



Our d's founder
lived 'n' denty. Since,
ession a mechanized
erwork danger our
loads! C'er demand
today a ns greater
dency

- Ways to enrich land . . .
- Rotate crops with legumes
- Test for needed chemicals
- Keep a check on soil pH
- Don't ever work wet soils
- Put mulch on soil surface
- Use varied plowing depths
- Learn soil management!

Students in Ida County can earn valuable prizes by entering and winning in the 1976 Iowa Soil Conservation Speech Contest according to Burdelle Knudsen, Chairman of the Ida Soil Conservation District.

Students in grades 7 thru 12 are eligible to win a \$25.00 savings bond locally, a \$30.00 top prize regionally and as much as \$410.00 in prizes on the state level. Second and third prizes are given on regional and state levels.

Topic for this year's contest is "Soil Conservation - Lifeline to Prosperity". Interested students should contact the local Soil Conservation for details. If there is enough interest for a local contest, a date will be set up for one in October.

Soil is Like MONEY



save

十

The Ida Soil Conservation District has sponsored an art contest during the past four years. District officials have been extremely pleased with the interest and results of the contest each year. Art work from the various towns in Ida County show our younger generation can appreciate conservation if given the opportunity.

Three winners each are selected in grade school and in high school in each town. Banks in the respective towns provide money for high school winners while the Soil Conservation District provides the prize money for the grade school divisions.

IDA COUNTY SOIL
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1976
ANNUAL REPORT

1M Budget (State Appropriated)	
Commissioners expense, mileage etc.	\$ 592.99
Office supplies	315.68
Printing	335.10
Prizes for contests	18.75
Rental for meetings	58.00
Materials for demonstrations	37.00
Office expenses	201.66
Meeting expenses	66.85
Total expended	\$ 1,626.03

2M Budget (State Appropriated)	
Clerk's salary, Ins., Ipers.....	\$ 8,503.55
State Aide's salary, Ins., Ipers.....	8,926.02
Clerk's mileage, expense.....	147.81
State Aide's mileage, expenses.....	253.73
Total expended.....	\$17,831.11

3M Budget (State Appropriated)		
1974-1975 Allocation		\$23,845.31
Soil Conservation Practices Installed	23,575.45	
Funds Returned to Dept. of Soil Cons.		269.86
1975-1976 Allocation		\$29,080.00
Soil Conservation Practices Installed	20,120.80	
Funds Obligated	8,959.00	
Unobligated Balance		20

3M Budget (State Appropriated)		
Long Term Agreements		
1974-1975 Allocation		5,754.69
Soil Conservation Practices Installed	5,004.69	
Funds Obligated	750.00	
1975-1976 Allocation		\$5,000.00
Soil Conservation Practices Installed	844.25	
Funds Obligated	2,000.00	
Unobligated Balance		\$2,155.75

July 1, 1975 to June 30, 1976

WATERSHED MAINTENANCE FUND

(Held in Trust by the District for Maintenance of Structures of Watershed Structures)

Cash on Hand, July 1, 1975	\$ 1,489.02
Receipts	14,447.42
Expenditures	15,289.97
Pass Book Savings	550.00
Cash on Hand, June 30, 1976	96.47
Time Certificates	29,274.16
Pass Book Savings	609.82

GENERAL FUND

Cash on Hand, July 1, 1975		\$2,145.57
Receipts		8,272.20
Tree Sales	7,420.31	
IM Reimbursement	851.89	
Expenditures		9,920.47
Little Sioux dinner	100.08	
Tree Purchase & Expense	4,459.10	
Field Equipment	74.72	
Donations	48.00	
Office Supplies	113.71	
Office Expenses	141.05	
Contest prizes	151.65	
Commissioners Expense	93.03	
State Dues	100.00	
Outdoor Classrooms	14.98	
Subscriptions	24.25	
Fair Booth Materials	30.00	
Postmaster	160.90	
Soil Stewardship Materials	88.45	
Annual Report	194.45	
Awards Banquet	24.00	
Pass Book Savings	4,100.00	
Cash on Hand		497.30
Pass Book Savings		4,175.25

It Makes Good Sense To
Practice Conservation—\$ Too!

Here is the report of our activities within the Ida Soil Conservation District for the past fiscal year.

Considerable work was accomplished during fiscal year 1976 but much more could have been done if enough money and manpower had been available. It is heartening to see how concerned landowners are in regard to caring for their land. It is frustrating to not have enough money to carry it out.

We offer our sincere thanks for the assistance and cooperation provided by various people and organizations during the past year. The job certainly requires many hands and we appreciate your help.

The Ida Soil Conservation Commissioners & Assistants



SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Pictured L to R: Burdelle Knudsen Chm., John Higgins, Leonard Ernst, Harlen Dausel, Ramon Johnson

Commissioners and Terms of Office

Burdelle Knudsen, Chairman	Ida Grove	January 1979
Leonard Ernst, Vice Chm.*	Ida Grove	January 1983
John Higgins*	Galva	January 1983
Ramon Johnson	Holstein	January 1981
Harlen Dausel	Battle Creek	January 1981

* These two members have the option of serving until January 1983, or resigning prior to the current election so a successor can be selected.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fiscal 1975

New District Cooperators	24
Conservation Plans	28
Cooperators completing one or more practices	229
Groups Assisted	11
Contour Farming-Acres	2,357
Grassed Waterways-Acres	70
Farmstead Windbreaks-Acres	11.3
Erosion Control Structures	3
Drainage Tile-(Feet)	37.1 miles
Parallel Terraces	21.6 miles

Conservation Brings Three Awards

Three Ida County farmers have received the honor of receiving the local Soil Conservation District in the Moorehead Pioneer Park area. The award was presented to Ray Bennett Jr., Groves Township; Harry Heilman, Battle Township; and Bernita Mead, Douglas Township. They were singled out for their conservation practices.

Bennett lives on a 10-acre farm five miles south of Ida Grove where he has been raising silage corn since moving there in the late sixties. The Bennett property is located on the Soldier-Beaver Watershed. Upland treatment such as terracing and riparian zone structures are built for erosion control.

The second conservation award went to Harry Heilman, 66, who lives about five miles from both Cushing and Holstein. For 55 years Heilman has lived on his farm, and now son Bob farms the ground. Heilman senior was one of the first in his area to have contour lines laid out so he could farm "on the level." Both Mr. and Mrs. Heilman continue to lead an active life on the farm.

The Bernita Thorborg Mead farm is located four miles north of Cushing. Albert "Bud" Leonard is in his sixth year of operating the farm, and Larry Thorborg of Galva manages the farm for his mother, who resides in Arizona.

Several years ago, all of the Mead farm that drains into the Bitter Creek Watershed was terraced. Prior to that, a dam was installed on the fence line between them and their neighbor, Carl Huth Sr.



UNDER THE BIG OAK--Dale Neville, keeper of the grounds at Moorehead Pioneer Park, takes a break under an Indian burial tree located next to the old Moorehead House.

He's Out to Save Beauty Of Moorehead Pioneer Park

Dale Neville leans against a building he is repairing, a building he's anxious to point out was once upon a time a rendering plant. That structure, just east of the motorcycle hill climb trails, is one of the many park areas receiving Neville's daily attention.

The former county road supervisor for nearly 24 years already has brought a new look to Moorehead Pioneer Park since he began serving as park custodian in July. Neville was instrumental in leading the clean-up efforts at the park the past weekend.

He's putting in 10 hour plus days to bear down on a park he says has gotten behind. "I just enjoy trying to keep things cleaned up." So far the park director has concentrated his efforts on the clearing of trees, mowing, opening up of trails, repairing storage sheds, cleaning up shelterhouses, and enough other areas to make Neville declare, "It's been constant."

When time allows, Neville tends to Cobb Park and the Galva rest stop. When Crawford Creek Watershed is finished, Neville will oversee that recreational area. "I think when we get Crawford Creek Park we'll be in good shape for parks."

Neville's own yard at his Ida Grove home shows he's dedicated to the outdoors. "You're conserving nature out here" at Moorehead and you're conserving the hills by the natural surroundings. But little wildlife now lives in Moorehead Park, and some residents are worried that the efforts to clean up Moorehead last weekend may have destroyed more natural habitats. "I think the problem is there are a lot of coons in the park." A few deer, very few pheasant, wild ducks and fox also are creatures of the park, Neville says.

When the park custodian isn't actively working to beautify the park, he may be taking reservations from campers and then proceeding to make plans to prepare a clean shelterhouse. Over Labor Day 18 campers used the park, Neville says, and came from such areas as Sioux City, Rockwell City, Fort Dodge, Manilla and Denison. "Most of the people who come out are pretty cooperative" and respect the park, the custodian reports. Neville is not locking the park gates because people have shown they can behave after closing hours.

Neville also has begun a project of posting signs around the park to direct traffic. He plans to mark such historical sites as the old Indian burial tree next to the Moorehead House. For the park custodian, the signs help recapture the history to be found in the park. "I can remember people living here," Neville says of the Moorehead House. The park custodian first came to Ida Grove in 1952 after serving in World War II and the Korean War.



DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS--Five Ida men serve as soil conservation district commissioners and make sure conservation in their territory is receiving top attention. Serving this year are (back row from left) Burdelle Knudsen, Leonard Ernst, Ramon Johnson and (front) John Higgins and Harlen Dausel. Both Higgins and Ernst are winding up terms on the board and do not plan to run for re-election. The three candidates for the coming November election of the district commissioners are Leonard Degen, George Hartley and Lester Vohs.

Crawford Creek to Bring Recreation For Ida Folk

In a few years, Ida citizens should be camping in facilities now in the making at Crawford Creek Watershed project south of Battle Creek.

Featured in the project is a dam which will pool a 63-acre area, the focal point for a planned recreation area. Included in the park project will be a shelter house, a beach, nature trails, camping areas, a fish cleaning station, boat ramps and boat docks.

The Crawford Creek project is a part of the Little Sioux River Watershed flood prevention project, currently funded by the federal government. The Crawford Creek project, which is an erosion control project, has developed into a recreational facility at Crawford Creek so the county may shoulder the cost of the recreational development.

A ground breaking ceremony the first week of July marked the beginning of construction on the final dam in the project, which will cost nearly \$200,000. The dam will be a rolled earthfill 48.5 feet high and 1,000 feet long. The Ida County Conservation Board is developing a 252-acre park around the lake.

Total cost of the Crawford Creek project is \$1.3 million, with various government agencies providing the funds. Sponsors are the Ida County Soil Conservation District, the Ida County Conservation Board and the Ida County Board of Supervisors. The local Soil Conservation Service is providing funding and technical assistance.

The Crawford Creek project began in 1965 to reduce flooding and erosion of an 8,322-acre area. The entire park project will include 12 small detention pools for flow stabilization, three full-flow structures upstream and the multi-purpose recreational structure.

Godbersen-Smith Construction Co. of Ida Grove has contracts for the big dam, four smaller dams and two stabilization structures.

Hunting Seasons Opening Soon

Iowa's 1976 goose season opens Oct. 1, and the first segment of the duck season opens Oct. 2. Iowa's archery deer season will get underway one-half hour before sunrise on Oct. 2.

Goose hunting prospects are excellent, according to Iowa Conservation Commission wildlife officials.

officers in the local committee include Roland Jensen of Logan Township, who will serve as secretary-treasurer and Bob Mitchell of Blaine Township who will serve as Ida's representative on the West Iowa Conservancy District Advisory Committee.

The resources coordinating committees across Iowa will be responsible for reporting to the Governor and to the Environmental Protection Agency by 1978. The committees will attempt to identify goals and guidelines for water management plans, provide available resource information, identify rules and regulations that should be developed, assist in developing priorities for future action programs, identify and delineate watershed areas having common problems and assist in selecting alternative courses of action in water quality management planning.

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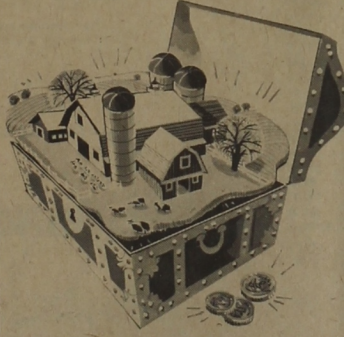
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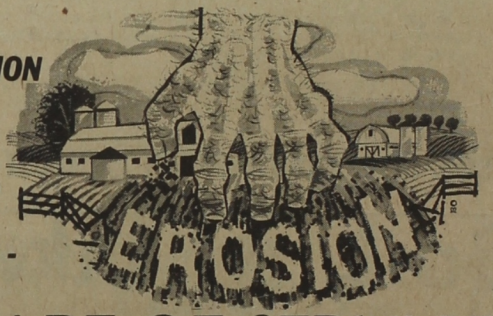
Dave Mathers

Box 112 Ph. 384-2336

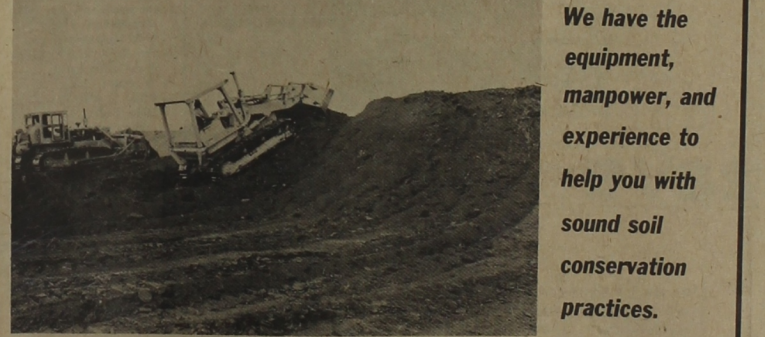
Cushing, Iowa

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Jim Witt Battle Creek Ph. 365-4863

She's Got a Down-to-Earth Job

Shirley Ruser is a 38-year-old mother who shows through her daily work that she isn't afraid to get down to earth.

Ever since she joined her husband Robert as a partner in the Ruser Dirt Moving Service about seven years ago, Shirley has been driving a Do Caterpillar or a LaPrere Cloutier four to six yard scraper attached to a John Deere liquid propelled tractor. For some girls, dirt moving alone would frighten them, but Shirley not only knows the names of her machines, she has her husband partner in making any necessary repairs.

And always, Shirley is learning. She knows about soil conservation, she knows how to operate farm machinery, she knows how to fix things, she knows how to be a good mother and Shirley will be here to continue her duties as dirt worker, wife and

mother of four children. But no matter.

"I do enjoy it. You eat a lot of dirt and you breathe a lot of dirt," but all the time you are helping to save the soil, and that's a good thought, Shirley says. "I think more people are accepting soil conservation practices than used to. There will always be dirt work. People are always improving."

Shirley Ruser, recently elected to serve as an Ida Grove school board member, wasn't born a dirt worker, even though she did grow up on the farm and found the tractor an old friend. Her husband has been moving dirt for 14 years and one day about seven years ago decided he needed help. "What started it all was that he got stuck with one machine, and I had to go pull him out," she recalls. "Then he decided he needed someone to push him." Since that day, the Rusers have been working as a team, with Robert usually man-

ning the cat and Shirley pushing him on the scraper. "They kid Robert a lot that I push him around," she assures.

Motorists who spot the Ruser dirt moving crew sometimes look twice to see the gal who's become known as "Red" and "Pete" out in the dirt. Even her family has to think twice about the mother of the household getting such a down-to-earth job. "It took some getting used to. They sometimes worry about me. Driving big machines isn't the safest thing."

When the Rusers build a terrace, both the scraper and the cat must join in for the task. "I've learned a lot since we got into it. When I was still on the farm, they didn't really push soil conservation as much as they do now. I think terraces are a great thing. You save a lot of soil and you gain soil."

The lady of the land often tackles a job by herself. Hauling dirt into cattle yards is a common chore. The farmers accept a

woman on their place in the seat of what usually belonged to a man, Shirley says, and they are cooperative and helpful. She even managed to pick up a \$7 tip on one farm, she laughs.

"The first time I went by myself, Robert was working two miles away with the dozer. I almost panicked. My first job was hauling into a farm yard." The farmers would kid the new worker about taking out the corner posts on their farm. And she'd reply, "If they get into my way, I'll take them out."

For the Rusers, there's safety in the soil, for the work is plentiful enough for them to support four children. But this year could be different, they say. "Farmers aren't going to spend the money so readily. If the government could just get more money. It's pretty hard for the farmer to do it by himself."

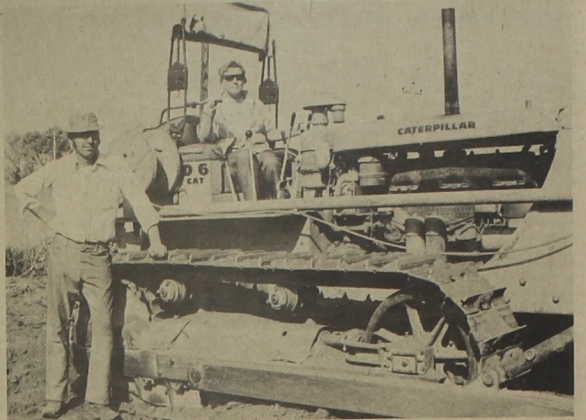
While the dry seasons could be tough on a dirt working crew, one advantage is that "there isn't a schedule. You go to work when you get ready, and that's a big

plus for a busy mother. "I try not to work on Saturday. I have a beauty appointment. I have to get beautiful once in a while," Shirley Ruser declares as she climbs onto the cat. "You might say I'm almost a part-time employee. Robert doesn't always need me."

"Sometimes I wear out more quickly than at other times. We have started at 6:30 a.m. or 7 a.m. which is kind of early by the time you get four children up and off to school."

Robert Ruser praises his wife and tells her he may let her retire today, but just for a few minutes. Having a wife as a partner in the dirt moving business isn't half bad, he says. The arrangement seems to be jelling as soon as he got organized. "I tried pushing her but I just about knocked her off."

Shirley returns to the shade offered by her cat's umbrella. She returns to her toil as "Pete" and "Red" for a few more hours before she becomes the keeper of her family's kitchen.



A DOWN TO EARTH JOB---Shirley Ruser of Ida Grove doesn't mind joining her husband Robert in his dirt moving operations. In fact, she says she's learned a lot more about soil conservation since going on the job.

Conservation Cooperation

Like many ventures, conservation with progress only when there is cooperation. Since many projects involve two or more land-

USDA Announces Program Aid

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced a \$100 million 1977 Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) to be initiated Oct. 1 in all U.S. agricultural counties.

The objective of ACP is to encourage on-farm soil and water conservation practices on farmland and is aimed at those farmers who cannot undertake these conservation practices without some economic assistance.

Farmer-elected county agricultural conservation committees (ACC) are authorized to identify local farm conservation problems and develop local plans for solving them. In a priority basis, according to a USDA office, the delegation of authority to county ACC committees places decision making in the hands of local farmers who are in the best possible position to evaluate local conservation needs and priorities.

"We are pleased with the past performance of the ACC committees and are sure that they will continue to provide good service to farmers," the official said. ACP provides from 50 to 100 percent of the cost of carrying out approved soil, water and land conservation practices approved practices in effect under the 1977 national ACP program.

owners, it is obvious they must agree on what must be done before a project can be started.

Watershed projects are prime examples of cooperation, according to Burdette Knudsen, Soil Conservation District chairman. Many landowners have to agree with each other and accept the Soil Conservation Services (SCS) proposed plans. In addition, the Ida County Board of Supervisors usually is involved.

In Crawford Creek Watershed, two structures involved Ida County. The road structure between Sections 15 and 22 of Garfield Township and the recreation structure in the county recreation area were results of Soil Conservation District - Ida County Board of Supervisors cooperation.

Another example of county-

district cooperation is the road grading project in southern Garfield Township. On this four-mile stretch are numerous reinforced concrete road culverts that had to be lengthened to accommodate the high fills. On all of these culverts where grade control was appropriate, and the adjacent landowner consented, the county incorporated grade control.

"This is an important bonus on this road project. The grade control was put on at no expense to the farmer or Soil Conservation District but provides needed gully stabilization upstream," Don Kauffman, district conservationist for the SCS, said. "We certainly commend Don Shaw, Ida County engineer, and the board of supervisors for furthering our efforts," he concluded.



A COUNTY ENGINEER'S PART---Don Shaw, Ida County engineer, stands next to a reinforced concrete culvert on the Garfield Township road project. The slanted portion provides upstream gully stabilization. (Photo by Don Kauffman)

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using the proper fertilizer, in the proper amounts, at the right time adds greatly to the conditioning of your soil for better profits.

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BOB RUSER

Jensen Finds That Less Is More

The U.S. Department of Agriculture predicts 275 million acres of American farmland will be under minimum tillage by the year 2000 or about 80 percent of all cropland. And Ida County farmer Roland Jensen intends to be a member of those who will insist that less is more.

Since 1968 Jensen has been using conservation tillage methods on his farm. By 1971, he was so sold on the plan that he began selling the minimum tillage machines. Right now, Ida County farmers own 40 machines purchased from Jensen.

Everybody wants to go out and tear up the ground, even you stir up the soil, you're losing moisture," Jensen explains. The Buffalo planter now used by Jensen to chop stalks, till plant, apply herbicide and cultivate was first developed in Nebraska in 1960 at Ida County in 1967. The idea is catching on, slowly. "People just can't get used to the idea of not disturbing the soil," Jensen's till planter, only 14-inch wide row is disturbed.

In the till planter system, fertilizer and herbicides are applied, the old stalks are shredded and the corn is planted. The trash is cleared away by the runner on the Buffalo planter, which leaves a tilled row for the runner to place the seed.

Jensen insists that the till planter saves a lot of time, cuts the horsepower and the fuel costs. And it saves 11. "You just don't get any crop in at all. The ground is never in a good way." This year it's paid off in a big way," Jensen declares as he looks over his fields of corn which will give every where from 100 to 100 bushels.

With a buffalo till planter, "You never have cloudy ground. You always plant in moist ground."

A lot of conservation tillage is misunderstood, Jensen says. Many farmers think chisel plows bring minimum tillage. What they really are bringing is minimum tillage over old, not minimum disturbance to the soil. Jensen says. The conservation till method of planting leaves two-

thirds of the soil undisturbed and it leaves all of the previous crop residue on the surface to absorb the impact of the raindrops. This surface residue protects the soil from run-off and from excessive evaporation.

Not only is soil saved, but costs are cut. A Kansas State University study shows that a conventional plow and a surface plant system totaled \$13.16 per acre and involved nine or 10 operations while till-planting required only four operations and \$5.74 per acre. The till-plant operations included cutting the stalks, planting, rotary hoeing and cultivating once.

A recent study of 30,000 of the nation's corn growers shows a increasing use of the tillage methods. Funk's Seed International conducted the study from 1970 to 1975 and found that use of

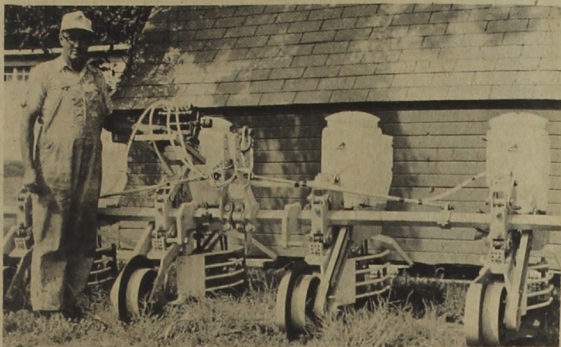
the chisel plow increased by 206 percent during that period. The use of tillage equipment other than the moldboard plow rose by 72 percent during the six-year span.

Loren Schuett of Holstein calls himself a minimum tillage fiend who is now trying out the buffalo slot no-till planter which he purchased from Jensen. The machine allows the farmer to plant in established sod with minimum disturbance of the top soil. The slot planter eliminates the need for plowing when rotating from grass or alfalfa to row crops. The slot planter carves a narrow row for seed placement and the remaining foliage between the row is sprayed with a herbicide. By the time cultivation arrives, the space between the rows is ready to be cleaned out with a sweep, and ridge can be

built for next year's planting. Despite the "trashy" look that the minimum till plant method leaves across the farmland, the outcome could be a treasure of good yield. Meanwhile the farmer is saving himself a lot of time and labor by eliminating plowing, disking and harrowing, and early planting can mean bigger yields.

The second advantage is that the crop residue stays on top where it decays and breaks down into organic matter faster. The fertile top soil remains on top to give a quick boost to seedlings. The buffalo till planter also offers accurate planting and placement, with an exclusive shoe that makes a narrow furrow for the seed.

For the Ida County farmer who can live with a "trashy" look to his farmland and remember that looks aren't everything, minimum tillage could be the answer.



LESS IS MORE—Roland Jensen of Ida Grove is a believer in minimum tillage conservation practices and carries them out with his Buffalo till planter which he also markets in Ida County.

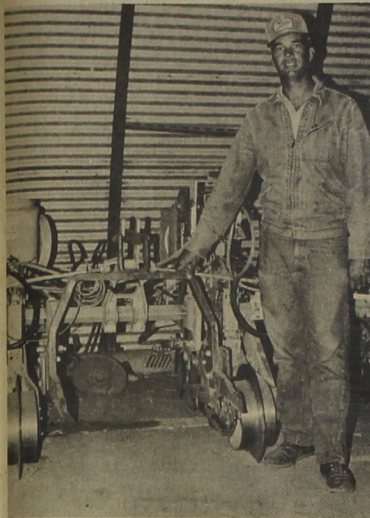
Art Contest Winners

Students from four Ida County schools have been named winners

in the Ida County Soil Conservation District art contest, according to Burdelle Knudsen, chairman. Prizes of \$10 for first place, \$7.50 for second and \$5 for third are provided by the local bank to the award winners in the junior division and senior division from each county school.

Winners in 1976 include: Holstein schools, junior division - 1. George Schmidt, 2. Jeff Drury and 3. Susan Streck; senior division - 1. Kirby Leonard, 2. Michele McGuire and 3. Stacy Vollmar.

Ida Grove, junior division - 1. Bryce Hauschildt, 2. Brad Schulke and 3. Jean McDermott; and senior division, 1. Shelley Wolterman, 2. Karin Johnson and 3. Sandy Ehler. Battle Creek schools, junior division, 1. Melissa Preston, 2. Mae Schultz and 3. Kathy Albers; and senior division, 1. Pete Reitz, 2. Rich Mitchell and 3. Andy Marten. Odessa-Arthur schools, junior division, 1. Matthew Braunschweig, 2. Paul Kerns and 3. Dawn Thevenot.



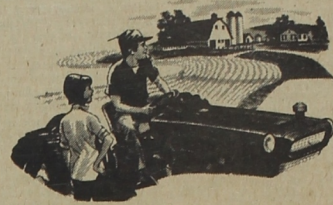
SLOT NO-TILL PLANTER—Loren Schuett of Holstein is disturbing the soil as little as possible with his Buffalo slot no-till planter which he purchased from area salesman Roland Jensen.

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Gary Goodburn

Cushing, Iowa

Ph. 384-2399

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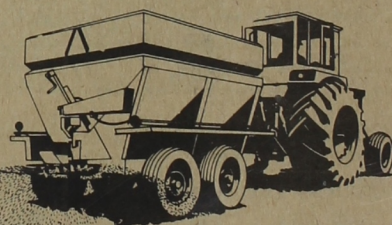
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A Soil Survey: Can It Pay Its Way?

Soil survey talk in Ida County has been just that, much to the disappointment of District Conservationist Don Kauffman. Kauffman says a soil survey is needed, though he doesn't think the county has the money to do it. He says the survey is needed to help farmers understand the soil and its capabilities. But the county supervisors didn't see it that way when Kauffman met with them in January. They said they would cost too much for the county to do it. The survey, being advocated by the Ida County Soil Conservation District, would cost \$10,000 per township or about \$100,000 all told. But the county would be responsible for half of the cost or about \$50,000. The state and federal conservation units picking up the remainder of the costs. If the county would not do it, the survey would not be started until 1981, Kauffman said. By January 1, 1976, 51 counties in the state had completed a soil survey. They were then being mapped and 20 more had completed a soil survey. Kauffman says "it doesn't mean it's right because everyone is doing it," but the savings achieved by using the maps to remove inequities in taxation could pay for the survey eventually, Kauffman says.

AN INVENTORY OF SOIL

A soil survey is an inventory of the soil resources of a particular survey area. The inventory is based on properties and characteristics of the soil three to five feet deep.

Gerald Miller, an extension agronomist at Iowa State University, said that soil surveys tell each soil's depth, organic matter level, texture, natural drainage, water holding capacity, plant available water, permeability, inherent nutrient supply, slope on which the soil occurs and degree of erosion which the soil has experienced.

The soil survey is important for a farmer who uses herbicides, Miller points out. Many corn and soybean herbicides have label instructions regarding soil organic matter, texture and pH. Many herbicides change in sensitivity as organic matter, pH and soil texture change in a field. Herbicide carry-over can be a direct result of these factors.

Published soil surveys are a source of information about these factors for each soil type. This information can be used to plan a herbicide application for individual fields.

Homeowners can use the soil surveys for locating home sites and suitable soil for liquid waste disposal, Miller continues.

Ida County's supervisors, despite the advantages Kauffman continues to point to through the survey, have not chosen to finance the survey. Financing could come through the county assessor's office, but neither is J. Wait Gailey, Ida County assessor, sold on Kauffman's recommendation. He says he would have to hire a full-time person just to

implement the survey and oversee the mapping. In the long run, it would be more difficult for the assessor to finance the survey than for the county, Gailey says. Gailey admits that the survey might help the overall picture of evaluating the land but at the same time says he has had very little pressure from the farmers to conduct such a soil study.

BUENA VISTA SURVEY COMPLETED

Buena Vista County Assessor Les Gingerich says a soil survey is a must. Plans for a soil survey in his county began in 1967, but the survey was not completed until July 1, 1974 and became effective Jan. 1, 1975. Gingerich reports the county's cost was \$32,000, which means the cost today has doubled.

Gingerich says the point of achieving a more fair assessment is just one small benefit of the soil survey. The ability of the survey to help the farmers in working the soil should pay for the survey, Gingerich says.

And Kauffman is continuing to insist on the soil survey. "A basic tool necessary for accurate objective county zoning is a comprehensive soil survey. It is the most accurate source of information on each soil's capabilities and limitations. Example: Woodbury and Buena Vista Counties are zoned-based on their soil survey. It will be difficult for Ida Counties' newly appointed county zoning board to prepare a land use plan without complete soil information."

Various counties have set aside areas of Grade A land for agriculture—excluding all urban development. Blackhawk County

is an example. Considerable controversy surrounded that county's zoning board's action, but no one questioned what was Grade A land. The capability of the soil had been established by a standard soil survey.

"Ida County recently signed a working agreement with SIMPCO (Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council), regional planning agency for assistance in developing a comprehensive plan. While not an absolute necessity, SIMPCO acknowledges that a soil survey is a great benefit in doing the job."

RIISING COSTS

"Ida County Soil Conservation District officials have asked the Ida County Board of Supervisors for a commitment on the soil survey for the past three years. This commitment would involve paying one-third of the cost of the survey. So far a commitment has not been made. During those three years the cost of the survey has gone up from \$11,000 to \$16,000 per township."

"At present, over half of Iowa's

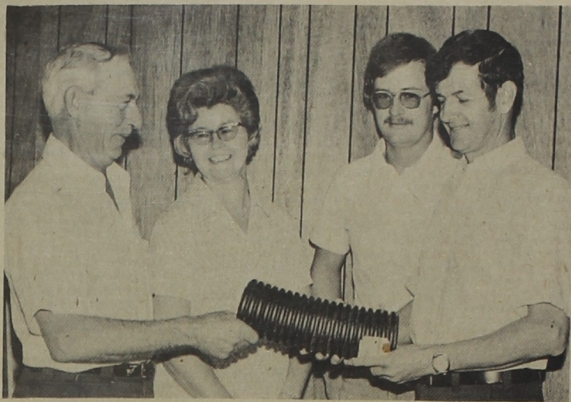
counties have a completed survey. In addition, soil surveys are in progress or commitments have been made in all but seven of the remaining counties."

A basic survey was made of Ida County soils in the early forties. This survey is not detailed or accurate enough to meet today's various needs, Kauffman said. "Since then we have learned much about our soils. Until about 1960, for instance, we did not know the difference between Monona and Galva soils. Today we know there is a significant difference."

Since that general survey was done, soil surveys have been done on a continuing basis up until the present. The limitation of these surveys is that they have been done over a period of 30 years by a number of different soil scientists, and are not considered adequate for valuation purposes, Kauffman pointed out.

"The key to adopting the information from a soil survey for use in land valuation is CSR. The

SOIL SURVEY
Continued on Page 12



SCS STAFF--Keeping Ida countians in tune with good conservation practices falls heavily on the shoulders of the local Soil Conservation Service, headed by District Conservationist Don Kauffman (right). Other staff members include C.O. "Dutch" Kraft, conservation technician, Lou Collins, state clerk and secretary and treasurer to the district, and Randy Soh of Danbury, conservation state aid.



ASCCOMMITTEE--Doing their part to help the cause of conservation in Ida County are members of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation County Committee, which include chairman Luverne Watters of Holstein (at head of table), Edwin Hargens of Ida ft), Lawrence Strait of Danbury (back right) and George Witters, ASCS county executive director and an advisor to the committee, meeting every two weeks. The of the committee are elected by township committee men. In December Strait's three-year term will expire.



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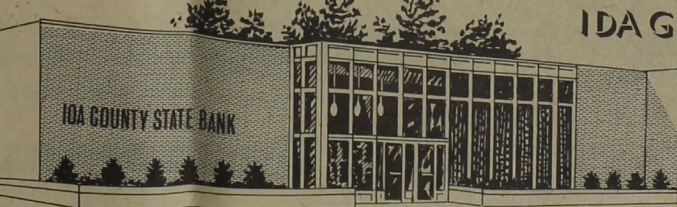
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Ida Conservation in '76 Was Big Business

Conservation was big business in Ida County during 1975, according to Don Kauffman, district conservationist.

Conservation expenditures come from different sources and are used for different purposes. The major expenditures are involved with Crawford Creek Watershed, south of Battle Creek where 10 contracts were let during 1976. The contracts total \$511,000 and involve the construction of seven erosion control structures within the watershed. The Conservation Service (SCS), the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Ida County Conservation Board for its portion of the cost of the restoration structure.

Another sizable amount of money is involved in the construction of terraces, ways, tile and other practices on the individual farms within Ida County. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) provides cost-share or these practices, usually at a rate of 50 percent, but sometimes as much as 75 percent. The Department of Soil Conservation also provides cost-share funds for distribution by the Soil Conservation District Commission. Soil another source of cost-share funds is the Little Sioux Watershed Program, providing an \$11,000 contribution toward terrace construction. These three sources provided \$83,000 cost-share to complete \$167,200 of conservation work. A considerable amount of drainage tile was installed in the

1975 without cost-share assistance because it was unavailable. This represents additional outlay by farmers not accounted for previously.

Personnel costs associated with the above undertakings are significant. While there are four full-time people assigned to the local Soil Conservation District, several more state and area personnel are involved in active watershed projects. Total personnel costs of federal and state conservation personnel during fiscal 1976 totaled approximately \$100,000.

Still another significant contribution

toward the conservation effort comes as a result of the watershed project. A total of five landowners signed easements donating their land for sites of these watershed structures. A value of \$17,500 is placed on these easements.

The total of the various contributions or expenditures for conservation work identified above is \$842,300. Not included in this total is the value of many hours of donated time by soil conservation commissioners, assistants, landowners and others.

Soil Survey - -

Continued from Page 11

Corn Suitability Rating is a rating based on the land's actual yield plus other factors affecting profitability. The rating is based on years of checking yields and associated factors and ranges from 100 to 0 numerically.

Three years ago Soil Conservation District personnel did a comparison of CSR and actual tax valuation on two 40 acre units per township. The samples were run-down situations except that they had to have been recently soil mapped. Results were inconsistent, Kauffman said. Tracts with low tax valuations should have been low CSR's and vice versa. Instead, for example, six tracts had \$205 tax valuations,

but CSR ranged from 34 to more than double that amount. The study was not meant to be complete, but rather indicates there are inaccuracies in the present method of valuation.

"Other than providing fairer tax valuation and more accurate information for zoning, could a soil survey actually save the county money? According to J. Wait Gailley, if the state's valuation board found a county's valuation to be inaccurate, they could order that county to conduct a complete appraisal. The cost would be considerably more than the county's share of a soil survey. The chance of this eventually occurring is not known."



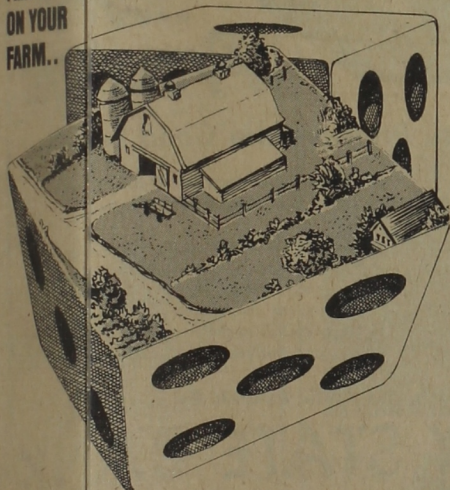
BUILDING FOR TOMORROW--Ida County's Crawford Creek Watershed has been one of the big projects highlighting the year of soil conservation in 1976. The aerial view shows work proceeding on one of the first structures to be built this past spring and located on the Marvin Krayenhagen and Stuart Lee property in Garfield Township south of Battle Creek. The structure, which cost about \$50,000, has an 18-inch pipe running through it and will create a 5.8-acre permanent pool. (Photo by Aerial Courtesy of GOMACO)



AN OVERVIEW OF CONSERVATION--The Wesley Dreeszen farm located in Douglas Township shows some of the first bench terraces built in Ida County. The year for their beginning was 1967.

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Three da Men Seeking Seats On Conservation Board

Even in the conserving of soil, politics play a part. This year there's a three-way political race in the contest for the Ida County Soil Conservation District Commission.

Lining up for two positions on the conservation board are three Ida farmers, Leonard Degen of Holstein, George Hartley of Battle Creek and Lester Vohs of Galva. The three men are vying for positions created by the expiration of terms presently being served by Leonard Ernst of Ida Grove and John Higgins of Galva. The two commissioners have chosen not to run for re-election.

Other Ida County district commissioners, who will be continuing on the board, include: Harlan Duane of Battle Creek, Ramon Johnson of Ida Grove and Berdelle Knudsen of Ida Grove. J. Henry Brown of Ida Grove, Betty Walter of Holstein and Wilbur Rohlf of Ida Grove serve as assistant commissioners. The commissioners are responsible for coordinating the efforts of all agencies, organizations and individuals who have parts to play

ASC Funds 83 Farmers

Ida County's Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation County Committee (ASC) cost-shared \$28,136 with producers to install terracing of their farms in 1975, according to George Winters, county executive director for the county executive director for the ASCS.

The terraces were constructed on 20 farms. Soil waterway practice was used on 53 farms. The committee cost-shared \$29,284 on waterway work. Three wells and one windbreak practice were constructed, amounting to \$50.

The committee had five long-term conservation contracts. The committee cost-shared \$7,000 with four producers to construct terraces and \$4,000 with two producers to construct and tile and waterways.

For the 1975 year, a total of \$60,942 was used by the committee for the cost-share purposes. The funds assisted 83 producers in Ida County carry out their needed conservation work.

natural resources conservation and development in the district. The commissioners are to meet at least monthly in an effort to keep the long-range program for conservation and development of natural resources current and comprehensive. The commission is also to manage all funds, facilities and equipment belonging to the district.

The board must correlate the strict programs with those of her agencies involved in resource planning and development, such as planning commission, special purpose districts, county conservation boards and hers.

Leonard Degen of Holstein says he's running for a position on the strict soil conservation board because "I believe that we have to conserve our resources. The soil Lord only gave us so much." and Degen adds that ownership of property does not imply that he can do with the land what he wants. Future generations must be considered as owners, too.

The 53-year-old northwest Iowa native farms 200 acres of land in northern Ida in Griggs township and raises about 1,500 head of hogs each year. About 80 acres of his land is contoured, and he has built some cut and fill terraces. Degen also has installed between 4,000 and 5,000 feet of tile in recent years.

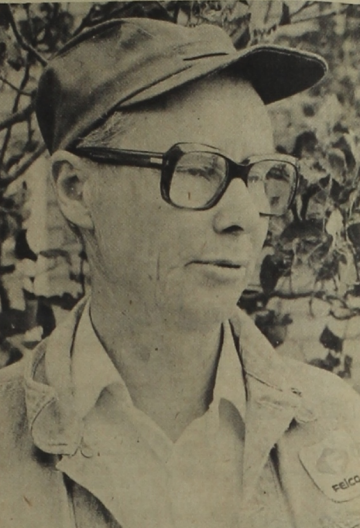
The candidate says he is a believer in minimal tillage. Right now, the farmer is overdoing the tillage, he maintains.

Degen says he is pleased with the attitude towards conservation in his native territory. "Northwest Iowa is ahead of the state as a whole, but I think we have a long ways to go." Terraces and other conservation practices continue to be in demand. "I do think the local technicians are wonderful people to work with."

In rolling Ida County, especially, "conservation is everybody's business," Degen declares. "It's not just the man on the farm. We've got to control the water here it falls out downstream, we can't control a flood after it's started."

Degen is the recipient of an Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement award given by the Des Moines Register and Tribune in 1969 when Degen was a resident of Cherokee County. Presently, the candidate is a

IDA COUNTY PIONEER RECORD Soil Conservation Edition



LEONARD DEGEN

member of the Holstein Library Board, the Ida County Historical Society, and the Holstein Kiwanis Club, of which he serves as secretary. Degen also is active in Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Holstein.

He is the father of three children, Elizabeth of Sioux City, Christopher, a student at Buena Vista College and Richard at home.

George Hartley, 52, like the other two candidates, was asked to run for the soil conservation commission, but there's more to the election than being drafted, he says. "I believe in anything that conserves soil and water, and I'm willing to take a turn."

The Battle Creek resident still maintains a farm in Maple



GEORGE HARTLEY

Township where he uses "whatever (conservation practices) it takes to get the job done" on his 425 acres. "I've got terraces on every possible acre."

"Basically, I'm for voluntary methods of trying to achieve conservation wherever it will work. Sometimes we don't think conservation is moving quite fast enough." And in many parts of Ida County, it isn't, Hartley maintains.

"I think we're gaining on the attitude. We're getting more people involved in conservation, especially in this part of the county." But other parts of the county are "kind of dragging their feet." That could be because in Maple Township, unlike some areas of the county, "we have more immediate problems. They still have prob-

lems in other parts of the county, but they're kind of overlooking them."

Hartley says he would like to see more watersheds developed in the county.

The candidate is a member of the Ida County Farm Bureau and serves as a director for Maple Township in the Ida County Cattlemen's Association. Hartley also is active in the Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek, the Masonic Lodge and the Lions Club.

The father of two children, Fred, and James, has been farming at Battle Creek for 16 years.

Fifty-year-old Lester Vohs of Galva is the third candidate for the soil conservation commission. Since 1947, Vohs has been



LESTER VOHS

farming and now is working 400 acres of land and also raising cattle and hogs. One of the major responsibilities of the commissioners as Vohs sees it is to make people more aware of the need for conservation. "I think people are getting more careful."

Vohs also sees a problem in the financial picture of funding good soil conservation. There never seems to be enough money for cost-sharing, the candidate says.

Vohs is a three-year member of the Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors and also serves as a trustee in Galva Township. For the past several months, he has served on the 17-man Ida County Courthouse Study and

Planning Commission.

One of the most recent honors for the father of four children, which include, Jeff, Julie, Lisa and Joel, came when he was chosen as a representative from eight churches to attend the American Lutheran Convention in Washington D.C. being planned for the month of October. Vohs and his family are active in the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Holstein.

This year marks the first time the election of soil conservation commissioners will be decided at the general election in November. All Ida County residents will have an opportunity to vote for two commissioners.

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Conservation Brings Three Ida Awards

Three Ida County farmers have received the honor of being named to the local Soil Conservation District's Permanent Agriculture Program this year.

Ray Bumann, 1 Township, and Harry Homan, Battle Creek Township, and Melvin Douglas, Battle Creek Township, were singled out for conservation practices.

Bumann lives on a 320-acre farm five miles south of Ida Grove where he has been farming since 1945. He has been in the farming business since 1945. He has been in the farming business since 1945. He has been in the farming business since 1945.

He lives about five miles from both Cushing and Holstein. For 55 years Heilman has lived on his farm, and now son Bob farms the ground. Heilman senior was one of the first in his area to have contour lines laid out so he could farm "on the level." Both Mr. and Mrs. Heilman continue to lead an active life on the farm.

The Bernita Thorborg Mead farm is located four miles north of Cushing. Albert "Bud" Leonard is in his sixth year of operating the farm, and Larry Thorborg of Galva manages the farm for his mother, who resides in Arizona.

Several years ago, all of the Mead farm that drains into the Bitter Creek Watershed was terraced. Prior to that, a dam was installed on the fence line between them and their neighbor, Carl Huth Sr.



UNDER THE BIG OAK---Dale Neville, keeper of the grounds at Moorehead Pioneer Park, takes a break under an Indian burial tree located next to the old Moorehead House.

He's Out to Save Beauty Of Moorehead Pioneer Park

Dale Neville leans against a building in Moorehead Pioneer Park which he is repairing, a building he's anxious to point out was once upon a time a rendering plant. That structure, just east of the motorcycle hill climb trails, is one of the many park areas receiving Neville's daily attention.

The former county road supervisor for nearly 24 years already has brought a new look to Moorehead Pioneer Park since he began serving as park custodian in July. Neville was instrumental in leading the clean-up efforts at the park the past weekend.

He's putting in 10 hour plus days to bear down on a park he says has gotten behind. "I just enjoy trying to keep things cleaned up." So far the park director has concentrated his efforts on the clearing of trees, mowing, opening up of trails, repairing storage sheds, cleaning up shelterhouses...and enough other areas to make Neville

declare, "It's been constant." When time allows, Neville tends to Cobb Park and the Galva rest stop. When Crawford Creek Watershed is finished, Neville will oversee that recreational area. "I think when we get Crawford Creek Park we'll be in good shape for parks."

Neville's own yard at his Ida Grove home shows he's dedicated to the outdoors. "You're conserving nature out here" at Moorehead and you're conserving the hills by the natural surroundings. But little wildlife now lives in Moorehead Park, and some residents are worried that the efforts to clean up Moorehead last weekend may have destroyed more natural habitats. "I think the problem is there are a lot of coons in the park." A few deer, very few pheasant, wild ducks and fox also are creatures of the park, Neville says.

Neville also has begun a project of posting signs around the park to direct traffic. He plans to mark such historical sites as the old Indian burial tree next to the Moorehead House. For the park custodian, the signs help recapture the history to be found in the park. "I can remember people living here," Neville says of the Moorehead House. The park custodian first came to Ida Grove in 1952 after serving in World War II and the Korean War.

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Crawford Creek to Bring Recreation For Ida Folk

In a few years Ida counties should be camping in facilities now in the making at Crawford Creek Watershed project south of Battle Creek.

Featured in the project is a dam which will pool a 10-acre lake, the focal point for a planned recreation area. Included in the park project will be a shelter house, a beach, a picnic area, a fish cleaning station, and ramps and boat docks.

The Crawford Creek project is a part of the Little Sioux River Watershed flood prevention project, entirely funded by the federal government. But the Crawford Creek project, basically an erosion control plan, has developed into a recreational facility at Crawford Creek, so the county must shoulder the cost of the recreational development.

A ground breaking ceremony the first week in July marked the beginning of construction on the

final dam in the project, which will cost nearly \$200,000. The dam will be a rolled earthfill 48.5 feet high and 1,000 feet long. The Ida County Conservation Board is developing a 252-acre park around the lake.

Total cost of the Crawford Creek project is \$1.3 million, with various government agencies providing the funds. Sponsors are the Ida County Soil Conservation District, the Ida County Conservation Board and the Ida County Board of Supervisors. The local Soil Conservation Service is providing funding and technical assistance.

The Crawford Creek project began in 1965 to reduce flooding and erosion of an 8,322-acre area. The entire park project will include 12 small detention pools for gully stabilization, three full-flow structures upstream and the multi-purpose recreational structure.

Godbersen-Smith Construction

Co. of Ida Grove has contracts for the big dam, four smaller dams and two stabilization structures.

Local Committee To Search For Clean Water

Ida residents have organized an effort to help other Iowa counties search for clean water and find it by 1983.

On July 21 the Ida County Resources Coordinating Committee was born. Led by Leonard Ernst of Grant Township, the committee is one of 100 working to come up with a plan for clean water by Nov. 1, 1978, the date such a plan is to be presented to the Governor of Iowa. Other

officers in the local committee include Roland Jensen of Logan Township, who will serve as secretary-treasurer and Bob Mitchell of Blaine Township who will serve as Ida's representative on the West Iowa Conservancy District Advisory Committee.

The resources coordinating committees across Iowa will be responsible for reporting to the Governor and to the Environmental Protection Agency by 1978. The committees will attempt to identify goals and guidelines for water management plans, provide available resource information, identify rules and regulations that should be developed, assist in developing priorities for future action programs, identify and delineate watershed areas having common problems and assist in selecting alternative courses of action in water quality management planning.

Hunting Seasons Opening Soon

Iowa's 1976 goose season opens Oct. 1, and the first segment of the duck season opens Oct. 2. Iowa's archery deer season will get underway one-half hour before sunrise on Oct. 2.

Goose hunting prospects are excellent according to Iowa Conservation Commission wildlife officials.



DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS...Five Ida men serve as soil conservation district commissioners and make sure conservation in their territory is receiving top attention. Serving this year are (back row from left) Burdelle Knudsen, Leonard Ernst, Ramon Johnson and (front) John Higgins and Harlen Dausel. Both Higgins and Ernst are winding up terms on the board and do not plan to run for re-election. The three candidates for the coming November election of the district commissioners are Leonard Degen, George Hartley and Lester Vohs.

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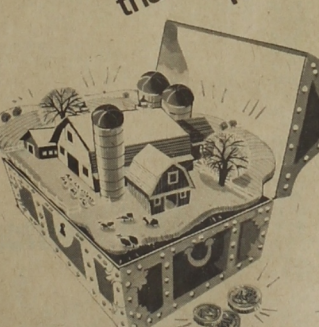
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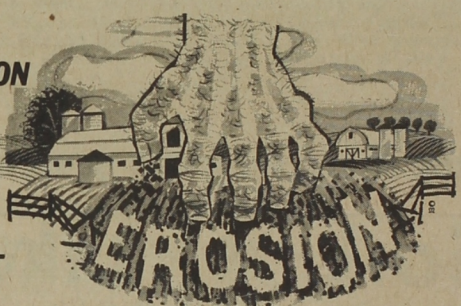


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She's Got a Down-to-Earth Job

Shirley Ruser is a 38-year-old red-head who shows through her daily work that she is not afraid to get down to earth.

Ever since she joined her husband Robert as a partner in the Ruser Dirt Moving Service about seven years ago, Shirley has been driving a D6 Caterpillar and scraper attached to a 4020 John Deere liquid toppane tractor for some time. The description of her machine, which she not only knows the names of its machine, it helps her business partner in making any necessary repairs.

And always, Shirley is learning about soil conservation as she proceeds to answer callers' questions about grading, damming and waterways. "I'm busy doing this," she recalls. "Then he decided he needed someone to push him." Since that day, the Rusers have been working as a team, with Robert usually man-

ning the cat and Shirley pushing him on the scraper. "They kid Robert a lot that I push him around," she assures. Motorists who spot the Ruser dirt moving crew sometimes look twice to see the gal who's become known as "Red" and "Pete" out in the dirt. Even her family has to think twice about the mother of the household getting such a down-to-earth job. "It took some getting used to. They sometimes worry about me. Driving big machines isn't the safest thing."

When the Rusers build a terrace, both the scraper and the cat must join in for the task. "I've learned a lot since we got into it. When I was still on the farm, they didn't really push soil conservation as much as they do now. I think terraces are a great thing. You save a lot of soil and you gain soil."

The lady of the land often tackles a job by herself. Hauling dirt into cattle yards is a common chore. The farmers accept a woman on their place in the seat of what usually belonged to a man, Shirley says, and they are cooperative and helpful. She even managed to pick up a \$7 tip on one farm, she laughs.

"The first time I went by myself, Robert was working two miles away with the dozer. I almost panicked. My first job was hauling into a farm yard." The farmers would kid the new worker about taking out the corner posts on their farm. And she'd reply, "If they get into my way, I'll take them out."

For the Rusers, there's safety in the soil, for the work is plentiful enough for them to support four children. But this year could be different, they say. "Farmers aren't going to spend the money so readily. If the government could just get more money. It's pretty hard for the farmer to do it by himself."

While the dry seasons could be tough on a dirt working crew, one advantage is that "there isn't a schedule. You go to work when you get ready," and that's a big plus for a busy mother. "I try not to work on Saturday. I have a beauty appointment. I have to get beautiful once in a while." Shirley Ruser declares as she climbs onto the cat. "You might say I'm almost a part-time employee. Robert doesn't always need me."



A DOWN TO EARTH JOB--Shirley Ruser of Ida Grove doesn't mind joining her husband Robert in his dirt moving operations. In fact, she says she's learned a lot more about soil conservation since going on the job.

Conservation Cooperation

Like many ventures, conservation with progress comes when there is cooperation. Six many projects involve two or more land-

USDA Announces Program Aid

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced a \$100 million 1977 Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) to assist the nation's agricultural counties.

The objective of ACP is to encourage enduring soil and water conservation practices on farmland and is aimed at those farmers who cannot undertake these conservation practices without some economic assistance.

Farmers elected county Agricultural Conservation and Conservation (AC) committees have full authority in identifying critical farm conservation problems and developing local plans for solving them on a priority basis.

owners, it is obvious they must agree on what must be done before a project can be started. Watershed projects are prime examples of cooperation, according to Burdette Knudsen, Soil Conservation District chairman. Many landowners have to agree with each other and accept the Soil Conservation Services (SCS) proposed plans. In addition, the Ida County Board of Supervisors usually is involved.

In Crawford Creek Watershed, two structures involved Ida County. The road structure between Sections 15 and 22 of Garfield Township and the recreation structure in the county recreation area were results of Soil Conservation District - Ida County Board of Supervisors cooperation.

Another example of county district cooperation is the road grading project in southern Garfield Township. On this four-mile stretch are numerous reinforced concrete road culverts that had to be lengthened to accommodate the high fills. On all of these culverts where grade control was appropriate, and the adjacent landowner consented, the county incorporated grade control.

"This is an important bonus on this road project. The grade control was put on at no expense to the farmer or Soil Conservation District but provides needed gully stabilization upstream," Don Kauffman, district conservationist for the SCS, said. "We certainly commend Don Shaw, Ida County engineer, and the board of supervisors for furthering our efforts," he concluded.



A COUNTY ENGINEER'S PART--Don Shaw, Ida County engineer, stands next to a reinforced concrete culvert on the Garfield Township road project. The slanted portion provides upstream gully stabilization. (Photo by Don Kauffman)

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