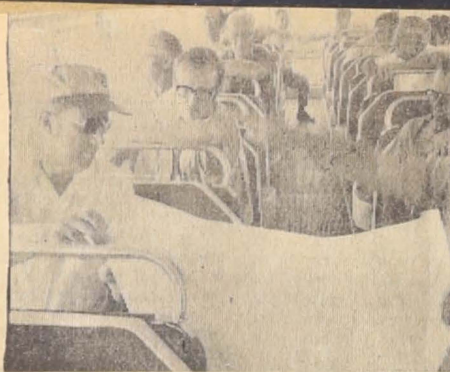




Conservation bus tour

Erosion problem at Franklin lake

The proposed recreation area of Franklin township poses erosion problems, according to district conservationist Ralph E. Dewey of Burlington.

At a recent tour of the site, several groups and agencies involved in the area's development met to discuss the watershed above the future lake.

Dewey pointed out that more than 4,400 acres of land, relatively unprotected, drains toward the lake.

An inventory and evaluation of this watershed has been prepared for the Des Moines County Conservation Board in a preliminary effort to protect the lake from siltation.

Board Chairman Richard Snyder, said, "We are hoping to avoid the silt problems that have deteriorated the state-owned lakes such as Geode and Lake Darling to the point where they have lost much of their recreation value.

"Our hope is to plan for erosion control of the watershed along with construction, so that we may be sure of a longer life for the lake."

Dewey pointed out that under existing silt hazards, the useful life of the lake may well be only 20 to 30 years.

He also noted the extreme costs of dredging silt from some of the Iowa lakes that have become damaged. In one instance, more than \$1 million has been spent over a 10-year period, and the lake is still not in very good shape.

Conservation board director John Welter told the group about erosion control work already completed around the edges of the proposed 120-acre lake.

50,000 Prospective Users
"We have at least 50,000 prospective users of this area

Attending Conservation Camp

Dennis Walker of RR3, Burlington, a graduate of Mediapolis high school is currently attending the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp at Springbrook State Park near Guthrie Center.

The camp is sponsored jointly by the State Conservation Commission, University of Northern Iowa and the State Department of Public Instruction. This program provides the opportunity for Iowa teachers to learn conservation by taking field trips led by experts in the field of forestry, geology, soils, botany, fish and game management and natural resource conservation in general.

He and approximately 100 other teachers from all parts of the state receive college credits for their participation in this outdoor school, now in its 22nd summer.

The teachers are staying at the new Conservation Education Center adjoining Springbrook where part of their study takes place. However, during the 3 week sessions the participants will be traveling 1000 miles to study at various areas of interest particular to the topic of study for the day. Dennis will be at the camp from June 27 to July 17.

He will be a high school teacher at Madrid, Ia. school. Mr. Walker is being sponsored at the camp by the Longcreek Conservation Club.

Mediapolis News Era
7-15-74

The HAWKEYE
Burlington, Iowa
Wednesday, June 30, 1971

Terraces and soil conservation

Technicians at the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District office have been busy installing terraces and farm ponds on the land the past several weeks. In some cases, their work has spilled over to the neighboring counties.

Milford Hays has applied nearly a mile of terraces to his 80 acre farm just over the border in Louisa county, where the new terrace system controls runoff from all his cropland. More than a dozen inlets into new tile systems on the farm, provide a way for excess water to get off the field without taking silt with it.

South of Danville, the Nealey Brothers are now farming a recently purchased place and found a need for protecting a ditch as well as providing water for a pasture.

They shaped and seeded a waterway for several hundred feet below a county road and built a farm pond at the edge of the pasture. A water pipe running through the dam to a tank below the dam will provide a fine supply of livestock water when the pond fills.

Mel Rajd purchased the old Joe Kuntz place just off Highway 61 south of Burlington last year and proceeded to make some changes. He is surrounding his pasture area with a most attractive board fence, and has also built a pond for a good water supply to the grass area.

Since the pond is alongside the barnlot, he has had to build a diversion terrace to carry runoff from the lots away from the pond to avoid pollution. The diversion takes excess water several hundred feet east of the pond where it is dumped through an erosion control structure into an open ditch.

Among others building terraces recently are John Henry, north of Burlington and Leon Marshall east of Sperry. Henry's terraces are keeping soil from washing off cropland into a wooded area. The Marshall terraces protect a fairly steep side hill from eroding and with tile outlets are providing relief from a large sidehill seep area that once nearly prohibited farming the field.

A little different sort of pond has been built by Earl Mansfield on an acreage near Sperry. Mansfield believes the country is the place to live and found a scenic spot in the Yellow Springs watershed.

His pond has been designed to give him a water supply for his house and lot. A well bit will be constructed alongside the pond, from which he can put the pond water through a treat-

ment system making it very suitable for family use. In addition, the pond will provide an excellent setting for the home and recreation as well.

Leroy Rauhaus is another Des Moines county farmer with land in Louisa county. He recently completed digging an open outlet ditch through some of the low area of his farm to provide a better condition to raise crops. He has additional plans for similar surface drainage on his land on the bottoms near Huron.

The Nelson Brothers North of Mediapolis, have installed several erosion control dams during the summer and they are looking forward to doing some erosion and pollution control work in conjunction with their feedlot operation.

Some of the older erosion control work in Des Moines county has deteriorated through the years and needs reconstruction. North of Danville, Ellsworth Dadds has found that an old farm pond was filling with silt from nearby cropped fields. To correct this, he has rebuilt the pond to make it deeper and will soon be constructing a tile outlet terrace on the cropland to keep silt from getting into the new structure.

The reconstructed pond will provide good livestock water for his pasture as well as a spot for recreation.

Earl Beckman near Prairie Grove does a good deal of his own earthmoving with his crawler tractor. Last year he started building an erosion dam which will hold several feet of water and check erosion from several acres of cropland.

This dam was completed this summer along with a tile outlet diversion to check erosion from a field above a tree area.

Wayne Corman completed a pasture water supply near Sperry. This is in a gully next to one in which he built an erosion control dam a year ago. Little by little he is controlling a very rolling farm.

The Wayne Corman was chosen as representative family for the Farmers Home Administration earlier this year for their continuing work in building up their farms.

Albert Schultz, as commissioner with the DMCSCD, built some more terraces east of his buildings during the summer. The tile outlet structure box in his cropland, carries runoff safely through tile systems to pastureland below.

Spokesman - Grundy Center
10-2-71

Watershed Project Planned

The White Breast Creek Watershed Protection Project has been approved for planning assistance from the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, State Conservationist Wilson T. Moon announced.

The drainage area of the project includes 56,800 acres in Clarke County and 7600 acres in Lucas County. "Water from the area is draining into the Red Rock Reservoir," Moon says, "and the installation of conservation measures above the reservoir will help reduce the amount of sediment going into it."

While sediment going into the reservoir will be reduced, the major problem in the area is flooding, according to Moon. "About 6000 acres of cropland and pasture are flooded each year," Moon says. The city of Osceola is also interested in a municipal water supply.

Local sponsors of the project are the Clarke County Soil Conservation District, Clarke County Board of Supervisors, Clarke County Conservation Board, Lucas County Soil Conservation District and the Lucas County Board of Supervisors.

The Soil Conservation Service Watershed Planning Party will begin working with the sponsors and other local representatives immediately to develop a land treatment plan.

The White Breast Watershed Project is the 50th project in Iowa approved for planning.

Mediapolis New Era
9-2-71

Win Conservation Teacher Awards

Mrs. Ruth Mertens and Sherman Lundy, teachers in the Burlington School system, have been chosen outstanding conservation teachers in Southeast Iowa in an awards program co-sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District.

District Chairman, Henry Dockendorf of Danville in making the announcement stated, "We are proud of the excellent work of these teachers in promoting the cause of soil and water conservation to the young people in the area."

"Both these teachers are active members of the Environment Conservation Education Council which is sponsored by the district," the chairman continued. "Through the council

they have been urging all schools of the county to teach more about the environment."

Both Mrs. Mertens and Mr. Lundy have attended the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp at Springbrook Park, where college level courses are offered to help teachers to teach conservation. Both have also attended the annual Fall Workshop at Luther, Iowa sponsored by the Iowa Conservation Education Council.

Mrs. Mertens, an elementary teacher at Middletown has long been active in the Long Creek Conservation Club and the Iowa Wildlife Federation. She is a strong believer in using the outdoors as a classroom to help youngsters understand their environment.

As a high school science teacher, Lundy has extended his interests to support the Ecology Club and in many scouting activities.

As winners in the regional competition, representing elementary and secondary teaching divisions, Mrs. Mertens and Lundy are now competing against outstanding teachers from eight other regions for statewide awards. Announcement of final awards will be made by the other co-sponsor, the Des Moines Farm & Home Register.

Mediapolis New Era
9-29-71

Altrusa learns of pollution

Ralph Dewey and Richard Riepe of the Environmental Pollution Control Commission were special guests at the dinner-meeting of Burlington Altrusa club Tuesday night, Sept. 21, at Hotel Burlington.

The men presented a film and narration program on "Pollution in the Burlington Area." Mrs. Dorella Robinson and her Community Service committee were in charge of the evening's program.

In keeping with the Altrusa International theme, "Turn

Concern into Action," two members will represent the local club on the Environmental Pollution Control Commission. They are Laura Wehmann and Mrs. Mary Buettner.

Altrusa club will also continue its 1970-71 community service project, "From Sacks to

Racks," in which members sort, size and repair children's clothing obtained in the Burlington School Clothing Drive.



Barton

Dewey

Des Moines county SCS 25 years old

Des Moines County Soil Conservation District was among 19 recognized for 25 years of service at the 25th Annual Conference of soil district commissioners in Des Moines.

Accepting the award for the local district was S. S. Barton of Mediapolis, a board member.

The citation on the award shows that Des Moines County Soil Conservation district was chartered Feb. 28, 1946.

The original district commissioners were Noah Schrock, Oakville; John I. Blaul, Yarmouth, and Edwin Cling, Mediapolis. Influential in organization of the district was Walter B. Eyre of Burlington who was extension director at that time. Eyre later was elected as a district commissioner.

"The Soil Conservation District has helped over 1,000 farm owners and operators with erosion control and land use problems in the past quarter century," Barton stated. "We are now helping all types of rural and urban land users to protect and improve our environment."

Also attending the Des Moines Conference were Commissioner Rex Trout, District Clerk Mrs. Mildred Kleinkopf and District Conservationist Ralph Dewey, all of Burlington.

Hawk Eye
9-22-71

Science Day In Burlington

On September 30 the Mediapolis School system will have an Environmental Science Day at Hunts Woods at the southwest edge of Burlington.

It will begin for the students at approximately 9:30 a.m.

The instructors will be: Stan Tate, Area Forester who will teach Forestry; Sylvan Runkel, SCS Biologist, who will teach woodland ecology; Ralph Dewey, SCS District Conservationist, who will teach soils; and Robert B. Moorman, Extension Wildlife Conservationist, who will teach wildlife.

There will be a lunch break at noon with each student bringing a sack lunch.

Huron, Sperry and Yarmouth sixth graders will attend this Environmental Science Day.

Mediapolis New Era

Des Moines Register 9/19/71

18 Teachers Win Regional Soil Awards

By Charlie Nettles

(Editor of Iowa Farm Register)

EIGHTEEN Iowa teachers were named Saturday as regional winners in the conservation teacher contest of the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program.

The winners, who will now compete for the state title, were announced by the contest co-chairman — Wilson T. Moon, state conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service, and William H. Greiner, director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

Selection was based on the teachers' effectiveness in conservation education; organizing field trips; creating an awareness of conservation problems at the local, state and national levels; and motivating students to promote conservation of natural resources.

The program is sponsored by The Des Moines Register and Tribune and the Iowa Farm Register, in co-operation with conservation and educational agencies.

This year for the first time the teacher section consisted of two divisions — (1) kindergarten through eighth grade, and (2) ninth through twelfth.

Following are the award winners, listed by the nine contest regions and the schools they represent:

Region 1

(Northwest)

Division 1.—Miss Mary Ellen Keegan, Le Mars, Le Mars Community School.

Division 2.—Frederick A. Van Loh, Sheldon, Sheldon Community School.

Region 2

(North-central, west)

Division 1.—Mrs. Helen Gray, Estherville, Roosevelt School.

Division 2.—Dale Mallory, Laurens, Laurens Community School.

Region 3

(North-central, east)

Division 1.—LeRoy Cakerice, Grundy Center, Grundy Center Elementary School.

Division 2.—David J. Flint, Hampton, Hampton Community School.

Region 4

(Northeast)

Division 1.—Mrs. Helen Phillip, Arlington, Arlington Attendance Center of Staromont.

Division 2.—Stanley Whelchel, Cedar Falls, Orange High School, Waterloo.

Region 5

(West-central)

Division 1.—Mrs. Mary Kunze, Oakland, Oakland Community High School.

Division 2.—Sister Caroline Wingert, Carroll, Kuemper High School.

Region 6

(Central)

Division 1.—Mrs. Naomi Smith, Nevada, Nevada Community School.

Division 2.—Gerald E. Sutton, Indianola, Indianola Community School.

Region 7

(East-central)

Division 1.—Mrs. Arlene Ford, Brooklyn, Hartwick Elementary School, Hartwick.

Division 2.—Francis L. Abel, West Branch, West Branch Community School.

Region 8

(Southwest)

Division 1.—Miss Euarda Huntsman, Red Oak, Red Oak Junior High School.

Division 2.—R. E. Hauptman, Mount Ayr, Mount Ayr Community School.

Region 9

(Southeast)

Division 1.—Mrs. Ruth Mertens, Burlington, Burlington Community School (Middletown).

Division 2.—Sherman P. Lundy, Burlington, Burlington Community High School.



MRS. RUTH
MERTENS



SHERMAN P.
LUNDY



MRS. ARLENE
FORD



FRANCIS L.
ABEL



EUARDA
HUNTSMAN



R. E.
HAUPTMAN



MRS. MARY
KUNZE



SISTER CAROLINE
WINGERT



MRS. NAOMI
SMITH



GERALD E.
SUTTON



LEROY
CAKERICE



DAVID J.
FLINT



MRS. HELEN
PHILLIP



STANLEY
WHELCHER



MARY ELLEN
KEEGAN



FREDERICK A.
VAN LOH



MRS. HELEN
GRAY



DALE
MALLORY



AWARD WINNERS at the Des Moines county soil awards banquet here Wednesday night, were, paired from left: Mrs. Ruth Mertens and Sherman Lundy, teachers; Mr. and

Mrs. Kenneth Wehage, new cooperators; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Matsch, owners of tenant farm, and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Shumaker, owner-operators.

Soil conservation efforts recognized

By BOB SOGARD

Farmers who for years have been doing something about soil conservation while others talk about it were honored here Wednesday night.

Also cited at the annual awards banquet of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District were two educators who have been active in teaching about and working for conservation of natural resources.

Farmer winners recognized at the meeting in First Congregational church:

Owner-operators, or family-type farm — Carl Shumaker, Danville. Shumaker is using all of his 160 acres under a conservation plan. In the past 12 years he has brought a worn-down old pasture farm into "excellent" crop production.

Nearly 1½ miles of terracing controls erosion on about 60 acres. There are 12 acres of waterways, a farm pond and three erosion control dams.

Tenant-owner farm — Matsch Bros. place, owned by Charles and Robert Matsch and operated by Roland Fritz, southwest of Burlington.

A fairly new farm in the program has half a mile of terrace, a farm pond and erosion control dam. Rougher fields are being developed for better pasture.

New cooperator — Kenneth Wehage, a 163-acre farm from northeast of Mediapolis that was purchased two years ago.

More than a mile of terraces has been built and another mile is planned. Wehage has two farm ponds and an erosion control dam.



Dr. Minoru Amemiya

teachers honored were:

Mrs. Ruth Mertens, third grade teacher at Middletown school, and Sherman Lundy, Burlington high school science teacher.

Mrs. Mertens, who has been cited previously by the district, attended the conservation camp at Springbrook Park for two summer sessions and has been active in the Iowa Conservation Education council. She is a director of the Iowa Wildlife Federation and a member of the Long Creek Conservation club.

Lundy is a specialist in geology and has such varied interests as religion, human rights and government. He organized the Burlington Ecology club for youth. Both he and Mrs. Mertens were rated as outstanding in Region 9 of southeast Iowa and have been entered for statewide Register and Tribune-sponsored awards.

(Min) Amemiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State university.

Amemiya cited the accomplishments of the Des Moines county district in the past quarter of a century, including more than four million feet of drainage tile installed, 600,000 feet of terraces, 90,000 diversion structure and 50,000 acres of other conservation programs.

Urges Participation

"This is great, but it's only about one-third of the job that needs to be done," he stated. He urged farm owners and operators to take advantage of federal programs, without apology.

"After all, there are tax write-offs and other subsidies for business. We need to cooperate at the local level or conservation will be enforced from the top."

Handwritten note:
Hawley
11-11-71

Elementary and secondary

Speaker was Dr. Minoru



ACCEPTING AWARDS at the annual Des Moines County Soil Conservation District banquet were, from left, James Howell, vocational agriculture instructor at Mediapolis Community high school; John Seymour, Danville, tenant winner; Harold

Yohe, owner-operator winner, and Dwight Stucker, representing A. M. Wagner & Sons, to receive the new cooperator award for the Wagners and Dick Mapel, tenant on the Wagner farm near Danville.

Soil Awards Given

By BOB SOGARD

MEDIAPOLIS — The silver anniversary of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation Service was observed here Wednesday night, along with the annual recognition of outstanding friends of the soil.

The SCS banquet at Immanuel Lutheran church was the occasion to honor outstanding farm owners and tenants and an agriculture instructor as well as the past district committeemen.

Past members of the district committee on hand for the banquet were Edwin Cling, a member of the first committee formed in 1945; Hugh Jamison; Homer Woodward; Walter Eyre; C. E. Pilling; Theodore Berning; Eugene Schulte; Harold Yohe.

Other past soil commissioners were Noah Schrock, John Blaul, Howard Gieselman, Kenneth Redfern, and Art Corman.

Awards presented and the accomplishments cited:

Owner-operator — Harold Yohe, Mediapolis. Installed were tile outlet terraces, open drainage, tile drains and erosion control dams.

Tenant-landlord — Mrs. Frances Cook, Hays, Kan., owner, and John Seymour, Danville, tenant. Completed on this 80-acre farm in the Geode watershed is a complete erosion control plan including outlet terraces, tile drains, grassed waterways and an erosion control outlet for the entire system.

New cooperator — A. M. Wagner & Sons, owner, and Dick Mapel, operator, Danville. Completed is a complete system of soil control with terraces and tile drains. This system also controls the runoff into Lake Geode.

Henry Dockendorff, district

chairman, said the tenant-landlord and new cooperator winning entries were judged best in their divisions in the 12-county southeast Iowa region. Also, the cooperator who edged out Yohe was regional sweepstakes winner.

The awards were given out by district board members Rex Trout, Albert Schultz and S. S. Barton, who was master of ceremonies for the banquet. Others on the board are William Vierling, Harold Linder, secretary, and Horace Sutton, treasurer.

Guests at the banquet, sponsored by banks of Des Moines county, included Fred Higginbottom, Des Moines, assistant director of the Soil Conservation Service; Dewey Bondurant, Des Moines, state SCS engineer, and John Eckes, Fairfield, area construction engineer.

Don Muhm, farm editor of the Register and Tribune newspapers, represented the R&T, cosponsor of the awards with the district.

Muhm gave a colored slide presentation of his trip to Europe this year as a guest of the West German government. He is president of the Newspaper Farm Editors of America.

Conservationists To Be Honored

Outstanding soil conservationists will be honored November 10, 1971, as the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District holds its Annual Awards Banquet at First Congregational Church in Burlington.

Highlighting the event as guest speaker will be Minoru Amemiya, extension agronomist of Iowa

Teachers Honored

Third grade teacher, Mrs. Ruth Mertens of Middletown, and BHS biology teacher, Sherman Lundy, were recognized as outstanding conservation teachers in a twelve county southeast Iowa region. Presentation of awards was made at the Annual Workshop of the Iowa Conservation Education Council at Luther, Iowa this month.

In the presentation of these awards, Mrs. Mertens was cited for her continuing, enthusiastic effort to expand the role of conservation education in the schools of Burlington and Des Moines County. She has helped in preparing teacher materials that are helpful to other instructors and had encouraged many to attend the Conservation Teachers Camp at Springbrook State Park.

Lundy has served the past year as chairman of the Environmental Conservation Education Council of Des Moines County and has been the spearhead of efforts for environmental studies in Burlington schools. His research has helped prepare new and better approaches to teaching Ecology in the schools. As counselor to the BHS Ecology Club, Lundy has ignited youth of the community to action benefitting the environment. His activities with youth also extend to the scouting program where he has been greatly active.

Both Mrs. Mertens and Mr. Lundy have been entered in statewide competition representing the southeast Iowa area with their achievements. They will be further honored November 10 at the annual soil district banquet.

State University, who specializes in conservation land use and resource development.

Dr. Amemiya has served in agricultural positions in Ohio, Colorado, California and Texas before coming to Iowa in 1960. He is affiliated with several scientific societies and has been named a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

He has recently been elected president of the Iowa Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America for the 1972 year.

To be recognized for exceptional conservation efforts in 1971 are Carl Shumaker of Danville, Kenneth Wehage of Oakville and the Matsch Bros. farm operated by Rolland Fritz, south of Burlington.

Two local teachers, Sherman Lundy, high school biology teacher and Mrs. Ruth Mertens, Middletown grade teacher, will receive awards as outstanding educators in the southeast Iowa region.

WINNING AWARDS at the Des Moines County Soil District on Wednesday of last week went to:

Carl Schumaker, Danville, owner-operator.

Rolland Fritz, tenant, and Robert and Charles Matsch, owners, tenant-landlord classification.

Kenneth Wehage, Mediapolis, new cooperator.

Mrs. Ruth Mertens, Middletown and Sherman Lundy, Burlington, won the awards for teaching of conservation in their classrooms.

Bill Vierling, Mediapolis, one of the district commissioners, was master of ceremonies.

Reports indicated that only one-third of the conservation work has been done to properly preserve the soil and the water in the county.

Burlington Hawk Eye
11-17-71

Presented Soil Awards Wednesday

Farmers who for years have been doing something about soil conservation while others only talk about it were honored in Burlington last Wednesday night.

Farmer winners recognized at the meeting in First Congregational church, Burlington were: Owner-operators or family type farm: Carl Shumaker, Danville. Shumaker is using all of his 160 acres under a conservation plan. In the past 12 years he has brought a worn-down old pasture farm into "excellent" crop production.

Mediapolis New Era
11-4-71

There are nearly 1 1/2 miles of terracing controlling erosion on about 60 acres. There are 12 acres of waterways, a farm pond and three erosion control dams.

Tenant-owner farm - Matsch Bros. place, owned by Charles and Robert Matsch and operated by Rolland Fritz, southwest of Burlington.

A fairly new farm in the program has half a mile of terrace, a farm pond and erosion control dam. Rougher fields are being developed for better pasture.

New cooperator - Kenneth Wehage, a 160 acre farm from northeast of Mediapolis that was purchased two years ago.

More than a mile of terraces has been built and another mile is planned. Wehage has two farm ponds and an erosion control dam.

Two teachers were also honored: Mrs. Ruth Mertens, third grade teacher at Middletown school and Sherman Lundy, Burlington high school science teacher for their contributions to the field of conservation and ecology.

Speaker for the evening was Dr. Minoru Amemiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State University.

Tour Hunt Woods

Ralph Dewey, soil conservation officer, conducted Cadette troop 203, West Burlington, on a guided tour of Hunt Woods. He answered questions on conservation badge work.

Girls attending were Jo Chubb, Janet Cooke, Kim Allender, Joyce Cutsnaw, Ann Mesler, Tammy Crafton, Shari Parrish, Brenda Tracy, Shell Scranton, Kim Miller, Valerie Holmes, Pam Crawford, Sue Hockett and Teri Elliott.

Mrs. Arnold Tracy, Mrs. William Scranton, Todd and Brian Scranton and Paul Cooke accompanied the troop.

Burlington Hawk Eye
11-1-71



Sherman Lundy



Ruth Mertens

Conservation awards set

Outstanding soil conservationists will be honored Nov. 15, when the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District holds its annual awards banquet at First Congregational church in Burlington.

Guest speaker will be Minoru Amemiga, extension agronomist of Iowa State university, who specializes in conservation, land use and resource development.

Dr. Amemiga has served in agricultural positions in Ohio, Colorado, California and Texas before coming to Iowa in 1960. He is affiliated with several scientific societies and has been named a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

He has recently been elected president of the Iowa Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America for the 1972 year.

To be recognized for exceptional conservation efforts in 1971 are Carl Shumaker of Danville, Kenneth Wehage of Oakville and the Matsch Bros. farm, operated by Roland Fritz, south of Burlington.

Two local teachers, Sherman Lundy, high school biology teacher, and Mrs. Ruth Mertens, Middletown grade teacher, will receive awards as outstanding educators in the southeast Iowa Region.

The Burlington system teachers were recognized earlier as outstanding conservation teachers in a 12-county southeast Iowa region.

Presentation of awards was made at the annual workshop of the Iowa Conservation Education Council at Luther.

In the presentation of these awards, Mrs. Mertens was cited for her "continuing, enthusiastic effort" to expand the role of conservation education in the schools of Burlington and Des Moines county.

She has helped in preparing teacher materials that are helpful to other instructors and had encouraged many to attend the Conservation Teachers camp at Springbrook State Park.

Lundy has served the past year as chairman of the Environmental Conservation Education Council of Des Moines county and has spearheaded efforts for environmental studies in Burlington schools.

His research has helped prepare new and better approaches to teaching and ecology in the schools.

As counselor to the BHS Ecology Club, Lundy has spurred youth of the community to action benefiting the environment. His activities with youth also extend to the Scouting program where he has been active.

Both Mrs. Mertens and Lundy have been entered in statewide competition representing the southeast Iowa area with their achievements.

Hawk-Eytems

Dig these savings!

Why should the taxpayer shell out to help farmers put in terraces? Isn't the farmer the one who really benefits?

Ralph E. Dewey, Des Moines county district conservationist, says one set of figures shows that each acre of terraced land saves the taxpayer as much as \$320 over a 20-year period.

Between 300 and 350 miles of terraces protect up to 10,000 acres of land in Des Moines county, practically all of it under cultivation. This indicates actual or potential savings to the taxpayer of \$3 million, just in Des Moines county.

See Dewey's analysis on Page 2.

Farm terracing valuable

By RALPH E. DEWEY
District Conservationist

Of what value is farm terracing to the public? One set of figures shows that each acre of terraced farm land saves the taxpayer as much as \$320 over a 20-year period.

Those who have criticized the government cost-sharing programs which have helped farmers install thousands of miles of terracing in Iowa over the years, should be aware of the benefits they have gained.

Sound Investment

The taxpayer cost-share has really been one of his soundest investments. Where else could he receive more than five dollars of benefits from each dollar spent?

Nearly 10,000 acres of Des Moines county farmland is

protected by terraces, indicating savings of \$3 million for taxpayers.

To realize how much terracing has saved, one has but to observe the tremendous cost

More farm news on Pages 7 and 10.

of removing the millions of cubic yards of silt from our streams and lakes. A rather firm figure for dredging costs is \$1.60 per ton.

A modern tile outlet terrace system, on gently sloping land, will easily save as much as 10 tons of soil loss per year. This soil no longer will have a chance to plug up the streams. Over a 20-year

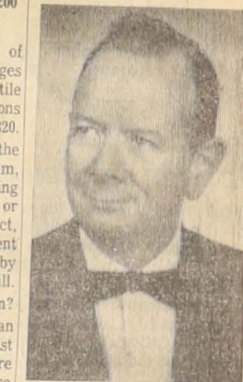
period, this amounts to 200 tons per acre saved.

Cost of terracing an acre of land will vary, but averages about \$120, including the tile outlet system. Dredging 200 tons of silt from a stream costs \$320.

Mr. Taxpayer, through the federal cost-sharing program, may help the farmer by paying half the cost of terracing, or about \$60 per acre. So, in fact, he is realizing a 533 per cent return on his dollar by eliminating a \$320 dredging bill.

What does the farmer gain?

Let us take a look. He can expect an increase of at least eight bushels of corn per acre per year — or 160 bushels more in 20 years, from a terraced acre. This will pay him back fully for his costs — plus interest.



Ralph Dewey

How does he get eight more bushels per acre? He doesn't lose his fertilizer before it goes into the plant. He holds enough more moisture in the soil to produce that much more corn. He avoids having to farm around gullies and needless waterways. And he gets many other fringe benefits of easier farming.

Here along the Mississippi we are always aware of the silt problem. We should also be aware that there is an economically sound answer to erosion control by which everyone can profit — terracing of farm land.

Annual soil awards banquet Wednesday

Owners and operators of three farms, as well as two teachers, will be honored when the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District holds its annual awards banquet Wednesday.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Minoru Amemiga, conservation and agronomy specialist at Iowa State university, for the 6:30 p.m. event at First Congregational church of Burlington.

Awards for exceptional conservation efforts in 1971 will go to Carl Shumaker, Danville; Kenneth Wehage, Oakville, and the Matsch Bros. farm, operated by Roland Fritz, Rtt. 1.

Conservation teachers to be honored are Sherman Lundy, Burlington high school biology teacher, and Mrs. Ruth Mertens, Middletown elementary school teacher.

Burlington Hawk Eye 11-7-71

Burlington Hawk Eye 12-29-71

Hawk Eye 11-3-71

Dewey's Diggings

By R. E. DEWEY
Chairman Agriculture-
Conservation Committee

For over half a century, Kiwanis International has been outstanding as a service club engaged in community projects primarily aimed at help to Youth activities. But a major emphasis of Kiwanis has always been upon creating a better environment for everyone.

To help promote this type of activity, a standing committee in all Kiwanis clubs has been the Agriculture and Conservation committee.

Ideas for Community

For the past two years one of the two major emphases of all clubs in the international organization has been called "PROJECT ENVIRONMENT." Literally hundreds of ideas have come forth from the more than a quarter million Kiwanians across America to help their communities become better places in which to live.

Burlington Kiwanians are no exception.

As a club, the members join together almost annually in a tour of conservation work being done in rural areas to help members understand the needs of protecting our vital natural resources.

Within the city, projects have developed through efforts of the Burlington Kiwanians. Financial assistance has been given to beautification projects such as the Snake Alley improvement and the proposed Mosquito Park development. Numerous programs have been brought to the club along agriculture and conservation themes.

A recent project involving youth and conservation together was the drive to collect labels from certain products in a campaign to get more trees planted in burned over national forests.

Help Plant Trees

The youngsters and adults who joined in this effort will be pleased to know that 2,000 labels were sent in by the people of this city. This means that 2,000 trees will be planted this spring in the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri, because of their effort.

Several local Kiwanis members joined with members of Lions and Rotary a couple of years ago to form the Environmental and Pollution Control Council, one

of the first of its kind in the country.

This group has been highly instrumental in promoting interest in environmental development in the Burlington and Des Moines county area. The club has financed much of the efforts of this group in getting organized.

Looking ahead, Kiwanis wishes to point out to residents of our fine town some of the upcoming events in conservation that will be of interest.

Arbor Day is coming up April 28. Trees are still one of the greatest of our resources. They help fight pollution of the air, as well as screening out noise and sheltering from heat and cold.

Soil Stewardship Week will be celebrated May 7-14 this year. This annual affair is sponsored by soil conservation districts, and supported by Kiwanis. Conservation districts are also vitally concerned with youth in their efforts to provide better conservation education.

Kiwanis intends to remain on the scene in an active way as we move into a future of total environmental development. The agriculture-conservation committee is established to get that job done.

More than 40 miles of tile drain, 10 miles of terraces and four miles of open drains were built on Des Moines county farms under direction of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District, according to the 1971 annual report just released.

Many other conserving practices were put into effect on the farms of the county, including planting of 10 acres of trees and the improvement of 306 acres of wildlife habitat. Service was rendered by the district staff to 488 farms with 230 farms establishing practices.

RALPH E. DEWEY is district conservationist, Winston Champ, soil technician, with Harry Bryant, Dennis Stucker and Richard Brown serving as part-time technicians.

Bryant is now district conservationist for the Louisa district with office at Wapello. Mrs. Mildred Kleinkopf is full-time clerk.

Henry Dockendorff, Danville, served as chairman of the board of commissioners during 1971. Other Commissioners were William Vierling, Meliapolis; Rex H. Trout, Burlington; S.S. Barton, Mediapolis, and Albert Schulz, Burlington Rt. 3.

Harold Linder, Sperry served as secretary; Horace Sutton, Burlington, as treasurer and Sandy Hedges, Oakville, as advertising manager.

The HAWK-EYE
Burlington, Iowa
Thursday, September 9, 1971



Ralph Dewey



Richard Riepe

Pushing ecology balance

A soil conservationist and a businessman have worked up a program on ecology which they are presenting before service clubs and other organizations.

Ralph Dewey, district conservationist, US Soil Conservation Service, and Richard Riepe, secretary-treasurer, R&S Bottling Co., illustrate their program with color slides of pollution in various forms, all in the Burlington vicinity.

The men appear on behalf of the Environmental Pollution Control Council, founded in the fall of 1969 with the support of service clubs.

Points made by the duo include these:

1. The primary goal of the EPCC is to help improve the environment by combatting pollution of the air, the water, and the land, and by combatting sound pollution and people pollution.

2. The EPCC carries on a continuing program of public education, and to do it has formed a speakers bureau, of which Dewey, Riepe, and Robert Holstein are members.

3. The EPCC works in close cooperation with the Des Moines County Health Center in combatting pollution.

4. The EPCC has made "some progress" in its campaigns. For example, one local industry spent \$25,000 to correct a water pollution situation it was unaware of until the EPCC pointed it out, and The Hawk-Eye has maintained a trailer outside its building where people can bring old newspapers.

Also, two community projects — Operation Clean-up, 1970, and Operation Clean-up, 1971, resulted in the clearing away of 900 tons of trash the first year and 700 tons this year.

5. "People cause pollution and people can prevent pollution."

Soil judging contest set

FARMINGTON — A vocational agriculture soil judging contest will be held near Harmony high school, Farmington, on Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. This will involve five counties, assisted by the Soil Conservation Service.

The Harmony chapter will have a soil judging team and five other chapters in the southeast sub-district will participate in the contest.

Contest sites will be on the Paul Grossman farm southwest of the Harmony high school.

RC&D goal is better life for rural America

A better life for rural America is the goal of Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) projects under leadership of the Soil Conservation Service.

Ways of working toward this goal were suggested here this week by Howard Hughes, assistant state conservationist for Iowa. He spoke at a meeting of Area XVI (Co-operative Area Manpower Planning System) at city hall. The area consists of the four counties of Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa.

Hughes told how one county, where polluted wells are a big concern, is planning a central water supply with mains running out to the country. There are advantages in a multi-county operation and the project

could be extended, Hughes added.

Another example of an RC&D project is in recreation. Hughes said there are four counties bordering Lake Rathbun concerned about development. They are trying to get at least the lake perimeter zoned to protect public use of the lake.

Housing is another area which can get an assist from local, state and federal cooperation, particularly from FHA and HUD.

Provides the 'Mechanism'

Hughes said, "If rural areas are to attract and hold young people, they must provide better educational, employment, cultural and recreational opportunities. An RC&D project can provide the mechanism to accomplish these ends." His

audience included conservationists, county supervisors, mayors and Community Action Program representatives.

Violet Lundquist, executive director of the southeast Iowa CAP, said after the meeting: "It appears chances of setting up a project here in the immediate future might be slim, but it's something to work toward. The Mississippi river, for example, is a natural. This would involve a lot of people and groups — including city, county and Chamber of Commerce."

Projects are set up by committees operating under the county board of supervisors.

Hughes was a guest of Ralph Dewey, Des Moines county conservationist at the SCS office here.



Barton

Dewey

Des Moines county SCS 25 years old

Des Moines County Soil Conservation District was among 19 recognized for 25 years of service at the 25th Annual Conference of soil district commissioners in Des Moines.

Accepting the award for the local district was S. S. Barton of Mediapolis, a board member.

The citation on the award shows that Des Moines County Soil Conservation district was chartered Feb. 28, 1946.

The original district commissioners were Noah Schrock, Oakville; John I. Blaul, Yarmouth, and Edwin Cling, Mediapolis. Influential in organization of the district was Walter B. Eyre of Burlington who was extension director at that time. Eyre later was elected as a district commissioner.

"The Soil Conservation District has helped over 1,000 farm owners and operators with erosion control and land use problems in the past quarter century," Barton stated. "We are now helping all types of rural and urban land users to protect and improve our environment."

Also attending the Des Moines Conference were Commissioner Rex Troute, District Clerk Mrs. Mildred Kleinkopf and District Conservationist Ralph Dewey, all of Burlington.

SCS voting here Feb. 10

Two commissioners will be elected to the board of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District on Feb. 10, according to district chairman Henry Dockendorff of Danville.

An official election, sanctioned by the state of Iowa, the polls will be open at Memorial auditorium in Burlington between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Completing their terms of office are Henry Dockendorff, the present chairman, and William Vierling of Mediapolis. Dockendorff completes a full six-year term, while Vierling was elected to a two-year short term in 1970, when the board of commissioners was expanded to five members.

Four Candidates

Candidates for the two seats on the board include Vierling,

along with Carl Shumaker of Danville, Dwight Stucker of New London and Robert Zaiser of Burlington.

All four of the candidates are long-time cooperators with the district and have been active in conservation work.

The election will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Des Moines County Farm Service Co.

TWO SOIL district commissioners are to be elected for the Des Moines County Soil Conservation district Feb. 10 at the Memorial auditorium in Burlington.

Terms of Henry Dockendorff, Danville, and William Vierling, Mediapolis, are expiring. Candidates nominated for the two terms of six years are: Vierling, Dwight Stucker, New London, Pleasant Grove township; Carl Shumaker, Danville, Danville township, and Robert Zaiser, Burlington.

Dockendorff is present chairman and, after serving a six-year term, is not a candidate. Vierling, who lives in Huron township, has served only two years, having been elected when the board was increased from three to five members at the 1970 election.

Don't look up

Tenants of the Burlington Federal building, including the FBI agents headquartered there, are on the lookout for a boy about 15 years old.

The youth is believed responsible for defecating down the main south stairwell of the building. Postmaster Arthur Peterson said the suspect apparently used a second floor stairwell railing and besmeared second and first floor walls.

An office worker also discovered a youth (the stairwell suspect) in the women's restroom and by the time she reported it to her boss in his office, the youth was able to flee, Petersen said.

"We try to maintain good, clean public restrooms in the building, but if violations continue, we'll have to consider locking up the restrooms," Petersen warned.

Federation Board Member Honored



MRS. RUTH MERTENS

Mrs. Ruth Mertens, Iowa Wildlife Federation Board member and teacher at Burlington Community School (Middletown) was one of eighteen teachers to win Regional Soil Awards in the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program.

The regional winners will compete for the state title.

Selection of the winners was based on the teachers effectiveness in conservation education; organizing field trips; creating an awareness of conservation problems on the local, state and national level; and motivating students to promote conservation of natural resources.

The program is sponsored by the Des Moines Register and the Iowa Farm Register in cooperation with conservation and educational agencies.

Mrs. Mertens also serves the Iowa Wildlife Federation on the Executive Committee and is co-chairman of National Wildlife Week in Iowa which is sponsored by the Iowa Federation.

AWARD WINNERS at the Des Moines county soil awards banquet here Wednesday night, were, paired from left: Mrs. Ruth Mertens and Sherman Lundy, teachers; Mr. and

Mrs. Kenneth Wehage, new cooperators; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Matsch, owners of tenant farm, and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Shumaker, owner-operators.

Soil conservation efforts recognized

By BOB SOGARD

Farmers who for years have been doing something about soil conservation while others talk about it were honored here Wednesday night.

Also cited at the annual awards banquet of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District were two educators who have been active in teaching about and working for conservation of natural resources.

Farmer winners recognized at the meeting in First Congregational church.

Owner-operators, or family-type farm — Carl Shumaker, Danville. Shumaker is using all of his 160 acres under a conservation plan. In the past 12 years he has brought a worn-down old pasture farm into "excellent" crop production.

Nearly 1½ miles of terracing controls erosion on about 60 acres. There are 12 acres of waterways, a farm pond and three erosion control dains.

Tenant-owner farm — Matsch Bros. place, owned by Charles and Robert Matsch and operated by Roland Fritz, southwest of Burlington.

A fairly new farm in the program has half a mile of terrace, a farm pond and erosion control dam. Rougher fields are being developed for better pasture.

New cooperator — Kenneth Wehage, a 163-acre farm north-east of Mediapolis that was purchased two years ago.

More than a mile of terraces has been built and another mile is planned. Wehage has two farm ponds and an erosion control dam.

Elementary and



Dr. Minoru Aramiya

teachers honored were:

Mrs. Ruth Mertens, third grade teacher at Middletown school, and Sherman Lundy, Burlington high school science teacher.

Mrs. Mertens, who has been cited previously by the district, attended the conservation camp at Springbrook Park for two summer sessions and has been active in the Iowa Conservation Education council. She is a director of the Iowa Wildlife Federation and a member of the Long Creek Conservation club.

Lundy is a specialist in geology and has such varied interests as religion, human rights and government. He organized the Burlington Ecology club for youth. Both he and Mrs. Mertens were rated as outstanding in Region 4 of the Iowa and have been winners of the statewide Registered Conservation sponsored awards.

Also was Dr. Minoru

(Min) Aramiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State university.

Aramiya cited the accomplishments of the Des Moines county district in the past quarter of a century, including more than four million feet of drainage tile installed, 600,000 feet of terraces, 90,000 diversion structure and 50,000 acres of other conservation programs.

Urges Participation

"This is great, but it's only about one-third of the job that needs to be done," he stated. He urged farm owners and operators to take advantage of federal programs, without apology.

"After all, there are tax write-offs and other subsidies for business. We need to cooperate at the local level or conservation will be enforced from the top."

← **Henry Dockendorff joins Des Moines County Farm Service Company Board of Directors**

Chairman
S. C. Distard



By Paul J. Klobardanz
Henry Dockendorff, Danville, was appointed by the Des Moines County Farm Service Company Board of Directors to the board to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Howard Waters.

The appointment was made at the regular monthly board meeting. Dockendorff's term will run until the service company annual meeting in February 1971.

The resignation of Waters was accepted with regret by the board of directors. Waters is the Midwest ASCS area director. His schedule in connection with this position makes it impossible to attend the service company board of directors' meetings.

Dockendorff and his wife Dorothy reside and farm near Danville. He farms 450 acres and feeds Charolais cattle. In addition to his service company and Farm Bureau activities, he is a member of the Danville Bank Board, Danville Telephone Board, the Soil Conservation Board and a member of the Des Moines County Livestock Feeders Association.

Conservation camp set for teachers

There will be an Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp next summer at the Conservation Education Center near Springbrook State Park in Guthrie county, according to Bernard Clausen, of the University of Northern Iowa.

Local teachers are being urged by the Des Moines County Environmental Conservation Educational Council to take advantage of one of the two sessions being offered.

Clausen emphasizes that each of the three-week sessions will provide three hours of college credit to those teachers who take advantage of this training.

First session from June 11 to July 1, is called Biology 105 — Iowa Conservation Problems

II. This course covers rocks, minerals, soil and water along with problems of land use.

Biology 104, Iowa Conservation Problems I, will be offered from July 2, through July 22, and will cover renewable resources such as forests, fish, wildlife, and the ecological approach to managing our environment.

Training 'Invaluable'

Sherman Lundy, chairman of the local education council, points out that this training is invaluable to teachers who are trying to relate their teaching to what is going on today in the environment.

"We have had many teachers from the Des Moines county area attend these courses over the past 20 years and the effect of their training is showing up in our schools today," Lundy claims. "The great trend toward using outdoor classrooms has been motivated by the people who have been to the Springbrook Camp."

Tuition sponsorship for teachers to attend the training sessions is once again offered by the Long Creek Conservation Club.

Teachers who are interested in attending the camp are advised to contact Mrs. Ruth Mertens of Middletown for details on the courses and scholarships.

Hand Eye
3-30-72

For Land's sake

Live in the city? Or are you country folks? It really doesn't seem to make any difference anymore. What bothers one of us, sooner or later bothers the other.

BY
RALPH
DEWEY



For about three years now, the whole kit and caboodle of us has been getting increasingly up tight about the environment. We've heard it from Washington. We've heard it from the grass roots. Experts — pseudo-experts — instant experts and downright ignorammuses have told us everything that's wrong with the way we live and use our resources.

The farmer has been criticized and vilified for letting his precious topsoil wash away and foul up our rivers. In turn, the farmer has criticized city

folks for dumping their sewage and poison chemicals into the same streams. Industry has come in for its come-uppance for adding industrial waste, scrap and pollutants to the total.

Suddenly, we awake to a problem. We are rapidly reaching a critical point of not having enough room left to take care of our wants and our wastes at the same time.

Each one points to another as the guilty party. Fact is, we are all to blame and we know it. And we all seem to have brilliant ideas of how to cure the problem — just so long as it's the other guy that has to do something about it.

How slowly we learn!

Captive Earth

The smallest bit of living organism, bacteria, can show us all what is in store.

A culture dish, with a limited amount of life giving food and

water for bacteria to survive, symbolizes our captive Earth. This planet is like the culture dish. Except for a limited amount of energy insorbed from the sun, our environment is limited in supply, just like the culture dish for the bacteria.

We reproduce ourselves in rapid numbers — to a point. Then for a while, we are in balance. We have reached a point where our numbers equal the capability of the environment to supply life. Then, quite abruptly, we go downhill. Why?

We can still sustain a good deal of life, but we have crowded ourselves out of a place to live by piling up our waste. Gradually, just like our friend the bacteria, we run out of food, water, air and living space.

This is a simple illustration that some of our high school teachers have used to illustrate "life", LIKE IT IS. Our life can be likened to any

species in existence. We live by the same environmental rules.

We can delay the time when our wastes catch up with us. We can delay the time when our food supply runs low. And we can delay the time, when we overproduce our species.

But, we can't do any of these things, so long as we keep looking for some other person to do the job for us.

Each person has to start with his own life, obeying the discipline necessary to improve his own part of the environment. We cannot expect certain ones to make a complete sacrifice, so that we do not have to.

Everyone will need to sacrifice something of the "good life" in order to make way for more life to come.

IOWA WILL observe Soil Conservation week Oct. 1 to 7 this year rather than the June dates as in the past. The Association of Soil District Commissioners and the State Soil Conservation Commission have changed to a fall observance. Rex Trout, Rt. 1, is Des Moines county district chairman.

Hand Eye
5-31-72

Hand Eye 3-30-72

Off the cob



By Walter Eyre

Danville Community school district voters gave the proposed \$480,000 bond issue a 73.4 per cent majority at the special election. Proceeds of the bonds are to be used to replace the 60-year-old grade school.

THE WEEK of May 7-14 has been designated by Gov. Robert D. Ray as Soil Stewardship week. The event will be observed over the state of Iowa.

During the last year Des Moines county landowners built 74,000 feet of terrace, which figures just over 14 miles. These terraces control 1,660,560,000 gallons of water, according to figures released by Winston C. Cooper of the local soil conservation office.

AMONG THOSE building terraces are: Leon Marshall and Verner Amenell of Huron township; John Henry and Marvin Lange of Flint River; Eugene Moore, Augusta; Clarence Miller Farm, Union; Milford Hays and C. E. Pilling, Yellow Spring; Robert Baylor, Clarence Hanks, Herbert Dodds, Frances Cook, William Denney and Frank Denney of Pleasant Grove; Roy Schmidt and Everett Schmidt, Franklin; Mrs. Marcella Noss, Walter Heckenberg and Albert Heckenberg, Benton; Grover Willson of Washington township. The Iowa Army Ammunition Plant has constructed 23,000 feet of terraces on the farm acreage in the plant area near Middletown.

AMONG THOSE constructing erosion control dams and ponds are: Clarence Miller farm and Melvin Raid, Union township; Wayne Corman, John Latty and Earl Mansfield, Benton township; Earl Beckman, Flint River; Ellsworth Dodds, Paul Stucker, Dan Anliker and Darrell Tucker, Pleasant Grove; Nelson Bros., Yellow Spring; Nealey Bros., Danville; Howard Reif, Franklin; J. B. Gingrich, Clarence Kuntz, Howard Smith of Huron township. The IAAP built five ponds the past year. Soil saving



Bill Koger displays one of the saplings being planted at the Iowa Southern Utilities Burlington Station to encourage wildlife and to protect the environment.

Environmental Improvement

Iowa Southern Utilities Co. has announced plans for making its Burlington Generating Station and an adjoining tract a haven for wildlife.

"An extensive timber cutting and tree-planting project is the heart of the plan," according to Charles Bradley, station superintendent.

"The station's location is ideal for wildlife," Bradley said. "We want to make the area's wildlife at home here and to protect the environment."

The program got under way recently when 375 young autumn olive and 125 black alder trees were planted beside the station's two ash ponds, according to Bradley. Planting is expected to be completed next year.

"The Soil Conservation Service provided us with the trees at no cost and we provide the manpower to get them planted," Bradley says. "We took all of the trees we could get this year.

Those that we need to finish the job will be available in 1973."

To improve the environment of the timber land which the company owns immediately south of the station, Bradley says he has been working on a plan with the forestry section of the Iowa Conservation Commission. "The overall objective here is to maintain and improve the productivity of the woodland. One of the specific objectives is to provide favorable food and cover conditions for game, wildlife and insect eating birds."

The first move Bradley says "will be the cutting and removal of about 100,000 board feet of timber in an area which is a veritable desert under an umbrella of trees. This will allow the undergrowth a chance to properly develop. Later on as environmental land management procedures dictate," Bradley said, "timber will be removed from other selected areas throughout the 600 acre tract."

The trees just planted around the ash ponds at the station will grow to about 15 feet in height, will provide an excellent gathering place for birds and act as a windbreak.

Autumn olive trees produce berries that ripen in the fall, attracting such birds as robins, mallards, common grackle, cardinals, tree swallows and others.

Bradley says bobwhite quail, ruffed grouse, mourning doves, ring-necked pheasants and wild turkeys also like to eat autumn olive fruit. The tree has small, yellow, sweet-scented flowers.

"We're going to do everything attractive to wildlife as possible," Bradley says. "This in-

cludes a plan for beautifying the old ash pond.

"What we want to do is flood the old ash pond with water from the river when it's particularly muddy. We hope the silt will eventually build up a layer of dirt which will sustain plantlife. It's worth a try."

Medapolis News Era
5-11-72

Walter Eyre
5-10-72

City land still not 'nailed down'

Burlington's in better shape than many cities when it comes to land use and soil conservation, but there's still room for improvement.

That was the basic message Wednesday night when city councilmen, city plan commission members and the Des Moines county soil conservation committee met to discuss the city's soil.

Burlington's in a better position than many cities, because it hasn't experienced the "mushrooming growth" many have. But there are still some problems even now and will be a lot more in the future "as more and more industry begins moving into the area, according to Ralph Dewey, district soil

commissioner and meeting chairman.

Dewey told the 20 city and county officials present that Wednesday's meeting was simply an introductory one "to familiarize you with what we have to offer you."

Legislative action several years ago expanded conservation district responsibilities to include urban as well as rural areas.)

Dewey said that plans are already under way here to develop a soil survey map of the entire city. The map

should be completed by 1975, Dewey said.

In the interim, he pointed out, a less detailed and accurate map is already available.

Discussions are also under way for developing a city ordinance for "policing" soil usage.

George Howell, city planning director, said his staff is considering an ordinance which would make soil testing a mandatory part of building and developing within city limits.

Dewey told his audience there is still a great deal of

conservation work to be done in both urban and rural Des Moines county.

Out of the 231,700 acres of land in Des Moines county, he noted, only 52,900 are considered by the U.S. soil conservation department to be adequately treated.

And within the city, he said out of the 5,827 available acres, only 2,777 are considered adequately treated.

"We've got a lot of work to do and it's going to take a lot of cooperation," Dewey said.

Burlington Hawk Eye 6-8-72

Local distributor irked

Neil Edwards, assistant manager, Des Moines County Farm Service, declared flatly that "We don't like this ban at all." He referred to a near-total elimination of DDT in the United States.

Edwards charged that opponents of DDT "don't have much to substantiate their charges that it is highly dangerous."

"It has been a godsend to us, especially in controlling the mosquito and the corn-borer."

"We feel that the advantages of DDT far outweigh the disadvantages."

Charles Wayne of Wayne

Bros. elevator said he doesn't feel qualified to comment on the government's action, as "We don't seal or use DDT in our business and I rarely use it personally."

Ralph Dewey, district soil conservationist, said:

"I don't think the ban will have any great effect on agriculture as it's practiced in Iowa."

"In most cases we've developed other means of control — DDT has been replaced with safer substances."

"Most farmers have gotten away from DDT."

"The DDT situation probably

points up a lesson — that any of the seemingly-good things we have must be used with discretion and caution.

"Maybe we are polluting the environment with fertilizers now being applied to soils, in that when they are washed off as sediment they create problems."

"We can fertilize crops up to the point where crops can make the most use of the fertilizer, but often we add too much and the excess is washed off as sediment. Too much of it goes into ponds, causing growth which creates a scarcity of oxygen."

Burlington Hawk Eye 6-14-72

District conservationist Ralph Dewey and soil conservationist Winston Cooper attended a three-day Iowa workshop with Soil Conservation Service employees in Des Moines last week. The sessions were devoted to study of new SCS long-range policies and guidelines for conservation.

Hawk Eye 7-9-72

Slickers eye soil

In rural areas, soil erosion is a topic that's been thrown around for a long time, but it's a brand new topic for many "city slickers."

The Burlington city council will get an introduction to it at 7:30 tonight in council chambers during a joint meeting of the council, city planning staff and the Des Moines county soil conservation board.

"This is just sort of an introductory meeting so we can show them what information and materials we have to offer them," said Ralph Dewey, district conservationist for the conservation board.

Iowa's legislature made the topic a pertinent one for city councils two years ago when it expanded conservation areas within counties.

MET PLAN COMMISSION

About a month ago the Des Moines county conservationist had his first meeting with city officials—the city plan commission.

At tonight's meeting the council gets its introduction to the services available via a film produced by the soil conservation service titled: "Consider the Soil First."

Dewey says the film and discussion during the meeting will explain the importance of soil erosion work within city limits—such as newly-developed areas. "City land may not be used for agriculture, but it's still valuable no matter what it's being used for," Dewey said.

Hawk Eye 6-7-72

Soil Policy Sets Goals

District Conservationist Ralph E. Dewey of West Burlington and Soil Conservationist, Winston C. Cooper of Burlington, attended a three day statewide workshop of Soil Conservation Service employees in Des Moines last week.

The main theme of the meeting, which was keynoted by an address by SCS administrator Kenneth Grant, Washington, D.C., was "The Framework Plan-Soil and Water Conservation for a Better America."

The framework plan is an updated statement of Soil Conservation Service policy setting forth guidelines for operational programs of the service in the 1970's and beyond, according to Grant.

The three objectives of the mission of the soil and water conservation program are stated as: Quality in the natural resource base for sustained land use. Quality in the environment to provide attractive, convenient, and satisfying places to live, work and play. Quality in the standard of living based on community improvement and adequate income.

Des Moines Co. News July 1972

Soil loss limits hearing Aug. 16

Recent legislation in Iowa has passed the first real law in the nation that names silt as a nuisance. In order to implement the law, soil conservation districts are establishing legal soil loss limits for each type to be found in each county.

A public hearing will be held at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16, 1972, at Room 211, Federal Building in Burlington, on the question of adoption of soil loss limitations for lands in Des Moines county. District chairman Rex Troute pointed out that all persons who are likely to be affected by the proposed regulations are welcome to attend and will be given opportunity to express their views.

The proposed allowable rates of soil loss by wind and water are expressed in terms of tons per acre per year. Separate categories are set up for (1) agricultural land (2) non-agricultural lands and (3) construction sites.

In the relatively undisturbed farmland soils an allowable loss limit will be set for each soil type. A more arbitrary figure will

be established on lands where original soils have been greatly disturbed and erosion conditions are not natural.

Copies of the proposed regulations are available for examination at the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District office.

The regulations will be used by district commissioners in acting on complaints of excessive silting as the conservancy district law goes into effect. If excessive erosion is found, land owners may be requested to voluntarily correct the problem or may be required to install erosion control measures to bring the losses within safe limits and to comply with the district soil loss limit regulations.

Burlington Hawk Eye
8-2-72

Conservation Week In Iowa

Soil Conservation Week in Iowa this year will be October 1-8, according to William Greiner, director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

In previous years, a week in June was set aside to recognize the importance of soil and water conservation programs in the state. A fall date has been selected because the June date was so close to Soil Stewardship Week, usually observed in May.

Min Amemiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State University, explained that Soil Conservation Week calls attention to the importance of soil and water conservation work in Iowa.

Soil and water conservation, flood prevention, and related natural resources development programs are carried out to meet Iowa's rural and urban needs and to improve the quality of our environment.

"Orderly use and development of Iowa land and water resources through soil and water conservation programs, flood prevention and proper land use are essential to maintain and increase agricultural and urban income; to protect and improve the rural, urban and recreational areas; and to develop their potential for all Iowans," Greiner said.

Iowa Farmers Aid Wildlife

"Iowa - A Place to Grow" has a special meaning for wildlife since Iowa farmers have used conservation measures to help protect our furred, feathered and finny friends.

Probably no single group has done more to give food and shelter to wildlife than the state's conservation farmers. Purposely and inadvertently the conservation practices they use to protect the land also benefits wild birds and animals.

Grasses and field borders are particularly good nesting areas for the millions of songbirds and gamebirds of our state. Nearly half a million acres of strip cropping and thousands of miles of terraces with grass backslashes provide abundant food and shelter for birds. At the same time, these practices control soil runoff and protect fishing areas from silt and pollutants.

Iowa farmers have installed terraces long enough to reach around the world.

Over 75,000 acres of windbreaks and shelterbelts, planted to protect from wind erosion, makes a good home for game birds and small animals.

Small watershed and flood control projects in recent years have created over 1300 new bodies of water. These, along with thousands of individual farm ponds are giving migratory ducks and geese improved places to stop along their flyways. And a lot of top notch fishing is also provided.

Many acres of marginal land have been abandoned as undesirable for cropping as our farming has become more intensified. Farmers are planting 200,000 acres of such land to shrubs, grasses and trees to be managed for wildlife production.

A recent innovation in pasture management is the warm season pasture. In these fields, native grasses are planted, to be grazed in hot weather when ordinary pastures are dormant. By keeping livestock away from these areas early in the season, abundant nesting is provided.

Putting it all together, Iowa farmers are doing a great job of providing food, water and shelter to maintain wildlife for all of us to enjoy for many years ahead.

Metropolitan News Era
8-30-72

THE DES MOINES COUNTY N Silt Named As Nuisance

Recent legislation in Iowa has passed the first real law in the nation that names silt as a nuisance. In order to implement the law, soil conservation districts are establishing legal soil loss limits for each type to be found in each county.

A public hearing will be held at 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 16, 1972, at Room 211, Federal Building in Burlington, on the question of adoption of soil loss limitations for lands in Des Moines County. District chairman Rex Troute points out that all persons who are likely to be affected by the proposed regulations are welcomed to attend and will be given opportunity to express their views.

The proposed allowable rates of soil loss by wind and water are expressed in terms of TONS PER ACRE PER YEAR. Separate categories are set up for (1) agricultural land (2) non-agricultural lands and (3) construction sites.

Copies of the proposed regulations are available for examination at the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District office according to Chairman Troute.

The regulations will be used by district commissioners in acting on complaints of excessive silting as the conservancy district law goes into effect. If excessive erosion is found, land owners may be requested to voluntarily correct the problem or may be required to install erosion control measures to bring the losses within safe limits and to comply with the district soil loss limit regulations.

Des Moines County News
8-3-72

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED SOIL
LOSS LIMIT REGULATIONS
WITHIN DES MOINES COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Under authority set forth in Chapter
467A, Code of Iowa, 1971, as amended,
the commissioners of Des Moines County
Soil Conservation District, with the
approval of the State Soil Conservation
Committee, have formulated soil loss
limit regulations applicable to said District.

A copy of the proposed soil loss limit
regulations may be obtained at the Des
Moines County Soil Conservation District
office, Room 218, Federal Bldg.,
Burlington, Iowa.

Notice is hereby given that a public
hearing will be held at 8:00 p.m., August
16, 1972, at Room 211, Federal Building,
Burlington, Iowa at which time and
place an explanation of the regulations
will be made and opportunity will be
given for any landowner or occupant of
land who would be affected thereby to
be heard for or against the proposed
regulations.

COMMISSIONERS OF DES
MOINES COUNTY SOIL
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
By Rex H. Troute,
Chairman
Aug. 3, '72-11.

Burlington Hawk Eye
8-3-72

Des Moines County News
8-3-72

Cattlemen told of new tag program

A new program is being offered cattle feeders so they will have records of the carcass quality of cattle they ship to market.

Ron Irvin, Extension livestock specialist for the Davenport area, told about 110 feeders and wives of the program during the 27th annual Des Moines county Livestock Feeders Assn. tour Tuesday.

Speaking at the J. D. Stucker farm west of Danville, Irvin emphasized the need for production records by commercial cow-calf men.

To help feeders improve their herds, Irvin recommended that they use orange ear tags that can be placed on their cattle at weaning or at any time before they are sent to market.

The tags remain with the cattle until they are slaughtered, then are transferred to the carcasses before they are graded.

Grading information includes conformation, maturity, degree of marbling,

Ear tag

quality grade, fat thickness, ribeye area, kidney, pelvic, and heart fat, hot carcass weight, and yield grade, Irvin said.

The information will be returned to the feeder for a \$1.50 fee, but only if the cattle have been tagged. Tags are 50 cents each and are available from the Iowa Beef Producers Assn., Irvin said.

Other feeding operations visited on the tour were on the Henry Dockendorff, Leonard Miller, and Wayne and Steve Williams farms.

At Dockendorffs, soil conservationist Ralph Dewey explained a feedlot windbreak of trees and shrubs recently planted by Dockendorff with advice from the Soil Conservation Service.

The tour closed with an evening barbecue at the 40 & 8 park in Burlington.

Hawk Eye, Burlington
8-20-72

Local Soil Conservation Service staffer WINSTON COOPER has completed a week-long basic management training course at the SCS regional training center in Lincoln, Neb. Twice a summer intern at the Des Moines county office, Cooper has been a full-time SCS employe here for a year.

Hawk Eye, Burlington
9-3-72

Teachers can still register for conservation workshops

Iowa teachers still have time to register for this year's conservation education workshops, according to Howard Hughes, president of the Iowa Conservation Education Council.

The first workshop, intended primarily

for teachers in the eastern part of the state, will be held at Camp Ewalu near Strawberry Point Oct. 6-7. The second will be at the state 4-H Camp near Luther Oct. 13 and 14.

The Ewalu workshop will include teacher work sessions on environmental field days, classroom demonstrations, school camping and conservation education committees. In an awards dinner Friday night, teachers will be recognized for conservation education efforts.

Joseph Arundale of the U.S. Bureau of Mines will also speak to the group on "Pollution in Perspective."

Saturday's program includes field trips for teacher training. In past years, many soil conservation districts have sponsored teachers to the two-day workshop. Interested teachers in Des Moines County should contact Sherman Lundy of Burlington, chairman of the Environmental Conservation Education Council.

Hawk Eye 9-26-72

Detailed surveys of soils

A promise of much better soil survey information for Des Moines and other Iowa counties was given at the 26th Annual Conference of Soil Conservation District in Des Moines last week.

Dr. Tom E. Fenton, soil scientist and agronomist from Iowa State university, pointed out the differences in the old and modern surveys by making several comparisons.

"Some old surveys show as few as five soil types in a county," Fenton claims. "Many modern surveys will have 50 or more soil types and also show land slopes and erosion factors."

A typical old survey was made by a single surveyor in about 100 man days. The Des Moines county survey, when completed about 1976, will have used about nine man years.

The original soil survey taken over 50 years ago was printed on a single sheet map at a scale of one inch per mile. Modern surveys are drawn on up-to-date aerial photographs at a scale of four inches per mile. Soil areas as small as two acres can be accurately mapped, according to Fenton.

"Actual surveying has been contracted for Des Moines county starting in 1971," the agronomist stated. "A team of soil scientists will spend about three years in the field checking soils."

The main responsibility for soil surveys across the nation lies with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station assists.

Upon completion the new soil information will be of great value to all farmers and land users and will become a truly realistic basis for assessment, local soil officials claim.

Attending the meeting from Des Moines county were District Commissioner S.S. Barton of Mediapolis and District Conservationist E. Dewey, of Burlington.

Hawk Eye 9-18-72

WINSTON COOPER of the Des Moines County soil conservation office announces there have been 100,000 feet of tile outlet terraces built in the county the past eight months. That is almost 19 miles of terrace. Among those who established the erosion control practices are: Raymond Oetken and Everett Oetken of Tama township; Earl Orten, William Parrott, Dr. J. E. Murray and Robert Dodds of Danville township; Rex Trout and Edward C. Breuer of Concordia; Warren Langwith and Grover Willson, Washington; Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, John Hostetter and Marvin Lange, Flint River; William Denney and Darrell Tucker, Pleasant Grove; Kenneth Wehage and Clarence Kuntz, Huron; Dr. Carl Hulen and Gerald Miller, Union and Rodman Baird of Yellow Spring.

Other practices established this season included 16 erosion control dams and ponds in the county. Those applying the practices and their townships included: Vicki Maddox and Dr. Hulen, Union; Lester Dietsch and Kenneth Groe, Pleasant Grove; H. B. Schroeder, Tama; Grover Willson, Washington; Kenneth Wehage, Huron; Ronald Beckman, Danville; John Hostetter, Flint River; Virgil Massner and Orttie Locke, Yellow Spring; Neal Wolfe of Franklin and Iowa Army Ammunition Plant.

Hawk Eye
9-26-72

1974 County Soil Survey

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Attending the meeting from Des Moines County were District Commissioner S.S. Barton of Mediapolis and District Conservationist Ralph E. Dewey, of Burlington.

*Des Moines Co. News
H. Burl. 9-28-72*

Regional winners in soil program

Three area farmers have been named regional winners in the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program for doing an outstanding job of conserving soil and water. They are:

Si Hoffman, Jr., Humeston, in Division 1; Ray Pilling, Mediapolis (and owner C.B. Pilling), in Division 2; and Fred Holsteen, West Point, in Division 3.

Division 1 consists of owner-operated (or family-operated farms, Division 2 of landlord-tenant farms, and Division 3 of farms cooperating with the Soil Conservation Service.

These three Region 9 winners will receive barometers at a county banquet and are automatically in sweepstakes competition with 24 other regional winners for a single state award.

The program, in its 20th year, is sponsored by The Des Moines Register, The Iowa Farm Register, and several conservation and education agencies.

Hawk Eye 10-11-72

That fish-producing pond requires planning

By BOB HANSEN
Hawk Eye Sports Writer

That lunker bass or stringer of pan fish pulled from a Des Moines county farm pond may well have started out life as property of the federal or state government.

Area farmers are increasingly taking advantage of government programs and know-how to turn the "old fishing hole" into a recreational dividend.

But, like any dividend, a fish-producing pond requires an investment of careful planning. Most ponds will produce some fish but they will produce more and better fish if they are managed correctly.

One source of information on the correct way to develop a fish pond is Ralph Dewey of the U.S. Soil Conservation office located in the Federal building here. Dewey is also the man to see about getting fish.

His office will be taking applications until Feb. 1 for either bass or catfish fry from the federal fish hatchery near Muscatine.

Those land owners whose applications are approved can plan on picking up their

seed fish next summer. "We will begin delivering bass in June," said Dewey, "and catfish, in late August.

"A truck will be in the area and the farmer should bring along a 20-gallon container of his pond water and we'll see he gets his fish.

"Generally speaking," continued Dewey, "we will not stock a pond under half an acre, for it's too small for a good survival ratio, or larger than five acres, because that is considered a commercial venture."

Dewey explained the state also maintains a program of supplying fish to Iowa farmers.

"Most ponds, though, were stocked a good deal more informally. The farmer just took a pail of fish he caught in a neighbor's pond, dumped it in his own, and hoped for the best," he said.

The soil conservation office also offers a few pointers on which type of fish to stock. If a good bass-producing pond is desired, there shouldn't be any crappies introduced.

Crappies, in a pond with a uniform water level, will quickly overproduce, thus upsetting the balance between more desirable fish and leaving the pond filled with useless one and two-ounce fish.

If catfish are desired, only a small number of bass should be added to control wild fish that may enter the pond. The pond bottom should also have a few drainage tile or tires for catfish nesting spots, Dewey said.

Dewey also offers a few pointers on how to fish a pond.

"A good ratio of usage would be about 500 hours of fishing time per acre. Any less than that and the fish will not grow to best size. Any more than that and the number of fish caught will fall off," he said.

Dewey laid to rest the old story that once a farmer-owner accepts government stocking, he must open his pond up to the public.

"This may have been true at one time," Dewey explained, "but the farmer is under no obligation to let people fish his place if he doesn't want to.

"Naturally, we would like the public to use these ponds and it also provides the correct fishing pressure that the ponds need for best results."

The Soil Conservation office estimates there are 800 ponds in Des Moines county. Using government guidelines, that figures out to a lot of fish and a lot of fishing for area anglers.

Hawk Eye 10-15-72

Soil awards banquet planned for Nov. 16

The annual awards banquet of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District will be held at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 16 at First Christian church, 1221 Park Ave.

The program will feature environmental conservation education in outdoor classrooms, reported Rex H. Trout, chairman of the board of soil commissioners. Several teachers will be guests of the district.

Hawk eye 11-8-72

Awards banquet

Environmental conservation education will be the theme of the 1972 soil conservation achievement awards banquet to be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at First Christian church, 1221 Park Ave. The banquet is being held by the Des Moines county Soil Conservation District.

Hawk Eye 11-15-72

Waste from feedlot treated

A recently completed waste control project on the Robert Rehmkne farm northwest of Burlington will keep 2,500 tons of barnyard manure and waste from entering Flint River and the Mississippi every year, district conservation officials claim.

In an effort to manage the runoff from his livestock enterprise, Rehmkne has con-

structed a series of terraces, diversions, a holding pond and a lagoon. Planning for the project was a part of the work of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

Rehmkne, a farm manager for a Burlington Bank, purchased the farm about a

year ago. "It looked like a good livestock farm and has several ponds to supply water to pasture areas," he states.

The buildings and lots are located on a fairly narrow ridge with good drainage to move wastes off the lots. "Erosion is bound to be a problem with the steep slopes breaking away from the lots," Rehmkne claims. "This also presented a problem of pollution with rapid runoff to the creek."

Rehmkne contacted the soil conservation service, where district conservationist Ralph Dewey and conservation technician Oren Champ provided technical guidance to develop a sound plan for erosion and waste control. Application for cost-sharing by the Rural Environmental Assistance Program brought forth considerable help in the high cost of such a project. REAP paid half of the more than \$4,000 total cost. "Using federal funds to help pay for pollution control work of this kind is readily justified," Conservationist Dewey points out. "The farmer is providing a way to keep animal wastes from polluting, and the entire public can enjoy clean water."

State health officials also come into the picture on projects like this. Plans for the work had to be approved by the Iowa Water Pollution Control Commission before any earth could be moved.

Taking it from the top, the barns and lots drain about six acres of hilltop land. A diversion terrace wraps around the ridge-top, keeping runoff water from going down the steep slopes. This diversion serves a double purpose. It channels the feedlot runoff to a settling area and it keeps the runoff from getting into a livestock pond.

A short fill, about six feet deep and a hundred feet long, catches the solid and liquid wastes that will come off the lots, and through the diversion. Roof water is mainly taken through eaves troughs into an underground tile and on to the lagoon area.

A slotted pipe inlet to a tile system allows liquids to run to the lagoon at a lower level, while solids settle above the pipe. As the area fills with solid wastes, this material can be hauled out to fertilize cropland fields.

Nearly, 3,000 cubic yards of earth had to be moved to build the dam that holds the

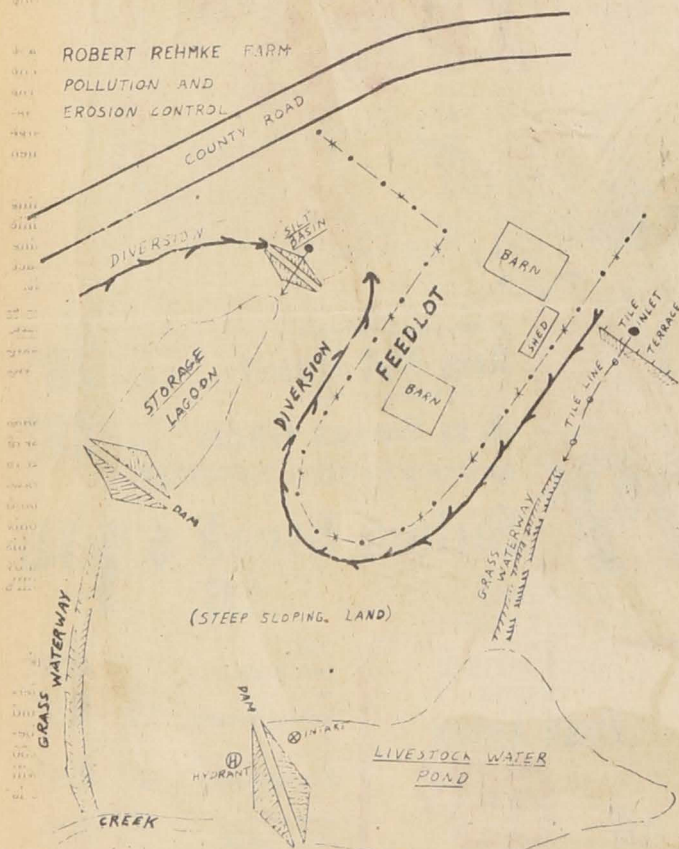
lagoon, according to SCS figures. Ninety feet of six inch metal pipe controls the overflow from the lagoon toward the creek below.

"Water running into the lagoon is naturally polluted," Rehmkne continues, "so the lagoon is the place where pollution is treated."

"The lagoon can store three inches of runoff from the feedlot," he adds. Biological action in the lagoon takes care of pollutants and the overflow to the outlet pipe is nearly pure water. What little waste material may be left will be filtered out in a grass waterway, which will also help to fertilize.

Rehmkne feels that the investment to build this waste control project is high, but it serves many purposes. Besides pollution control, erosion is prevented and his own stock watering system is no longer contaminated. "Besides there's a certain satisfaction in knowing you have done a bit to help make a better environment," Rehmkne concludes.

*News Eye
Burlington, 11-8-72*



POLLUTION CONTROL in feedlot of Robert Rehmkne is achieved by diversion terraces, a silt basin and storage-oxidation lagoon. This layout, on a

10-acre tract, is along county road X-37 in the northwest part of Section 18 of Franklin township. It's on the old Clarence Mehmken farm.

Soil saving efforts recognized

By BOB SOGARD
Hawk Eye Farm Editor

They were preaching to the converted at First Christian church Thursday night.

The occasion was the annual Des Moines county soil conservation awards banquet. The topic was environmental education and the farmers recognized received the "honorary degrees."

Rex Troute, chairman of the Des Moines county Soil Conservation committee, observed that one third of the acres in this county needing soil-saving treatment have been protected with conservation practices in the past 30 years.

"The public won't tolerate 60 years more to get the rest of the land treated," com-

mented Troute. He pointed to new laws that make the Soil Conservation service responsible for all of the land in the county—including yards, parks and airports, as well as farmland. Also, Iowa's new conservancy law restricting soil losses is among the first in the nation.

Sherman Lundy, Burlington teacher and environmentalist, explained the outdoor classroom concept that's getting a firm foothold in the schools here.

"Children need the experience of learning about ecology and protection of our environment where it's happening and that's outdoors," Lundy said. He said teachers, the SCS, parents and the public, as well as youngsters, should be involved in the planning for these studies.

"There's a world of knowledge to be gained from a rotten log. You can even study weeds growing up through cracks in a blacktop playground. There are trees and grasses, ponds and brushpiles that can be invaluable as outdoor classrooms," he added.

Gardening, planting trees, building bird houses and feeding stations, digging a pit to study soil types are just a few of the projects pupils can undertake in their outdoor classrooms, Lundy said.

SCS publications are available to help teachers and all others interested, he concluded.

Achievement awards to outstanding conservation farmers in the county were presented by soil commissioners. Division winners were:

DIVISION I, for owner-operators — Verner Amenell, who farms north of Mediapolis. He has nearly completed a system of terraces, ponds and waterways in the past five years.

DIVISION II, for landlord and tenant — Ray Pilling is the tenant on the farm of his father, C.E. (Jack) Pilling, just northwest of Mediapolis. They also were top winners in their division for the 12-county southeast Iowa region, in the contest co-sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune and the soil districts.

The elder Pilling was a district commissioner for six years. Troute said, "The entire farm has been well treated, first by Jack and then Ray put on the finishing touches.

DIVISION III, new co-operators — Marcell and Dave Noss, whose farm is about three miles west of Kingston, constructed a pond to provide livestock water and erosion control, as well as for recreation. Tile outlet terraces were constructed and plans have been made to complete the work on the farm.

The Rusty Door Four, barbershop quartet, provided entertainment for the 90 persons at the banquet. The members are Jack Stout, Joe Layman, Woody Herman and Ralph Dewey, district conservationist.



ACHIEVERS in the county soil conservation awards competition this year were, back row, from left, Dave Noss, Verner Amenell, C.E. (Jack) Pilling,

and Ray Pilling. Wives, from left, are Mrs. Noss, Mrs. Amenell and Mrs. Jack Pilling.

Burlington Hawk Eye 11-17-74



Achievers in the Des Moines county soil conservation awards competition in 1972 were, back

row, from left, Dave Noss, Verner Amenell, C. E. (Jack) Pilling and Ray Pilling, all Medi-

apolis rural. Wives, from left, are Mrs. Noss, Mrs. Amenell and Mrs. Jack Pilling.

Area Farmers Get Soil Awards

Achievement awards to outstanding conservation farmers in Des Moines county were presented Thursday night, November 16 at the annual soil conservation awards banquet held at the First Christian church in Burlington. Division winners were:

Division I, for owner - operators - Verner Amenell, who farms north of Mediapolis. He has nearly completed a system of terraces, ponds and waterways in the past five years.

Division II, for landlord and tenant - Ray Pilling is the tenant

on the farm of his father, C.E. (Jack) Pilling, just northwest of Mediapolis. They also were top winners in their division for the 12-county southeast Iowa region, in the contest co-sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune and the soil districts.

The elder Pilling was a district commissioner for six years. Rex Trout, chairman of the county Soil conservation, said: "The entire farm has been well treated, first by Jack and then Ray put on the finishing touches.

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The topic for the evening was environmental education. Chairman Trout emphasized that only one-third of the acres in the county needing soil-saving treatment have been protected with

conservation practices in the past 30 years.

The chairman pointed to new laws that make the Soil Conservation service responsible for all the land in the county, including yards, parks and airports, as well as farm land. Sherman Lundy, Burlington teacher and environmentalist, explained the outdoor classroom concept that is getting a foothold in the schools in the area.

The Rusty Door Four barber-shop quartet provided entertainment at the banquet. Members of the quartet are Jack Stout, Woody Herman, Joe Layman, and Ralph Dewey, district conservationist.

Burt Nealey, who farms north of Danville, disagrees with the blanket statement that making pasture out of land that grows only brush and scrub trees is a conservation minus.

"Grass holds the land, too. I've seen land that isn't taken care of erode from under a tangle of brush that kills out the grass," Burt declared when I talked with him Tuesday.

He pointed to the work done by his sons, Jim and Charles, the past year. Part of the project is illustrated on Page 20 of today's Hawk Eye. They bought a 240-acre farm from the Knutson estate. The place is two miles north of Danville.

Starting with about 35 acres of hilly

brush-infested ground, they bulldozed the brush into piles along the creek that runs through the place. They kept the crawler tractor on the job with a heavy duty disk. There were too many roots to try to plow, but they could take a disk to shape up the ground after the 'dozer left so that corn could be planted on the contour.

They applied a herbicide and didn't cultivate. The process will be repeated this year, then the tract should be in shape for seeding the pasture to be used by a beef herd. The contoured ground looked pretty good when I walked over it and the supersaturated soil appeared to be staying in place. In other words, this ground apparently is fertile enough so that it won't literally go downhill if it is properly pastured.

Min Amemiya, the ISU agronomist, was here last week pointing out that all such pasture making isn't in the interest of public or farmer.

"Woodland clearing can be disastrous," the professor declared. "It can't raise corn and isn't too good for pasture. It might cost \$100 an acre to clean up and \$100 more for chemicals, fertilizer and seed. Then, in a few years, cattle runs start rills, erosion resumes and the \$300 land there isn't worth the \$100 you started with."

Amemiya suggested that pasture renovators seed native prairie grasses — blue stem, switch grass, Indian grass — that come on strong in the hot season while the cool weather grasses brown down. He cautioned against over-grazing, urging that 8-10 inches of stubble be left so the grass can come back.

He pointed out a whole bunch of benefits resulting from terracing. The farmer needs less fertilizer, insecticides and herbicides. Terracing eliminates dodging gullies, allows more efficient use of equipment and reduces ditch cleanup. Also, moisture is retained, the land is more productive and is five to 10 per cent more valuable.

Public benefits include: Cleaner water, cleaner air, sediment control, flood control and ecological balances are maintained.

But terraces are expensive. Now that REAP funds have been axed, enforcement of Iowa's new soil conservancy law shot down. Minoru said alternatives may have to be developed. These include grass or meadow rotation, conservation tillage and other practices that save soil but don't cost so much. Also, the state SCS people are seeking considerably more from the legislature.

Rex Trout, chairman of the soil district commissioners, is practicing what he preaches. He told the crop production meeting participants about a cooperative terracing program he completed with neighbors Ed Breuer and Vine Gehring.

The project, cost-shared with REAP funds, reduced his annual soil loss from eight tons per acre to 1.2 tons. Rex conceded that it's doubtful he would have done his portion of the 55-acre \$4,000 job if REAP funds hadn't been available.

*Mediapolis
New Era
11-24-72*

*Hawk Eye >
1-17-73*

New pastures crowding wildlife

By BOB HANSEN

In recent years, Iowa wildlife has taken its lumps on everything from highway construction to industrial pollution. Now it appears even rising beef prices are posing a threat to the state's diminishing primitive habitat areas.

Relative higher cattle prices are forcing many Hawk Eye land farmers to convert timbered areas into pasture land. This, in turn, destroys the food and cover that permits many types of wild life to flourish.

Ralph Dewey of the U.S. Soil Conservation Office estimates approximately 200 acres of timber are converted to pasture annually in Des Moines county. More heavily wooded areas — such as those in Van Buren county — lost about 1,000 acres of trees each year.

The long run impact this practice will have on the state's wildlife resources is yet undetermined. However, authorities are becoming increasingly concerned over the more apparent short run aspects of pasture reclamation.

State Supervisor of Wild Life Management Don Cummings reports, "Under certain circumstances we have noted a substantial reduction of deer, rabbit, squirrel and quail where woodland is converted to pasture in any significant amount.

"Fortunately," Cummings said, "the practice is not widespread, but it may well become quite common. If that occurs, we may have a serious problem on our hands.

"In the case of larger animals such as deer, land will carry only so many animals," he said. "We will have to see if it is going to be wildlife or cattle."

Cummings' concern is shared by State Games Biologist At Ferris.

"We're beginning to see the destruction

of many areas of natural habitat for deer and squirrels in south east Iowa.

"In a recent trip through the Burlington-Ottumwa area we saw significant areas of timber being cleared off," Ferris said.

"If this is done in areas where row crops are nearby and some brush is left, the impact on quail is negligible or it may even help out.

"But if no cover is left and if nearby marginal crop land is converted, we are going to start losing many species of wildlife," he warned.

The conversion of wooded areas to pasture has increased in recent years as the rising price of beef, coupled with increasing operating expenses, has forced many farm-

ers to maximize the use of all available land.

However, State District Forester Stanley Tate questions the economic justification used in many instances of pasture reclamation.

"Putting aside esthetics or any other consideration," Tate said, "it is very difficult economically to justify the conversion of much of this timbered land into pasture.

"In many areas, the slope is greater than 18 per cent and it becomes rough for the farmer to bring equipment onto the land to fertilize, mow and maintain the property. After a few years the nutrient value is depleted and the land will no longer produce grass — or much of anything else," Tate continued.

"In Des Moines county, we have some classic cases of steep hills with limited top soil going into pasture. Much of this land has such low fertility it will not regenerate grass or trees.

"Erosion has also taken place with the accompanying siltation problems. The land has lost its value to society.

"Many farmers seem caught in a beef price hysteria. They are sacrificing the long run value of their land for a highly questionable short run profit."

As with any business, farmers work their land for a profit, not to maintain wildlife sanctuaries. However, the only sure thing about the pasture reclamation movement is that, once again, Iowa's natural resources will be the big loser.



RECLAIMED LAND, once a tangle of brush and small trees, is this 35-acre tract in Pleasant Grove township that was cleared by bull-

dozer last year. The land is part of a 240-acre farm purchased by Burton K. Nealey and his sons, James and Charles. The dozer also was used to

work the ground with a heavy disk and it was planted in corn, on the contour. After another season of corn, the land will be seeded for pasture. See Ag Info, Page 18.

Hawk Eye

1-17-73

Walter B. Eyre

**Off the
cob**



Although wet weather has hampered conservation practices in the county, much progress has been made, according to information received from Ralph Dewey and the other workers at the local soil conservation office.

Robert Baylor, Pleasant Grove township, is continuing his terracing program with the building of 1,000 feet of parallel terraces to control water runoff and soil loss on a six-acre field.

Conservation progress made

This work created more cropland that was being taken over by brush. Row crops may now be grown and will not only make a much higher return to Robert but will also make additional food and forage as well as cover for game birds and animals near their natural habitat.

Bob Dodds, Danville, has a forty at some distance from his other farm land on which he has established a tile outlet system to handle runoff from the proposed terrace system. The work included a new main tile under a county road and to a safe outlet on

his neighbor, Roy Wagner. The terraces will control the runoff from 40 acres of land. Side benefits of the system are a better drainage system on the Wagner farm and provide new outlets for future terracing of the John Seymour farm. Sounds like some neighborhood cooperation that will save a lot of soil and increase crop yields.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER Rex Troute, having had enough of erosion on two of his fields, entered into a mutual agreement with two neighbors south of

Burlington, Ed Breuer and Vine Gehring. They will provide tile drain outlets for Troute's terrace systems. In turn, Gehring and Breuer continued the terraces across their fields. This makes it possible to completely control water runoff and erosion on 75 acres. The fields are easier to farm now that the work has been done.

CARL SHUMAKER, a district commissioner who lives west of Danville, continued terrace building on one of his fields. This work will give him added protection

for a large grass waterway through his farm. Many farmers are finding atrazine has been killing grass in waterways, making them harder to keep seeded. Tile outlets are giving a better answer to the waterway problem.

Many ponds for livestock water and for erosion control have been built. Ponds are providing areas for waterfowl and wildlife to survive.

WILLIAM STAATS, in Benton township north of Burlington, has a pond that controls several acres of runoff and prevents the water from cutting gullies in a steep hillside. Dwight Stucker, Pleasant Grove township, has a new pond for livestock water in a pasture nearly a mile from his farmstead. He is much better able to control use of his pastures with the added water supply. Clair Williams has done much the same thing on a part of his farm just across the county line on a part of his farm west of Danville.

The Shumaker and Dodds tile jobs have been completed in the Geode watershed where both the federal and state governments have joined with the landowners in cost sharing. Charles Buck, also in the Geode watershed, has built an erosion control pond. Keith and Grover Renner in the same neighborhood have a diversion terrace to keep silt from heading for the lake.

DARRELL TUCKER, Pleasant Grove township, Dale Hazen and Clifford Wallman in Washington, Theodore Berning, Yellow Spring, and Harvey Heiniger, near Kingston have been able to complete tiling even though the fall has been quite wet.

Newk Eyre 1-3-73

with the feed efficiency found in better pasturelands.

In the case of so-called "timber pasture" the problems of slope are compounded by exceedingly poor feed. Grass grown in shade is very low in nutritional value. Stock can actually lose weight while keeping their bellies full. As the shade grown grass is quickly depleted livestock turn to brush (actually young tree seedlings) as a food source. The digestive systems of cattle are not equipped to efficiently digest the woody twigs they are forced to feed on, and the cattle cannot show acceptable weight gains.

I want to be careful not to overplay the economics of this problem, because things are not that simple. Land use ethics is an integral part of the problem. I once knew a man who was so embarrassed that he couldn't face his neighbors, because a small gully had started in his pasture. Yet every year tract after tract of rougher land is succumbing to deforestation, overgrazing and heavy topsoil loss, and yet few seem concerned or even aware.

The topsoil on our hills is usually quite thin (less than 12 inches) and is underlain by a layer of soil very high in clay. Once the topsoil is gone and the clay layer is exposed an area is created on which it is exceedingly difficult to re-establish either grass or trees. Any existing trees lose their vigor and die because they are dependent on the thin, fragile topsoil for their existence. The most profound of tragedies has then occurred; a once beautiful and useful parcel of land has been turned into a sterile and wasted carcass.

We can look to the famed "CEDARS OF LEBANON" for an example from history. Lebanon was once lush with cedar forests, but has now been barren for nearly 2,000 years. The Romans discovered these vast forests and began to harvest them for use in building ships. The forests may have survived the timber cutting had not the cutters brought goats. As the older trees were cut, seedlings grew to replace them; but the goats ate the seedlings and in-

MEDIAPOLIS NEW ERA

terrupted the cedar's self-renewal cycle. Subsequent soil erosion finished the job. It is hard to believe that such an innocuous creature as a goat could have such a profound effect in such a few years.

Other important factors are also involved. Soil erosion causes downstream siltation and the resultant degradation of rivers and lakes. In addition, the runoff from timberland increases rapidly if it is grazed and even more drastically if it is cleared. The increased runoff causes more erosion and more frequent flooding. The taxpayer ultimately bears the cost of increased dredging and flood control work.

Good land management is not a simple matter, but we all must learn to live in closer harmony with our land. If you have timberland and want information or assistance please contact:

Stan Tate, District Forester
Box 387
Muscatine, Iowa 52761

Unprecedented Timber Clearing

The following news release, dealing with the problems arising out of the "unprecedented level of timber clearing in Southeastern Iowa", comes from Stan Tate, District Forester, of Muscatine.

Rising livestock prices and poor land management are some of the causes of the unprecedented level of timber clearing in Southeastern Iowa. Many landowners are selling or bulldozing standing timber with hopes of gaining inexpensive pasture. Many others are simply allowing their cattle to graze standing timber. If the lure of inexpensive pasture appeals to you, consider these facts before you take action.

Creating new pasture or pasturing existing timber is an investment; but only good investments make money. If your intended pasture is steeper than 15% slope (about a 1 to 6 slope) it may turn out to be a poor investment. If you keep careful records you may find you are losing money.

Potential income from pasture decreases rapidly as the slope of the land increases. On steeper ground the grass is poorer and more expensive to maintain, and the livestock must expend more energy moving up and down the hills to get less feed. It's obvious that steep land cannot compete

Reduced tillage way to slow soil erosion

"In spite of the cutback of federal funds for conservation programs, many farmers are making plans to reduce erosion on their lands in 1973," district conservationist Ralph Dewey declares.

Dewey, representing the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in Des Moines county, said that people are seeking alternatives to expensive terracing for erosion control. "Data from years of experiment show us that reduced tillage practices that leave a stubble mulch on the land can be as effective as terracing to hold the soil," he stated.

"The threat of erosion remains every time the soil is cultivated for crops regardless of any government cost-sharing program," Dewey said, "and sediment continues to be produced for our streams at a rate of 10-20 tons per acre."

Many farmers are turning to minimum

tillage methods to slow erosion. Instead of turning over the soil with a plow after harvesting, a mixing tool, such as a chisel plow, is used. This stirs the crop stubble into the soil, leaving a mulch on top instead of burying the mulch and leaving the soil exposed.

"Simple methods like these can cut soil losses by 50 to 75 per cent. Besides erosion control, there is less compaction, giving the crop a better chance to grow," Dewey added.

Because of wet fall weather, very little fall plowing was done in southeast Iowa. Winter and early spring wind erosion should be much less than normal.

"This situation offers a fine chance to start reduced tillage methods," Dewey concluded. "Terracing is still the best permanent erosion control, but we have a chance to save over a million tons of soil in 1973 by simply not plowing everything underground."

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The Hawk Eye 2-28-73

SCS Still In Business

"We are still in business and more determined than ever to carry out our mission to stop soil erosion." Soil conservation district chairman Rex Trouté of Burlington makes this confirmation in response to many questions in recent weeks about the future of the soil conservation program in Des Moines County.

Late in December, agriculture began receiving a series of shock treatments as the U.S. Office of Management and Budget took slashing blows at farm programs. The Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) the cost sharing program to help rural land users apply much needed erosion control practices, was the first to go.

"The REAP program has become one of our more effective tools in establishing the practices that are parts of the long-range conservation plans of land owners in the district," Trouté maintains. "Over the years a greater part of REAP funds has been applied to such permanent practices as terracing and erosion control dams."

"BUT, land use planning is the primary job of the district, and we are still very much in business," Chairman Trouté declared.

"We realize that without cost sharing, progress may be a little slower," Trouté continued. "But the need to conserve natural resources is as great as ever. The challenge of how to do it becomes more complex."

The conservationist pointed out that the planning staff of the Soil Conservation Service is prepared to help land users find alternate, and perhaps less expensive, methods to control their soil losses. It is still the owners decision as to the action he takes.

"Now, more than ever before, a good job of conservation planning is needed to assure the best and most effective use of the land," Trouté concludes. "The soil district still provides the best basis for conservation planning, a land use capability inventory and expertise in soils and planning."

Mediapolis New Era
2-22-73

Urge Minimum Tillage To Slow Erosion

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"The threat of erosion remains every time the soil is cultivated for crops regardless of any government cost-sharing program," Dewey goes on. "And sediment continues to be produced for our streams at a rate of 10-20 tons per acre."

Many farmers are turning to minimum tillage methods to slow erosion. Instead of turning over the soil with a plow after harvesting, a mixing tool, such as a chisel plow, is used. This stirs the crop stubble into the soil leaving a mulch on top instead of burying the mulch and leaving the soil exposed.

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Mediapolis New Era
3-1-73



Ray Pilling Is Soil Commissioner

(In picture: Ray Pilling, left, and Rex Trouté, Des Moines County Soil District Board chairman)

Ray Pilling of Mediapolis has been named by the State Soil Conservation Committee as district commissioner for Des Moines County Soil Conservation District. He will complete the remaining year of office left vacant by the recent death of S. S. Barton of Mediapolis.

Pilling comes to the office of soil district commissioner well qualified. A cooperarator with the district for more than 20 years, his farming operation reflects much effort in erosion control. Building terraces and erosion control dams helped him to be recognized, along with his father, C. E. Pilling, as outstanding conservationist in Southeast Iowa in 1972.

As a member of the soil district board Pilling will join chairman Rex Trouté of Burlington, and members Dwight Stucker of New London, Carl Shumaker of

Danville and William Vierling of Mediapolis in directing soil conservation efforts in Des Moines county.

His father C. E. (Jack) Pilling served as district commissioner from 1956 to 1962.

The Des Moines County Teachers Camp Offers Course

Nature trail planning, outdoor laboratory use, field trips, and study of man's management of his resources and environment will be part of the program for this year's Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp.

The 3-week course will be offered June 11-29 at Cedar Falls and again July 9-27 at Burlington. In the past, the course has been held at Springbrook State Park.

"By taking the program closer to the home environment of the participants, we hope to be of more direct help to schools and teachers in developing conservation education programs," says Camp Director Bernard Clausen of Cedar Falls.

The course, open to both elementary and secondary teachers, offers three hours of university credit. It is jointly sponsored by the University of Northern Iowa, Iowa Department of Public Instruction, Iowa Conservation Commission, and Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

For more information, Clausen advises that you write to him at the University of Northern Iowa or contact the Conservation Education Committee of your local Soil Conservation District.

Des Moines Co. News
Mar. 1973

Conservation camp offered here in July

Burlington will be the scene of the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp for the first time this year.

The 3-week course will be offered June 11-29 at Cedar Falls and again July 9-27 at Burlington. In the past, the course has been held at Springbrook State Park.

Nature trail planning, outdoor laboratory use, field trips and study of man's management of his resources and environment will be part of the program.

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Clausen said more information may be secured by writing to him at the University of Northern Iowa or from the conservation education committee of the local Soil Conservation District.

Hawk Eye 3-1-73

Name Pilling to conservation unit

Ray Pilling of Mediapolis has been named by the Iowa Soil Conservation committee as district commissioner for the Des Moines county soil conservation district.

Pilling will complete the remaining year of the office left vacant by the recent death of S.S. Barton of Mediapolis.

For the past 20 years, Pilling has been a cooperator with the district. "His farming operation reflects much effort in erosion control," said Chairman Rex Troute.

"Building terraces and erosion control dams helped him to be recognized, along with his father, C.E. Pilling, as outstanding conservationist in southeast Iowa in 1972," Troute added.

Other members of the district board are Dwight Stucker, New London; Carl Shumaker, Danville, and William Vierling, Mediapolis, Pilling's father, "Jack", served as district commissioner from 1956 to 1962.



Ray Pilling

Hawk Eye 3-7-73

Still fight soil losses

"We are still in business and more determined than ever to carry out our mission to stop soil erosion." Soil conservation district chairman Rex Troute of Burlington made this confirmation in response to many questions in recent weeks about the future of the soil conservation program in Des Moines county.

Late in December, agriculture began receiving a series of shock treatments as the U.S. Office of Management and Budget took slashing blows at farm programs. The Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) — the cost-sharing program to help rural land users apply much needed erosion control practices — was the first to go.

"The REAP program has become one of our most effective tools in establishing the practices that are part of the long-range conservation plans of land owners in the district," Troute maintained. "Over the years a greater part of REAP funds has been applied to such permanent practices as terracing and erosion control dams.

"BUT — land use planning is the primary job of the district, and we are still very much in business," Chairman Troute declared.

"We realize that without cost sharing, progress may be a little slower," Troute continued, "but the need to conserve natural resources is as great as ever. The challenge of how to do it becomes more complex."

The conservationist pointed out that the planning staff of the Soil Conservation Service is prepared to help land users find alternate, and perhaps less expensive, methods to control their soil losses. It is still the owner's decision as to the action he takes.

"Now, more than ever before, a good job of conservation planning is needed to assure the best and most effective use of the land," Troute concluded.

Hawk Eye 3-7-73

Conservation camp planned for teachers

Plans are well under way for the first "on-the-road" session of Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp to be held on the Burlington high school campus July 9-27.

Sherman Lundy, chairman of the Environmental Conservation Education Council for Des Moines county, stated that area teachers will find this a golden opportunity to sharpen up their teaching of environmental subjects and to learn about "outdoor classrooms."

"Using the outdoors as a laboratory to teach relationships of living things and their environment is the newest and best method," Lundy proclaimed. "Teachers enrolled in this course will be able to develop outdoor classrooms in their own areas after the three week course of training."

Listed as Biology 104g in the University of Northern Iowa catalog, the teachers camp is offered for three hours of graduate or undergraduate credit.

Over the past 23 years over 2,000 Iowa teachers have enjoyed this course while it was offered in the outdoor setting of Springbrook State Park at Guthrie Center.

In order to make this training more available to southeast Iowa teachers, this year's session has been moved to Burlington. There is room for only 40 teachers in the class, so chairman Lundy urges those who are interested to promptly contact Bernard Clausen, Director, Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613 for application and enrollment.

"The Burlington area is indeed fortunate to host this school," Lundy concluded. "Any persons or groups who wish to know more about it are urged to contact the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District in the Federal Building."

Hawk Eye 3-12-73

USDA Soil Conservation Service

Plans are well underway for the first "on-the-road" session of Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp to be held on the Burlington High School campus July 9 - 27, 1973. Sherman Lundy, chairman of the Environmental Conservation Education Council for Des Moines county, announced that area teachers will find this a golden opportunity to sharpen up their teaching of environmental subjects and to learn about "outdoor classrooms."

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In order to make this training more available to Southeast Iowa teachers, this year's session has been moved to Burlington. There is room for only forty teachers in the class, so chairman Lundy urges those who are interested to promptly contact Mr. Bernard Clausen, Director, Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613 for application and enrollment.

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Mediapolis New Era 3-15-73

Teachers Camp In Burl. Area

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In order to make this training more available to Southeast Iowa teachers, this year's

FFA PARENT-SON BANQUET

The meeting was called to order by Dave Wagenbach, president and the official opening ceremony was used. John Hays, vice president welcomed everyone to the banquet. The officers - Dave Wagenbach, president; John Hays, vice president; Keith Hemphill, secretary; Charles Pilling, reporter; Dave Baker, treasurer and Steve Murphy, sentinel gave their parents a long stem yellow rose for all their help the past year. Mr. Howell, chapter advisor also gave his wife a rose for the work she has given the chapter the past year.

Steve Krieger gave the invocation. The FHA girls prepared and served a very delicious meal. The menu was ham, baked potatoes, buttered peas, jello salad, dinner rolls and apple or cherry pie a la mode. After the meal Dave Wagenbach, toastmaster began the evening's program by introducing Steve Murphy, who recognized the guests that were present. They were: Mr. and Mrs. Nels Christensen, Mr. and Mrs. James Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Ban-

wart, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Cowger, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Brand, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Keltzer, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Belknap, Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Thie, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Stover, Mr. and Mrs. William Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Hartzell Hillyard, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Todd, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Howell, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hinz, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dewey, Mr. and Mrs. James Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. James Garrett, Mrs. Naomi Dotson, Mrs. Helen Gustafson, Mrs. James Howell, Daryl Sywassink, Floyd Connors, Mr. Hale, Don Stover, Steve Wilson and Randy Nelson.

Dave Wagenbach then introduced our parliamentary procedure team, Ed Nelson, Doug Cling, Bruce Frank, Joe Gerling and Steve Krieger. They gave a demonstration of five abilities. Jon Luttenegger, creed speaker gave the official FFA Creed, which he gave at contests. Charles Pilling, reporter presented Mallory Moore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Max Moore as FFA Sweetheart. She is a senior and her father is engaged in an agricultural occupation. John Hays was awarded the Pioneer award by Mr. Hale. He kept records on 5 acres of Pioneer corn and entered them in competition. Roger Schulz was given the Pride Company award for his prize winning essay. The title of the essay was "New Tillage and Planting Methods and their Effect on Yield."

Charles Pilling presented a surprise award to Mrs. Naomi Dotson for her help given to our

speech contestants each year. She also assisted in the Pride essay contest and judging contests. The officers then conferred the degree of Honorary Chapter Farmers on two people. First was Mrs. Helen Gustafson, who is very interested in agriculture and has set up a scholarship fund for a senior ag student. Second one was Mr. Ralph Dewey for the help he has given our chapter.

Joe Gerling and Bruce Frank presented the following member awards: Charles Pilling, home improvement; Doug Cling, livestock production - swine; Mike Oberman, livestock production - beef; Roger Schulz, Star Chapter Farmer; Jon Luttenegger, Star Greenhand; Dave Baker, crop production; Steve Murphy, Star agri-business; Keith Hemphill, public speaking and soil and water management.

Mr. Gordon Hinz gave awards to the best record book from each class. Roger Schulz, senior; Doug Cling, junior; Brad Davis, sophomore and Rick Todd, freshman received the awards. The chapter then gave Mr. Hinz an FFA paperweight for giving of his time.

Featured speaker, Daryl Sywassink, state president was introduced by John Hays, who gave a very interesting speech.

In conclusion Jim Pilling and Brad Davis gave a slide presentation of the chapter's Program of Work. Following, there was open house in the school library and agriculture room. Past scrapbooks were on display for the curious lookers. Charles Pilling, reporter

with just a little assistance from their Den Mother. A menu of hot dogs, chips, marshmallows and Ding Dongs was consumed. The boys then put out the fire and gave it the final safety test by placing their hands upon the wet ashes to be certain it was completely out.

The boys then went indoors to make waterproof matches under Mrs. Little's supervision and instruction. They discussed match and fire safety while they worked.

We have decided on Chautauqua Park as the place for our planned overnight but no date has been set yet.

The meeting was closed with salutes to our American flag, the Living Circle and reciting the Law of the Pack.

Den 6

Cub Scout Den 6 met on April 9 and Jim Abel led the flag ceremony. Danny Schrock furnished the treats. Our Den Mother wrote thank you notes to the police and fire stations for the very interesting tours.

We made gumdrop "Easter Bunnies" and also decorated "Leggs" to look like easter eggs. We discussed plans for our cook-out that we want to have on the 28th of this month and sure hope the weather will be real nice and warm by then.

Next week on Tuesday is the swim again. Brad Schmedler will furnish the treats on April 30. Will the boys who are behind in

Des Moines County News
3-8-73

Walter B. Eyre

**Off the
cob**



MRS. HELEN GUSTAFSON, Mediapolis broke a long-standing precedent when named the first woman to ever receive the honorary farmer of the year award from the Mediapolis Community School FFA at its annual banquet. The Gustafson family had provided an annual award of \$100 to the top FFA senior for college expenses or to start in farming or some other business. The award is made in memory of the late Louis (Luke) Gustafson by Mrs. Gustafson and his children.

Ralph Dewey, Des Moines county soil conservationist, also received honorary recognition for his help in the chapter and student soils projects.

Class awards for the best records went to Rick Todd, freshman; Brad Davis,

hawk Eye 4-11-73

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Mediapolis News Era 4-12-73



Steve Murphy congratulates Mrs. Louis Gustafson as the officers confer the degree of Honorary Chapter Farmer to Mr. Ralph Dewey and Mrs. Louis Gustafson. (left to right) John Hays, vice-president; Mr. Ralph Dewey, Steve Murphy, Sentinel; Mrs. Louis Gustafson, Dave Baker, Treasurer.

Mediapolis News Era 4-12-73



By
Bob
Sogard

the Ag bag

The soil conservation people are going to town — literally.

Ralph Dewey says the new role for his department is a complete turnabout and he's delighted. "We had been told in the old days that our job is with the farmers," said Ralph. "It still is, but we also have something to offer the cities and towns."



Ralph Dewey

Other governmental bodies are using the expertise of the Soil Conservation Service.

Schools benefit from the help of offices here and elsewhere. Biology, ecology, conservation and allied subjects get a boost from SCS men who serve as resource people and who provide materials for outdoor classroom programs.

Teachers and administrators who are friends of conservation reciprocate by making school kids more aware of their environment.

The Des Moines county soil conservation district has an agreement with the IAAP, to provide technical assistance in carrying out the conservation plan for the ordinance plant area.

But the latest association is a memorandum of understanding between the soil district and the city of Burlington that was approved by the plan commission Tuesday.

Fred Stouder, director of planning and development, said the SCS office will be consulted in connection with clearing of a 2-block area of Maple Hills as part of the Neighborhood Development Program.

In the resolution, now subject to city council approval, the council acknowledges that the shifting of land use in the country from agriculture to urban and suburban development has increased silt and sediment problems. It also agrees that soils information and interpretations prepared by the SCS had proved their "value and versatility" in the land use planning process.

Remember the clay slime that was washed off the freeway corridor onto half the downtown streets a couple years ago? Looks like the highway commission should have joined those who have asked for help.

The SCS office here is helping with another new project this year. For the first time since its founding, the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp will be held in southeast Iowa. It will be headquartered at Burlington high school July 9-27, after an identical course June 11-29 on the campus of the University of Northern Iowa at Cedar Falls.

The county's getting into the act, too. The conference board in 1971 gave tenta-

tive approval to a plan to begin a standard soils survey of the county, starting in fiscal 1974. Lee county completed a survey in 1972 that took several years to accomplish. The IAAP and the district contracted for a survey last year.

The 19th century type of survey and the standard survey of today can be compared to opera glasses vs. the 200-inch telescope on Mt. Palomar.

The county unit is reaching out to other soil conservation districts in Iowa Area XVI, too. Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa counties have a new working agreement which provides for action as one body in cooperative activities.

The new board is the first to be estab-

lished in Iowa, Dewey said, although Missouri started its program with the institution of the area college concept in that state.

Jim Hawkins of Argyle, Lee county representative, is chairman of the new coordinating board. "Our districts, under this new agreement, (can) make our serv-

ices more effective in working with regionwide planning and development groups," Hawkins said.

Working with him are these other district commissioners: Rex Troute, Burlington; Dale Waters, Mt. Pleasant, and Virgil Corey of Wapello.

"This board is empowered by the four

districts to work with regional and county planning commissions, and any other area-wide groups concerned with land use and resource planning," Hawkins stated.

Now, if the legislature will do some funding where the federal government copped out, progress might be made in more than a planning outline.

*Hawk Eye
Burlington
5-9-73*

4 Conservation Districts Plan Joint Action

Cooperation in conservation of soil resources in southeast Iowa took a giant step forward Wednesday as four soil conservation districts joined forces to work with planning and development groups in Iowa Area XVI.

District Commissioners from Des Moines, Lee, Henry and Louisa Counties joined in Mt. Pleasant to draw up working agreement to act as one body in future cooperative activities.

"The main desire of our districts, under this new agreement, is to make our services more effective in working with regionwide planning and development groups", stated Jim Hawkins, of Argyle. Hawkins was selected chairman of the new coordinating board comprised of a district commissioner from each of the four counties.

Other representatives include vice-chairman Dale Walters of Mt. Pleasant, secretary Rex Troute of Burlington and Virgil Corey of Wapello.

"This board is empowered by the four districts to work with regional and county planning commissions, and any other area-wide groups concerned with land use and resource planning," Hawkins explained. "We feel we can be more effective in conservation by speaking as a unit rather than as four separate agencies."

The action of the districts in this cooperative venture is the first of its kind in Iowa. Until now, the approach to conservation was strictly within county boundaries.

Area conservationist John Eckes of Fairfield, responsible of soil conservation service activities in the four county area, points out that reaching across county boundaries like this will not tend to break down the boundaries. Instead, he claims, the work on both sides of the boundaries will be strengthened.

Hawkins concluded that the action of the district boards is "landmark" in stature and paves the way for a great future of resource development.

*Midapolis News
5-3-73*

Progress report

Guest columnist this week is Ralph E. Dewey, district conservationist, who has a timely commentary from his committee chairman and also a progress report on erosion control work in Des Moines county.

Soil Stewardship Week, being observed nationwide from May 27 through June 3, points out man's place in creation as a steward of soil water and other natural resources, according to soil district chairman Rex Trouté of Burlington.

"The theme this year, Changing Challenges, is particularly timely as both rural and urban land users have battled weather and natural disasters to perform their work," Trouté proclaimed. "The damages to the land because of poor stewardship of the soil are really evident now."

Millions of tons of silt from farm fields and urban excavations have moved into our streams. Man is finding repair and rebuilding of land far more costly than protection would have been.

Trouté points to the many good soil stewards in rural Des Moines county who have protected their soil resource with soil conserving practices. "These people can point with pride to grassed waterways that have trapped the silt runoff from recent rains or to terraces that have kept the silt from moving to waterways," he said.

"My own farm, and others like it, suffered a lot of erosion," Trouté stated, "But my silt is still on my farm — not somewhere between here and the Mississippi delta."

The conservationist went on to point out fields he has seen that will require major earth leveling projects before they can be farmed again. "A look around should make a believer of anyone who has not yet become a good soil steward," he continued.

"And city dwellers suffer as well from poor land use," Trouté went on. "Mud slides and gully problems, streets covered with sediment and basements filled with muddy water are signs of stewardship neglect."

During Soil Stewardship Week, a time for "Changing Challenges", everyone has a chance to review his place in the world. He has an opportunity to rededicate himself to take better care of that part of the environment he occupies.

"We are only placed here on Earth for a few years to tend a bit of land provided by the Creator," Trouté concludes. "Our constant challenge is to make the best of it without abusing it."

Trouté has installed parallel tile inlet terraces on his farm in Concordia township, in cooperation with Vine Gehring, who had to contend with runoff from the Trouté place.

At last, erosion control work is progressing in Des Moines County after nearly eight months of wet weather.

West of Danville, Henry Dockendorff is completing a project planned for last autumn as his new tile outlet terraces take shape out of the muddy soils. These new terraces protect about 40 acres of intensively cropped land, and Dockendorff's only regret is the loss of soil

from the field while waiting on the weather.

Providing tile outlets for the terraces meant installing a complete new drainage system across the farm. A 12-inch main extends across the corner of the Cady farm pasture just south of Henry's place and provides for additional tile drainage for both farms.

At the upper end of the watershed, the tile main gives Henry's brother, Alvin (Jim) Dockendorff, a better outlet for tiling his level, wet fields. In all, about 100 acres have been improved by the project,

a ditch has been eliminated and a pasture has been improved.

Also in the Danville area, a good deal of terracing repair has gone on. Newly completed terraces, such as those on the Robert Dodds farm, took the worst beating. But even these required only minor repairs to make them ready to crop.

Carl Shumaker discovered that his older terraces, designed for two inches of runoff from a rain, were not quite up to holding six and eight-inch rainfalls. However, his newer terraces weathered the storm well.

In general, conservation technicians are pointing to tile outlet terraces as having saved many severe erosion situations this year.

A lot of minor damage was sustained across the county as terraces overtopped. But in most cases, farmers were able to repair breakthroughs with their own loaders and put the fields back in shape. A look around at non-terraced slopes convinced them of the soil saving value of terraces.

In spite of the dropping of the federal cost sharing program for erosion control practices, the local soil conservation service office has had a steady demand for layout of erosion control practices. Even at full cost to themselves, many farmers are feeling it is worth the expense of protecting the land.

Soil Conservation District chairman Rex Trouté assures that, "We are still very much in business to help the public with conservation and land use problems."

Erosion Control Work Underway

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John Seymour is completing a small terrace as part of a mutual erosion control system with Bob Dodds and Roy Wagner. The new tile line across the Wagner farm carried much of the runoff water from the terraced land that would have deposited tons of silt, had the terraces not been there.

These projects are all a part of the erosion control effort to protect Geode Lake from further sedimentation. They probably saved a thousand tons of soil from heading to the lake this spring.

Ray Pilling of Mediapolis has added to the terraces on the "Jack" Pilling farm recently. A new set of tile outlet terraces now protects a problem slope

behind his buildings. This brings to near completion the erosion control work on his farm.

On the farm where Roland and Edna Bush live, west of Sperry, farmed by Neal Wolfe, repairs from damages of storms a year ago have recently been completed. An old concrete dam had washed out alongside the farm pond and erosion threatened to wash the pond away. With help from the soil conservation district, a plan was made to divert surface water away from the pond in a grass waterway leading safely to a pasture.

A new pipe outlet was added to the pond to provide added protection, and a mutual tile outlet, helping drain the neighboring Kenneth Cook, Jr. farm will provide a more stable pond water supply.

In general, conservation technicians are pointing to tile outlet terraces as having saved many severe erosion situations this year. District conservationist Ralph Dewey points out that a lot of minor damage was sustained across the county as terraces overtopped. But in most cases, farmers were able to repair breakthroughs with their own loaders and put the fields back in shape. A look around at non-terraced slopes convinced them of the soil saving value of terraces.

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Mediapolis New Era

5-31-73

Berg to receive top USDA award

A native of Burlington, Norman A. Berg, will receive the highest citation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in ceremonies Tuesday morning on the Washington Monument grounds.

Berg, associate administrator of the Soil Conservation Service, is one of eight persons and two units to receive the Distinguished Service Award from Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz at the department's 27th annual honor awards ceremony.



Norman Berg

Gen. Alexander M. Haig, Jr., vice chief of staff, United States Army, will be guest speaker at the ceremony. General Haig is temporarily heading the President's administrative staff at the White House.

Superior Service awards, the USDA's second highest honor, will be presented to 79 employees and 11 departmental units.

The award to be presented to Berg

states: "For eminent leadership and creativity in helping mold cooperative programs to meet a wide variety of environmental needs, resulting in significant improvement in America's land and water resources."

As associate administrator, Berg has helped SCS and USDA to carry out their assignments and has become a leading authority on land use policy, sediment control, and other aspects of environmental improvement.

Berg began his SCS career in Idaho in 1943, rising to area conservationist. In 1956 he became assistant state conservationist in South Dakota. Four years later he was named an assistant to the administrator and directed the Great Plains conservation program along with other assignments.

He became deputy administrator for field services in 1956 and took his present post in 1969.

He received a BS degree in agricultural education from the University of Minnesota and a master's degree in public administration from Harvard university. He served with the U.S. Marine Corps from September of 1943 to May of 1946. He lives in Severna Park, Md.

The Hawk Eye 5-21-73

Stress Soil Stewardship

Soil Stewardship Week, being observed nationwide from May 27 through June 3, points out Man's place in Creation as a steward of soil, water and other natural resources, according to soil district chairman Rex Troute of Burlington.

"The theme this year, CHANGING CHALLENGES is particularly timely as both rural and urban land users have battled weather and natural disasters to perform their work," Troute proclaimed. "The damages to the land because of poor stewardship of the soil are really evident now."

Millions of tons of silt from farm fields and urban excavations have moved into our streams. Man is finding repair and rebuilding of land far more costly than protection would have been.

Troute points to the many good soil stewards in rural Des Moines County who have protected their soil resource with soil conserving practices. "These people

can point with pride to grassed waterways that have trapped the silt runoff from recent rains or to terraces that have kept the silt from moving to waterways," he said.

"My own farm, and others like it, suffered a lot of erosion," Troute stated. "But my silt is still on my farm - not somewhere between here and the Mississippi delta."

The conservationist went on to point out fields he has seen that will require major earth leveling projects before they can be farmed again. "A look around should make a believer of anyone who has not yet become a good soil steward," he continued.

"And city dwellers suffer as well from poor land use," Troute went on. "Mud slides and gully problems, streets covered with sediment and basements filled with muddy water are signs of stewardship neglect."

During Soil Stewardship Week, a time for "Changing Challenges", everyone has a chance to review his place in the world. He has an opportunity to rededicate himself to take better care of that part of the environment he occupies.

"We are only placed here on Earth for a few years to tend a bit of land provided by the Creator," Troute concludes. "Our constant challenge is to make the best of it without abusing it."

Mediapolis New Era
5-31-73

Terraced Land Halts Erosion

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Soil Conservation District chairman Rex Troute assures that, "We are still very much in business to help the public with conservation and land use problems."

Des Moines Co. News
5-31-73

Hemphill is winner

MEDIAPOLIS — Keith Hemphill, a senior at Mediapolis High school, was declared winner of the 1973 Soil Conservation speech contest co-sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Co.

Hemphill presented his talk entitled "Long Range Community Benefits from Proper Land Management" before the soil district commissioners last week. Commissioners were impressed with the soundness of the reasoning Hemphill presented in his case for proper land use.

Hemphill has won previous awards in FFA speech contests and is active in many high school activities. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Hemphill who live in the Latty community, Burlington Rt. 3.

Hawk Eye 6-13-73

RALPH E. DEWEY, district conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service in Burlington, has received a certificate of merit from the service for the exceptional manner in which he carried out his responsibilities.

Hawk Eye 6-27-73

Winner Of Speech Contest



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Mediapolis New Era 6-20-73

Conservationist Honored



Ralph E. Dewey, (at left in picture), District Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service at Burlington has been awarded a certificate of Merit by his supervisor, John J. Eckes of Fairfield. This award is presented to SCS employees who carry out their job responsibilities in an exceptional manner. Since July of 1969, Dewey has served as district conservation-

ist in the Burlington field office. This office provides technical assistance to all landowners and units of government in Des Moines County through the soil conservation district.

The conservation staff in the Burlington office includes Winston C. Cooper, soil conservationist; Oren F. Champ, soil conservation technician and Mrs. Dorothy Davis, State clerk.

Mediapolis New Era 6-20-73



RALPH E. DEWEY, right, district conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service, receives a certificate of merit from his supervisor, John J. Eckes of Fairfield. The award, presented at a meeting earlier this month, is given to SCS employees who carry out their job responsibilities in "an exceptional manner." Since July of 1969, Dewey has served as conservationist in the Burlington field office. His office staff includes Winston C. Cooper, soil conservationist; Oren F. Champ, soil conservation technician, and Mrs. Dorothy Davis, state clerk.

Hawke Eye 6-20-73

Ralph Dewey, 518 Ruthella, area conservationist, was honored at a ceremony held at Camp L-Kee-Ta when the new nature trail was named "The Dewey Nature Trail." Mr. Dewey helped train the camp staff in nature awareness. A sign with his name will hang near the entrance to the trail which he helped to lay out.

*Des Moines Co. News
St. Burlington
8-9-73*

Conservation scholarships

Individual scholarships have been awarded by soil conservation districts of Carroll, Henry, Lee, Hamilton, and Henderson counties, the Des Moines Izaak Walton League and the Iowa chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America.

Contributions helping to finance the session have been received from: Environmental and Pollution Control council, Burlington High School Ecology club, Long Creek Conservation club, Burlington Kiwanis club, and soil conservation districts of Muscatine, Louisa, Des Moines and Appanoose counties.

Hawke Eye 7-15-73



By
Bob
Sogard

the Ag bag

Cost-sharing funds for conservation practices have been allocated to Iowa counties, but amounts are small compared with the REAP benefits conferred in past years.

The State Soil Conservation Department has provided nearly \$1.5 million, to be used to finance permanent soil conservation practices on a 50-50 cost-sharing basis. The allocations range from \$7,000 to \$24,000 for each county soil conservation district.

Guess where Des Moines county ranks. That's right, \$7,000 worth. Rex Trout, chairman of the district, said this county is small in area and this accounts for the low figure.

Trout said the county committee now can accept requests from district co-operators for funds for practices such as terraces, waterways, diversions, erosion control dams, and tree plantings, among others. Room 218 of the Federal Building is the place to check for details.

Lee county gets \$11,100, Louisa \$7,000, Henry \$10,900, Jefferson, \$11,500, Van Buren \$11,100 and Washington, \$15,100.

Trout said the district is particularly interested in establishing erosion control in the watersheds above Geode Lake and the proposed Franklin Township Lake. However, use of the cost-share money won't be restricted to these areas.

When the 1971 Iowa Legislature passed the conservancy district law, the first in the nation, legislators were counting on federal funds to help underwrite the program.

Iowa was supposed to get \$5.5 mil-

lion under the Rural Environmental Assistance Program, but last December President Nixon impounded REAP funds.

A farm owner, under the conservancy law, can be required to install permanent soil and water conservation practices if a complaint is filed and soil loss exceeds specified limits.

The hooker is that funds totaling 75 per cent of the costs must be available before the farmer has to install the necessary practices. And only \$75,000 has been set aside by the legislature for the 75 per cent program. An additional \$90,000 has been earmarked for working with the State Conservation Commission to help prevent soil erosion around Iowa lakes.

Meanwhile, both houses of Congress are considering versions of a federal land use policy bill which would provide funds principally to those states that aren't pushing conservation policies like Iowa's. A compromise bill is expected to be passed this fall.

So there may be a successor to REAP.

*Hawke Eye
8-7-73*

Camp L-Kee-Ta Thank You Dinner Held

A progressive dinner was held at Camp L-Kee-Ta to show appreciation to the many neighbors and volunteer helpers for this camping season. The girls themselves prepared and served the entire meal. Invited guests and their families had all given encouragement and support to the camp staff and camping program.

Following the dinner, a ceremony was held naming the new Nature Trail at L-Kee-Ta "The Dewey Nature Trail". Mr. Ralph Dewey, area Conservationist, helped train the camp staff in Nature Awareness. He stressed the discovery and use of various

Named Area Conservationist

Eldon C. Weber of Mason City has been promoted to the area conservationist position with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service at Fairfield; State Conservationist Wilson T. Moon has announced.

Weber will direct activities of a 17 county area in southeast Iowa including Des Moines, Henry, Lee, Louisa and Van Buren.

*Mediapolis New Era
8-23-73*

*Mediapolis New Era
8-2-73*

First-ever pact links city, SCS in land use

The city of Burlington and the Soil Conservation Service signed an agreement Wednesday night to cooperate in saving soil and establishing proper land use plans.

"We are a public agency that has been serving just a segment of our population — principally farmers — and this doesn't make sense when there are other citizens and public bodies that need our service," said Ralph Dewey, district conservationist.

Rex Trout, chairman of the Des Moines county soil conservation district, said: "It may be blowing our own horn, but I feel we do have valuable information for you."

Mayor Wayne Hogberg, signing for the city, agreed. "We should have taken advantage of your information much sooner. I feel it's a commitment we should have made long ago. You have a valuable asset we should use."

John Johnson, city comprehensive planner, said: "We hope to minimize the effects of erosion, especially on roads and construction sites, and get the help of the SCS office on long range land use planning."

The SCS once was prohibited from making mutual assistance pacts with local governments, but that stance has changed completely in recent years. The accord with the city is one of the first between an SCS office and an Iowa community.

The district agreed to provide technical and clerical help in preparation of soil and water resource plans, to interpret soil surveys and point out prospective soil and water problems that may result from proposed land use changes.

The city pledged sound land use management, to refer development plans to the district and adopt district recommendations that are acceptable to the city council and plan commission.

After the signing William Vierling of the conservation committee asked Hogberg about the city's position on zoning as far as two miles from the city, a prerogative of Burlington under the law.

"We are doing nothing in this respect," Hogberg stated. "We prefer that the county take care of that problem."

Johnson added that his office is looking at current land usage as it affects the city and checking with the county on what it plans to do regarding individual cases within the two-mile limit.

Hawk Eye 9-27-73

Something learned

Mayor Wayne Hogberg was a little late arriving at the Soil Conservation Service office in the federal building Wednesday night. He was there to sign an agreement between the city and the county committee on resource conservation inside the city limits.

"The door was locked and I had to go through the back of the post office to get up here," said the mayor. He wasn't aware that the north front entrance off Main street is kept open at night to provide access to offices above the post office.

The mayor is a letter carrier, but he works the day shift.

Shot in the lip

DES MOINES — Former Keosauqua resident Stanley Barker, 43, suffered a lip wound when he was shot during an attempted holdup in a garage at his Des Moines home about 8 p.m. Tuesday.

Des Moines police said Barker was accosted by two armed men in the garage, who demanded money. When Barker leaned over to pick up a package, one of the men shot him and then the pair fled.

Hawk Eye 10-3-73

Conservation post filled

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Weber will direct activities of a 17-county area in southeast Iowa, including Des Moines, Henry, Lee, Louisa and Van Buren.

Weber began his career in SCS as a soil conservationist in LeMars in 1957 following his degree in agricultural education from Iowa State university. After two years of military service he transferred to Sioux City where he worked on watershed projects in the Little Sioux River Basin. He also served as Woodbury district conservationist. In 1969 he was promoted to Mason City as area conservationist for 15 counties in northeast Iowa. He received an outstanding performance award from SCS last year.

Weber succeeds John Eckes, former area conservationist from Fairfield, who is attending a graduate study program of the SCS at the University of Montana. Eckes has served nearly five years in that position.

Hawk Eye 8-22-73

10-25-73

MEDIAPOLIS NEW ERA



FFA Soil Judges Are District Champions

The four members of the champion Mediapolis FFA soil judging team are from left; Rick Todd, Jon Luttenegger, Kirk Siegle and

Kelly Baker. The team was in competition with eight other Southeast Iowa schools. Ranking in the top ten individuals and receiving plaque were Kelly Baker 1st, Kirk Siegle 2nd, and Rick Todd, 4th.

Diverted Acres May Bring Big Soil Loss

Soil district chairman Rex Trout of Burlington announces that as much as 16,000 tons of soil may be washed away from Des Moines county cropland in 1974 because of the release of diverted acres from the feed grain program.

"If these acres continue to be plowed in 1975," Trout stated, "We can expect an added 38,000 tons of soil to be washed toward the Mississippi."

In expression of concern over the cropping of the acreage reserve program, district commissioners in southeast Iowa have asked for an inventory of planned use of this land. Soil Conservation Service technicians Winston Cooper and Oren Champ have reviewed many acres of the county to estimate possible soil losses.

"We find in our sampling that about 62 percent of the sample area will be plowed for row crops next year," Cooper explained. "Assuming soil losses from normal cropping practices, a little more than 2,000 newly plowed acres will lose 5.3 tons per acre in 1974, and 15.9 tons per acre in 1975."

Conservationist are aware that demands for increased production are tempting farmers to plow up every square inch of land, and they are greatly concerned.

"Much of the land that has been diverted is erosive and less productive than the acres already under cultivation," according to district conservationist Ralph Dewey of Burlington. "In the face of shortages in fertilizer and farm gasoline, it hardly seems wise to try to crop any but the best acres this year."

Some of the diverted land is already fall plowed, a practice calculated to bring about the most erosion. The local soil conservation office suggests the use of conservation tillage to protect these erosive acres to try to reduce soil losses.

Soil conservationist Cooper points out that minimum tillage practices can reduce losses as much as 80 percent. "It costs two dollars a ton to remove silt from the river," Cooper concludes. "Can the taxes from a little additional crop pay such a bill?"

Des Moines Co. News Oct. 1973

More cropping threatens erosion

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"We find in our sampling that about 62 per cent of the sample area will be plowed for row crops next year," Cooper explained. "Assuming soil losses from normal cropping practices, a little more than 3,000 newly plowed acres will lose 5.3 tons per acre in 1974, and 15.9 tons per acre in 1975."

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Hawk Eye 10-3-73

Local 'UFO': Deer, lightning or mower?

Two naturalists who examined circular spots in a triangle pattern in a clearing in Mud Creek Recreational area about six miles south of New London found nothing unnatural about them Saturday.

An area resident had told four tourists last week that the spots were unexplained and hinted they might have been made by Unidentified Flying Objects.

Most likely reason for the bare spots, says Ralph Dewey, district conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, is that thin topsoil in the clearing eroded from the sloping surface, exposing infertile subsoil.

Erosion could have occurred, added Sherman Lundy, biology teacher and geologist, after a deer circled about, packing down plants which normally hold the soil. "That circular pattern of packed grass allowed the rain to wash away the topsoil," Lundy said.

Lundy pointed out there were hoofprints on the periphery of the bare areas.

Lepediza in the circles is a plant used for conservation and forage, Dewey observed, with a shallow root system that allows it to take hold in poor soil. White grass growing in some

of the areas, Dewey added, is a common "poverty" grass.

Another natural occurrence which could explain the spots, Dewey said, is lightning. Lightning, which recently struck his house, he said, "does some funny things," and could have burned off the grass and caused the erosion.

"Are there any other possible explanations?" the two were asked.

"They might be places where the mower turned around," Lundy said.

Hawk Eye 10-14-73

Soil judging set for FFA groups

The annual southeast Iowa FFA soils judging contest will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday in Des Moines county at a site to be announced when the vocational agriculture students are on the way.

Ralph Dewey, district conservationist, had arranged the "diggings" a week ago, but the contest was delayed because of wet grounds. FFA chapters from Des Moines, Lee, Louisa, Henry and Van Buren counties will take part.

Hawk Eye 10-10-73

Soil Loss Warnings

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Des Moines Co. News - 10-4-73

Danville City Council

Danville, Iowa

Sept. 4, 1973

Mayor Berry presided at the regular meeting with all councilmen present.

Minutes were read and approved, also clerk's and treasurer's reports accepted by motion by Frazer, seconded by Beckman.

Ferry Loesch, lawyer present, to give opinions on several town problems.

1. proposed development annexation

2. 3 copies of petition for necessity of crossing gales to Burlington and Northern Railway, signed by Mayor, clerk and councilman

3. Opinion given on weed nuisances also.

Ralph Dewey of Soil conservation Agency present, stating the types of assistance available to us. Films and recording shown by him were examples of these projects. Letter was mailed to them requesting their services on our surface water and drainage of North and West sections of land, problems. Our copy of "Memorandum of understanding", given to us.

Budget was presented for hearing. There were no written or oral objections. A motion by Frazer, seconded by Beckman to adopt said budget resulted in a roll call vote of all ayes by council. The budget was declared adopted.

The following bills were allowed by vote by Mumme, seconded by Frazer. Motion carried.

Salaries	
August	2801.83
Treasurer of Iowa	
Sales Tax-July	358.38
Danville Telephone	
Service	105.33
Dan Sylvester	
gas	2.00
Emmett Frazer	
Mileage	44.00
Danville Recreation	
Donation	300.00
Marvin Berry	
Mayor fees	75.00
U.S. Postoffice	
Postage	20.70
Des Moines Co. News	
Publications	77.22
Ray Leitch and sons	
Back-hoe work	565.85

10-4-73

Des Moines Co. News

Dodds wins soil award

Bob Dodds of Danville Rt. 1 said he was surprised to be selected as a regional winner in the 1973 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.

"The ground has a ditch through it but it's fairly level. I debated quite a lot but they (conservation officials) told me that in a very few years the soil would be down to clay," Dodds said.

He was speaking of a 40-acre tract in the Lake Geode watershed that he purchased. Tile inlet terraces and new tiling were installed last year and additional work had to be done last spring because of damage from heavy rains.

Dodds said that the soil loss was more noticeable when the tiler went through. The trench showed that the clay was near the surface in places.

The farmer, a former state legislator who helped draft soil saving laws, said he didn't see that his project was so special but it survived the judging for southeast Iowa counties of Region 9. His category is new cooperator.

A group tile system that involved several neighbors was improved for the mutual benefit of all, according to Ralph Dewey, district conservationist.

The corn planted in the terraced field looks good, Dodds said. The ground was limed and fertilized before planting.

The program of recognition for soil savers is directed by Wilson T. Moon, state conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service, and William H. Greiner, director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation. The Des Moines Register is one of the principal sponsors.

Regional winners will be judged for sweepstakes awards and these nine will compete for the top state award, a plaque. Regional and sweepstakes winners will be cited at banquets this fall in the home counties of the sweepstakes winners.



Dodds

FFA Hosts Soil Judging Contest

Thursday, October 11 the Des Moines County Conservation Service and the Mediapolis sophomore vocational agriculture class were hosts for the F.F.A. soil judging contest. Out of the seven other teams involved, Wapello, Columbus Junction, Winfield, Mt. Pleasant, Central of Argyle, Harmony and Ft. Madison, our team of Kelly Baker, Kirk Selgle, Jon Luttenegger and Rick Todd won first place and brought home the traveling plaque. Second place team was Harmony, which was 30 points behind our team.

The way that the contest is run is that each member of each team goes to each of the three sites which is a hole dug in the ground about 4 feet deep. They have a card on which they mark down the decision on the soils. After each site has been judged the cards are taken to the scorers who score the cards accordingly. Also a test is taken over soil judging. While the scores were being tabulated Ralph Dewey discussed with the teams the conservation practices that were going on. Refreshments were served by the sophomores of Mediapolis.

The three high scoring individuals are also given a plaque. Kelly Baker received first place and Kirk Selgle won second by a flip of the coin. He was tied with a boy from Argyle.

Mr. Dewey also came out to the school about three weeks ago and talked to the sophomore class about the profiles and soils of Iowa. He tried to clear up any questions about the soil the class had.

Rick Todd, reporter

Mediapolis New Era
10-18-73

Butz Urges Conservation

Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz has amended his request to farmers for more 1974 production by pleading with them to use sound conservation on acres they will be putting back under the plow.

"First of all, good soil conserving practices in themselves will help increase production per acre," the secretary said. "Our farmers are the foremost guardians of our soil resource and have a responsibility to use the land wisely and to keep it productive for future generations. With the great progress in 35 years of conservation farming, we need careful planning to increase production without stepping backwards."

Butz asked the Soil Conservation Service and soil conservation districts to give "first priority" to helping farmers with conservation plans.

"Proven conservation practices such as contour farming, terracing and minimum tillage are vital to protect our land from further erosion," Butz said.

At the local level, Des Moines County Soil Conservation District chairman Rex Troute of Burlington stressed that over sixty percent of last years diverted acres are planned for crop production in 1974.

"This may mean as much soil loss as 16,000 tons from Des Moines County alone," Troute claimed. "Unless we take immediate steps to control the newly plowed areas."

"Cost sharing assistance is available to farmers who plan effective conservation projects," Troute stressed. "Both state and federal monies will be available, but preliminary planning will be needed to be sure cost shares are justified."

"Early contact with our district office at the Federal Bldg. in Burlington will help assure the help our farmers need," Troute concluded. "We certainly want to do all we can to prevent another possible dust bowl from happening."

Des Moines Co. News
11-1-73

Greiner speaks Nov. 6 at soil awards meal

William H. Greiner, director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation, will be the principal speaker at the 1973 Soil Conservation Achievement awards banquet to be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 6 at the Mediapolis United Methodist church.

Greiner will discuss "Land Use Policy and Planning."

Headliner among the award recipients will be Bob Dodds of Danville Rt. 1, a regional winner in the 1973 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program. Dodds wasn't present at the regional awards program held last week in connection with Salute to Ag-

riculture activities at Keosauqua. He was cited in the "new cooperator" category.

Other winners in the county competition to be recognized are Henry Dockendorff, Danville, in the owner-operator class, and Robert T. Rehmke, West Liberty, owner, and Keith Thomas, Mediapolis, operator, the latter two in the landlord-tenant division.

Ralph Dewey, district conservationist, said several farmers who have done considerable conservation work, but who didn't place in competition, also will be recognized.

Hawk Eye
10-31-73

Teachers get education and dose of fresh air

By BOB SOGARD

Ever been to Luckenbill Woods, Hunt Woods, the U.S. Gypsum Co. mine or Starr's Cave?

Neither had most of the teachers in the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp, including the group of 16 that comes from Burlington — until last week.

There are 33 teachers taking part in the 3-week biology course offered by the University of Northern Iowa extension service. The three-credit course emphasizes field experience with southeast Iowa natural resources, as well as techniques and methods of environmental conservation teaching and curriculum development.

They have studied trees and other plants, birds, insects, rocks, fossils, soils, streams, creeks and rivers in classroom and labs, but especially in the field.

Geologists, soil scientists, conservationists, factory and mine managers were among the specialists who contributed to the concentrated course the first week. Their input was coordinated and

expanded by the staff which includes Bernard (Ben) L. Clausen, camp director and UNI biology instructor; David V. McCalley, assistant professor of biology at UNI and bus driver for the group, and Duane Toomsen, environmental education consultant for the Iowa Department of Public Instruction.

Toomsen is a former Burlingtonian. He taught science at Oak Street school. One of his students was Nancy Marr, now enrolled in this summer class, who is fifth grade teacher at Jackson school in Ft. Madison.

Headquarters is Burlington high school where the entire science department has been turned over to the class. "They have treated us wonderfully here and we're most appreciative," Clausen said.

The week started, after the class organized, with an introductory ecology field trip to a forest community in which Clarence Schneider took part. Schneider is former superintendent of Crapo park and arboretum.

Frederic Leopold, Burlington natural-

ist, helped with Tuesday's study and field trip on the ecology of birds and plants.

Assisting Wednesday and Thursday were Fred Dorheim, Iowa Geological Survey; John Highland, U.S. Soil Conservation Service; Ralph Dewey, SCS district conservationist; Lonnie Miller, state SCS; Charles Kiepe, area SCS soil scientist, and James T. Settles, officer with the Des Moines County Conservation Board.

It was appropriate that they started an all-day trip Thursday with a visit to the gypsum mine. It was geologist Dorheim's survey of this area, Clausen said, which resulted in development of the mine by U.S. Gypsum Co.

The group studied prairie and woodland soils, then lunched at Chautauqua park at Kossuth, where Settles reported on existing and projected parks in the county system.

The afternoon was spent in the bottoms and uplands of the northeast part of the county and concluded with the visit to Starr's cave off Irish Ridge road just north of Burlington. McCalley was with the group fording Flint creek when he spotted a fossil rock, rich in crinoids.

The teachers said they are amazed at the variety of plant and wildlife they have identified. Inside a square-meter frame, one group found more than a dozen types of plants. One young teacher held up a twig for help in identifying it and McCalley said, "I believe it's poison ivy. Yes, by George, it is poison ivy."

This week, there will be a visit to the Lake Odessa area for a study of marsh life, more park and nature trail study, natural resources and environment field study and a look at water quality as related to conservation practices. Dewey and Burlington officials will take the group from the water source on a farm through the city, including rural and urban erosion control in their presentations.

Next Friday and the concluding week will find the camp participants deeply involved in developing courses and planning outdoor classrooms for their respective schools.

Clausen said the sessions recently concluded on the UNI campus at Cedar Falls had 26 participants. Of these, only five or six said they would have gone to Spring Brook state park this year if the camp had been held there as in the 24 previous years.

Sec. Butz Asks Sound Soil Conservation

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Those enrolled:

John C. Black, Monticello; Jim Gabriel, Letts; Mrs. Emma Lou Grau, Coon Rapids; Mrs. Eleanor Greiner, Webster City; Patrick Hazell, North English; Elsie Ashby, Olds; Marjorie Jordan, Middletown; Mrs. Andra Kongable, Winfield; Julie Larson, Council Bluffs; Mrs. Helen Liddle, Wever; Nancy Marr, Ft. Madison; Gloria Niehaus, Sperry; Mrs. Louis Oberman, Yarmouth; Mrs. Betty Mahoney, Mt. Pleasant; Mrs. Shirley Randall, Biggsville, Ill.; Richard Stout, Anamosa; Mrs. Pauline Thayer, Mt. Pleasant; and Joyce Ward, Fairfield.

Those from Burlington and schools here:

Mrs. Susan Baldwin, Perkins third grade; Katherine Braun, St. John third grade; Dennis Cleveland, art teacher at Horace Mann and Oak Street; Mrs. Mary Crane, Corse second grade; Mrs. Annabelle Dahlsten, Apollo ninth grade biology; Mrs. Vicki Dillon, Perkins fourth grade; Wallace W. Johnson, BHS math; Mrs. Helen Derrick, Apollo ninth grade science; Mrs. Pat Mayle, Black Hawk kindergarten; Mrs. Joan Rabe, Black Hawk first grade; Mrs. Beverly Lundy, Corse second grade; Ross L. Soule, Corse third grade; George Vineyard, BHS math; Donald R. Vinson, BHS chemistry and astronomy; Mark Volkmann, West Burlington science teacher; Mrs. Liddle teaches second grade at Flint Hills; Mrs. Mahoney has ninth grade physical science at Apollo.

The Hawk Eye 7-15-73

*Madisonian New Era
11-1-73*



Conservation group getting first-hand knowledge



WINNERS AND WIVES. Soil conservation award winners recognized at the annual Des Moines county banquet included, from left, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dockendorff, Danville; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dodds, Danville; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rehmkne, West Liberty, and Mrs. Keith Thomas, Mediapolis.

Hawk Eye
11-7-73

Controversial issue for future: Land use

By BOB SOGARD
Hawk Eye Farm Editor

MEDIAPOLIS — Changes in land use that appear inevitable won't come without compromise and controversy, said William H. Greiner here Tuesday night. He is director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

Greiner was speaker at the annual Soil Conservation Achievement awards banquet held at the Mediapolis United Methodist church.

He told the 93 persons present that planning and controls for the nation's land are probably the most interesting and controversial topics facing an increasingly crowded country.

"The founders of this country put strong backing to private use of property but many have been wasteful of our resources and we are going to have to husband them more carefully," he stated.

A major study made a decade ago indicated that the United States population would double by the end of the century. While the actual rate of growth has slowed, demands for resources haven't.

For instance, water and timber needs were expected to double in about 35 years.

Greiner said far-reaching bills on a national land use policy are pending in both the US House and Senate, the former featuring sanctions on funds which would be used against recalcitrant states. The 5-year program would provide nearly \$1 billion in planning and administrative grants to states that develop resource inventories and land use plans.

Greiner stated that local input will be an important element of all state plans. He also commented that he was happy to see that Bob Dodds of Danville was a county and regional winner in the soil-saving awards given Tuesday. "I've known Bob for a long time, first in the (Iowa) House and then in the Senate," he said.

Dodds was the new cooperative division winner for his work on a tract of 40 acres at the head of the Geode lake watershed that he recently acquired.

Dodds had a set of parallel tile terraces installed along with a mutual tile drain affecting four farms. Neighbors above Dodds have connected to the new tile system and one has installed a fence-line terrace controlling runoff above the Dodds farm.

Owner-operator class winner was Henry Dockendorff, who farms in the same area as Dodds' newly improved land. Dockendorff has installed tile outlet terraces providing maximum erosion control on 100 acres and has five acres of waterways, with two more being built to control an old gully.

There are three farm ponds and four erosion control dams and Dockendorff recently planted a new windbreak north of his buildings.

The landlord-tenant awards went to Bob Rehmkne, owner, and Keith Thomas, operator, of a farm north of Burlington, the old Mehmken place. Rehmkne, now a West Liberty banker, bought the 198-acre farm that featured five ponds. Then he added another.

He built a tile outlet division around his feedlot, draining it into a settling pond where wastes are reduced to a minimum before any can flow into the waterway. Pastures are being renovated on a planned basis and wooded areas provide for abundant wildlife.

In addition to the award winners, these cooperators were cited by Rex Trout, chairman of the district commissioners:

Kenneth Wehage, Mediapolis; Dr. Carl Hulen, Burlington; Donald Nelson, Danville; Grover Willson, Morning Sun; Joe Beckman, Sperry; Verner Amenell, Mediapolis, and Virgil Masner, Mediapolis.

Entertainment for the banquet was provided by Rev. Ralph Schenck, pastor of the Mediapolis United Presbyterian church, with guitar and vocal music.

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