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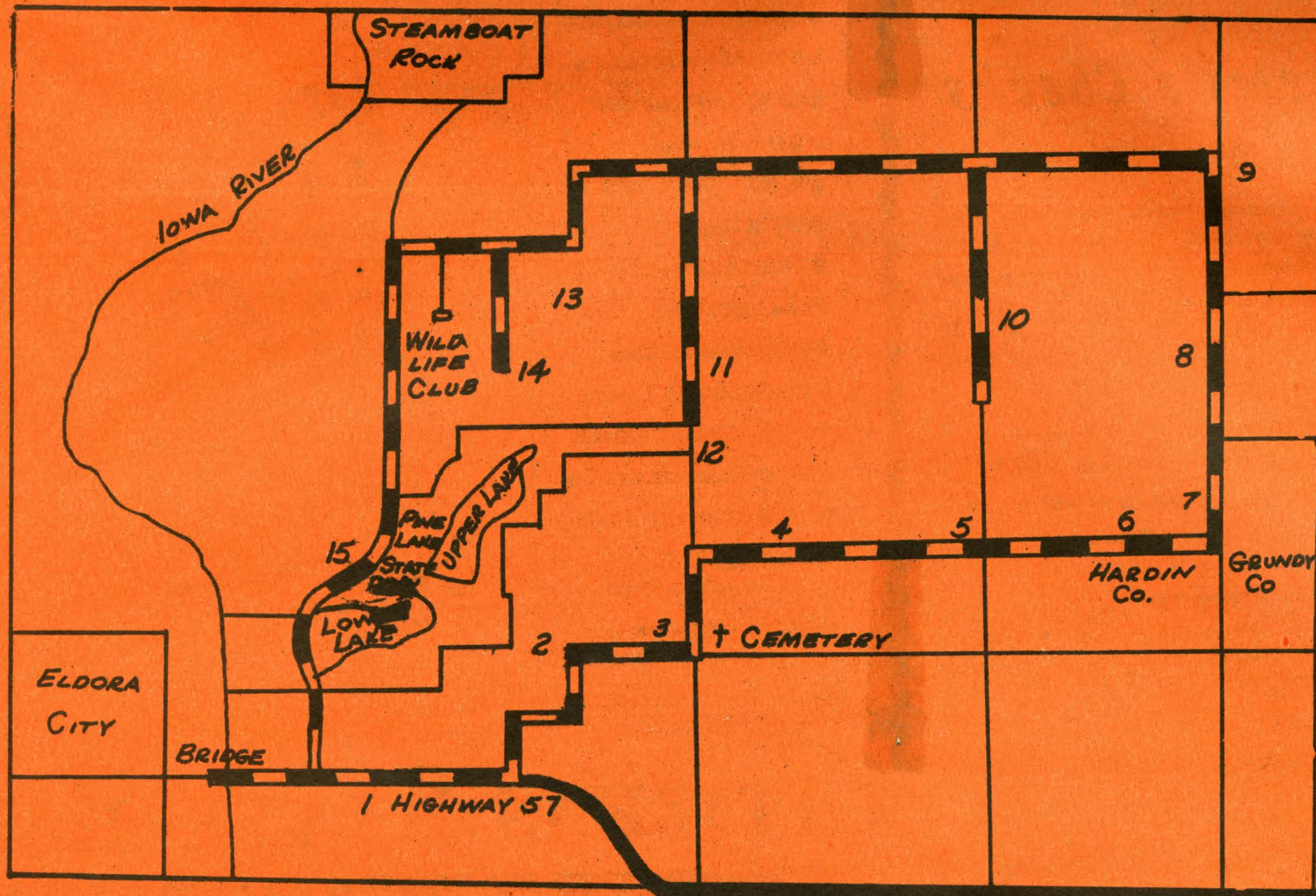
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IOWA FALLS, IOWA



VOL. 1

NUMBER 3

JULY, 1959



inside

Hardin County "Drive - It -
Yourself" Conservation Tour



Farm Outlook...

by Francis A. Kutish

REPRINTED FROM THE JULY ISSUE OF THE
FARM SCIENCE MAGAZINE, ISC, AMES, IA.

STORM CLOUDS warning of possible future trouble for the cattle business are beginning to gather on the horizon. The seriousness of this future trouble depends mainly on how fast the buildup of cattle numbers proceeds in the next few years.

Last year's cattle buildup totaled 3½ million head. In 1 year,

Cattle feeders look at the strong fed cattle prices. And, in the face of increased marketings, they conclude that the demand for beef is exceptionally strong. Cattle raisers look at the strong prices for feeder cattle and for cows and calves; and the raisers, too, conclude that the cattle business is a sure way to make money.

Both overlook the fact that the good prices in the cattle business are the result of the sharp cut-back in the slaughter of cows,

rising at about the rate of 1¼ percent a year. Here lie the seeds of past difficulties in the cattle business. The rate of growth in cattle numbers has been much more sporadic than the rate of growth of population.

Beef is a preferred item. If the rate of increase can be held roughly to only slightly greater than the population increase, the long-run prospects for the beef business are good. For as people get more income, they turn to beef. But, if the rate of increase in the productive capacity in the beef industry goes up considerably faster than the increase in population (and faster than the advance in income and population combined to boost the rate of demand), then we're headed for trouble in the beef business!

The USDA has made two alternative projections to show how much the difference in the rate of herd expansion could make in the beef supplies we'll have 5 years from now. In one projection, the rate of expansion in beef herds would slow down after this year. Cattle numbers, in this case, would be around 110 million in 1964. Of this, 55½ million would be cows.

This probably is about the slowest rate of expansion that we can expect if no severe drouth occurs in the next 5 years. Beef output would reach about 17 billion pounds in 1964. This would provide 90 pounds of beef for consumption per person—4½ pounds more than the record set back in 1956. Such a beef supply would bring a sizable reduction in cattle prices, particularly for cows and

feeder cattle. But it might not be unmanageable as the demand for beef continues to grow with our rising national income.

The second projection assumes a faster pace of increase—calling for another 4½ million head added during 1960 and 4 million more during 1961. The peak in numbers under this rate of increase would be about 115 million in 1964, including 58-59 million cows. This is 5 million more total cattle and a little over 3 million more cows than assumed under the slower rate of expansion.

Beef supplies in the immediate future wouldn't differ greatly under the faster rate of expansion than they would under the slower rate. But by 1964 the more rapid cattle buildup would lift beef supplies to 94½ pounds per person—4½ pounds more than under the slower rate of expansion and 9 pounds more than we had in the previous record year of 1956.

A beef output of this size almost unquestionably would result in a demoralized cattle market and serious trouble for cattlemen.

Thus, the next 6-12 months could be critical ones in the long-run cattle outlook! Much will depend on how much the rate of marketings from ranches drops and on the decision of whether or not to continue to hold back cows.

Beef production is increasing from an already high level. Cattle inventories fell only 3 million head in the short 2-year down phase of the cattle cycle. This was the smallest and shortest decline on record. And the productivity of America's cattle herds

has increased steadily and probably will continue to do so.

So the clouds gathering on the horizon carry a warning of possible future trouble. But for the immediate period ahead, the climate prospects still are good.

Cattle feeding continues its steady growth. Marketings this summer and fall are expected to be around 8 percent larger than a year ago. Cattle went on feed earlier last fall. But the marketings are being dragged out as cattlemen feed their cattle to heavier weights.

If it weren't for the holding back of cows and other nonfed cattle, such marketings undoubtedly would seriously depress prices. They're not doing so because the market supply of cattle other than fed cattle is small.

Since the prospects are that marketings of other than fed cattle will remain small this year, 1959 fed cattle prices aren't likely to break drastically. They'll probably work lower during the summer and early fall when marketings are largest. The marketing pattern generally seems to be repeating that of 1958.

Meanwhile, with prospects for a good corn crop and generally satisfactory fed cattle prices, feeder cattle prices also are likely to remain strong. Cattle feeders were bidding the highest prices for feeder steers in late April since the spring of 1952.

Cattle feeding profits aren't as great this year as a year ago. But they're high enough to sustain interest in cattle feeding—particularly in view of bumper crop prospects.

Bernard Reece, of New Providence, Conservation Achievement Winner

Increased crop and pasture production has been the result of farming the conservation way for Bernard Reece of New Providence, one of the award winners in the Hardin Soil Conservation District Annual Conservation Achievement program this spring.

Reece, operator of the R. R. Clappitt farm 3 miles southeast of New Providence, has through his sound conservation program seen sizable increases in yields by controlling soil erosion and restoring fertility.

Features of the plan on the 256 acre farm include a system of terraces, grassed waterways and headlands, contouring, pasture renovation and establishing a cropping sequence.

One mile of terraces have been built on the farm with more planned for construction. Over 20 acres of timber pasture has been converted to productive pasture by renovation to a mixture including birdsfoot trefoil. 250 rod of tile has also been installed to drain wet areas.

A registered herd of 75 milking Shorthorns constitute the major part of the livestock program. An additional 75 registered Shorthorns of the original herd

are on the farm operated by Harry Clappitt.

The Clappitt farms hold record for the oldest, continuous exhibitor in the Iowa State Fair in all breeds. Cattle have been shown at the State Fair since 1915.

Recently visitors from two foreign countries, Sonora Juana de Campion of Argentina, owner of a large ranch in Argentina with 7000 milking Shorthorns & Panva Kajanoja, chief of the Division of Animal Husbandry on the Board of Agriculture in Finland toured the farm. Also a dairy judging class from Iowa State College conducted judging trials on the Reece farm.

Reece is ably assisted with the dairy operation and farming by his wife, Mabel and sons, Keith, Earl and Linn. Keith and Earl are students at Iowa State College and Linn will be in 5th grade at New Providence Community school.

The Reece farm has been used for conservation tours to show other farmers and interested groups the good results of shifting to conservation farming. Reece served as commissioner for 6 years in the Hardin Soil Conservation District from 1951 to 1957.

Eleven Miles of Terraces Constructed in Hardin County

Farmers of Hardin County are recognizing terraces as one of the most important practices in conservation farming.

"Terrace construction during the spring of 1959 has already topped the record of any previous years' total" says Cal Moore, Soil Conservationist in Hardin County. "Over 11 miles of terraces have been built on 13 farms this year," Moore stated.

In 1958 nearly 11 miles were constructed as compared to 6 miles in 1957.

Terraces are now built lower and broader to handle 4 row equipment compared to terraces of several years ago, and on many of the farms, terraces are now constructed parallel or as near parallel as possible to eliminate the short row areas, Moore continued.

16,000 feet of terraces were constructed on the M. Q. Reynolds farm operated by Don Balvanz north east of Eldora. Lee Lundy, east of Eldora constructed over 2000 feet on the home farm in addition to nearly 7500 feet on the farm operated to Marlyn Eilers. All were constructed by Triple R. Construction, Wellsburg.

Wendell Clappitt, New Providence installed nearly 2000 feet on the farm operated by Dwayne Shaver and R. A. Scott, Eldora, built 2800 feet of terraces and diversions on the farm operated by Charles Steinfeldt. Fred Rush, north of New Providence constructed approximately 4000 ft. The terraces were built by Shore Construction, Eldora.

Terraces were built on three farms with tractors and plows. The Eldora FFA

Chapter constructed nearly 4400 feet on the Otto Jeske farm, Eldora, Gerald Modlin built nearly 3300 feet on his farm east of Eldora and John Hellmich, Union constructed approximately 2000 feet on the Minnie Haas farm.

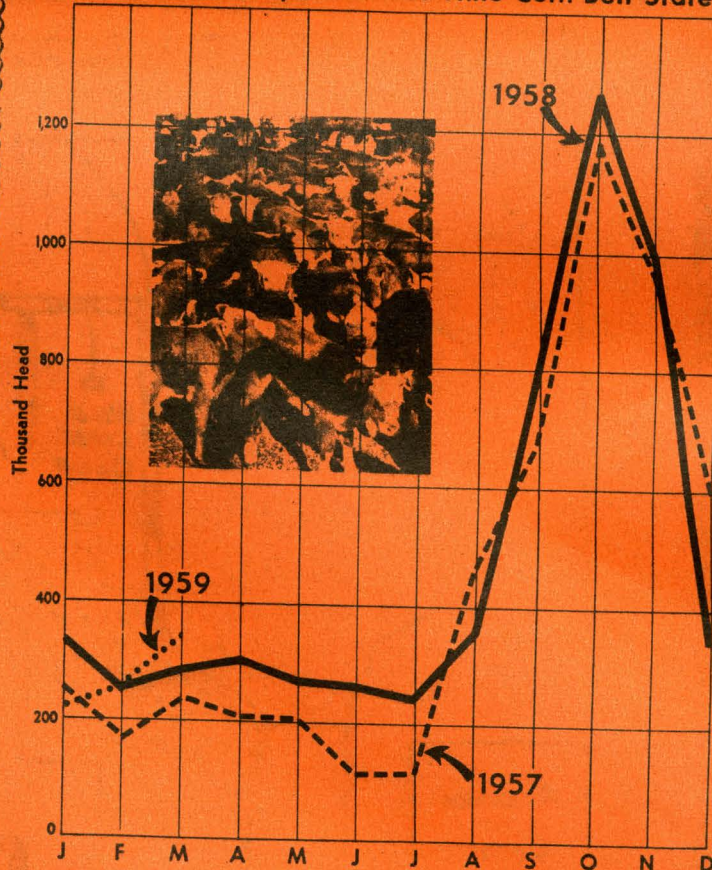
7600 feet were installed on the Walter Norman farm south of Union with a dozer and road patrol operated by Trowbridge Construction of Marshalltown.

Jesse Mann installed 770 feet on the Joe Mann farm northwest of Steamboat Rock; Joe Beach, Eldora constructed 4150 feet, and Ivan Jaspers, Eldora constructed over 1400 feet. All were constructed by Triple R Construction, Wellsburg.

SEE US FOR

- CHECKING ACCOUNTS
- SAVINGS ACCOUNTS
- CERT. OF DEPOSIT
- BANK BY MAIL
- BANK MONEY ORDERS
- BANK DRAFTS
- TRAVELLERS CHECKS
- COLLECTIONS
- WIRE TRANSFERS
- COMMERCIAL LOANS
- REAL ESTATE LOANS
- INSTALLMENT LOANS
- SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES
- SALE OF U. S. SAVINGS BONDS
- REDEMPTION OF U. S. SAVINGS BONDS
- PURCHASE AND SALE OF SECURITIES

Feeder Cattle In-shipments Into Nine Corn Belt States



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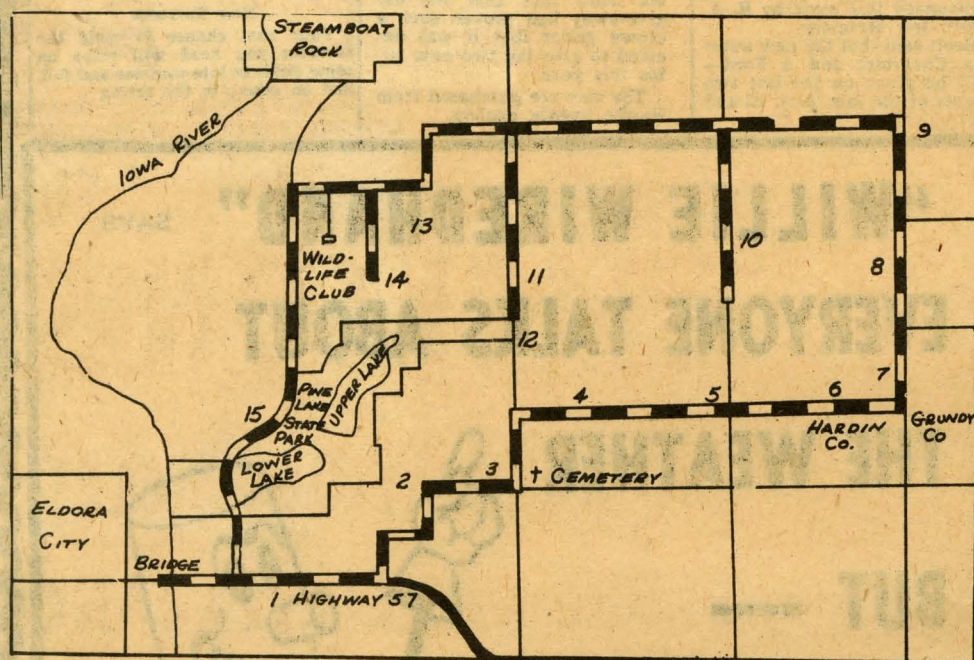
CAPITAL AND SURPLUS \$300,000.00

Iowa Falls, Iowa

On The
Cover...

Yourselves Conservation Tour

SHOWN IN THE PICTURE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT ARE—CAL MOORE,
DEAN MILLER, LELAND REECE, DEAN KELSEY AND HAROLD MARSH.



Here is the route for the "Drive-It-Yourself" Soil Conservation tour of the Pine Lake Watershed. The tour starts at the high bridge east of Eldora and continues on east on highway 57. Turn left at the curve in highway 57. Points of interests are numbered on the map and are explained (below, to the right, left)

Want to take a pleasant drive in the country and learn something about the job some of the farmers in the Pine Lake Watershed are doing to maintain their soil and its fertility?

A "Drive-It-Yourself" Soil Conservation tour of the areas has been planned by the Hardin Soil Conservation District according to Cal Moore, Hardin County Soil Conservationist.

The tour was arranged so that town residents and local farmers can get an idea of what their farming neighbors are doing.

The "Drive-It-Yourself" starts today and can be taken any day at your leisure, with the aid of the accompanying map. The tour is about 15 miles long.

Moore said he believes it is the first time this type of tour has been arranged in Hardin County.

The route was planned to include scenic areas of the lake watershed and to show examples of work farmers are doing to save and build up soil fertility in crop production. The route also goes past several areas on which land improvements could be made.

The tour covers the west half of the nearly 10,000 acre watershed in Hardin and Grundy counties. The area has been of significant interest since the recent appropriation of \$93,500 by the State Legislature to enlarge

the Upper Lake from 72 to 106 acres. A requirement that 75 percent of the land in the watershed be under a conservation program was one of the provisions of the appropriation. Eighty percent of the watershed land in both Hardin and Grundy counties has now been signed under the Soil Conservation District program.

Here are the points of interest:

The tour starts at the bridge east of Eldora. Continue east of Eldora on highway 57 - 1 1/4 miles to the curve, turn left.

Point 1 — Terraces and grassed waterways on the Ed Wiesner farm. Many of these terraces were constructed during the 1930's with CCC assistance. Terraces are low ridges on the contour and are used to break up long slopes into a series of shorter slopes. A most effective conservation measure, terraces slow the runoff of water and divert it into grassed waterways to be carried off the field with a minimum of erosion.

Point 2 — Terraces on the Guy Norris 46 acres. Terraces are in a field of hay.

Point 3 — Strip cropping, contouring and grassed waterways on the Lewis Cresser farm. Strip cropping is the alternating strips of corn, oats, and hay, established on the contour. Strip cropping slows the runoff of water and helps prevent

erosion. Contouring is the planting in level line around and across slopes.

Point 4 — Contouring on the Ivan DeWitt farm may be observed on the north side of the road.

Point 5 — Newly established contouring on the Henry Peters farm can be seen east of the buildings.

Point 6 — Contouring with contour field divisions on the Dick Freese farm. Using a contour line for field division as is observed between the corn and oats field east of the buildings. Straight field divisions would cut across contour lines result-

operated by Don Balvanz. Waterways were constructed this spring by the Triple R Construction, Wellsburg. A grassed waterway provides for the runoff of water without gullying.

Point 8 — Newly constructed parallel terraces and waterways in the oats field of the Balvanz farm. Terraces were constructed parallel to eliminate short rows between terraces. Construction work was completed by the Triple R Construction, Wellsburg.

Point 9 — Terraces, contouring and grassed waterways on the George Primus farm in Grundy County.

Point 10 — Parallel terraces and contour field boundary on the Lee Lundy farm operated by Marilyn Eilers. Terraces were constructed this spring. Terraces are constructed low and broad to allow use of 4 row equipment.

Point 11 — Strip cropping, grassed waterways, and contouring can be observed on the Joe Beach farm. Terraces have been constructed every year for the past 3 years on the east side of the farm. A concrete drop box structure has been constructed at the road. The structure is built on to a culvert at the road. The structure stabilized the grass waterway above it.

Point 12 — New bridge under construction over Pine Creek. The bridge will be a

farm east of the road.

Point 14 — Strip cropping on the John Snapp farm. The strips were established in the spring of 1958.

Point 15 — Contouring on the Butler Farms operated by Paul Primus. The contouring is north of the Country Club Golf Course.

Higher Cattle Prices Are Seen

There is a good chance that feed cattle prices this year will stay above last year's mark, says Farm Economist Francis Kutish of Iowa State University. The pattern of prices has been much the same as in 1958, and the spread between grades is narrowing.

He points out that, although marketings of feed cattle during the last half of this year will be larger than a year ago, thus far the smaller sales of cows and nonfeed cattle have offset the larger sales of fed cattle.

Feeder cattle have also moved down from the spring peak, but the demand remains keen, Kutish adds.

Kutish believes further declines in the hog market can be expected as market receipts mount this summer. He says it will probably pay to plan for early marketing of as many hogs as possible, even though the market is trending down. It looks as if we have had the spring peak in prices, he adds. Prices have slipped from their May high, and the interior market is showing more price decline than Chicago.

GRASS-LEGUME MIXTURES

It may be difficult to maintain a grass-legume mixture on productive soils. The heavy growth left on the field after mowing may smother the stand. Bromegrass alone, sprayed to control weeds,

would solve this problem and eliminate mowing. For mixtures use a disease-resistant variety of alfalfa, such as Ranger, Buffalo or Vernal, and bromegrass. Mow at a height of 8 to 10 inches.