses. It will be reddish-yellow in win-

ter and is the tallest of the grasses reaching eight feet.

To reach Coyote Canyon take Highway 152 northwest from Osceola; the road name changes to Truro Pavement at Interstate 35. About four miles northwest of the interstate will be the first sign directing motorists to the the wildlife area.



Indiangrass, 4-8 feet



Switchgrass, 4-5 feet



Big bluestem, 3-8 feet

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune



WINNING SOILS JUDGING TEAM — The Murray FFA Soils Judging Team has qualified for the state contest on Saturday. The team received first and second place in the Sub-District Soils Contest at Leon. Murray students won all five top individual awards at the contest. This included, from left, seated, Megan Justice, fourth; standing, Ben Kirk, fifth; Jerod Flaherty, second; Sarah Nowakowski, third; Alyssa Leibold, first. At district competition on Sept. 29 at Knoxville, the Murray team finished fourth among 30 teams. The top five teams advance to state. In the top ten individuals at the Knoxville meet were Alyssa, Sarah and Jerod. Coach of the team is Marla Shifflett of Osceola.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
October 15, 1998*

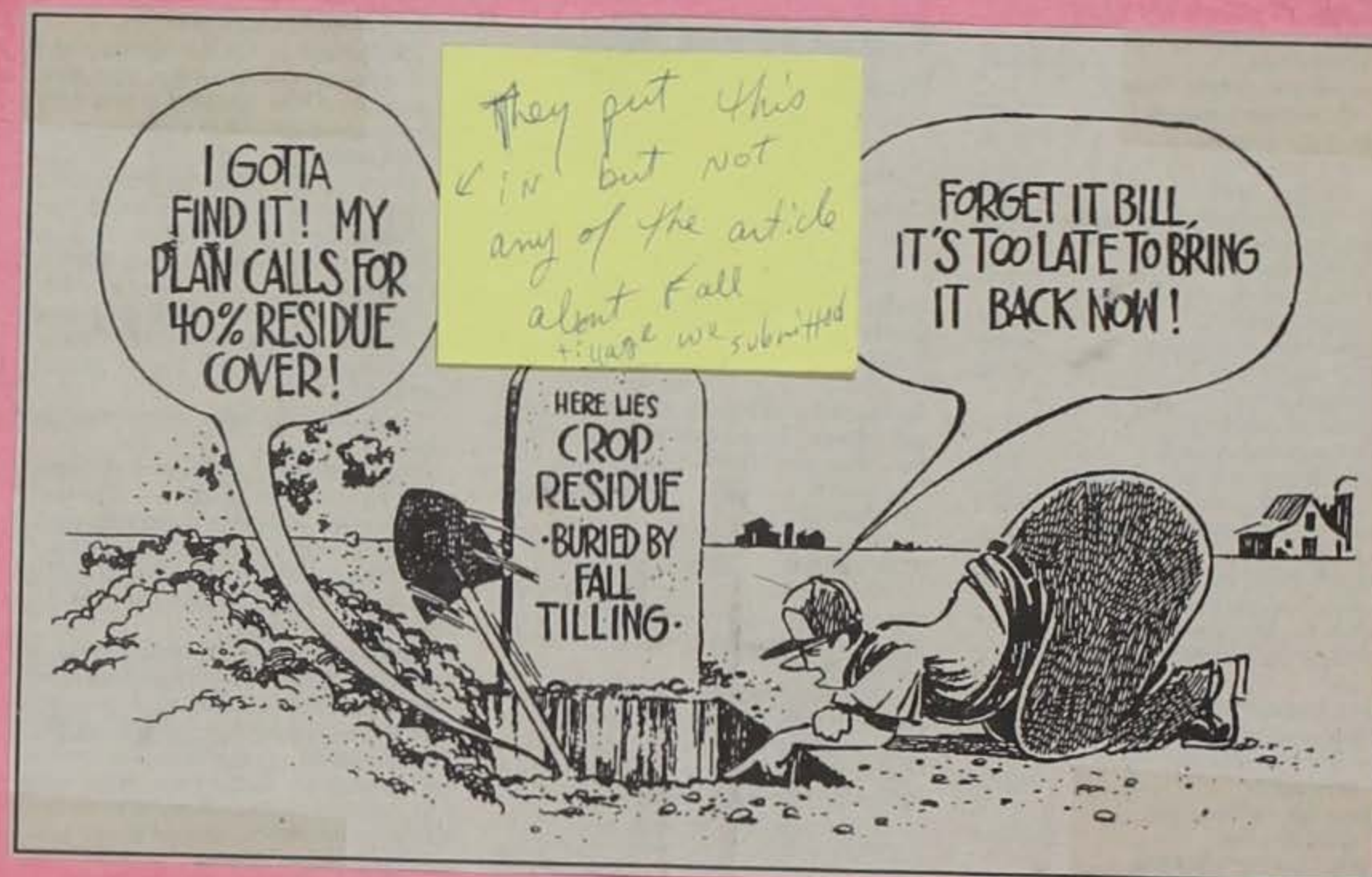
Trees Forever Buffer field day

Clarke County will be the site of a Trees Forever Iowa Buffer Initiative field day Dec. 3. It will be held on the property of Richard Sargent.

The field day begins at 10 a.m. The public is invited to attend at no charge. The site is adjacent to Interstate 35 and is highly visible.

The field day attendees will hear a number of experts discuss what comprises a stream field buffer, how it works, what it costs and more. Those speaking will be Becky Harris, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Tom Isenhardt, Agroecology Issues Team, Del Christensen, Trees Forever field coordinator and Duane Bedford, district forester, Iowa DNR.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
November 19, 1998*



*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
October 15, 1998*

Tree buffer field day is Thursday

A field day will be held today (Thursday) just northwest of Osceola. The Trees Forever Iowa Buffer Initiative Riparian Buffer Field Day will be held on land owned by Richard Sargent on the west side of Interstate 35 and on the south side of Highway 152 (the Truro pavement).

A number of projects have been underway at the site, combining the resources of Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service of Clarke County, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and the Trees Forever, Iowa Buffer Initiative.

Registration starts at 10 a.m. The program and viewing of the site begins at 10:30 and concludes about noon.

Speakers include Del Christensen, Becky Harris, Tom Isenhardt and Duane Bedford.

The public is invited to attend.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
December 3, 1998*

1999

Buffer project fights bank erosion

Local farmers can watch the progress of a water quality project installed where Squaw Creek crosses Interstate 35 three miles north of Osceola.

This summer, local landowner Richard Sargent established a stream bank stabilization project and installed a stream-side buffer along the entire length of the creek along his property. He is participating in a statewide project called the Trees Forever Iowa Buffer Initiative.

Sargent has planted nine acres of trees, shrubs and grasses in a buffer strip along the stream as a conservation measure, hoping to keep soil from eroding into the creek.

It's a technique that's been researched for 10 years by Iowa state University in Story County, where it has dramatically reduced soil erosion on Bear Creek and virtually eliminated the presence of nitrates and atrazine.

The Trees Forever Iowa Buffer Initiative is taking the technique statewide with a number of demonstration projects, including the one on Sargent's property. Trees Forever is working with landowners, Novartis Crop Protection, the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and other public and private partners.

The five-year project will complete 20 demonstration sites per year.



STABILIZING THE STREAM—Del Christensen of Trees Forever talks about buffers and stream bank stabilization at a recent field day on the Sargent farm north of Osceola.

A field day was recently held on Sargent's farm. Several area conservation professionals attended to hear experts explain how the stream-side buffer and stream bank stabilization techniques work.

Iowa Buffer Initiative Team Leader Del Christensen said the project is important because it provides a local example of the techniques for area farmers to see.

"We want to show people how using simple, natural materials, like trees, shrubs and grasses, can help improve water quality," Christensen said.

The Sargent site is unique because it provides an example of

stream bank stabilization, which aims to reduce stream bank erosion and collapse.

"The creek banks were reshaped this spring," Christensen said. "Once the banks were reshaped, we placed landscape fabric down to hold the soil in place, put rocks down on top of that, and seeded the area with annual rye grass."

"Now, at the end of the year, we are already seeing some undercutting of the rocks, so we're putting in willow posts to stabilize the banks. The posts are simply cuttings taken from dormant willows in the area. But they'll start growing and root normally next spring."

Arnold introduces bill to protect Southern Iowa streams and Lake Rathbun

State Representative Richard Arnold (R-Russell), vice chairman of the Iowa House's Local Government Committee, is introducing legislation creating a Southern Iowa Development Authority, in part, to address the degradation of Rathbun Lake.

The authority will include Clarke, Lucas, Decatur, Wayne, Monroe, Appanoose, Davis, Wapello, Jefferson and Van Buren counties.

The mission is to develop plans for projects related to the "unique natural resource, rural development and infrastructure problems in the counties," according to the bill.

Specifically, one issue will address the rapid pollution and siltation of Rathbun Lake and design plans to minimize its deterioration.

"The lake is vital for drinking water, recreation and natural resource development," Arnold said.

Part of the problem is destabilization of stream channels in the fragile glacial till soils of southern Iowa due to conversion of grassland to cropland.

Water runoff from new construction and hard surfaced parking lots is also impacting streams, destroying pastures and destroying public roads and bridges.

"Reducing soil erosion, preventing sedimentation and stopping nutrients and pesticides from entering water resources are all necessary to protect our natural resources in southern Iowa," Arnold said. "We have the obligation to preserve our land and water for our children, and their future."

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
January 28, 1999*

EQIP sign-up through Feb. 5

Sign-up for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) will continue through Feb. 5.

The program offers a cost-share for installing conservation practices, generally at 50 percent, as well as incentive payments.

EQIP is a total-resource program that looks at all the conservation needs of a farm. Cost-share is completed through five to 10-year contracts that allow up to \$10,000 per year and \$50,000 per contract.

Sign-up will be at the USDA Service Center in Osceola. For more information, call 342-2917.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
February 4, 1999*

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
January 28, 1999*



OUR NEW SWANS — Dave Hoffman, wildlife biologist, holds one of the two swans brought to Osceola Friday from Bays Branch. Scott Kent (left) of the Clarke County Conservation Board holds the other swan. The birds are part of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program. Osceola's swans weighed 20 and 22 pounds. Hoffman said the birds can reach 36 pounds and have an eight-foot wing-spread. The two swans were purchased with a \$2,000 donation from the Clarke County Pheasants Forever organization.

March 5 • N.A. open meeting, 8 p.m., Christian Church, Osceola.

March 8 • Clarke Area Retired School Personnel Association, 8:45 a.m., program, Anne Lundquist, about special education, Osceola Senior Center. • S.H.A.R.E. registration day, March 9, 10 & 11 for distribution, March 27. • Clarke County Public Health Immunization Clinic, 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m., Immanuel Lutheran Church. • Osceola Women's Club, 1:30 p.m., program, Kelli Ross about herb gardening, United Methodist Church. • Clarke County Piecemakers Club, 7 p.m., Clarke Electric Cooperative meeting room. • Clarke County Soil and Water District Commissioners, 7:30 p.m., Natural Resources Conservation Service office. • Clarke Community School Board meeting, 7:30 p.m., Jr./Sr. Media Center. • AA, open meeting, 8 p.m., Legion Hall, Osceola.

Commerce a.m., Clarke meeting room. • Development Clarke Elec room. • Fram a.m., Senior Rotary, noc banquet room. • Club, 1:30 Powers, co-h free, 11:45 C.O.P.E., Co Clarke Banc Clarke Elem

March 1 breakfast n American St room. • T.O.J a.m., Clarke ference room brary Story R • Research Florence Pa Pritchert, ref and music. Lodge No. 5

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

The following real estate transactions were filed the past week in the office of Clarke County Recorder Judy Querrey. The price is an estimate based on transfer stamps needed at the rate of 80-cents per \$500 of transaction. If no price is listed, the transaction was less than \$500 or no money was involved in the transaction at this time.

In the matter of the estate of Phillip E. Patrick Jr., court officer: deed to Elias Cardenas and Ignacia G. Rico for the S1/2 of lots 5 and 6 in block 6, with exceptions, in South Osceola, an addition to the town of Osceola, \$36,000.

Section 17; Section 18; Section 17 a Section 20; e the NE1/4NE W1/2NW1/4 SE1/4NW1/4 SE1/4NE1/4 W1/2SW1/4 SE1/4SE1/4 SE1/4 of Sec NE1/4 and th Section 18; e \$240,000. Gail Hem



Beth Brown uses the back of wildlife biologist Dave Hoffman to record the weight of a pair of rare Trumpeter Swans brought to Osceola Friday from Bays Branch. Scott Kent (left) of the Clarke County Conservation Board holds the other swan. The birds are part of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program. Osceola's swans weighed 20 and 22 pounds. Hoffman said the birds can reach 36 pounds and have an eight-foot wing-spread. The two swans were purchased with a \$2,000 donation from the Clarke County Pheasants Forever organization.

Rare Trumpeter Swans get acquainted with new home at Osceola's East Lake

More than 100 people watched two Trumpeter Swans released at East Lake Friday into a holding pen that includes both land and lake.

The swans had been living at Bays Branch since October after they and one other were confiscated in Arkansas. Anita Foland of the Clarke County Conservation Board said the swans were being raised illegally in Arkansas.

At Bays Branch "Clarke's swans" bonded to form a pair. The other Arkansas swan, a male appears to be forming a bond with a free flying female that flew into the holding area at Bays Branch. Trumpeter Swans bond for life.

Officials with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources had earlier told Foland that Clarke would get an adolescent pair and it might be three or more years before they reproduce.

Because Clarke's confiscated birds are three to four years old they may reproduce this year. Under normal

circumstances, swans would select a secluded area for nesting. A platform with some screening will be constructed for them to provide the safety and privacy they required. Spectators are welcome to view the swans but people are asked to approach the pen quietly.

The male swan is called a cob, the female is called a pen and the young are called cygnets. Cygnets are grayish in color with pink bills, but will change to white with black bills by the time they are a year old. Life expectancy of a wild Trumpeter Swan is not known, but one captive swan lived 29 years.

The swans at East Lake are being fed a mixture of one part commercial feed to four parts shelled corn. Their diet is supplemented with lettuce, spinach and other raw green vegetables being donated by Osceola grocery stores.

The public is asked not to feed the swans, since their diet needs to be regulated and they are susceptible to infections caused by mold.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
March 4, 1999*



OUR NEW SWANS — Dave Hoffman, wildlife biologist with the Iowa Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program holds one of two swans so school children could pet it before its release in a new pen at East Lake Park. The public is welcome to view the two swans but officials ask that

people approach the pen quietly and to keep pets away from the pen. It is also important that people do not feed the swans. Their diet needs to be regulated and they are susceptible to infections caused by mold that could be in food. See another picture and story on the back page.

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day from
ce County
The birds
Resources

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*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
March 4, 1999*

Fire departments get hydrant grants

Area fire departments were among 135 departments in 39 Iowa counties which were awarded grants for planning, training and installation of 103 dry hydrants.

Dry hydrants are non-pressurized pipe systems permanently installed in existing lakes, ponds and streams as a standby supply of water to a fire tanker truck.

The money comes from a \$100,000 one-time appropriation from the legislature.

"Dry hydrants, placed in the right locations, can make the difference between saving property and lives or realizing a total loss," said Dave Zimple, president of the Iowa Firemen's Association.

Area grants and hydrants are:

- Woodburn and Osceola, \$3,007, \$3,570 local match, three hydrants for new housing developments, rural trailer court.

- Creston, Diagonal, Afton, Prescott, Orient, Lenox, \$7,508, \$3,730 local match, five hydrants for housing, industry, livestock confinements.

- Murray, Afton, Osceola, \$3,968, \$2,000 local match, five hydrants for housing.

- Earlham, Van Meter, Winterset, St. Charles, Lorimor, Peru, Truro, \$5,005, \$3,750 local match, ten hydrants for housing and covered bridges (tourism).

CRP program changes with the times

Emphasis has shifted from idling farmland to environmental benefit

The venerable Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has weathered the 80's farm crisis and a radical change in federal farm programs—but it still keeps plugging along, popular as ever.

The most recent signup in Clarke County placed 3,774 acres in the 10-year set-aside program, according to Bart Griffith of the Clarke County Farm Service Agency office.

In total, 36,890 acres in Clarke County are reserved under CRP, which equals 20 percent of all the farmable land in the county.

"It's been a good program for us," Griffith said.

Originally, the Conservation Reserve Program was born out of the desperation of the 1980s

farm crisis.

A devastating oversupply of grain prompted the Federal government to institute CRP in 1986, with two goals in mind: to pull up to 40 million acres out of production, and to create valuable habitat for wildlife out of highly erodible land.

Under CRP, farmers submit acres to be considered for inclusion. If accepted, the land is locked into a conservation program—usually some kind of grass seeding—for 10 years.

In return, the Federal government pays a certain amount per acre, per year, and covers half the cost of establishing the conservation cover.

This past year, Griffith said farmers in Clarke County received \$273,472 from the pro-

gram, at an average payment of \$72.46 per acre.

FOCUS CHANGES

As originally conceived, CRP dovetailed with the old farm program to reduce a farmer's base acreage—the number of acres available for deficiency payments if the market price dropped too low.

But as the ag market improved in the early 1990s, Congress began considering a new farm bill that would loosen the reins and let farmers produce freely.

It appeared that CRP had lost its reason for being—but according to Griffith, the program was popular with both rural and urban residents because of its benefits to the environment.

"It's tax dollars paying for

these rental payments," Griffith said. "We all have a vested interest in the program."

So even though the old farm program died, with its controls on what a farmer could plant, CRP survived with new funding—and a new mission: environmental benefit.

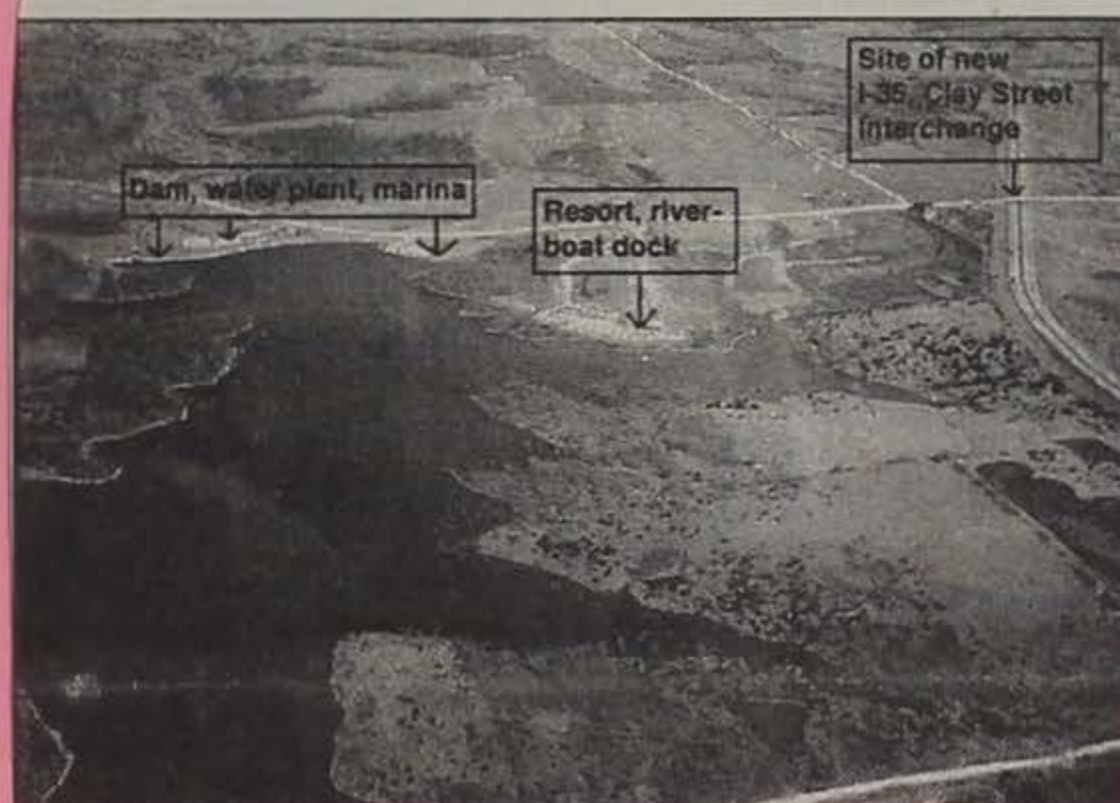
In the early 1990s, when the emphasis was still on idling production, Griffith said more than 40,000 Clarke County acres were enrolled.

But beginning with the 1997 signup, land with higher productivity has been eased out of the program, while small stream-side buffer strips are automatic inclusions.

"It's been harder," Griffith said, "to get identical land back in."

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
March 18, 1999*

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
March 11, 1999*



LAKESIDE — The pace of construction is going well at the Lakeside Casino and Resort at West Lake in Osceola. At left above is the 60-room motel. The site will also include a convention center with a show-room/auditorium for 900 people. A dredge (fore-

ground, deepens the channel for the 1,500 passenger boat that is nearly three-fourths the size of a football field. At left, is an aerial picture taken by Stan Samuelson that gives a perspective of the location of the project. See story at right.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
April 22, 1999*

Arnold sponsors initiative to preserve area resources

An initiative sponsored by State Rep. Richard Arnold (R-Russell) to address Rathbun Lake water quality was signed April 15 by Gov. Tom Vilsack.

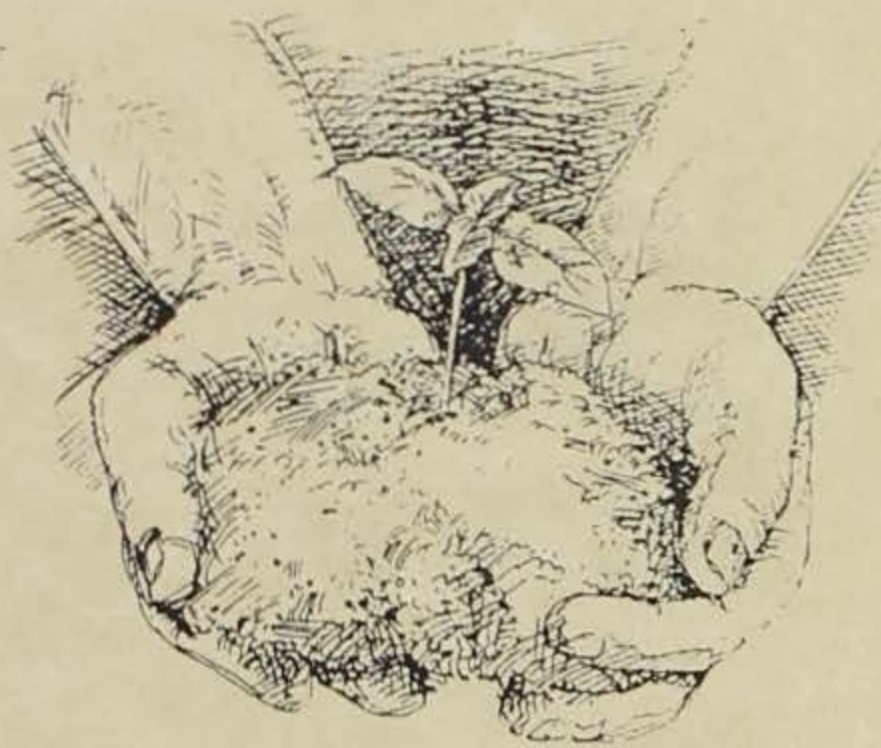
The new law creates a Southern Iowa Development Authority which will encompass Lucas, Wayne, Monroe, Clarke, Decatur, Appanoose, Davis, Wapello, Jefferson and Van Buren counties.

The Authority will develop and coordinate projects related to the unique natural resource, rural development and infrastructure problems of these counties. High on the list will be protecting Rathbun Lake—a tourist attraction and major source of drinking water—from pollution and sedimentation.

"Passage of the legislation is the culmination of a lot of hard work by an excellent group of individuals," Arnold said.

The creation of the authority will allow the region to receive federal funding for natural resource and water protection.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
April 29, 1999*



For every thing there is a
season,
and a time for every matter
under heaven

SOIL CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN

The State of Iowa, Division of Soil Conservation, IDALS, is accepting applications for a full-time technician to work in Clarke County. Starting wage is \$9.51/hr. Call 515-342-2917, between 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. for additional information.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
May 13, 1999

*Richard Carson served as a
District Commissioner ~~1981-1992~~
1981-1992*

What's the deal about West Lake?

A new report linking Osceola's West Lake to a list of highly polluted waterways is a combination of old news, federal reporting procedures and problems with the state water standard, state and local sources say.

In a new federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report released last week, West Lake was one of more than 200 bodies of water added to an existing state list of "impaired" waterways.

The cause, in West Lake's case, was atrazine contamination.

But according to John Olson, environmental specialist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the DNR removed West Lake from their first draft of the "impaired waters" list last fall.

The reason: atrazine is not considered an acute, or short-term, toxic compound.

Atrazine, formerly a common crop herbicide, is water-soluble and travels easily into groundwater, Olson said, but the health risk is usually calculated over a long-term, or "chronic" basis.

With acute toxic compounds, one-time contaminant levels are enough to warrant concern. Levels of chronic toxic compounds are monitored and reduced over time.

But Olson said the state of Iowa has atrazine mistakenly categorized as an acute toxin, and since the state sees it that way, the EPA's report mirrors that assumption.

"The standard needs to be revised, and [atrazine's status] needs to be changed," Olson said.

PROBLEM ADDRESSED

West Lake's problems with atrazine have been known locally for some time. To combat the levels, a comprehensive program was launched several years ago to clean up the watershed.

As a result, atrazine levels at the lake have consistently declined, except for an increase caused by the increased water flows of the floods of 1993. Atrazine can remain trapped in lake silt and reappear when the silt is disturbed.

In addition, five years ago the Osceola Water Board addressed the atrazine problem directly, installing a new activated carbon filtering system to remove it from the drinking water.

Olson said an activated carbon system works well for that purpose.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
May 13, 1999

Sentinel - Tribune Spotlights

ADRIAN AND IRENE FULLER



Adrian and Irene Fuller are a well known couple in Osceola. Adrian has been a member of the Osceola Rotary Club since 1981.

Irene has played the piano for the Rotary for more than ten years. She was made an honorary member in 1997 and a donation was given in her honor to the Paul Harris Fellowship that is used for helping people around the world.

Adrian became involved in the Rotary after they moved to town in 1979 from the farm they had lived on for 34 years.

He has been active as a soil and water commissioner since

1955 and for the Resource Conservation and Development Department since 1967.

Irene worked as the secretary for the United Methodist Church in Osceola for 15 years before she retired in 1987.

They are both involved in the Clarke County Historical Society. He was president in 1980 and helped to get the Historical Museum building. She occasionally works at the museum during the summer.

They like to travel and have attended Adrian's Army reunion almost every year since 1984. He served for three years in WWII.

In 1996, Hurricane Fran caused the reunion in Myrtle Beach, Fla. to be cancelled. Irene was in the hospital when the 1997 reunion was held.

Both of them have been involved in rock collecting since they lived on the farm. "I like the rocks, I admire the rocks, but I don't want to work with them," Irene said. Adrian makes jewelry, belt buckles and western ties from the rocks.

He also repairs clocks and has made Irene, their four children and a grandchild grandfather clocks out of lumber he hired milled from trees on the farm that their son took over when they moved to town.

Irene used to play the violin and still plays the pump organ that her father restored when she was young. She also likes to hand piece quilts.

They both enjoy their flowers and bird watching. Neighbors Ray and Gloria Lefebvre and Bill and Mabel Oehlert have also made living in town more enjoyable. They play cards once or twice a month. The three couples gathered at the Oehlerts recently and "boy did [we] have fun," said Adrian.

Rick Oshel joins lowwater program

Rick Oshel of Osceola is involved in lowwater, a statewide, citizen-based volunteer waste quality monitoring program that is financed and administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

The program provides educational materials to assist volunteers in collecting samples and interpreting results. It will also provide a statewide network so that volunteers from across Iowa can share their results with others.

A water quality workshop will provide volunteers like Oshel an opportunity to gain hands-on experience assessing and evaluating the chemical, physical and biological health of aquatic ecosystems and their watersheds.

Oshel will be trained on collecting and analyzing aquatic organisms, chemical water samples and physical stream attributes such as stream bank stabilization, fish habitat and watershed land use.

Those completing the training sessions will become part of a statewide water monitoring network, helping to identify and protect local water resources, collect stream habitat data from across Iowa, and develop grassroots partnerships to address local water quality issues.

For additional information on water monitoring, call Becky Harris at the Clarke County SWCD office at 515-342-2917 or the Iowa Volunteer Water Monitoring Coordinator at 515-747-2051.

DNR needs more info on Weldon sow farm

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has bounced plans for a new sow farm back to Swine Graphics, saying the original application was "incomplete."

The proposed facility, two miles north of Weldon, has been the target of vehement opposition from landowners, the city of Weldon and historical preservation groups.

The site lies on the Mormon Trail, about a mile from the historic Lost Camp site.

According to the DNR response, dated Friday, Swine Graphics needs to: provide additional engineering data, and consistent animal statistics.

They also need to detail manure storage capacity and nitrogen produced and to submit manure appli-

cation agreements for land they do not own.

Other requirements: a multi-year crop rotation schedule and a list of people with a financial interest in the operation.

The DNR also asked Swine Graphics to check into the 100-year flood level at the site, and to provide water use estimates.

NOT BUILDING THIS YEAR

Swine Graphics spokesman Craig Loffredo said it is routine for the DNR to request additional information.

He said Swine Graphics does not intend to begin work on the Weldon site this year, reinforcing a statement made several weeks ago.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
May 13, 1999*

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
May 27, 1999*

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
May 20, 1999*

Price tag for new reservoir: \$14 million

BY KEITH ISLEY

The price tag is in for a proposed new reservoir four miles northwest of Osceola, along the Squaw Creek watershed.

How much? Well, let's just say if you have to ask, you can't afford it.

According to a feasibility study released last week by Howard R. Green Co. of Creston, the reservoir, an associated plant expansion and a pipeline to connect the two would cost \$14 million.

Such a figure, of course, is way beyond the financial ability of any local governmental agency. But by having the plan ready to roll, the Osceola Water Board and the city of Osceola will be ready if federal funds become available.

A meeting with landowners in the proposed reservoir area has been scheduled for June 8 at 7 p.m. in the Osceola Fire Hall. A similar meeting was held last spring, before work on the feasibility plan got underway.

WHY CONSIDER IT?

Why build a new reservoir in the first place? In part, it's a result of the stunning success of local development efforts, and the potential for significant new growth in the next few decades.

West Lake is the primary water source for the city of Osceola, but it serves a much wider area than that. Water from the Osceola plant also serves the needs of Woodburn

residents, as well as rural customers and the city of Murray which are served by the Southern Iowa Rural Water Association.

While West Lake's capacity is adequate today to meet Clarke County's water needs, that could change. Average water use was 1.18 million gallons per day in 1998, up significantly from 845,000 gallons in 1990.

And with West Lake rated at a maximum average output of 1.32 million gallons per day, another economic development coup—a new factory, for instance—could push daily water demand to its limit.

"Any further development, especially 'wet process' industries, could greatly increase total water demand," the Howard R. Green report says. "Excess capacity must be available [to attract new industry]."

By 2050, the report estimates Clarke County's water needs will increase to 2.0 million gallons per day, well above West Lake's rated output. Combine heavy use with a long-term drought—and there's potential for trouble.

The Osceola Water Board identified the Squaw Creek watershed as a prime reservoir site several years ago. However, work on a feasibility study began just last spring.

How long before it's built? That's anybody's guess.

Twelve-Mile Lake near Creston, one of the newest reservoirs in the area, took more than a decade from

initial plan to opening. A natural disaster, such as a severe drought, could accelerate the process.

TWICE THE SIZE

Multiply West Lake by two, and you have the proposed new reservoir. It would cover 618 acres, double West Lake's 306 acres, and drains a watershed about twice the size.

But with three times the water storage of West Lake, the new reservoir would have a safe maximum daily output of 2.5 million gallons per day—again, nearly double that of West Lake.

The proposed lake area is more than half timber and brush, reducing problems with farm chemical runoff that have plagued West Lake. In addition, no major highways or railroad lines run nearby, reducing the risk of a contaminating spill.

As with West Lake, a new reservoir on Squaw Creek could support limited recreational activities. Recreational improvements, however, are not part of the \$14 million price tag.

Neighbors mull lake plans

Landowners near a proposed reservoir near Osceola had relatively few questions at a June 8 public meeting.

The meeting at the Osceola Fire Hall was similar to one held a year ago, just before the Osceola Water Board began a detailed site analysis. Located in the Squaw Creek watershed, the proposed 620-acre lake would sit in a rugged and largely undeveloped area six miles northwest of town.

The design, said engineer Mark Duben of Howard R. Green and Associates, is a preliminary one. No funding for the \$14 million project is currently available, but Clarke County's growing water needs may require a larger water supply within the next decade.

"Construction may be several years down the road yet," Duben said.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
June 24, 1999



Kimberly Sullivan received the following honors at the Clarke Community High School awards day: National Honor Society, President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement, Clarke Area Arts Council Senior Award band and speech, Bayard Shadley Memorial \$330, Blake Bequest Fund \$400, Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District \$250, Clarke County Cattlemen's Association \$200, Cargill Scholarship \$1,000, Routh Scholarship \$1,000, Clarke County State Bank Alumni Scholarship \$750, Hansen Family Scholarship average \$2,100 renewable \$8,400, University of Northern Iowa Freshman Achievement Scholarship \$1,000 renewable for 2 years \$2,000, Goring Communication Scholarship \$500.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
July 22, 1999

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
May 27, 1999

Corps okays effort to stop

July 16 Keith W. Brammer, 125 6th St., Murray, reported the theft of a stereo and 40 compact discs from his home.

July 18 Joshua J. Decker, Weldon, was arrested for driving while suspended, no proof of insurance and speeding. He was taken into custody and held.

July 21 Duffy C. Cannon, Afion, reported that someone had killed a Rottweiler dog at 2778 Clarke Union Ave., Murray. Two wooden doors were also damaged. Loss was estimated at \$370.

July 22 Clinton W. Phillips, 2157 280th Ave., Osceola, was arrested for possession of marijuana. He was taken into custody and held.

July 23 An accident on Kansas St. two miles west of Osceola resulted in \$6,000 in damage. A 1993 Ford driven by Robert L. Jackson, Van Wert, was headed west on Kansas St. and passed an eastbound vehicle which left a cloud of dust behind. A 1992 Lincoln driven by Richard E. Touet, 2064 Kansas St., Osceola, was pulling from his farm drive and did not see the Jackson vehicle because of the dust. The Jackson vehicle was unable to stop in time and struck the Touet vehicle in the rear.

July 24 Samuel E. Barnes, Jr., 707 Sigler St., Woodburn, was arrested on an outstanding failure to appear warrant (forgery). He was taken into custody and held.

July 25 William E. Vandel, Grand River, was arrested on an outstanding Warren County failure to pay warrant (OWI). He was taken into custody and released to Warren County for fourth degree.

July 26 Brad C. Perdue, 1824 Liberty Highway #27, was arrested in Warren County for fourth degree the loss was estimated at \$370.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

This hog manure did not smell

Swine Graphics tests new method

BY KEITH ISLEY

Swine Graphics spokesman Craig Loffredo stands in a soybean field about a quarter-mile north of the company's ADL I sow facility east of Osceola.

Not 30 yards away, a high-pressure irrigation gun pulses thousands of gallons a minute over the lush green fields.

But the gun isn't pumping water. It's pumping hog waste from ADL I's two-stage treatment system high into the air and into a fine, rain-like mist across the soybean plants.

Normally, if a farm spread hog waste this way, neighbors would be calling from miles around because of the odor. In fact, Swine Graphics usually knifes the waste directly into the ground to reduce the distinctive, pungent stench.

But here, 30 yards away, there's virtually no odor — except for a faint musty smell whenever the mist blows Loffredo's way. And a week later, not one neighbor has called to complain.

It's the result of a \$330,000 gamble Swine Graphics took two years ago, when they installed state-of-the-art waste treatment systems at two of the company's four sites in Clarke County.

Called the Schafer system, it's normally seen handling a different kind of waste in suburban office parks. It features an aerobic (oxygen-aided) waste digestion system that could make the water clean enough for re-use in the hog barns, at least at ADL II, which has an additional third processing stage.

Swine Graphics decided to wait and see — and after a year of tweaking to get the system up and running, last week's spraying experiment at ADL I was the first solid validation of the claim.

"It's what they told us would happen," Loffredo said.

The waste being sprayed over the soybean field was extremely low in nitrogen — 1.61 pounds per 1,000 gallons. While a tribute to the efficiency of the Schafer system, the low nitrogen level makes the spray a poor fertilizer, Loffredo noted.

Darren Housberg, who handles day-to-day operations at the four ADL sites in Clarke County, said he had notified several land owners and had urged them to call if

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
August 12, 1999*

they smelled anything unpleasant. Also notified was the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Scott Steinbach, one of the men hired to do the spraying for Swine Graphics, said his wife noticed the difference the first evening he came home. After she asked whether he had sprayed hog waste today, she noted that she couldn't smell it.

"I think a lot of [the benefit] is because of the lagoon they're using," he said.

COST CONCERNS

The Schafer system appears to be equivalent of the holy grail for hog confinements battling odor complaints from neighbors. But it's not a cure-all, largely because of the costs involved.

Besides the \$165,000 per unit construction cost, which is a healthy sum in the face of low hog prices, the Schafer system takes \$2,500 per month to operate, more than the typical anaerobic lagoons used elsewhere.

But Loffredo says the ability to recycle water from the system could recoup some of that. And if

the DNR allowed Swine Graphics to reduce the size of their holding lagoons — the Schafer system, he says, can use smaller ones — construction costs could be lowered by tens of thousands of dollars.

Installing a center pivot in a nearby field, similar to that used for irrigation, would make the system even more efficient.

"I think that if we can do this the way we want to do, we can come close to having the Schafer system cost not much more than anaerobic lagoons," Loffredo said.

Right now, though, the laws regulating hog confinements don't take into account the technology being used in the Schafer system, because it is so new.

Due in part to cost concerns, ADL II, the company's third sow farm in the county, has the capability to run a Schafer system — but it is not installed. Plans for ADL IV, the controversial site on the Mormon Trail north of Weldon, do not include the Schafer system at all.

"We've got to keep assessing our costs and see where [future installations] fit in," Loffredo said.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune

County invaded by wild carrot



One look at lawns and pastures in Clarke County and you know that this is a banner year for weeds.

One of those weeds, wild carrot, also known as Queens Anne's Lace is now in full bloom. Wild carrot is classified as a secondary noxious weed in Iowa. It has become infamous for its capacity to infest CRP and roadside areas. It is not a problem in cultivated land.

The ornate delicate white flowers of this weed are now in full bloom, causing some CRP parcels to be completely covered with white flowers. There is no record of wild carrot toxicity in this country, but there are reports from Europe that wild carrot may be mildly toxic to horses and cattle. Milk derived from cows that have eaten wild carrot can become tainted with a bitter flavor.

Wild carrot was introduced into this country from Europe. This weed has a two-year lifecycle and is a member of the parsley family. Germinating in the fall or early spring, the first season of growth remains in the vegetative form as a leafy plant growing close to the ground.

The second season it sends up a flower stalk that will flower from July through September. Most of

the seed produced will not survive more than two years.

Control measures used in CRP, grasslands, and roadsides will vary in their effectiveness. Mowing in July or early August will reduce seed production but only give moderate control. Well-timed herbicide applications made in October or early April will give the best control. 2,4-D may or may not provide good control. Research conducted at Michigan State University in 1994 showed that local wild carrot populations can vary in their susceptibility to 2,4-D.

Other commonly used herbicides that will give good control in a broadcast application include: Banvel (BASF), Tordon 22K (Dow AgroSciences), and Ally (Dupont). Spot applications of Roundup Ultra (Monsanto) or Touchdown (Zeneca) can also be used. Desirable legume species will not survive these applications. Specific herbicide rates, herbicide combinations, adjuvants, and timing of applications can be found on the label. Always remember to read and follow label directions.

For more information contact Michele Maguire Beck, Clarke County Extension 711 W McLane Osceola.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
September 30, 1999

Osceola Sentinel Tribune
September 30, 1999

City sewage fouls creek

Mechanical problems, compounded by miscalculations at the Osceola Waste Water Treatment Plant, caused partially treated sewage to flow into White Breast Creek.

Ron Stark, director of the plant, said the mishap occurred when bearings for three of four trickling filters at the plant were in Ames for emergency repairs.

This limited the capacity of the plant to a primary filter and first stage clarifiers which handled the treatment for a while but then "things went sour," Stark said.

The partially-treated waste flowed into the creek over the weekend of Sept. 17-19. The flow from the plant turned the creek fluorescent green and caused odor problems along the watershed.

The contamination of the creek was compounded by lack of rain. "About the only thing running in the creek was the discharge from the plant," said Stark, who took over management of the plant last spring. There was no water in the creek to dilute the discharge from the plant, he said.

Stark said his staff is working long hours to keep the plant operating. "It was just something that happened," he said. "These guys were doing all they could to keep things running. They were doing their best. They're good operators," he said.

Stark was on vacation that weekend and out of town. As soon as he returned to the plant Stark or-

dered sewage diverted to retention ponds.

Both the Clarke County Environmental Services and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) investigated the incident.

Allan Mathias of the county office said he started receiving complaints Friday, Sept. 17. He said it was "obvious" something was wrong at White Breast Creek but he was not able to pinpoint the problem until Monday, Sept. 20 when he talked to Stark who confirmed the incident.

The DNR also investigated, Stark said.

Stark said he visited farmers along the White Breast watershed explaining the situation and "apologizing for what happened. We want to be open about everything. We're not trying to sweep it under the carpet," he said.

The filters were back in operation this week. New equipment was also installed to add polymer chemical to the treated waste just before it leaves the plant. "Any water entering White Breast will now be crystal clear," Stark said.

The city's engineering firm, Veemstra & Kimm, has been studying repairs and modernizations needed at the 22-year-old waste water treatment facility.

In June, 1998 the DNR ordered \$80,000 worth of emergency repairs done at the plant. These were completed last year, Stark said.

Conservationists urge Iowa farmers hold off fall tillage to preserve moisture

This year's early harvest and dry conditions make it possible for farmers to till their land, but conservationists say there are some good reasons to hold off on tillage this fall.

Our dry weather put this year's harvest at least a week ahead of the five-year average, but it also means we are short on subsoil moisture. Tilling the land speeds evaporation of soil moisture and also allows the wind to erode the soil. For economic and environmental reasons, we are asking farmers to resist the urge to till this fall, said Tim Kautza, natural Resources Planner with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Iowa.

Six out of the nine Iowa crop reporting districts have subsoil moisture that is at least 67 percent short or very short, according to Iowa Agricultural Statistics. The worst conditions are in the northwest and central crop reporting districts which show subsoil moisture at 85 percent short to very short.

Iowa State University Extension Climatologist Elwynn Taylor said if fall

rains don't materialize, the state's subsoil moisture will be well behind normal come next spring. And according to the National Weather Services Center for Environmental Prediction, below normal precipitation is forecast through March 2000.

Farmers can preserve what subsoil moisture is still left by practicing conservation tillage and avoiding fall field work. Conservation tillage research conducted by the USDA Agricultural Research Services shows that a 30 percent residue cover reduces evaporation potential by 30 percent. An 80 percent residue cover, consistent with no-till, reduces evaporation potential by 42 percent.

Conservation tillage reduces soil moisture evaporation and improves filtration of any precipitation we might receive during this pre-season, Kautza said. Any tillage this fall will reduce the subsoil moisture available next summer.

Conservation tillage is especially beneficial on soybean ground, said State Conservationist Leroy Brown. We've never seen any research that shows yield

advantages to tilling soybean land in the fall. And that land can really flow or wash if its tilled.

Conservationists also point to the need for wise use of fertilizer. NRCS State Agronomist Barb Stewart says farmers applying fertilizer this fall run the risk of nutrient loss through leaching and runoff. Waiting to apply fertilizer closer to planting will minimize losses, she said. If it is not possible to wait, Stewart recommends fall applying when soil temperature at the four-inch depth stays below 50 degrees. Applying realistic amounts of anhydrous ammonia, when soil temperature is most ideal, will protect inputs, she said. Stewart also says farmers should consider using a nitrogen inhibitor to help keep nitrogen in the soil until spring. Farmers who apply nitrogen wisely will save money and help keep excess nitrogen out of the water supplies, conservationists point out.

Farmers needing assistance with adopting conservation tillage or reducing fall fertilizer loss should contact the NRCS office on Furnas Drive, just south of McDonald's, in Osceola.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
October 28, 1999*



BROWN SPEAKS AT SCHOOL—Wildlife expert Beth Brown visited the Interstate 35 Middle School in New Virginia Friday. Brown brought four birds of prey for the class to see. The birds were a red tail hawk, a kestrel, a screech owl and pictured above with Brown, a barred owl. Brown has the birds because they are no longer able to be in the wild because of illness or injury.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
October 28, 1999*

Burgus family of rural Murray is Clarke County Farm Family of the Century

Gene, Helen and Herb Burgus of rural Murray have been selected as the Clarke County Farm Family of the Century by the Clarke County Conservation Board.

The Burgus family was one of 78 families from Iowa honored at the 1999 Farm Progress Show in the Amanas in September. The families were individually recognized in a brief ceremony in which State Conservationist Leroy Brown presented the awards to each family.

Terry Boles, chairman of the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District that nominated the Burgus family for the award, accompanied them to the progress show. Families were nominated based on their efforts to protect the water, air and land that will produce food into the next millennium.

"My mom always told us to try and leave the land a little bit better than we found it," said Gene Burgus. "We try to follow that rule when it comes to our farm."

Each family also received a limited edition wildlife print by well known Iowa artist Larry Anderson, jackets and certificates signed by Governor Tom Vilsack and other state conservation leaders.

"At first I was really surprised to hear that we were selected," said Gene Burgus. "After I thought about it for a while, I was really honored to be selected."

Gene and Helen Burgus have been farming for over 50 years. Herb Burgus, Gene and Helen's son, has been farming for the past eight years.

The Burguses agree being a farmer comes with its advantages and disadvantages.

"I like the independence that comes with farming but it can be frustrating at times too," said Gene Burgus.

Gene Burgus says advancements in technology have been amazing since he started farming 55 years ago.

"When I was a kid they farmed with horses," says Gene Burgus. "Now they have eight, 12 and even 24 row planters."

He says no-till planting is also a big change that cuts down on ex-



Herb, Helen and Gene Burgus with the certificate they received at the 1999 Farm Progress Show in September.

penses and time.

"When I started everybody plowed their fields," said Gene Burgus. "With no-till it cuts down the time spent in the fields."

The Burguses say one of the biggest challenges in farming today is competing against businesses that have taken over the farm industry.

"It seems like you aren't competing against other farmers now," says Herb Burgus.

"You are really competing against corporations," says Helen Burgus.

"I don't think we are actually doing anything different than what a lot of farmers in the area are doing," said Gene Burgus. "We are really honored by the award."

*Oscola Sentinel-Tribune
October 28, 1999*

Burgus wins poster contest

Adrienne Burgus of Osceola won the region eight 1999 Soil Conservation Poster Contest for division two (grades 2-3).

Burgus was also the division two winner in Clarke County. Regional contest winners were entered in a state contest in which four winners were chosen.

Burgus received \$20 and a \$50 savings bond for winning the Clarke County contest along with \$35 for winning the region eight contest.

The topic for the poster contest was In The Children's Hands. Posters were judged on conservation message, visual effectiveness and universal appeal.

The contest was open to students in grades kindergarten-12. Burgus is the daughter of David and Karen Burgus.



Adrienne Burgus with a certificate she received for winning the Soil Conservation Poster Contest.



ATTEND CONVENTION - Eleven members of the Murray FFA Chapter from the Murray Community School attended the National FFA Convention on Oct. 26 to 30 in Louisville, Ky. Holding a copy of the Sentinel-Tribune are from left,

Dusty Harper, Tysen Abell, Melissa Anderson, Angelita Escher, Kylie Gray, Mona Jurshack, Francis Blake, Lindsay Brown, Megan Justice, Iowa FFA President Nick McKenna and Roy Cosner.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
November 18, 1999*

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
November 18, 1999*

(Lindsay Brown worked in our office during the '98 & '99 summers)



AREA CHURCHES Grand River GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT FILLED PEOPLE'S CHURCH, pastor, Gary Majavec, Sunday - 10 a.m. - Sunday school, 11 a.m. - Church.	ECUMENICAL YOUTH PROGRAM, Society-Prisethood. Sacrament meeting, 11:20 a.m. - Sunday 34, 515-342-6333. Sunday - 10 a.m. - 11:20 a.m. - Sunday
ASSEMBLY OF GOD, Brian Black, pastor, Sunday - 9 a.m. - Church.	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, East on Highway 34, 515-342-6333. Sunday - 10 a.m. - 11:20 a.m. - Sunday
HOPEVILLE UNITED METHODIST, Dwayne Henrichs, pastor, 515-338-2248. Sunday - 10 a.m. - Morning Worship, 11 a.m. - Sunday School.	EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH, 230 S. Fillmore, Chairman, Terry Taylor, 515-445-5164. Sunday - 9:30 - Sunday School, 10:30 - Praise & Worship.
LACELLE UNITED METHODIST, Dwayne Henrichs, pastor, Sunday - 11 a.m. - Morning Worship Service.	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Southern Baptist, 900 South Fillmore, Leslie Woolen, pastor, 342-2681. Sunday - 9:30 - Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. - Morning
MEDORA UNITED METHODIST, Medora	

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
November 25, 1999*

(Our Area Soil Scientist & District Conservationist assisted in the training for the team)

Pair of meetings for landowners

Two meetings will be held next week to inform landowners in Lucas, Clarke, Marion and Warren counties about a project to control soil erosion and reduce water runoff in the area.

The Whitebreast Watershed Association will host public meetings Monday at the Community Hall in Lacona and Tuesday at the Community Center in Woodburn. Both meetings will start at 7 p.m.

The public is invited to attend to learn more about the project and provide input on the necessity and location of possible soil and water conservation improvements.

Representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as well as other conservation groups will be on hand to answer questions and concerns of people who attend.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
November 25, 1999*

Plan \$2-million golf course near boat

Two Des Moines developers are purchasing a 212-acre farm at the edge of West Lake for development of an 18-hole championship golf course.

Dave Spiering and Jeff Stark are expected to finalize purchase of the farm in February from Jack and Margie Nish, who retired to Osceola earlier this year.

The land is adjacent to West Lake, about 1-1/2 miles northwest of the Lakeside Casino and Resort.

Spiering, who owns a construction company, said private investors will be obtained to finance

the \$2-million project. Some investors are already in place, he said.

Stark, an insurance agent, put together a similar financial package for another golf course and is optimistic the Osceola project is financially viable. He said construction could start next year and the course may be playable in June or July 2001.

Because the farm is in the West Lake watershed many environmental issues must be taken into consideration, said J. B. Hamilton, whose Iowa Realty firm in Osceola is handling the sale of the farm.

Ryan Lundquist of Osceola and Brian Johnson, another fourth-year student in the landscape architect program at Iowa State University, will do the master plan and marketing materials for the project. They are asking their professors to qualify the golf course for a senior design project which would involve other students. The landscape program at ISU is a five year program. Johnson is specializing on golf course design and worked on a \$7 million course in Florida. Lundquist worked at the Osceola

Country Club and designed the flood prevention of a creek that flows through the course.

The new course will be a links style course with tall native grasses and prairies creating boundaries for fairways. There will be extensive bunkers on the course which will measure from 6,600 to 7,000 yards depending on the multiple tee boxes. There will be a women's tee on every hole.

Spiering said the Osceola development will attract the type of player who wants to play 18-hole courses. There will be a driving range and a clubhouse with a pro shop, locker rooms, and deli-style dining area. The clubhouse will be large enough to handle golf outings but the developers believe many of the players will use the dining and lodging facilities at Lakeside.

Hamilton, former president of the Osceola Country Club, does not believe the new 18-hole course will reduce membership or deter use of the Osceola course. "It's a different clientele," he said.

Lundquist said the new course could be designed to "slightly improve" the quality of run-off into West Lake from present agriculture uses in the watershed.

He said bio-swale detention

ponds will help clean water and no-discharge lagoons will hold water so it could be reused on the golf course. Erosion will also be controlled. Soil conservation officials and Department of Natural Resources have stringent standards that must be met.

Spiering said he and Stark were attracted to Clarke County because land was available close to Lakeside Casino and Resort. "We believe the casino will be one of top draws in Iowa. They have more to offer than other casinos."

Agrosy Gaming Co., the company that failed in its effort to develop a riverboat at West Lake, had an 18-hole golf course in its plans. The present developer, Southern Iowa Gaming, does not plan to have a golf course.

Spiering said there is land available on edges of the Nish farm for possible residential development but the course will be built before any housing development begins.

"We have found the people at Osceola city hall, the county, and water board very, very supportive and helpful," Stark said. Stark will have relatives in the Osceola area. He is marrying Jennifer Toney in February. She is a graduate of Clarke Community High School and has relatives here.

Clarke, Decatur watershed projects receive state grants

Projects in Clarke and Decatur Counties are among recipients of \$150,000 in small watershed planning grants to be sent to soil and water conservation districts across Iowa, Secretary of Agriculture Patty Judge announced. Eighteen projects in 21 counties will receive money for their planning efforts.

"We appreciate the opportunity that this funding provides to assist locally led conservation initiatives across Iowa," Judge said. "These grants will allow local soil conser-

vation districts the funding they need to begin making a difference in their counties."

The planning grant money was appropriated last year by the Iowa Legislature as part of a \$1.25 million allocation for increased attention to the state's watershed projects.

The Clarke County allocation is \$4,900 for the Whitebreast Creek Watershed. In Decatur County the Grand River Corridor will receive \$7,530.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
December 2, 1999*

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
December 2, 1999*

2000

Sentinel - Tribune Spotlights

MARY KLEIN

Young people have always been a part of Mary Klein's life. She has been the school nurse at Murray Community School for more than 30 years.

"I love my job, it's interesting, never boring. Working with all of the administrators, the school board, teachers, staff and support staff make it a pleasant place to work," said Klein.

She is also an adult advisor, along with Faye Leeps and Eva Mae Shannon, to the Community Resource Development (CRD) youth in Murray. Klein became involved at the onset of CRD in 1975 as a member of Beta Sigma Phi sorority.

Klein is also in the Murray Community Betterment Organization, the adult version of CRD.

Murray CRD is made up of youth from third grade to high school who have worked on many projects toward the beautification of Murray. They've maintained flower beds around Murray, restored park buildings, added modern restrooms and built a recreational court at the park, put up new street signs, winterized seniors homes and restored the historic bandstand.

CRD has won many state awards including second place this year. Their main project since 1993 has been Brush College. The one-room schoolhouse was moved to town and restored, said Klein.

The building was built before 1875 and closed in 1952. It was used as a voting place until 1990.

"A lot of kids don't know or didn't know what a one-room country school house was. Now they do," said Klein. The project is ongoing. The wish list includes a school bell, more old desks and a pump to provide a near turn of the century look.

Klein is a nursing graduate of

Mercy Hospital School in Des Moines and has a 7-12 grade health endorsement from Grace-land College in Lamoni. She has a bachelor of science in health arts degree from the College of St. Francis in Joliet, Ill.

She is involved with Families First and with Youth First with the goal of getting Murray youth more involved in Youth First. She also attends meetings of the Clarke County Coalition Against Domestic Violence because of her school nurse position.

"One of our greatest resources of all is our youth and we need each of us individually to do what we can to improve quality of life to make Iowa a better place to live for future generations," Klein said.

Klein is an assistant commissioner for the Clarke County Natural Resources Conservation Service, formerly the Soil Conservation Service. She represents them on the Clarke County Resource Conservation and Development Board (CCRCD). Klein is CCRCD's representative to Southern Iowa Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

The organization is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. The organization helps coordinate projects to improve communities in our seven-county area, she said.

A main concern of the organization is water quality and availability.

"I find these positions very interesting because they are an ongoing learning project. Maybe we can make a little difference and enhance future generations," Klein said.

A current project is to help fire departments apply for grants for dry fire hydrants used to pump water from ponds for rural fires, said Klein.



Other projects are the Hazelnut Project, a nontraditional farming project. Farming needs to be integrated into new areas because of the low farm prices, Klein said. She and her husband, Merle, who farms near Murray, have watched the project to see how it works. It requires quite a bit of manual labor, she said.

They participated in the pollen collecting project. Pollen from ragweed and cottonwood were collected and sold to Allergon Division of UpJohn to be used in allergy shots. They are still looking for cocklebur pollen to collect.

The Kleins moved from their farm near Murray to Osceola several years ago. They have four children and 11 grandchildren, four through 15 years old. Six of the grandchildren are in school in Murray so she gets to see them everyday.

They are all in CRD. She follows their sports activities and likes to take them to the movies.

—Janie McCall

(Mary is one of our District Assistant Commissioners)

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
January 13, 2000*

Alternate water supply plans in Clarke County begin to intensify

Plans for an alternate water supply and modifications to the existing water plant in Clarke County need to be intensified according to Osceola Mayor Fred Robison.

Robison says the county is going to need the new water supply in the future.

"There really hasn't been much of a timetable set yet on the project," said City Administrator Brad Wright. However, the increase in the usage of water has officials concerned.

Wright said the water plant at West Lake is approaching its maximum withdrawal capacity of 1.6 million gallons a day. The cost of the modifications will total approximately \$4 million.

While the long term goal is to build a new lake in Clarke County, modifications increasing the maximum withdrawal capacity of the current water plant need to be finished in the next couple of years.

Water Board member Robert Horton said the average number of gallons pumped at the plant each day has increased over the past two years.

In 1998 it was 1.1 million gallons and 1.2 million in 1999. The average so far in 2000 has increased to 1.4 million gallons.

"We're bumping the redline level on it," said Horton. "It hit 1.6 million gallons on four or five days last month."

Horton added that the figures would likely go up in the summer when more water is generally used.

"In the past we've been fortunate because we have had the horse before the cart on something like this," said Horton. "But I'm not sure we don't have the cart before the horse this time."

The Clarke County Water Board has been looking into the possibility of creating a reservoir on Squaw Creek, five miles northwest of West Lake, to use as an alternate water supply. Preliminary drawings of the new lake have been completed.

The preliminary cost figures of a new lake are projected to be around \$14 million. That includes a new system to get the water from the new lake to the current water plant.

City officials will likely travel to Washington, DC to lobby for federal money to help fund the project.

"We would be hoping for an influx of state and federal dollars to pay for this," said Wright. "There is no way we could put the cost of something like this on the backs of the local taxpayers."

Programs available to farmers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign up will run until Feb. 11. Eligible farmland can be entered into 10 or 15 year contracts with annual payments under the program.

Anyone interested in the CRP program should contact the Clarke County Farm Service Agency or the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Osceola.

Sign up will also run until Feb. 11 for the Department of Agriculture's Statewide Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP). The program offers cost sharing for installing conservation practices, generally at 50 percent.

People interested in the EQIP program should call 515-342-2917.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
January 27, 2000

Poster contest coming up

The Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring their annual poster contest. The theme for 2000 is "Community Waters".

The contest is open to children in grades 2-6. Monetary awards will be given to winners in each division.

Contact the Clarke Soil and Water Conservation District at 709 Furnas Drive, Suite 3, or call 515-342-2917 for entry information

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
February 10, 2000

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
February 3, 2000

Incentive plan for buffer strips

BY JESSICA TARBOX, DNR

Landowners who sign up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will receive more money to conserve Iowa's natural resources.

New financial incentives, including an up-front signing bonus, are an extension of the farm income support provided by the 1996 farm bill and will total up to \$350 million in the next three years. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman announced the new incentives April 13.

In the CRP, landowners voluntarily retire environmentally sensitive land for 10 to 15 years, and in return, the U.S. Department of Agriculture makes annual rental payments and helps share the cost of developing conservation practices. Under the new continuous sign-up enhancements, farmers and ranchers receive greater benefits for conserving natural resources.

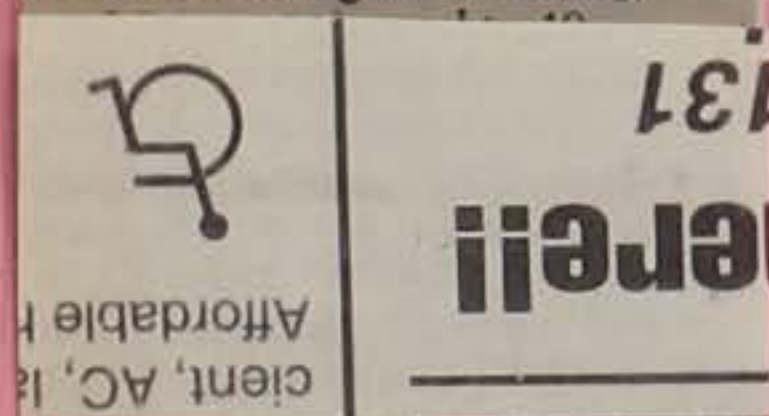
The goal is to attract more participants, improve natural resources and increase producer income.

"The secretary wanted to have 2 million miles of land [in the Conservation Buffer Initiative] by 2002 and they weren't going to make it," said Todd Bogenschutz, DNR wildlife research biologist at the Boone Wildlife Research Station. "This is an added karat to landowners, and of course it's great for conservation and water quality."

The USDA also set a goal of 4 million acres under the Clean Water Action Plan, which would also fall short unless participation increases.

Economic enhancements under this project include:

- an up-front signing bonus of \$10 per acre for every year the contract covers. This amounts to \$100 to \$150 per acre at the start of the contract to help defray up-front installation costs for filter strips, riparian buffers, grassed waterways, field windbreaks, shelter belts and living snow fences.



Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
May 11, 2000

Poster contest winners named

Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District has announced the winners of its annual poster contest for students in Murray and Clarke schools.

Theme of this year's contest was Community Waters.

First place winners received \$20, second \$15, and third \$10.

Clarke: division two, first, Adam Helgeson; second, Mario Barrios; third, Tacy Riddle. Division three, first, Luke Hughes; second, Aaron O'Tool; third, Tyler Sutton.

Murray: division two, first, Jessica Halls; second, Allison Kelley; third, Juan Padilla. Division three, first, Kelsey Robins; second, Courtney James; third, Austin Smith.

Kelsey Robins and Adams Helgeson's posters were forwarded to the regional contest.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
June 22, 2000

Farmers urged to use caution in selling rights to carbon credits

BY DENNIS JACOBS

Managing Editor

Government officials are urging area farmers and landowners to be cautious about selling the carbon credits to their land.

Prompted by a deluge of phone calls from concerned farmers, the Iowa Attorney General's office was expected to issue a Farm Advisory on the subject this week.

"We're going to advise people to be very, very careful," said Assistant Attorney General Steve Reno.

Earlier this month, Maynes Real Estate of Lenox sent a letter to many agricultural property owners in the area, seeking an option to buy their carbon credits at a rate of \$7 per ton per year. Carbon credits potentially could be used by utility companies and other firms to

lessen the impact of future government regulations regarding the emission of greenhouse gases believed responsible for global warming. The credits are based on the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere.

"The amount of carbon that is held in the soil depends on many different factors, and the USDA, along with Colorado State University, is currently working on research to determine the extra carbon stored per soil type and crop plan," the letter continues. "You will be paid according to their calculations as to the amount of carbon your farm will store at the rate of \$7/ton/year."

However, Reno said, "no one knows what carbon credits are worth."

Reno was careful to point out that the attorney's general office was not calling the offer a scam.

"Maybe it's a good deal," he said.

Paul Maynes, president of Maynes Real Estate, thinks it is. He said Monday he was surprised by the attention his letter has received from the attorney general's office and others.

"I can't think why anyone would be worried about it," he said. "I had two attorneys look at it."

Maynes noted that the offer was merely an option to buy the credits. If he is unable to line up a buyer for the carbon credits by July 1 of next year, the option is null and void.

"This thing might not go off the ground," he said.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
July 13, 2000

Carbon credits conference held for farmers in August

A conference coming to Des Moines this summer will give farmers and others a chance to learn more about carbon credits.

The carbon sequestration conference (titled Carbon: Exploring the Benefits to Farmers and Society) will be held Aug. 29-31 at the Polk County Convention Center.

The announcement of the conference comes on the heels of an offer by Maynes Real Estate of Lenox to purchase carbon credits from area farmers.

"This is a very timely conference to discuss carbon issues," says Pearl Reed, chief of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and a speaker at the conference. "It is also comprehensive, focusing on the science, policy, and management of carbon, including bioenergy production."

The conference will feature 30 speakers who will address these and other questions:

- What is carbon worth environmentally, economically, and agronomically?
- What do we know about carbon management and sequestration and other greenhouse gases?
- How might carbon credit

trading work?

- How can carbon be managed on agricultural land?
- What's next?

Complete details of the conference can be found on the Internet at www.cvrnd.org.

For more information, contact Conference Coordinator Alice Vinsand at (515) 225-1051 or (800) 264-1084.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
July 27, 2000

Want to be a commissioner?

The terms of four Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners expire this year. One two-year term and three four-year terms will be up for election in November.

Nomination forms, including a petition, are available in the county auditor's office. The deadline for filing nomination petitions is Aug. 30. For more information, contact the Clarke SWCD at 342-2917.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
August 10, 2000

Nominating petitions due

Nominating petitions for Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District commissioners are due in the Clarke County Auditor's office by Aug. 30.

For more information, call the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District office at 342-2917.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
August 24, 2000

Dry hydrant meeting Tuesday

A meeting about dry fire hydrants will be held at the Osceola Fire Station next Tuesday at 7 p.m. Dry fire hydrants are located in ponds close to the road, and are used to help reduce the distance to haul water for rural fires. The meeting is open to the public.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
September 14, 2000*

Open house for Manchester

An open house will be held today (Thursday) in honor of Lois Manchester, who is retiring after serving for more than 20 years as the state secretary for the Division of Soil Conservation in the Clarke County District Office.

Office staff say Manchester will be greatly missed. She has helped to assist numerous landowners over the years with many soil erosion, water quality, and other natural resource concerns. She has

worked with the state funded cost-share program and assisted with many projects such as terraces, ponds, tree plantings, and many other projects and conservation-related programs.

The open house will be held from 2-4 p.m. at the NRCS office at 709 Furnas Dr., Suite No. 3, in Osceola. The public is invited to stop by and wish Manchester a healthy and happy retirement.

*Osceola Sentinel Tribune
Sept. 28, 2000*

Osceola water situation worsens

Mayor ressurects well proposal

BY DENNIS JACOBS

Managing Editor

Osceola Mayor Fred Robison told the city council last week that the water level in West Lake continues to fall at an alarming rate, and suggested it may be time to again consider drilling a well into the Jordan Aquifer.

Robison said the reservoir was seven feet below the spillway, and falling at a rate of almost an inch a day.

"It's not going to be many days before we're at eight feet, then nine feet," he predicted.

Robison said the water level was dropping more rapidly now because of what he called "the saucer effect."

Obviously, the contours of the lake are not circular like a saucer. But the water level in the lake falls in a manner similar to the way it would in a saucer — slowly at the edge, but more rapidly as it retreats toward the center.

"We're in a drastic situation right now," Robison said.

Most city and council officials

seem to agree that the best long-term solution to the problem is a new reservoir to be built in the Squaw Creek Watershed at Coyote Canyon, northwest of Osceola. However, they also believe that lake is years away from becoming a reality.

In the meantime, there is considerable disagreement as to the best short-term solution. Robison said the well might be the fastest and best option available.

"This might have to come up again," he said.

This past summer, the city explored the possibility of drilling a 3,100-foot well into the Jordan Aquifer to supplement the water from West Lake. At the time, the lake was six feet below the spillway and the Lakeside Casino riverboat could not cruise. But concerns were raised about the cost of the well and water quality. The original price tag for the well was \$750,000. Bill Grace, president of Southern Iowa

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

More on water

Conservation efforts continue

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Gaming, offered to pay one-third of that cost. The city, Clarke County, and the water board were to split the remainder of the cost.

But the Clarke County Board of Supervisors balked at the plan, and when the price estimate doubled, the idea withered. But Robison indicated that the time is nearing for action.

"Something's going to have to be done if the man upstairs doesn't see fit to give us any moisture," he said.

Conservation efforts

A month ago, Robison asked the public to begin voluntary water conservation measures. At the time, the lake was six feet, four inches below the spillway, its

lowest level since the dam was raised in 1983.

"I want to emphasize the fact that voluntary water conservation needs to be continued," Robison said.

The voluntary water conservation plan was developed by the Osceola Water Works Board of Trustees. The board asked residents and businesses throughout the county to "make every effort" to reduce water usage. They suggested that people shorten their showers, fix dripping faucets, run dishwashers and washing machines with only full loads, and ponding water rather than using a stream to clean dishes or vegetables.

The board said mandatory water restrictions would have to be implemented if the water shortage worsened.

*Osceola Sentinel
Dec. 14, 2000*

STATE WINNER

Adam Helgeson of Osceola, center, displays one of the certificates he won as a first-place winner in the 2000 Soil Conservation Poster Contest at the regional and state levels. Assistant Soil Conservation District Commissioner Anita Foland and Soil Conservation District Commissioner Adrian Fuller were on hand to present Helgeson with a \$50 award for winning the state contest. He also received a \$35 award for winning the Division 2 level (grades 2-3) for Region 8 and a \$50 savings bond from the Clarke County SWCD for winning the county competition. His poster has been sent on to national competition. State winners were chosen from winners in nine regional contests. The topic for this year's contest was Community Waters. Entries were judged on conservation message, visual effectiveness, and universal appeal.



New swan at East Lake Park

5/29/01

East Lake County Park is the new home of a female trumpeter swan.

The swan replaces another female that died this winter. Clarke County Conservation Board staff discovered the dead swan Jan. 10. It was taken to the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Ames to determine the cause of death, which testing indicated was acute renal failure.

Since the conservation board is a participant in the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Trumpeter Swan Restoration

Program, the wildlife biologist in charge of the program, Ron Andrews, was notified. He reported that it had been a particularly bad winter for swans, with a number of deaths, some from clubbings and shootings. He said it was unlikely the DNR would be able to replace East Lake's pen (female swan) in time for reproduction this year.

But early in March, Andrews notified the conservation board that an Ottumwa man was willing to sell a pen that had lost its mate during the winter.

Thanks to a donation of \$850 from William Grace, owner of Lakeside Casino Resort, the conservation board purchased the swan.

Clarke County Conservation Board Director Anita Foland went to Ottumwa March 15 to get the pen. She reported that the new swan appears to be getting along well with the male swan. Trumpeter swans mate for life, but will select a new mate if theirs dies. It is hoped that the swans will bond as a pair and that cygnets will arrive at the lake this summer.

Adrian Fuller ends 45 years as soil, water commissioner

Adrian Fuller was honored last week for the completion of 45 years as Clarke County Soil and Water District Commissioner. His tenure is one of the longest in Iowa history.

"It's been great. I've enjoyed working with the office staff and farmers," he said. He considered retiring several times. "This time, it's the real thing," said Fuller who is 81.

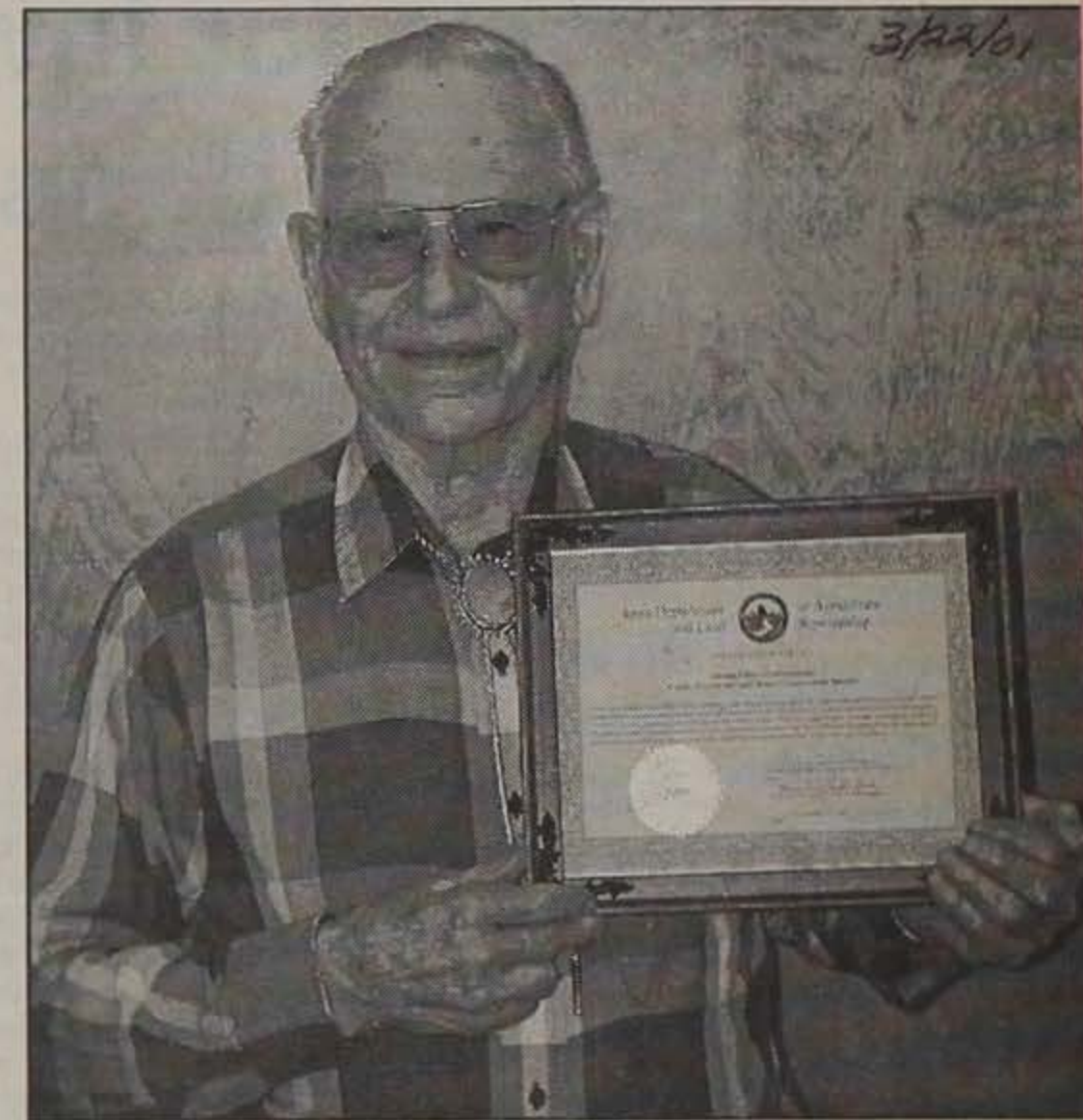
Fuller was first elected a commissioner while he was farming southwest of Lacelle. He and his wife, Irene, farmed there for 34 years before moving to Osceola in 1979. They recently sold the farm.

He played an active role in soil and water conservation during the nearly half century he served as commissioner. Many changes in conservation methods have been made and the concept of farming has changed drastically during the 45 years, he said.

Fuller took part in no-till farming when it was first introduced in Clarke County and continues to promote the practice. He received the outstanding Soil and Water District Commission award in 1966.

When he was first elected to the volunteer position there were three commissioners in Clarke County, each serving six year terms. Now five commissioners serve four-year terms.

The office was located in the basement of the Osceola Post Office. For many years the office was just north of the Dairy Queen. It is now



Adrian Fuller was recently honored for his 45 years as Clarke County Soil and Water District Commissioner.

located in the new federal building just south of McDonalds.

Fuller attended five national conventions and missed only a few state conventions. He has judged sev-

eral state plowing matches and is proud of getting children from Clarke County involved in poster contests promoting soil and water conservation.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program signup in progress

3/22/01

The Osceola Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office is taking applications for financial assistance under the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) until April 8.

WHIP is a federally funded program that can provide up to 75 percent of the cost of establishing certain wildlife benefiting practices.

Establishing riparian buffers, native grass seeding and other types of wildlife habitat establishments are eligible for WHIP funding.

Landowners can contact the local NRCS office at 641-342-2917 to find out more details on the program.

SIRC&D annual meeting next week at Knotty Pine

Have you ever wondered if an outdoor recreation business could be profitable for you? Can grapes be grown profitably in Southern Iowa? Will a new water source be built in South Central Iowa?

These questions and more will be answered Thursday, April 5, at the annual meeting of the Southern Iowa Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. at the Knotty Pine Family

Steak House, two miles west of Afton.

An Afton entrepreneur — with the help of county conservation boards from Adams and Union counties — will provide her insight into outdoor recreation for profit in a joint presentation called Cabin Fever.

The potential for grape production in the region will be addressed by viticulturists Dr. Bill

and Cybil Brown of Timberhill Vineyard in Decatur County.

Dick Elliot and Lee Faris of the Gooseberry Lake Agency of Ringgold County will speak on the potential development of a new area water source that may be located northeast of Mount Ayr.

Social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the dinner at 6:30 p.m. For more details, please turn to the ad on page 11.

Water board, SIRWA try to resolve differences

BY DENNIS JACOBS

Managing Editor

Officials of the Osceola Water Works Board of Trustees and the Southern Iowa Rural Water Association (SIRWA) have been meeting to try to resolve differences between the two organizations.

Water board members Bob Horton and Bruce Harris, along with the board's engineer, Mark Duben, recently met with members of the SIRWA Board of Directors.

"We had a pretty decent meeting with them," Horton told the water board last Thursday. "I really think there will be a better working relationship with them than what we've had."

Horton said SIRWA Board Chairman Henry Heaton didn't see any reason for that organization to construct a new tower and water lines in Clarke County. That was one of the proposals made during a conflict between SIRWA and the water board over the rate SIRWA pays to Osceola for water from West Lake. Last month, SIRWA agreed to

pay the water board \$1.55 per thousand gallons for that water. SIRWA uses water from Osceola to supply the needs of most of its rural customers in Clarke County. That was less than the \$1.90 per thousand gallons that the water board started charging SIRWA last summer, but more than the \$1.25 per thousand the board was getting prior to that. In return, SIRWA agreed to drop a lawsuit against the board over the rate dispute.

SIRWA also had threatened to pull \$500,000 in grant money from the proposed expansion of the Osceola water treatment plant. Duben said he had a "good feeling" SIRWA would stay on board and contribute to the project. Duben and Tim Ostroski of the South Iowa Council of Governments (SICOG) said it was the right thing for SIRWA to do since it was buying capacity in the plant.

City Administrator Brad Wright remained skeptical.

"I've yet to see them do much just out of the goodness of their hearts," he said.

Wright said he would like to see an agreement that establishes a minimum amount of water that SIRWA would buy from Osceola. The current contract only included a maximum amount.

Horton said establishing a minimum amount would keep SIRWA from "going off on wild tangents." "I think that's a long row to hoe," Ostroski said.

City Clerk Dan Cline suggested that SIRWA would not invest the money in the treatment plant if it didn't intend to continue purchasing water from the city.

"The minimum about becomes a moot issue," agreed Ostroski.

Added Duben: "There's more momentum to stay with Osceola."

Duben said he expected SIRWA would actually contribute \$650,000 to the treatment plant

project.

"If they don't pay up front, then they're going to pay by the gallon," he said.

Osceola has received a \$600,000 Community Development Block Grant for the treatment plant project and also hopes to get an Emergency Water Assistance Grant (EWAG). Ostroski said if that grant comes through and SIRWA participates in the project, "we're right back where we were a year ago when we were looking for a million dollars from federal [sources]."

Osceola officials hope SIRWA also will help pay for the cost of a water main 'loop' around the northeast part of the city that would increase water pressure in the east part of Osceola and eastern Clarke County.

Clarke and Murray students win SWCD poster contests

The Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District again this year sponsored a poster contest for students in Clarke and Murray schools. The theme of this year's contest was "Community Waters."

There were 73 participants from Clarke and 57 from Murray. First-place winners received \$20; second-place winners earned \$15, and third-place winners netted \$10. Posters by Rachel Hutcheson and Adrienne Burgus also were forwarded to the regional contest. They each received a \$50 U.S.

Savings Bond.

There will be another poster contest next year.

Winners of this year's contest were:

- Clarke**
Division 2 — 1. Randy Scadden, 2. Jason Ehrhardt, 3. Amanda May.
Division 3 — 1. Denver Overton, 2. Bailie Hildreth, 3. Alysha Goodrich.
- Murray**
Division 2 — 1. Rachel Hutcheson, 2. Melissa Kerr-Davis, 3. BreAnna Hampton.
Division 3 — 1. Adrienne Burgus, 2. Emily Flaherty, 3. Michael Rinner.



Joe Miller

Osceola

FFA, Football, Student Council

Joe is the son of Ralph and Diane Miller. He is undecided about future plans.

mac-lander

925 Furnas Drive, Osceola • 641-342-6036

2001 Murray School Scholarship Winner



Alyx Oshel

Osceola

Activities/Honors: FFA Chapter President & Secretary, NHS Vice-President, High School Student Council Secretary, Heartland Celebrity, Pheasant Hunt Grant Committee, Band, Peer Mentor, 4-H Club President, Showing Sheep & Horses, DARE Role Model.

Alyx currently helps with boarding and training of horses. She is the daughter of Rick and Beth Oshel. After graduating, she plans to attend Iowa State University.

American State Bank

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2001 Clarke School Scholarship Winner

2001

What is foot-and-mouth disease?

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a severe, highly infectious viral disease of cloven-hooved animals. Fever is followed by the development of vesicles or blisters - chiefly in the mouth or on the feet. The average incubation period of the virus is 3-8 days but it can be shorter or may extend to 14 days or longer. Although not usually fatal, it causes suffering and vastly reduces animals' commercial value by reducing their weight and milk output.

How is it spread?

FMD can spread by direct or indirect contact with infected animals. Infected animals begin by excreting the virus a few days before signs of the disease develop. Airborne spread of the disease takes place readily. The disease is also spread mechanically by the movement of animals, people, vehicles, and other things, which have been contaminated by the virus. Meat from the carcasses of animals infected with FMD at the time of slaughter can transmit the virus.

Which animals are susceptible?

Cattle, sheep, pigs and goats are susceptible and some wild animal such as rats and deer and zoo animals, including elephants.

What are the effects of FMD?

All affected animals lose condition and secondary bacterial infections may prolong convalescence. The most serious effects of the disease however are seen in dairy cattle. Loss of milk yield, abortion, sterility, chronic mastitis, and chronic lameness are commonplace.

Can FMD be cured?

There is no cure. It usually runs its course in 2 or 3 weeks after which the great majority of animals recover naturally. The justification of the slaughter policy is that widespread disease throughout the country would be economically disastrous due to the effects already noted above.

How is the virus destroyed?

It can be destroyed by heat, low humidity, or certain disinfectants, but it may remain active for a varying time in a suitable medium such as the frozen or chilled carcass of an infected animal and on contaminated objects.

Can people contract FMD?

Yes, but it is very rare. It is a mild short lived, self-limiting disease. There is, however, a human condition called Hand, Foot and Mouth disease, which is unrelated. It will not affect animals.

Sources: USDA and UK Ministry of Agriculture, Fish, and Fisheries

Sesquicentennial celebration nears

The calendar says it's May, and that means the big Osceola and Clarke County sesquicentennial celebration is only a little over a month away.

The committee planning the celebration continues to work on finalizing events for the celebration, slated for June 29-July 1.

A huge birthday celebration and cake to match will kick off the festivities on Friday, June 29.

There have been more than 1,500 confirmed cases of FMD in the United Kingdom in recent weeks, leading to the slaughter of more than 2.3 million animals. Several other European countries have reported cases of the disease, though it appears efforts to halt the spread of the disease are working.

Wood says stopping the spread of the disease can be tricky because it is highly contagious.

"It's contagious enough that any human that has been in direct contact with the diseased animal can carry a viable virus and spread it from the breath for 24 hours," he explains. "It's carried also by birds, rodents, and all manner of wildlife. ... That is one of the big problems if an outbreak occurs - restricting it."

"You can do a lot of traveling in a 24-hour period," Smith observes.

"My main concern is people that are traveling. ... Be careful when you're coming back."

Smith says people who have traveled to a country with cases of FMD shouldn't come in contact with animals here for at least five days.

Wood says North America and Australia are the only two continents without active cases of FMD.

"Foot-and-mouth disease goes on in Third World countries all the time," he notes.

Adds Smith: "There's countries that have had foot-and-mouth disease for decades, and they just live with it."

No threat to humans

Both vets stress that people shouldn't worry about contracting the disease.

Says Wood: "The disease is no threat to humans - period."

People can get the disease - though it is extremely rare, and not a serious health risk.

"Basically this is an animal virus

the barber shop quartet 4 The Fun Of It will transport celebrants to the early 1900s as Mayor Fred Robison gets a public shave. Plenty of food and drinks will be available at various venues throughout the day, including the beer garden.

Saturday's events will be capped off by a night street dance, with music provided by Southern Draw.

Wood is talking about a loss of thousands of jobs," he says. "The grain industry would be devastated. There would be no livestock to consume our grain. Grain production would come to a standstill."

Arnold notes that 1929 was the last time there was an outbreak of FMD in this country. The disease was confined to the Southwest; Texas was particularly hard hit. The U.S. Cavalry assisted in destroying all cattle in the infected areas.

To avoid the devastating economic consequences of an FMD epidemic in this nation, the United States Department of Agriculture has established measures designed to safeguard against the entry of the disease into this country.

"I think we have an excellent federal policing program to try to keep it out at the ports of entry and stopping the importation of meat products," says Wood.

The USDA has restricted the importation of animals that could carry the disease from Europe. Inspectors and dog teams have been placed at airports to check incoming international flights. Smuggling interdiction and trade compliance officers are intensifying inspections of butcher shops, gourmet shops, and markets, looking for prohibited products.

The USDA also has stepped up public relations efforts, trying to make the public - especially travelers - more aware of the disease.

Most of us obviously would not want to bring the disease into this country. But Wood is afraid some people might purposely try to bring FMD here.

"The thing that really makes me worried is PETA [People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals]," he says. "That really scares you."

"I openly hope that it comes here," PETA president Ingrid Newkirk was quoted as saying last month by Reuters.

Roads have

First one was made i

Ed. note - This is the fifth in a series of articles about the history of Osceola and Clarke County, written by Marie White, that will lead up to the big sesquicentennial celebration at the end of June.

While the arrival of the railroad in 1868 was probably the most important event in the history of Osceola, the county road system also played a very important part. The first road was the one made by the Mormon wagons and their livestock, beginning in 1846. The road

Wood says the state wants to bury those animals instead of burning them, which he believes is a good idea.

In the United Kingdom, the government's Environment Agency (EA) has favored disposal at rendering plants or incineration facilities over burial and open burning. Open burning of carcasses, while cheap, releases large amounts of dioxins. And the EA says burial poses risks to groundwater.

Effect on animals

Ironically, the disease is not usually fatal in animals.

"Adult animals normally don't die from it," Smith notes.

Destruction of animals is justified because the disease spreads quickly, producing economic disaster for farmers.

"In cattle, the disease invades the mouth and inter digital spaces in between the toes," explains Wood.

The feet become sore, making it difficult or impossible for the animal to walk to get food. Even if the animal can walk, its mouth is likely to be so sore that it refuses to eat. "They actually starve to death," Wood says.

Calves also wind up starving because the disease reduces or eliminates milk production by cows.

The sores on the mouth and feet are blisters called vesicles. A sign of the disease is slobbering caused by the vesicles in and around the mouth.

There is no treatment for foot-and-mouth disease.

"There is a vaccine for it," Smith says. However, "the only time it's used is in an outbreak."

That's because, like the smallpox vaccine, it actually introduces the disease into an animal.

The USDA has a North American FMD Vaccine Bank, located on Plum Island, off the coast of Long Island, N.Y. The USDA

Sewage leaks into West Lake

Officials say it's no cause for concern

BY DENNIS JACOBS

Managing Editor

Osceola City Administrator Brad Wright said Thursday morning that a sewage leak into West Lake does not threaten to impair the city's water supply.

"I don't think there's any concern as far as water quality," Wright said.

Wright characterized the leak as minor and said the natural dilution factor of the lake, combined with

the city's filtering system, would ensure that the water was safe to use. He noted that the city had just installed a new carbon filter at the water treatment plant, which should be operating at maximum efficiency. Also, the city's water department is monitoring the situation closely.

"The water plant is doing some additional testing," Wright said.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources says the malfunction of an air release valve Tuesday night of last week in the Osceola sewer system caused the untreated sewage to flow into West Lake. The DNR says it is not known how much sewage leaked into the lake.

"We've got no idea when it started," said City Waste Water Superintendent Ron Stark. "It's just a moderate leak."

Stark said the valve is designed to let air escape from the sewage line. Instead, the valve fell apart, allowing sewage to leave the line.

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The malfunction occurred east of the lift station where sewage is transferred from the casino lift station to the city's sewage collection system. Stark said the leak was in a discharge line from the lift station and had nothing to do with Lakeside Casino Resort, as reported by some media outlets.

City staff reported that some wastewater did reach the water from the malfunctioning valve, about two blocks from the lake,

just on the west side of Interstate 35.

"There's no doubt it made it," Stark said.

Wright said a local contractor discovered the leak while

doing some work in the area. The leaking valve was shut off and a dike has been constructed to prevent any additional sewage from leaking into the lake. The drainage area has been treated with lime to reduce any bacteria contamination that may have occurred.

Stark said a replacement valve has been ordered and was scheduled to be installed Wednesday of this week.

The city also is increasing chlorination of the drinking water being treated from the lake and will be collecting special bacterial samples from the water system to ensure public safety.

The steps the city has taken to control the situation apparently have met with DNR approval.

"The DNR's actually been pretty complimentary," said Wright.

"I don't think there's any concern as far as water quality."

— Brad Wright

5/31/9

Do we need to worry about foot-and-mouth disease? 5/2/01

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There is no cure. It usually runs its course in 2 or 3 weeks after which the great majority of animals recover naturally. The justification of the slaughter policy is that widespread disease throughout the country would be economically disastrous due to the effects already noted above.

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Source: USDA and UK Ministry of Agriculture, Fish, and Fisheries

BY DENNIS JACOBS

Managing Editor

Is the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in Europe any reason for concern here in the middle of North America?

Local veterinarians say we need to remain alert to the potential the disease could get here, but we need not fear it.

"We do have the steps in place to try to keep it out and to stop it if it gets in," says Dr. Fred Wood of the Clarke Veterinary Clinic in Osceola.

"Yes, it's a concern," agrees Dr. Steven Smith of the Osceola Veterinary Clinic. "We need to take precautions."

There have been more than 1,500 confirmed cases of FMD in the United Kingdom in recent weeks, leading to the slaughter of more than 2.3 million animals. Several other European countries have reported cases of the disease, though it appears efforts to halt the spread of the disease are working.

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"You can do a lot of traveling in a 24-hour period," Smith observes. "My main concern is people that are traveling. ... Be careful when you're coming back."

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No threat to humans

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Says Wood: "The disease is no threat to humans — period."

People can get the disease — though it is extremely rare, and not a serious health risk.

"Basically this is an animal virus

— it doesn't like human beings," says Angus Nichol, director of the communicable diseases surveillance unit of the Public Health Laboratory Service in the United Kingdom. "If you expose someone to massive amounts of the virus, they may get the disease, but they probably won't."

FMD may not hurt humans physically, but Wood says it could have a huge economic effect on people who produce meat.

State Representative Richard Arnold (R-Russell), says an FMD outbreak in Iowa could result in a \$12 billion economic loss for the state.

"We're talking about a loss of thousands of jobs," he says. "The grain industry would be devastated. There would be no livestock to consume our grain. Grain production would come to a standstill."

Arnold notes that 1929 was the last time there was an outbreak of FMD in this country. The disease was confined to the Southwest; Texas was particularly hard hit. The U.S. Cavalry assisted in destroying all cattle in the infected areas.

To avoid the devastating economic consequences of an FMD epidemic in this nation, the United States Department of Agriculture has established measures designed to safeguard against the entry of the disease into this country.

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"The thing that really makes me worried is PETA [People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals]," he says. "That really scares you."

"I openly hope that it comes here," PETA president Ingrid Newkirk was quoted as saying last month by Reuters.

State officials also have reacted to the threat of FMD. The state is spending \$750,000 to train a group of veterinarians about the disease. Veterinarians in each of the state's eight veterinary districts will be trained to respond to FMD inquiries.

"I really like the fact the state of Iowa is going to make the effort to be right on top of it if it does come out," Wood says.

Lawmakers also are considering a bill that would give the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) the authority to quarantine and destroy animals exposed to the disease.

Wood says the state wants to bury those animals instead of burning them, which he believes is a good idea.

In the United Kingdom, the government's Environment Agency (EA) has favored disposal at rendering plants or incineration facilities over burial and open burning. Open burning of carcasses, while cheap, releases large amounts of dioxins. And the EA says burial poses risks to groundwater.

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The USDA has a North American FMD Vaccine Bank, located on Plum Island, off the coast of Long Island, N.Y. The USDA

says it can obtain hundreds of thousands of doses of the vaccine in a few days if an outbreak develops in the United States. The USDA says vaccination can help contain the disease quickly by creating barrier zones between infected areas and disease-free regions.

The European Union has a vaccine bank which holds 5 million doses of FMD vaccine. However, the vaccine may take several days to work, and may not be completely effective. This is why officials in the UK have been reluctant to employ it.

If an outbreak occurs in the United States, the key to containing it will be quick response. In the UK, the disease may have been present for three weeks before it was detected. Suspected cases of FMD should be reported to the USDA Veterinary Services office at (515) 284-4140 or State Veterinarian John Schiltz at (515) 281-5305.

"If you see something suspicious, don't think 'the doc will laugh at me if I call him out,'" Wood says.

Smith says he has fielded quite a few inquiries about the disease.

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Osceola seeks federal help for Coyote Canyon project

Coyote Canyon

The Osceola Water Works Board of Trustees is seeking a \$1.87 million federal grant to help begin the process of building the Coyote Canyon Reservoir.

The money will be used to complete required archeological and environmental studies of the project area northwest of Osceola, as well as design work and acquisition of approximately two-thirds of the land needed for the reservoir.

The decision to make application for a grant came after a contingent representing the water board visited Washington, D.C. last month.

"We felt we had good conversations," City Administrator Brad Wright said. "There's some people working for us anyway."

Water board chair Sandy Kale said she thought the Osceola representatives received a good reception from the offices of Senator Tom Harkin and Congressman Leonard Boswell. She said the federal officials seemed to be more understanding than in the past about the need to take action before a water disaster occurs. Prior

to spring rains, the situation at West Lake, Osceola's current source of water, was becoming desperate due to drought conditions and increased demand for water from growth in the city and Clarke County.

The grant request represents 55 percent of the estimated cost for Phase I of the project. The remaining 45 percent must come from local sources. Those likely will include the water board, the Clarke County Board of Supervisors, the Southern Iowa Rural Water Association, and the cities of Osceola, Murray, and Woodburn. An increase in water rates to help defray the cost of the reservoir is also likely.

Phase I Cost Calculation	
Archeological	\$243,000
Environmental	100,000
Final design	1,050,000
Land acquisition	2,000,000
TOTAL	3,393,000
Federal share (55%)	1,866,150

Osceola's water problems date to 19th century

History of water supply system 'far from dull'

Ed. note — This is the fifth in a series of articles about the history of Osceola and Clarke County, written by Marje White, that will lead up to the big sesquicentennial celebration at the end of June.

In 1886, an artesian well was drilled in the northwest part of the courthouse yard to obtain suitable drinking water. Although there was plenty of water, it was too expensive to pump and too hard to use. Another new well was drilled in back of the present location of the Chamber of Commerce office, but the city had the same problem with that well.

The history of the water supply system is far from dull. About 1912-1913, another well was drilled near the location of the first one. After months of patiently waiting, the people of Osceola were rewarded with what seemed to be an abundant supply of water, despite its bad taste and odor. This well was connected to the city's big water main. No more carrying flush water for Willie. It was said the water contained corrosive materials that ate out brass fittings in plumbing, so the well was abandoned and East Lake reservoir was enlarged. A new sort of sand filter was constructed, but it worked only for a short time.

For decades, the top of the casing of the abandoned well stuck out of the ground for several feet, a reminder of the initial effort in the decades of the search for water for Osceola. Efforts were discussed to attempt to salvage some use of the hole. Legend has it the final remedy decided upon was to explode nitroglycerin in the bottom of the well in hopes of increasing the flow of water. Supposedly, a bottle of the explosive was obtained and dropped into the casing. As the bottle picked up speed down a few hundred feet, the bumping on the side of the steel caused it to explode, effectively blocking the hole and ending any attempts to get water from that source again.

A new lake west of Osceola was constructed in 1933 and water turned into the mains in 1934. In the spring of that year, the dam washed out completely, making it necessary to lease pipe and lay temporary lines to Q Pond and pump the water all the way back to the then new filter system at West Lake. The droughts of 1934 caused East Lake to go dry. Great

Lakes Pipeline pumped water through the lines from Kansas City and filled the reservoir. Gasoline seeped through the valves along the way, making the water oily and smelly, but it was wet and saved the city from serious water problems.

Utility services

In 1894, the city power system was put into operation with a two-wire system that operated until purchased by Iowa Southern Utilities in 1922. City street lamps were lighted in 1894 and electric lights were put in the courthouse in 1896. Little is known of the men active in the organization of the first electric company, as they were Democrats and their histories were relegated to obscurity by the Republican newspaper.

In 1939, the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) was established by a group of interested farmers. With the construction of service lines, active operation of the cooperative got under way in 1940.

Telephone business in the county dates back to the years before the turn of the century. Demand for the new device grew all over the country. It wasn't long before Osceola had a few telephones, and eventually a line was built through Osceola.

A telephone company was organized and an old brick residence on Cass Street between Main and Fillmore streets became the central office. In the 1930s, a telephone office was located on the first floor of a building on the south side of the square that handled local calls and another company was on the second floor that handled long distance calls. The location of the building is the office of accountant Catherine A. Blair and South Central Iowa Community Foundation.

The towns of Hopeville, Jay, Jamison, Smyrna, Lacelle, and Leslie had their own phone companies. Hopeville had its own telephone company until the 1960s.



Murray Community Schools

11-1-01

Judy Weinkoetz joins Osceola office

Judy Weinkoetz of Afton is the new state secretary at the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) office in Osceola.

Weinkoetz replaced Marily Beeler who had been secretary for the past few months.

Weinkoetz and her husband have owned and operated a Union County farm for the past 37 years. Weinkoetz has extensive experience in the job market with many years associated with companies involved in agriculture. She and her husband have a cow/calf operation with hay, pasture and row crops.

The Weinkoetzs have three sons and three grandchildren.

The NRCS will hold their monthly Soil Commissioner meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 14, at 11:30 a.m. at the NRCS office located in the federal building at 709 Furnas Drive, (south of McDonalds), in Osceola.

The public is invited to attend.

Thursday in the Park

August 7,
2003

Hosted by Clarke County Farm Bureau

Entertainment by
Tawny Brandt
5:30 p.m.
Join us in
thePark!

- Cattlemen Cooking
- Sweet Corn by Harvest Barn
- Natural Resource Conservation Service Display
- Vehicles by Anchor Motors

SPONSORED BY THE OSCEOLA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2 THURSDAY • JUNE 23, 2005

CORD

Low interest
loans available
for water
quality projects

The Local Water Protection Program - a product of the Clean Water State Revolving Funds - is offering three percent loans for water quality projects.

Lenders involved in the program have promised to provide loans with no more than three percent interest for up to ten years.

Clarke Soil and Water Conservation District is accepting applications year round.

For more details contact Tony Toigo at tony.toigo@idals.ia.us or by phone at 515-281-6148.

Can't Find It In
Our Classifieds?
www.adquest.com

Drought: Federal budget doesn't include area lake 4-1-05

Persistence played a significant role in Osceola receiving permission to be home of a gambling operation by the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission. Osceola Mayor Fred Diehl remembers that community leaders did not give up on their pursuit to house a gambling boat on West Lake, and that same persistence is necessary for another lake project.

Diehl, Osceola Water Board Chair Sandy Kale and Southern Iowa Rural Water Association Executive Director Dan McIntosh were among a southern Iowa delegation that recently visited Washington, D.C. The purpose of the trip was to garner support for the proposed lake, which will be built northwest of Osceola.

The group met with Iowa's congressional delegation. In meetings, financing the project was discussed.

"We didn't get earmarked for federal funding last year," Diehl said. "It also is not included in this year's budget. We are fighting to get it in the budget."

Federal lawmakers such as Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Cumming, Con-

QUOTABLE

"It is not included in this year's budget. We are fighting to get it in the budget."

Fred Diehl
Osceola mayor

gressman Leonard Boswell, D-4th, and Steve King, R-5th, favor SIRWA's water grid proposal. The proposed Clarke County lake figures into SIRWA's future plans. But, Diehl said the bottom line comes down to available funding.

"They all think it is a great idea," Diehl said. "It is strictly a dollars and cents issue."

The Clarke County Development Corporation, city of Osceola
LAKE continued on page 12

Local group discusses lake with lawmakers

LAKE continued from page 1

and Osceola Water Board recently received nearly \$3.2 million from Southern Iowa Gaming and the Bill Grace family for the recent sale of Lakeside Casino to Las Vegas-based Herbst Gaming, Inc.

Preliminary discussions among the three local entities determined some, if not all, of the money would go toward the proposed lake project. Those talks, however, have not continued since the Feb. 1 transfer of ownership of Lakeside. City Councilman Glenn Schaff asked the topic be put on the April 5 city council agenda.

Schaff did not indicate while making the request what he intends to discuss at the April council meeting. Diehl also is not aware of the councilman's intentions.

Diehl predicts the project will be completed in the coming years. If federal funding is not available, seeking bonds for financial support could be another approach for the group. However, the \$20 million debt would far exceed the city's bonding capacity — leaving the county as the only viable entity to seek that funding mechanism. However, the Osceola mayor, who also sits on the proposed lake commission, the county and water board aren't prepared to throw in the towel.

"It is a matter of keeping the pressure on," Diehl said. "We have to stay on course just like we didn't go away on the (gambling) boat. We are hitting the right buttons, it's just the timing is not right."

Pasture walk and steak supper scheduled 9-6-04 Publication

A steak sandwich supper followed by a pasture walk will be held Sept. 11. The supper by the Clarke County Cattlemen will begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by the pasture walk at 6 p.m. Topics to be covered at the pasture walk include Rotational Grazing with a Paddock System, Conservation Practices, Cost Share Programs and Improve Pasture Management and Livestock Production.

This program is sponsored by Clarke SWCD, NRCS, Clarke County Cattlemen and Iowa State University Extension.

To get to the Pasture Walk, from Osceola, go east on Hwy. 34 six miles to 300th Ave., turn south, drive two miles to Garst Street. Go east on Garst Street one-half mile to white barn on the south side of the road. Call Natural Resource Conservation Service at 641-342-2971 for more information.

Clarke County farmers honored for conservation

In a first-of-its-kind effort, more than 175 Clarke County farmers will be recognized for their soil and water conservation accomplishments.

An open house has been organized by the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners and the Osceola Field Office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The open house will be held Dec. 7 from 2-4 p.m. at the USDA building at 709 Furnas Drive.

The open house is being held in association with the governor's proclamation of Conservation Farmer Appreciation Week, in an effort to recognize the conservation efforts of farmers in Clarke County.

Selected farmers will receive an invitation to the open house; a thank you letter from Senator Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) and Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa); several environmental, conservation and sporting groups and the program sponsors. Community leaders have also been invited to the event.

Iowa conservation farmers have accepted the conservation practices issued by Congress in the 1985 and 1990 farm bill. The result is record progress in resource protection. Soil erosion on cropland has been cut by 35 percent since 1982, according to the National Resource Inventory. No till farming was used on 4.3 million acres of Iowa row crops in 1994, seven times more than in 1984.

Many other conservation practices such as grassed waterways, contour farming, stripcropping and grassed field borders are now visible on the landscape.

Pasture Walk & Steak Sandwich Supper

September 11, 2007

Meal by Clarke County Cattlemen at 5:30 pm
pasture walk at 6 pm

Directions: From Osceola go east six miles on Hwy 34 to 300th Ave,
South two miles to Garst St.,
East half mile to white barn on south side of road



Rotational grazing with paddock system



Watering Facilities

Topics:

Rotational Grazing with a Paddock system
Conservation practices
Cost Share Programs
Improve Pasture management & Livestock production
?'s



Stream Crossings



Fencing

Sponsors: Clarke SWCD, NRCS, Clarke County Cattlemen and Iowa State Extension
Questions Contact: Natural Resource Conservation Service
641-342-2917

USDA is an Equal Opportunity employer

OSCEOLA POLICE REPORT

Nov. 28: Brad Burgus of Osceola reported a case of criminal mischief after noticing dents and a broken window on his car. Damages were estimated at \$500.

Marlus Dale of Osceola reported someone took her car without permission.

Nov. 30: Stacy Wilhelm of Woodburn was driving a 1992 Chevrolet at 6:25 a.m. near the intersection of Highway 34 and Dewey when she fell asleep while driving. Damages were estimated at \$3,000.

Dec. 2: Tyler Norman, 21, Decatur, was cited with public intoxication, disorderly conduct and criminal mischief.

Kriston Passmore of Van Wert reported a case of criminal mischief after someone threw eggs at her vehicle.

Dec. 3: Marsha Fairbanks of Osceola reported a case of burglary after someone stole her wallet out of her vehicle.

The OPD investigated a two-car accident at 1:45 p.m. in the 1000 block of West Clay. A 1988 Buick driven by Susan Groves of Osceola collided with a 1984 Chevrolet driven by Steven Linderman of Leon. The Groves vehicle sustained \$800 in damages, while the Linderman car received \$300 in damages.

A two car accident occurred at 9:50 a.m. at the intersection of Highways 69 and 34. Russell Nauman was eastbound on Highway 34 driving his 1996 Buick when his car was struck in the driver's side rear fender by a vehicle driven by Violet Halferty of Humeston. Halferty was cited for driving under suspension. The Nauman vehicle received \$1,000 in damages.

Dec. 4: Richard Seaton, 21, Osceola was charged with simple domestic assault.

Zebulon Neinas, 18, Garden Grove, was charged with possession of alcohol under the legal age and public intoxication.

Clayton Reed, 19, Garden Grove, was cited with possession of alcohol under the legal age and public intoxication.

The Osceola Travel Plaza reported the theft of \$36 worth of fuel.

MAGISTRATE/DISTRICT COURT

Shilow J. Ashby, St. Charles, domestic abuse assault - second offense; court costs, \$135; fines, \$250.

Jesus Rosales-Nunez, Osceola, carrying weapons; court costs, \$3,030; fines, \$500.

Teresa Sheehan, Leon, burglary - 2nd degree; five years prison; court costs, \$691.64; fines, \$500.

Miguel R. Esteban, Murray, malicious prosecution; 60 days county jail; court costs, \$30; fines, \$250.

Rubley H. Gaxiala-Gaxiala, Osceola, false application for license or ID card; 47 days county jail; court costs, \$30; fines, \$250.

Lee H. Andre, Dubuque, assault; 15 days suspended jail; one year probation; court costs, \$325.

Sean A. Thomas, Grimes, trespassing; court costs, \$30; fines, \$50.

John Hartman, Osceola, trespassing; time served; court costs, \$30.

Chavin Williams, Osceola

FOR THE RECORD

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Dec. 8 • Optimist Club breakfast meeting, 6:45 a.m., American State Bank community room • Main Street Osceola board meeting, 8 a.m., United Methodist Church • T.O.P.S. Club 1175, 9 a.m., Clarke County Hospital conference room • Osceola Public Library Story Hour, 9:30-10:30 a.m. • Smile-A-While Club, noon potluck at Ron and Shirley Fouche's home • Clarke County Public Health Immunization Clinic, 2-4 p.m., in office. Call 641-342-3724 for appointment.

Dec. 10 • Leon Women's Aglow, 10 a.m., Leon Community Center.

Dec. 11 • Narcotics Anonymous, open meeting, 6 p.m., Clarke County Hospital Conference Room.

Dec. 12 • Rotary, noon, Crossroads • Osceola Women's Club, 1:30 p.m. • Clarke County Piecemakers Club, 7 p.m., Clarke Electric Cooperative meeting room • Clarke County Fair Board, 7 p.m. • Professional Providers of Southern Iowa, 7 p.m., 313 N. Main St., Osceola • Decatur County Community Band, 7 p.m., Central Decatur School band room, Leon • Clarke Community School Board, 7:30 p.m., Clarke Elementary cafeteria • AA open meeting, 8 p.m., Legion Hall, Osceola.

Dec. 13 • AMVETS, 7 p.m., Osceola Legion building • Lions' Club meeting, 7 p.m., American State Bank meeting room • AL-ANON open meeting, 7 p.m., Clarke County Hospital.

Dec. 14 • Clarke County Development Corp., 9 a.m. • Booklovers Club, 11:30 a.m., Redman's Pizza and Steak House • PTCO, 3:15 p.m., Clarke Elementary library • Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation district commissioners meeting, 5 p.m., Redmans Pizza and Steak House • Clarke Band Boosters, 6 p.m., Clarke High School band room • American Legion, 7 p.m. • AA meeting, 8 p.m., Clarke County Hospital conference room.

Dec. 15 • T.O.P.S. Club 1175, 9 a.m., Clarke County Hospital conference room • Osceola Public Library Story Hour, 9:30-10:30 a.m. • Southern Iowa Garden Club, Christmas party and potluck, 6 p.m. • Osceola Eagles No. 3495 Aerie and Auxiliary, 7 p.m.

Area churches celebrate Christmas

Osceola Assembly of God

Dec. 14—Chili Supper and Caroling in the Community, 6 p.m.

Calvary Bible Church, 222 N. Main St.

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8-23-06

Byron Patrick, George Wolf to work with CRP owners

The Lucas County Soil and Water Conservation District announces they have entered into a Contribution Agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and other conservation partners in order to hire two technicians. Bill Evans said, "We are proud to announce that Byron Patrick, Russell, and George Wolf, Osceola, have been hired to cover a four-county area of Clarke,

Decatur, Lucas, and Wayne counties. They are stationed in our USDA Service Center in Chariton and Osceola." These two district technicians will be visiting with landowners who have Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Contracts expiring in the next few years to discuss possible land use choices. They will, also, be visiting with livestock producers on grazing issues.

6 ■ IOWA FARM BUREAU SPOKESMAN ■ January 24, 2007

Clarke



Leola Boyce, Page Editor
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email: clarke.county@ifbf.org

Wildlife program deadline is set

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), which is administered by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), has set a deadline for applications to be accepted. After Feb. 2, no more WHIP applications will be accepted to be ranked for funding this year. The WHIP program provides approximately 60 percent cost-share to complete wildlife management practices like native grass and wildflower plantings, strip disking, strip

herbicide application, prescribed burning, brush removal, timber stand improvement, tree and shrub planting, and edge feathering. WHIP does not provide cost-share for planting annual grain food plots. There is no cropping history required for WHIP and there is no one-year ownership requirement. Go in to the Clarke County USDA-NRCS office located at 709 Furnas Drive, Suite 3 in Osceola to sign up or get more information on the program.