

Toledo Chronicle 1983



Contour Farming around terrace.

Soil Conservation Issue



Lloyd Chyma, sr., is a leader in soil conservation in Tama County with terraces like this. Here SCS Director John Nicholson, Chyma, and son Andy examine wildlife tracks on the Chyma farm south of Tama in Columbia

Township. Chyma was honored by both the Farm Bureau and county soil conservation groups for his efforts.

Chyma Leader In Soil Conservation

Lloyd Chyma, sr., who farms 450 acres eight miles south of Tama on the county line with Poweshiek County in Columbia Township, has established himself as a leader and innovator in soil conservation practices.

Chyma was the 1982 Farm Bureau Soil Conservation Award winner and will receive

the 1983 Tama County Soil Conservation District award as Outstanding Soil Conservation Farmer for 1983 in the Owner-Operator Division.

Along with his son Andy, 19, the Chymas raise corn, soybeans, and hogs.

"I just wanted to hold this soil back up on the hill," said Chyma for this reason in



Lloyd Chyma, sr., and son Andy discuss the features of their "Kinze" planter with SCS Director John Nicholson. The

Chymas plan to experiment with no-till farming this spring.

Windbreak Good In Winter Too

Winter is here and those farmsteads with a good windbreak can sure appreciate their importance. Fuel bills are lower. There is less snow in the yards. And wildlife can frequently be seen in and about the trees.

A windbreak is a permanent part of the farm. Therefore, careful thought and planning should precede the planting of trees. Now is a good time to be planning your windbreak. That's because nursery stock is still available for order, but supplies are dwindling fast. The sooner your favorite tree is ordered the better are your chances of actually getting that tree.

In designing windbreaks, consideration should be given to using a variety of species to lessen the chance of the entire loss of a planting to drought, insects or disease and to improve the beauty.

Be careful when planting honeysuckle. These shrubs have been hit hard recently by an aphid that has proven to be very damaging. For this reason, honeysuckle is not recommended. Recommended shrubs include dogwood, common lilac, ninebark, american cranberry bush, etc.

Windbreaks consisting of at least some rows of evergreens offer the best protection. Normally, a windbreak consisting of evergreens should have a minimum of three rows, with at least one row containing eastern red cedar, northern white cedar (arborvitae), or spruce. This row could be substituted with one row of dense shrubs. A five row windbreak should include a row of shrubs, three rows of evergreens and a row of hardwood trees.

There are several other things to consider when planting a windbreak. Consider the slope and drainage of the land as well as building arrangement. Planting the barrier too close to the buildings can cause air stagnation in summer and unwanted snow drifts in winter. Planting too far away provides little protection. The most effective zone of protection extends from a distance six to eight times the height of the trees. In this area wind velocity will be reduced up to 75 percent.

Recommended spacing for windbreak trees between rows range from six to 20 feet, depending on species. Spacing within the row should be approximately 10-20 feet for small broad leaf trees and evergreens. Shrubs should be spaced around three feet apart.

Cost of a three-row windbreak 600 feet long could range anywhere from 700 to 1,200 dollars. In 15 years this investment would pay for itself many times over.

Growth Of Production

In 1700 it took 19 people working in the soil to produce food for 20 so one could go to town. In 1865, eight people produced enough for 10 so two could leave the farm. Now 1 1/2 to two can produce enough for 10. Therefore the city is a product of the agriculture machines. ...

A straight line is the shortest distance between two points and a straight plow furrow on rolling land is the shortest line to soil destruction.

getting soil conservation practices started.

He credits neighboring farmer Robert Weitzell with showing the way. In the past Weitzell farmed part of Chyma's land and used grass strips along with contour farming.

Since 1976 Chyma has gone on to add over two and half miles of grassed backslope terraces with tile intakes.

Chyma said he likes the metal intakes over the plastic ones because it alleviates rodent damage and allows him to burn off weeds when needed.

"Not a lot of people in his area have gone to the extensive amount of terracing that Chyma has," said Tama County SCS Director John Nicholson. "He's been a leader, a real innovator."

Chyma notes that the practices have cost him in dollars but the savings in soil made it worthwhile. He noted also that part of the cost was incurred by the county SCS and urges other farmers to look into cost share projects.

He practices a minimum of conservation tillage on all crop ground. The chisel-disk has been used in the past and this spring he will experiment with no-till farming for the first time. He will use a Kinze

planter that has the no-till attachments.

His conservation practices in the hilly area south of Tama include some grassed waterways that are well maintained.

Chyma added a windbreak in 1973 for protection and beauty consisting of three rows of Evergreen trees.

"He takes excellent care of his backslope terraces," said Nicholson. "His seeding is well established and the weeds controlled."

Lloyd and his wife Myona are the parents of four children, Lloyd, jr., Sarah, Carol, and Andy.

"Andy and I are the only

Chymas left in our family who farm," said Lloyd.

"I think our soil conservation practices are a real good idea," said Andy.

Lloyd hopes that the idea of soil conservation will continue to catch on and in the meantime he has plans for more terraces.

the future of the land

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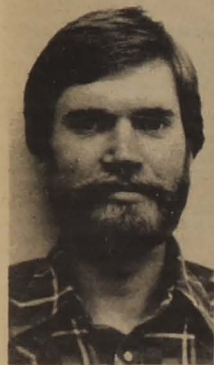
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Saturday—8:30-11:00 Noon

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Friday—8:30-7:00



This is a newly established windbreak on the Lloyd Chyma farm south of Tama. At least two rows of Evergreens are recommended for farmstead windbreaks and there are three.

Tama Co. Soil Conservation Directors



Dan Bruene

One of the few good things that inflation and higher costs have brought us, is an increase in soil conservation. More and more farmers are realizing that it costs less and is more profitable to farm the conservation way. You hear more farmers talking about how little tillage they can use to get the crop in, rather than how much fall plowing they did this year. Hopefully it won't be long, or maybe the time is already here, that the farming community will look upon the farmer that plows, the same way that they looked upon a no-till farmer a few years ago.

If a farmer doesn't think it is profitable to save all the soil he can now, then just wait until he tries to grow good crops, on subsoil.

prime farmland in Iowa is being taken out of production at the rate of one county every 11 years.

The cornbelt states have 81 million acres of prime farmland (by far the most acres of productive prime land in the US).

On the national level, of the three million acres of rural land that was taken out of production, about one million of this was prime farmland. In the US, 800,000 acres of our best farmland has become housing tracts, highways, airports, industrial sites, parking lots, etc. Nearly 200,000 acres are covered by water for manmade lakes and water storage for other uses.

What do we have for potential soil to be converted to row crop production? Most of the ground that could be brought into production is already in pasture, timber or wildlife habitat, etc.



Franklin Bro

In driving around this past year, I was very disappointed to see so much erosion after the big rains we had. Granted, in most cases the moldboard plow was not used (which I'm sure does help), but it just seems that many farmers who do minimum till or no-till, forget about contouring, strip cropping or all the other good conservation practices. Combining minimum tillage with other practices just makes

them that more effective.

1982 was not a year when Mother Nature treated us well. We had rains that came in large amounts over a short period of time. Soil loss was as high as 50 tons per acre in 1982. We can only stand a 3 to 4 ton loss.

There are many ways we can protect ourselves against some of this erosion but many just aren't using them. I know some farmers say it's hard to plant on the contour with a 12 row planter, but we must ask ourselves, "Is it worth it?"

I also think it's time we really take time to do a better job of conservation, or Uncle Sam will make it compulsory. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to put every bit of knowledge we have to work. The good part of it is, we will prosper in the long run by doing it!

I urge everyone concerned to stop in at the SCS office,

and see about a conservation plan for their farm.



Rich Havran

1983 will start my first year as a District Soil Commissioner, but concern for proper soil management practices started years earlier with rows of

contour beans. Fall plowing is one of my biggest pet peeves. The individual is letting his land blow away with no concern for neighbor, community or his chosen profession.

One thing we as farmers should have learned is that we can't lose soil at that rate without some type of conservation planning.

Let's make this the year that we do something about soil losses. We have the chance to do it now voluntarily, if not, I personally see in the future (my generation) some type of mandatory control. Is this what the American farmer wants? I truly hope not.

The SCS office will be more than glad to help you with a farm plan and get you started on some ground practices so some future member of your family will have the same opportunity to farm that you so cherish.



Ferd Kvider

When the word "conservation" is mentioned, the typical reaction is, "How much is it going to cost me?" or "How much inconvenience will it cause?" When this negative reaction can be turned around so that people will realize that a short term investment will pay off handsomely in the long run, total conservation will become a reality. The only problem is that I feel this realization will take 99 years or empty granaries, which ever comes first.

One conservation practice which pays off in high percentage figures is the establishment of a good evergreen windbreak, and although it won't start paying off immediately in monetary terms, it will add beauty to your home and farmstead from the beginning. A row of honeysuckle will provide wind protection in five to 10 years, depending on the size of the tree planted and the variety, as some grow faster than others.

Once the trees reach a height of 10 feet, their benefits will increase for as long as you live behind their protection. Your yard or farmstead will have less snow, the wind chill factor will be practically zero, and your heating units will be reduced. Each spring you will be blessed with songbirds to accompany the birds which overwinter in your grove. Pheasants and rabbits will also make good use of your grove if there are any survivors of these species in your neighborhood. You'll always have the beauty that comes from the symmetry of evergreen trees.



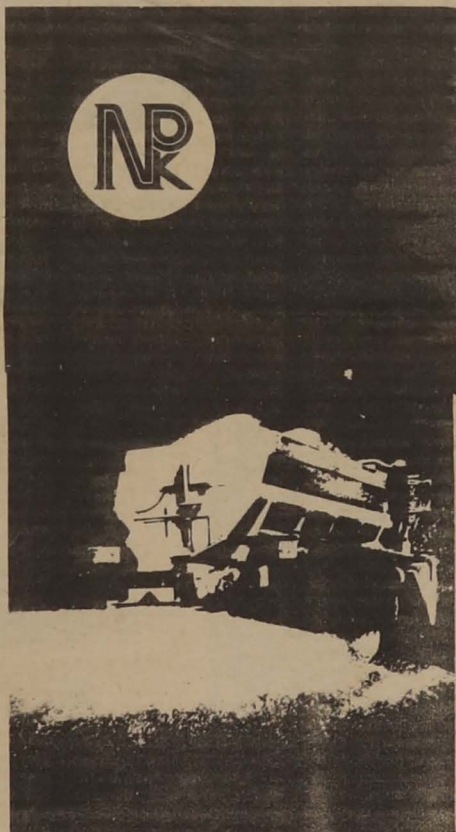
Robert Fontnel

We must save our precious topsoil for future generations. Each and every one of us must do what we can in our own way to help achieve this goal. All of our efforts today will show great benefits tomorrow.



Harry Scurr

The time has come in Iowa for the people of Iowa to become concerned about the loss of prime farmland. It has been estimated that



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My Neighbor's Losing A Lot Of Dirt

"My neighbor's losing a lot of dirt." This is a common thought among local farmers, according to Dr. Peter J. Nowak, ISU in Ames.

Dr. Nowak, professor of sociology, recently summarized the results of surveys conducted in northwest Tama County and southwest Iowa. It's all part of a study to determine how farmers view soil conservation.

The results of Nowak's studies and other items were discussed recently at a workshop held in Toledo to develop better soil conservation selling strategies.

The workshop was organized and conducted by the Extension Service to assist the Tama SCD find better ways to encourage local adoption of sound soil conservation measures.

Clair Hein, Extension Resource Development Specialist, opened the workshop exploring the myths and obstacles to overcome in selling soil conservation.

Consider Grass Waterway

Grass waterways are natural or man made water courses that are protected against erosion by a grass cover. Waterways collect water from your farm or water that enters your farm from other land and transports it safely across your farm.

Here is a simple way to determine if you need a grass waterway. The next time you have a heavy rain, take a good look at the natural drainage ways and drains in your fields. Is there erosion in the low places where runoff water collects and flows swiftly downhill? If so, this is where you should have a waterway.

The best location for your waterway is a depression draw that is apart of the natural drainage pattern. These places will only require a minimum of shaping.

Your waterways should be wide enough and deep enough to hold the largest flow of water from the heaviest rain expected on an average of once in 10 years. The size also depends on soil type, slope, land cover, land use, and how much land drains into the waterway.

Now, let us just say that you have determined you need a waterway, picked its location, determined its size, and have shaped it. Now it's time to choose a grass or grasses to seed it with.

Here is some commonly used grasses; smooth brome, tall fescue, red top, Kentucky bluegrass, and timothy.

It is also generally a good idea to fertilize this area to get the best production of the grasses seeded.

Spots that wash out need to be repaired with top soil and reseeded or repaired with sod. In fact it would not be a bad idea to check for damage after each rain.

Once the grass is established, it should be maintained by mowing or controlled grazing.

These myths and obstacles were taken directly from the Nowak studies.

According to the studies, most farmers feel that: (1) to be successful in farming, soil conservation must be a part of their farm management, (2) their neighbors don't practice soil conservation because they don't understand it, not because they simply don't care, (3) farmers don't need more government cost-share than already available to encourage them to practice conservation, (4) soil erosion is serious in the county, in their neighborhood, but not on their farm, and (5) more information on soil conservation and technology is needed.

Nowak also found that roughly 25% of farmers don't want any government help at all. They feel they can solve their own soil erosion problems.

Another 25% believe that implementing a SCS conservation plan is mandatory once it has been designed. Others believe that a conservation plan is only a document which shows where the terraces are going to be located.

Other farmers feel that they no longer have erosion problems since they no longer use the moldboard plow. And still others feel that no-till is the "cure-all" for all soil erosion problems.

Kay Connelly, Crop Produc-

tion Specialist with extension, then discussed the many ways of saving soil. According to Connelly, saving soil is pretty simple and consists of three main points: 1) shorten the slope with terraces, 2) use small barriers with contours and strips, and 3) cover the soil up with crop residue, grass, or meadow.

A brief outline about no-till was presented by Connelly during which he said there should no longer be any excuses why farmers don't try no-till. He apparently feels there's enough "know-how" to make no-till work.

Claire Hein and Paul Lasley, also of the Extension Service, then spoke on the strategies of selling soil conservation. Their focus was on how to overcome the myths and obstacles in getting more adoption of conservation practices.

The first strategy centered around field days or demonstrations where various levels of erosion are highlighted. This is contrast to the more typical demonstrations where practices, equipment, or structures are featured.

The second strategy was called the "Elmer" principal. The idea is to find "Elmer" and ask for his help. This is because Elmer is someone who's advice is sought out, and who is listened to.

The third strategy examined

was the development of peer pressure and competition. Many commercials do this (ring-around-the-collar, body odors, shine on floors).

And the final strategy was good public recognition of those operators doing a good job of conserving soil.

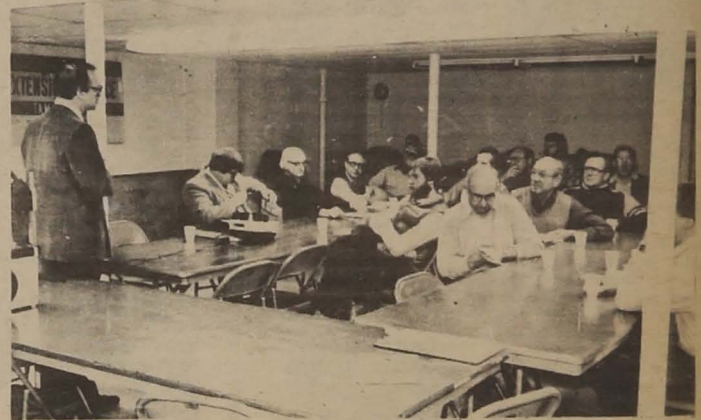
The final aspect of the workshop was centered around

discussing ideas to develop sound ways to sell soil conservation in Tama County.

The entire meeting was open to the public. Those attending and offering their opinion included area farmers and representatives from the Ladies Farm Bureau, ASCS, Ray Holst Inc. County Conservation Board, County

Engineer's office, Pioneer Seed Co., Better Dozer Service, Hilmer Excavation, Welton Construction, Tama Soil Conservation District and the Extension and Soil Conservation Services.

It is hoped that strategies learned at the workshop can be used to encourage more soil conservation in Tama County.



Iowa State University Extension Programmer discusses the myths of conservation with participants of a recent meeting on soil conservation at the Tama County Extension Office.

Fontinel's Announces New Development In Solar Buildings

Fontinels, Wick Buildings dealer in this area, announces the latest development in a solar energy building program — the Wick Solar Multi-Purpose Building. Says Fontinel's, "Wick has coined a new term to describe the building. They call the concept INvironmental Versatility because Wick solar energy enables the farmer to perform so many more activities inside the building throughout the working year."

Fontinels pointed out that the pitch of the roof is largely responsible for the new building's versatility. "Our roof pitch is designed for maximum solar heat gain and optimum energy for the building — the pitch takes maximum advantage of the sunlight, especially in December, January and February, when the sun is at its lowest point." Other advantages of the Wick design also come into play. Ideally suited for an unobstructed southern exposure, Wick solar buildings feature clear acrylic panels that line the south wall and roof of the building allowing the sun's warmth to pass through the panels and warm the building.

These Wick solar features are the reason why farmers can do so many more things inside... why this Wick solar building works all year 'round while adapting to the seasonal requirements of the farmer's operation. Fontinels explains it this way: "The Wick system is ideal for flat grain storage giving farmers the option of

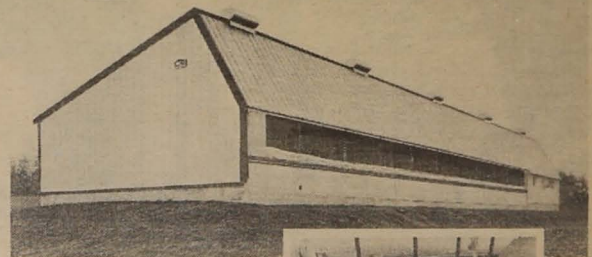
holding their grain. But when the grain storage area is vacant, the building can conveniently convert to machinery storage or also be set up as a workshop. The clear acrylic panels lining the south wall and roof provide excellent natural light which is ideal for farm workshops. But the building also functions as a grain dryer using normal sunny day solar energy to reduce moisture levels up to seven points. And the corn is in better condition for higher feed values and market sales. Nor are there any huge fuel bills — just the cost of electricity for running the fans."

Another point to remember, according to Fontinels, is that the INvironmental versatility of the Wick Multi-Purpose Building is complemented by a unique economic feasibility. Current federal and state energy tax credits can enhance the payback period of a solar energy structure such as the Wick Multi-Purpose Building.

Wick Buildings dealers have put over 200 solar system buildings into operation throughout the Midwest. As a result of this broad experience, a Wick dealer can offer in addition to its Multi-Purpose Building, a wide range of other solar system buildings including animal confinement, workshops, grain drying, machinery, storage, flat grain storage, manure digesters and utility structures.

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Monthly Soil District Activities Vary

July '81

A Union Grove Lake kick-off meeting was held.

No-till tour, 60 people participated, held with Extension.

SCD booth displayed at Fair.

Regular monthly meeting was held.

Ted Hall resigned.

August '81

SCD entered essay contest.

Dan Bruene entered in Outstanding Commissioner Contest.

SCD approved the Land Disturbing Activities rules.

Regular monthly meeting was held.

September '81

Land Activities Regulation hearing was held.

John Nicholson reported on education committee activities.

Commissioners attended fall SCD Regional meeting.

Resolutions were drawn up of Regional meeting.

Commissioners attended Agricultural Conservation Program.

Development with ASCS county committee.

Regular monthly meeting was held.

October '81

Essay contest winners chosen: Sr. Division Janeen Chamberlain, James Haan, Jr. Division Becky Bartsch and Marie Morris.

Ray Drewelow started work as Soil Conservation Technician.

Environmental Education Committee met.

Regular monthly meeting was held.

November '81

Soil Loss Conservancy Complaint filed and was reviewed by commissioners.

Contractor bid forms were made available by SCD.

Environmental Education committee met.

Quarterly newsletter mailed.

December '81

Commissioners attended annual commissioners conference.

Joe Elise resigned as state aide.

Adolph Bruene was honored as Good Year Contest Winner.

Regular monthly meeting was held.

January '82

Commissioners attend Annual Short Course at ISU.

Reorganization of officers: Dan Bruene, chairman, Vice Chairman, Dave McMillan, secretary-treasurer, Audrey Wheeler.

Environmental Education Committee met.

No-till bull session meeting held 24 farmers attended.

Regular monthly meeting was held.

The Annual Awards Banquet was held in Tama to honor local people involved in soil conservation.

Quarterly newsletter mailed.

February '82

The annual contractors meeting was held in Dysart with Benton Co. to keep contractors on top of new policy and changes.

Union Grove Lake meeting held with 25 people in attendance. Soil loss calculations were made for those

attending. Dick Pulse, Kay Connelly, and John Nicholson conducted the meeting.

Ken Ruhnke came to work in the SCD as a state aide.

SCD committee assignment were made (Education, legislation, awards, planning).

Regular monthly meeting was held.

Ferd Kvidera presented a slide presentation of the Iowa Conservancy District.

SCD entered Goodyear contest.

SCS obtained programmable calculator for use in calculating soil loss on individual farms with land users.

March '82

Annual report published in local paper.

Commissioners attended the spring regional meeting.

Two county implement dealers provided no-till planters for county farmers.

The Environmental Education committee met.

A no-till planter meeting was held in Traer — seven interested people signed up.

A ministers breakfast was held in Tama with all ministers in the county invited.

Nicholson reviewed memo's of understanding and resource inventories.

Regular monthly meeting was held.

Quarterly newsletter mailed.

April '82

Booster Club letter mailed.

Trees delivered to 6th grade students for Arbor Day tree planting project.

SCD held a no-till meeting in Traer.

Long Range Program and items for new annual work plan were reviewed.

Regular commissioners meeting was held.

SCD participated in meeting at Union Grove Lake to update progress of feasibility study.

SCD reviewed and completed National Association of Conservation Districts Land Conversion Survey.

May '82

The 5th grade field day was held at Otter Creek Lake with 350 students in attendance.

Litter Barrel contest held: Dysart-Geneseo won the artistic award, and South Tama won the class participation award.

Each 5th grade student was given an American Chestnut tree for Arbor Day planting.

Regular monthly meeting was held.

Dan Bruene assisted John Nicholson with Soil Stewardship presentation at two Gladbrook churches on one Sunday a.m.

June '82

Dan Bruene entered in Ken Wagner Award contest.

ACP pre-development meeting was held with commissioners attending.

Soil Loss complaint work completed.

Checks of residue levels on Iowa Till contracts completed.

The new memo of understanding between the Tama SCD and SCS was reviewed and approved.

July '82

Union Grove Lake meeting with 13 farmers attending. Dan Bruene participated.

Iowa Conservation Awards winners chosen.

Regular monthly meeting was held.

August '82

New SCD handout was made available and discussed.

Resolution of mandatory program developed.

Regular meeting was held.

Quarterly newsletter mailed.

September '82

Fall regional meeting at Iowa City attended by commissioners.

Environmental education committee met.

Special meeting was held.

Dan Bruene and Joe Scurr appointed to county land use commission.

Regular commissioners meeting was held.

October '82

Izaak Walton League wind-break award, awarded to Mrs. Charlotte Stokes.

Special meeting held to approve request for terrace work.

Ken Ruhnke resigned state aide position to fill a vacancy with SCS.

Regular monthly meeting was held.

November '82

Rich Havran elected as commissioner.

Dan Bruene, Harry Scurr, Rich Havran and John Nicholson attended the Annual Commissioners Conference held in Des Moines.

Regular monthly meeting was held.

December '82

"Selling Soil Conservation" meeting was held in Waterloo

sponsored by Extension and the Department of Soil Conservation.

Dan Bruene and John Nicholson testified at public hearing concerning the draft

feasibility held on Union Grove Lake. Regular meeting was held.



Assisting the Tama County Soil Conservation District are staff members (l-r) Conservation Technician Ray Drewelow, District Clerk Audrey Wheeler, and District Conservationist John Nicholson.



All Life Depends On Six Inches Of Earth!

The land we live on is covered by six inches of rich top soil. Without it, all life would cease — nature's bountiful gifts of water, woodland and farmland would become wasteland. Fire, flood, drought and improper planting can all lead to soil erosion. It is up to each of us to protect against these hazards.

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DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS Fiscal Year 1982

District Cooperators	9	NO.
Sediment & Water Control Basins	1,350	FT.
Terraces	55,186	FT.
Grassed Waterways	18	AC.
Contour Farming	5,357	AC.
Farmstead and Feedlot Windbreaks	22	AC.
Conservation Tillage	22,297	AC.
Wildlife Habitat	62	AC.

BUDGETS

1M

Commissioners mileage, meals, hotel	\$906.40
Office Supplies & Expense	998.80
Printing	164.74

2M

State Aide and Clerk Salaries	\$25,783.84
Equipment	785.31

3M

81-82 Allocation	\$47,481.00
15 Agreements approved	
9 Agreements completed	\$31,261.05

Soil Booster Club Vital To Program

The Tama Soil Conservation is a non-profit organization that has responsibility under

state laws for carrying out a county-wide soil and water conservation program.

As such, the Tama SCD receives money from the state to aid in their programs. While

this money is certainly put to good use, it isn't enough to complete all the work that commissioners of the SCD would like to do.

To help raise funds for use in promoting conservation, the Commissioners once again organized in 1982 a "Booster Club" and asked people to donate money to the district.

Those who are friends of conservation and have been kind enough to donate money to the district are listed below. It's with their help that the conservation movement is growing larger each year.

George Kos, Merle Clough, Carl Houston, Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., Raynard

Delfs, F.J. Dvorak, Robert Thiessen, Janet Van Horne, Louis Upah, Steven Pippert, Spahn & Rose Lumber Co., Eldo Hagedorn, First Community Bank & Trust, Traer, Donald Kroeger, Wilbert Lamprecht, Kenneth Kenner, Ed Hooper, Sky Farms Inc., Calderwood Farms Inc., Betty Benda, Milvoy Novak, Doug Dvorak, William Downs, Holub Land Farms, Elmo Hasselmann, Hidden Cove Farms, Dorothy Sawyer, Elsie Duffus, Fred Martens, Bob Schwab, Louis Kacer, Farmers Savings Bank Traer, Mahr Construction Inc., Marvin Cherveney, Kenneth Bruene, Wilbur Vest, E. Wilson Dinsdale, Paul Svoboda, Marley Bacon.

Midland Farms Mgt., Charlie Wiener, Harry Scurr, Village Side Farms, Raum Farms Inc. Gilbert Sonksen, Mildred Anderson, John Erickson, Thelma Marsing, Ruper Brubaker, Wayne Downey, Blanche Zmolek, Ernest Lau Duane Hosek, Iowa River F.S. Inc., Clarence Sears.

Forrest Hill, Robert Malin, Don Schmitz & Sons Inc., Forrest Ambler, Larsen Properties Inc., Stanley Hayek, Jean Cross, Henry Sieh, Vernon Dengler & Son, The Levine Co. Inc., L.L. Cooper, Joe Mattingly, Wiecks Feed and Livestock, Prichard Bros., Carroll Allen, Ross Sharp, Carl Wilson, Otto Hansen, Cynthia Mitchell, Frances Kendall, Pauline Mochal, Robert Kimm, Gary Welton, F.C. Earley Agency, Gary Hineman, H&K Farms, Eunice Rueppel, Dale Roseland.

Adolph Bruene, Dr. James McCutcheons, Bohemian Mutual Ins., Grinnell-Montezuma Impl. Store, Inc., Federal Land Bank Assoc., Marshalltown, L.A. Rasmussen, Evelyn Mansfield, Gerald Eernisse, John Nicholson, Morris Bruene, Mark Halverson, Twin Cities Real Estate, R Farms Inc., Lee Judge, Charles Bruene, S.L. Baumeier, Hecht Farms Inc., Clayton Sienknecht, Loren Luethe, Alice Hoppe, Grant-tan Backhoe.

Information On Set Aside

By Dick Pulse
Tama Co.
Extension Director

Are you undecided as to how you will handle your "set aside" or "diverted" acres in 1983? Making the decision is made more difficult by talk of a possible program similar to PIK in 1984.

There is an ISU pamphlet 1090 "Considerations for Iowa Set Aside Acres" which gives seeding rates and characteristics of different forage and small grain crops. This is available at the County Extension Office.

Some of the questions we are getting most frequently follow. Question: What can I seed where I used Atrazine or Bicep in 1982? Answer: You have very few options. Oats, wheat, legumes and even grasses like Orchard Grass and Brome Grass are sensitive in varying degrees. If more than a pound of Atrazine was used, think in terms of Sudan, Sudan — sorghum hybrid or a forage sorghum. This won't add much organic matter and clipping will be necessary to maintain quality forage for grazing. Don't let it go to

seed! Plan to use a full nitrogen rate if a corn crop follows in 1984.

If a pound or less of Atrazine was used you have a 50-50 chance of establishment of legume-grass stands. But expensive seedings in this situation would be high risk.

Question: Is there an advantage in seeding wheat or barley instead of oats? Answer: Not much if any — these crops are also sensitive to Atrazine. Winter wheat planted in spring should not produce seed and this could save a clipping unless weeds develop and clipping is necessary anyway. Check prices of seed oats vs. wheat.

Question: Can I get by without seeding anything? Answer: This is possible,

depending on the ASCS committee definition of "natural cover" and the amount of erosion hazard on the field. I would seriously question bean stubble as being satisfactory. Ungrazed corn stalk residue might qualify. This might be a logical program in order to delay a legume seeding until fall where low rates of Atrazine were used in 1982.

But very little nitrogen would be fixed by a fall seeded legume for a 1984 corn crop. At any rate, weeds must be controlled on set aside acres. Question: How much fertilizer N (pounds/acre) is added by legumes? Here are examples when seeded with oats.

One year alfalfa, 60-100 lbs.
One year seed clover, 70-120 lbs.
One year red clover, 50-80 lbs.

One year mammoth clover, 50-80 lbs.
One year legume mix, 60-100 lbs.

Somewhat more nitrogen is added when legumes are seeded without a nurse crop and weeds are adequately controlled.

Question: About what do the machine costs come to for set aside acres? Examples: out of pocket (variable) costs for some field operations per acre are:

Disking twice, 2.00, tandem.
Disking twice, 2.80, offset.
Harrow (peg tooth), .55.
Sprayer, .80.
Grain Drill, 1.80.
Broadcast seeder, .50.
Roller/cultipacker, .40.
Bulk fert. spreader, .80.
Sickle Mower, 2.40.

KEN RUHNKE TRANSFERS

Best wishes are extended to Ken Ruhnke who recently left the Tama Soil Conservation Staff to join the soil conservation staff in Corning.

Ken had worked the past several months as a state aide replacing Joe Else. In his new assignment, Ken will be working as a soil conservationist in training. This training will lead to a district conservationist position for Ken in the not too distant future.

While in Tama County, Ken spent much time working with farmers to design terrace systems and waterways, layout contour lines, and develop conservation plans. A replacement for Ken will be sought as soon as the hiring freezes are lifted.

Offer Till Program

Several farmers that have land in the Otter Creek area are taking part in the Iowa Till program.

Under this program, they received a one time tillage payment to help pay the cost of

Terraces made running water WALK!

changes in tillage equipment. They were then required to leave a minimum of 50% residue on the soil surface after planting. And do this for a five year period.

For those farmers who have taken residue measurements, they know that it takes special efforts to obtain 50% residue levels.

For instance; no-till farming may be the only way 50% residue levels can safely be achieved on soybean residue. And in corn stalks, a chisel plow with twisted shanks can bury up to 75% of the residue.

Farmers in the program area are reminded that they need to make special efforts in order to leave 50% residue. Non compliance will result in repayment of the original tillage payment.

This past spring, residue levels were somewhat low in this area due to heavy rains and flooding. One individual was required to make a repayment.

Major concerns in being able to keep a 50% residue cover will be to; keep tillage operations to a minimum, plant corn varieties that produce a high volume of stalk, control livestock grazing, consider using no-till planting on bean stubble or other low stalk volume fields, and rely more on surface applied herbicides to control weeds.

The Tama SCS urges all participants in this program to contact the office immediately after planting so the office staff can make measurements. The sooner after planting the measurements are taken, the better.

Book On Conserving Soil

An educational book on soil conservation has been published by the US Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service (SCS). The 46-page book includes 24 teaching activities, with subjects such as soil ecology, managing soil resources, and urban soil conservation practices.

"The book is one we've needed for a long time," says William Bruene, State Conservationist for SCS in Iowa. Called Conserving Soil, the book was designed for use by science and social studies teachers in grades 6 through 9.

"The book has a 16-page teacher's guide for background information, as well as four overhead transparencies and 24 spirit masters, so it's ready-made for teacher use," says Bruene. The book was written and illustrated by an educational consulting firm with SCS guidance.

"Because of the printing costs involved, there aren't enough books for every teacher in Iowa," Bruene says. "But there are enough for a few copies in each school system, and SCS field offices and soil conservation districts are now distributing them."

Teachers or others interested in obtaining a copy of the book should contact their local Soil Conservation Service office. There is an office in every county.

Sixth Graders Get Arbor Day Trees

Nearly 300 little trees will be given away this spring by the Tama Soil Conservation District. It's all part of an Arbor Day project organized by the Tama Environmental Education Committee.

Each spring each 6th grade student in the county receives a free tree to take home to plant wherever he or she chooses.

This program is in its third year and has been highly successful. The committee feels the program will help to develop an appreciation of trees with the kids.

Other projects organized by the Tama Environmental Education Committee include the annual outdoor classroom for the county 5th grade students. This is an all day event held at the Otter Creek Lake Park. Topics last spring included: wildlife, insects, soil conservation, environment, geology and boat safety.

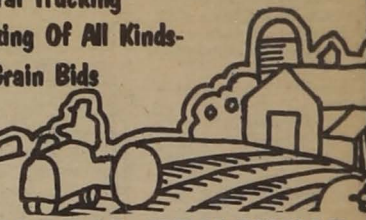
Another project conducted at the outdoor classroom is the "litter" barrel contest. Each 5th grade brings to the park a 55 gallon barrel that they have decorated with a conservation theme. Members of the

committee there judge the barrels, and then make award presentations. Two awards are given: one for artistic achievement and the second for class participation.

This year's soil conservation essay contest winner was Carol Kucera for her essay on "How Soil and Water Affects Out Future."

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Toledo

terrace types

The primary purpose of a terrace system is to reduce sheet erosion on cropland fields. The runoff caught can give a real boost in dry years and can reduce lowland flooding in wet years.

Terraces can be installed on a majority of Iowa farms by selecting the right terrace type, outlet and alignment.

Three terrace types—broad base, grass backslope and narrow base—are explained in more detail below.

All terraces are designed to hold at least 2 inches of runoff from the contributing area.

On some soils, the soil itself is the only outlet needed. The terrace is built with closed ends and a level channel. Water soaks into the soil

fast enough without harming crops planted in the terrace storage area.

On most Iowa soils, water caught by the terrace must drain into a tile outlet or grassed waterway. The terrace channel is graded to the lowest point where water is safely removed.

Where possible, terraces are built parallel to each other to eliminate point rows and facilitate farming.

Legislation To Protect Wildlife



Bob Kurtz

The 1982 session of the Iowa legislature passed into law two important bills that could play a vital role in protecting our rich wildlife resources.

1. House File 2351, commonly referred to as the "Slough Bill," relates to property tax by providing exemptions for wetlands, recreational lakes, forest cover, forest reservations, rivers and streams, river and stream banks, wildlife habitats, and native prairies.

The bill allows the board of supervisors for each county to designate for tax exemption up to one percent of the acres assessed as agricultural land or 3,000 acres in each county in the form of wetlands, recreational lakes, forest covers, forest reservations, rivers and streams, river and stream banks, and open prairies. In subsequent fiscal years, this acreage can be increased 10 percent per year up to 300 acres the second year.

This law also provides, upon application, automatic tax exemption for the following:

A. Forest land that meets the conditions of Sections 161.1 to 161.13 of the Iowa Code for a forest reservation. This, in short, requires that the land be in tracts of two acres or more with 200 standing trees per acre and not to be used for other economic gain such as livestock grazing or buildings.

B. Native prairie which is defined as those lands which have never been cultivated, are unimproved, and are natural or restored grasslands where at least 50 percent of the plant canopy is a mixture of grass and forb species which were found originally on Iowa's prairies.

C. Wildlife habitat, which is defined as those parcels of land two acres or less which are devoted exclusively for use as habitat for wildlife.

Lands classified as native prairie or wildlife habitat must not be used for economic gain of any type including the storage of equipment, machinery, or crops, nor can there be any buildings used or unused on this property.

2. Chickadee Checkoff. For most of Iowa's history, it has been the hunters and fisher-

broad base

- allows farming over the whole terrace
- may be built on slopes up to 8 percent
- construction results in steeper land slope
- highest cost, more soil moved in construction



grass backslope

- has a steep backslope which isn't farmed
- may be built on slopes up to 18 percent
- provides flatter area to farm
- construction requires less soil than broadbase
- cost is in between other two terrace types



narrow base

- safety advantage: steep foreslope and backslope are not farmed
- may be built on slopes up to 14 percent
- intake pipes are not out in cropland
- lowest cost, least soil moved in construction
- maintenance may be more difficult



WILDLIFE

Please Turn To Page 8A

Many Pasture System Considerations

What type of forage is good in a pasture system? Can existing pastures be improved? Is fertilizer necessary for pasture management? What about the soil?

Knowing the answers to questions like these may be very well enable livestock producers to increase the productive capabilities of their pastures.

Probably the first place to start when planning your pasture forage system is knowing something about your soils. Some soils limit plant growth and production one to droughtiness, wetness, or shallow depths. Other soils have few limitations for species that do well here in central Iowa.

Smooth brome grass doesn't do well on a Wabash soil. Birdsfoot trefoil doesn't do well on a Sparta Soil. Little bluestem isn't adapted to a Tama soil, or alfalfa will do fine on a Colo soil if the soil is properly drained and limed.

Knowing what type of soil will enable the farmer to make yield projections with different forages. For instance: well managed pasture on Tama soil will support up to 125 AUDs (A.U.D. = forage requirement for a mature cow with a calf for one day) under a bluegrass situation. The same soil will support 225 AUDs if in brome grass or a trefoil/grass combination.

Nutrient level of the soil is directly controlled by man and determined through a soil test. If plants are to produce at a level expected, all required nutrients must be provided in balance and at a stage of growth most beneficial to the plant.

Plants should have adequate nutrients available as they initiate their growth. For grasses like smooth brome grass, bluegrass, and orchard grass this is early spring.

Fertilizers being applied to these grasses should therefore be applied as soon in spring as the soil is firm enough to support equipment. This will prevent soil compaction and damage to the plant roots and crowns.

For grasses like switchgrass, bluestem, and Indian grass the nutrient application will increase production. It will not only allow a plant to make its maximum growth but enable it to compete successfully with unwanted or less desirable plants or weeds.

The selection of grasses and legumes varies under different conditions. No single selection is best in all cases. Varieties which have proven successful under your conditions should be chosen. Factors like winterhardiness, yield, disease resistance, and length of life all figure into the decision.

It has been recognized that mixed seedings of both grasses and legumes give best over-all performance. When planting a mixture, limit the number of species. Planting many varieties is somewhat questionable.

Production on low-yielding pasture can be doubled or tripled by interseeding. This can be accomplished with few field operations, no increase in erosion hazard, and with a minimum loss of grazing during the year.

Interseeding is accomplished in the spring as soon as existing grass is green and out of winter dormancy. A special grassland drill such as a zip seeder, Power-Till seeder or adapted no-till corn planter are used for seed placement.

Existing pastures can also be improved by frost seeding. Legumes are broadcast on grass pastures in late winter or very early spring when the ground is still frozen. Freezing and thawing plus early spring rains provide the only seed coverage.

Red clover has been widely used in frost seeding and has proven to be a good establishment. Birdsfoot trefoil is slow to establish but is bloated free, long-lived, and does well on a wide range of soil conditions.

A pasture forage system is expected to produce a maximum of nutrients for grazing livestock through planned periods of time. By using the proper species a relatively even level of

nutrient production may be planned for and attained throughout the grazing season.

Early fall is an excellent time to work on pastures for growth. Farmers can boost fall grazing by applying nitrogen on grass pastures and early fall is also a prime time to go after weeds and brush, according to Stephen Barnhart, Iowa State University extension agronomist.

Pasture grazing capacity increases when weeds are removed because livestock graze more uniformly and waste less forage. Weed-free pastures also have thicker, more vigorous grass stands.

Clipping eliminates seed production in some late-flow-

ering weeds and weakens perennial broadleaf weeds, making them easier to control.

Spraying of grass pastures with 2,4-D can control weeds that start in late summer and ones that are regrowing from earlier clipping. Applying at least 1 quart (1 pound active ingredient) 2,4-D per acre while the weeds are actively growing controls many common pasture weeds.

Some hard to control perennial weeds and musk thistle may need one to two pints per acre of Banvel. Legumes are killed by many of the broadleaf herbicides, so spot spraying may be needed to maintain weed-free legume

pastures. Always read and follow label restrictions on grazing sprayed pastures. Barnhart notes.

Brush in pastures is often controlled with a good weed-control program. Large resistant shrubs may require mechanical removal or treatment with a herbicide made for brush control.

Thirty to 40 pounds per acre of nitrogen will boost grass growth.

Soil testing is the best way to find out if phosphorus or potassium are needed. A medium soil test level for both is usually adequate for grass pastures. Legume pastures need higher soil fertility levels than grasses, so soil test levels should be slightly higher than medium. Some producers apply fertilizer in liquid form

with their fall herbicides.

If interseeding is planned next spring, weed control and fertilization with phosphorus and potassium are important. Barnhart also advises grazing the grass very close and not applying nitrogen. Both of these practices reduce grass vigor in the spring and allow quicker establishment of the interseeding.

For calving pastures used in early spring, it is helpful to fertilize with nitrogen and allow growth to accumulate. The thick grass residue provides needed cover from wind and helps keep livestock out of the mud. The nutritional value of the carry-over forage will be low so farmers should plan to supplement with hay.

Review Erosion Control Law

Iowa has had an erosion control law since 1971 and soil loss limits have been adopted by all of the state's soil conservation districts, says Ken Tow, assistant director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation. How is this law working?

The erosion control law is triggered by written complaints of sediment damage that are filed with the soil conservation districts. District commissioners are required by law to respond to written complaints, says the assistant director.

Since 1971, 258 written complaints have been filed. Many of these have been resolved voluntarily by the landowners involved as is often the case in erosion disputes.

If a meeting between the parties involved does not bring a workable solution, district commissioners may issue an administrative order. Such an order requires installation of conservation measures necessary to comply with soil loss limits. More than half of the 85

administrative orders issued have been resolved without further legal steps. One case in Woodbury County was appealed to the Iowa Supreme Court. The court upheld the constitutionality of the law.

The amount of funds that can be used for these mandatory purposes has been limited to five percent of any one appropriation. Slightly more than \$2 million of the \$41 million appropriated in state cost-share funds since 1973 have been available for mandatory work. Less than half the amount available, \$654,000 has been spent in conjunction with the erosion control law.

Dirt Not Cheap
There are some things that are dirt cheap, but dirt isn't one of them.

WILDLIFE

Continued From Page 7A

men who have supported wildlife conservation in Iowa through the purchase of their stamps and licenses. As expected, their funds have gone primarily to the game or sport species which they pursue.

More than 1,000 species of nongame wildlife in Iowa, those not considered for sport, have had few sponsors. Certainly, nongame interests have been indirectly benefited from habitat programs aimed at the sports species, but not nearly to the level needed to safeguard their long-range future.

But now, the Conservation Commission has a new way of obtaining funds which Iowans should know about.

The "Chickadee Checkoff," passed by the 1982 legislature, allows anyone filing an Iowa income tax return to designate

any portion of their refund to go to the Fish and Wildlife Protection Fund. A small space on the state income tax form is provided to indicate how much of the state tax refund the filer wants to contribute to the conservation of Iowa's nongame wildlife.

Whether the amount is \$1, \$10, or all of the refund, that contribution will be set aside for helping these important wildlife resources. The contribution is tax deductible the following year.

Chickadee Checkoff funds will go for such new programs as: development of wildlife programs in urban areas; acquisition of unique and critical habitat areas; for nongame species; monitoring and research on populations of endangered and other nongame species; restoration of some nongame species; and the dissemination of educational materials.

Robert Kurtz,
Wildlife Biologist

PASTURE AND HAYLAND SOIL SUITABILITY GROUPS

ADOPTED SPECIES

SOIL TYPE

	COLO	TAMA	WABASH	SPARTA
Alfalfa	X ³	X ¹	X ²	0
Big Bluestem	X	X	0	0
Birdsfoot Trefoil	X	X	X	0
Bluegrass	X	X	X	X
Little Bluestem	0	0	0	X
Orchard grass	X	X	0	X
Red Clover	X	X	X	0
Smooth Bromegrass	X ³	X	0	X
Switch grass	X	X	X	X
Tall fescue	X	X	X	X
Timothy	X	X	X	X

0 - not adapted

X - Adapted

X¹ - Adapted when properly limed

X² - Adapted when properly drained

X³ - Adapted when properly limed and drained



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ASCS Group Administers Projects

The Tama County ASC Committee administered more than one quarter of a million dollars for soil and water conservation work during 1982 in Tama County.

The largest single conservation program was E.C.P. (Emergency Conservation Program) amounting to \$143,000, with 207 farmers requesting cost-sharing on one of four different practices. Cost-sharing is when a farmer puts up part of the money, files all needed paper work, obtains a contractor and sees that conservation work is done in a timely manner.

The government agency then puts the balance of the money if the conservation work is done properly. The maximum cost-sharing rate for ECP during 1982 was 64% (paid by ASCS). The practices that cost-sharing was approved under included (1) removing debris from cropland, (2) reshaping or grading cropland, (3) repairing conservation structures, such as terraces, ponds, waterways, etc., (4) replacing or repairing permanent fence that was damaged. Since this is only a one time emergency program, all work must be completed and the bills turned into the ASC office before May 1, 1983. The total cost of flood damage in the four categories listed above must exceed \$400 or ASC will not cost-share on the repairs. Sign-up for this program has been closed.

Regular ACP (Agricultural

Conservation Program) practices fall into two main categories:

1. Regular annual practices — signed up for and completed in the same year.
2. LTA — Long Term Agreements — 3 to 5 year conservation plan with guaranteed cost-sharing agreed to in advance, some conservation work being done each year.

For 1982 — two farms had conservation work completed under the Long Term Agreements totaling \$7,000 of federal cost-share money from ASC. We are now seeking farmers who want to sign up for Long Term Agreements in calendar year 1983.

LTA's and all of these programs are administered by the Tama County ASC Committee:

1. Raymond Ryan, chairperson of rural Chelsea.
2. Donald J. Uah, vice-chairperson of rural Toledo.
3. Norman Draper, regular member of rural Buckingham.
4. Carroll Wegner, 1st alternate of rural Gladbrook.
5. Joseph Svoboda, 2nd alternate of rural Clutier.

The office work and accounting is handled by program specialist Barbara (Mrs. Brian) Hempy of rural Montour and Craig Wambold, County Executive Director of rural Tama. Carroll Wegner, Tama Counties ASC Compliance Supervisor, does much of the "spot checking" on

completed conservation work.

Technical help for designing the conservation project, helping the contractor meet government specifications and final approval of the completed conservation work. The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) does most of the dirt work project, design work, their phone number is (515) 484-2702. John Nicholson is the District Conservationist for SCS. The Wildlife Biologist Robert "Bob" Kurtz, the District, does part of the design work also, his phone number is (515) 484-3752. Also, the District Forrester, Robert Hibbs, phone number (515) 752-4521 at Marshalltown.

Each farmer who wants to earn conservation cost-sharing money, needs to come into the ASC office before doing any of the work. You need to fill out an application, mark the location on a map and discuss the design with the appropriate technical agency.

Your application will then be taken to the County Committee who will deny or approve it (based on practice priority, cost, type of erosion problem). You will receive a letter stating the amount of money the County Committee has set aside for your project, if you have been approved.

The 1983 regular and Long Term Conservation practices are:

High Priority

SL1, permanent vegetative cover establishment, (seeding) must leave seeded five years. ISU soil test, 75% up to \$32 per acre; SL13, contour farming, \$6/acre; SL3, strip-cropping, on the contour, \$6/acre; SL15, no-till systems, \$10/acre; SL7, windbreak establishment, 50% up to \$6 per tree and \$.50 per shrub.

Medium Priority

SL4, terrace systems, 50%; SL5, diversions, 50%; WPI, sediment retention, erosion or water control structures (ponds), 50%; WL1, permanent wildlife habitat, 50%; WL2, shallow water areas for wildlife, 50%.

Low Priority

FR1, forest tree plantations (10 acre minimum), 75%; FR2, forest tree stand improvement (10 acre minimum) 75%; WP3, sod waterways, 40%; SL2 permanent vegetative cover improvement, 75%; SL11, permanent vegetative cover on critical areas, 75%; WP2, stream bank protection, 40%; WC1, water impoundment reservoirs, 40%; WP4, animal waste control facility, 10%.

For 1982 the Tama County Board of Supervisors once again approved Federal Block Grant Funds for use on Tama County Farms. The \$7,500 to be administered by ASC County Committee, was approved by Supervisors:

Mike Wentzien, chairman, Gladbrook; Donald Lenhart, member, Tama; Noel Lenaburg, member, Tama; Al Ohrt, County Auditor and clerk to the Board of Supervisors of Toledo.

The County ASC Committee has requested \$10,000 for Farm Conservation work, from the Tama County Board of Supervisors for 1983. At this time the Board of Supervisors has taken the request under



The Agricultural Conservation Program is administered by ASC County Committee members (l-r) Chairman Raymond Ryan, Norman Draper, Don Upham, Program Assistant Barb Hempy, and County Executive Director Craig Wambold.

advisement, with their decision pending. County Block Grant funds can only be used for cost-sharing in specific instances where soil and water erosion threatens roadsides, bridges, waterways, culverts, etc. leading to potential county costs for repairs. This approach has two main benefits, 1) saving valuable income producing topsoil and, 2) reducing future county costs of repairing and maintaining roads and waters. To date the county Board of Supervisors have interested \$27,500 in farm conservation work for the benefit of all Tama County taxpayers. These men are the only Board of Supervisors in Iowa that have used conservation investment in this

manner.

Please sign up now if you intend to do conservation work during this year. Cost sharing, money will be paid soon after completion of the work, including seeding. So talk to your contractor early so you

can schedule the work. For seeding or windbreak planting you should start right away. Remember that you can do conservation work on land Diverted under the 20% Acreage Reduction or PIK Programs.

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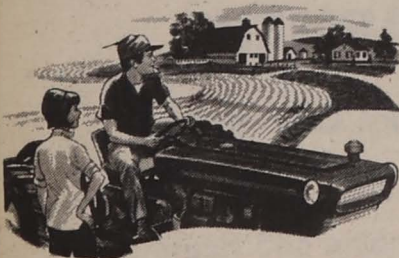
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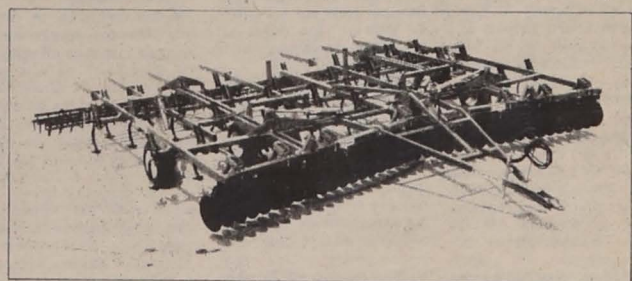
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Sedimentation Critical To Union Grove Lake

"Friends of Union Grove Lake believe that a crossroad has been reached," this according to John Nicholson, Soil Conservation Service (SCS), Toledo. He says that it has been known for years that soil sediment has been the #1 pollutant of the lake. Without better soil conservation and pollution abatement, the useful life of Union Grove Lake has been estimated to be less than 34 years.

Nicholson made these comments following a recent public hearing held at the lake concerning a draft diagnostic feasibility study released by the Iowa Conservation Commission last December. This feasibility study was a product of 18 months work conducted by the Iowa Conservation Commission Iowa State University researchers, and local personnel.

According to the study, Union Grove Lake is a prime candidate for restoration, to include: dredging, winter aeration, and installation of

large amounts of soil conservation measures on the adjoining farmland.

Rough cost estimates to date for the project total just over \$1,000,000, with a milestone date for dredging scheduled to start in the late 1980's.

Don Bonneau, Project officer for the Iowa Conservation Commission, is quick to point out that dredging will not start though until all the soil conservation measures have first been installed. And this will mean a significant commitment from all landowners involved to adopt better soil conservation practices. The study points out that roughly one acre out of six will probably need to be terraced.

During the next three months, Soil Conservation Service (SCS) personnel will be contacting as many Union Grove Lake area farmers as possible. According to Nicholson, the SCS wants to work with these farmers to recommend sound soil conservation practices. It's all part of a program called "conservation

planning." In the program, SCS will come out and look over the farm for problem areas. Then a listing of several different alternatives that could be used to solve these problems will be provided.

Nicholson says conservation planning has changed from 20 years ago. One reason, he points out, is that there are not as many grasses and legumes in our cropping systems as there once were. This means that more conservation practices such as terracing, contouring, and conservation tillage are needed to control erosion on rowcrops. He looks for no-till to become one of the most widely used practices in the very near future.

It is projected that if the land draining into Union Grove Lake was protected with sound soil conservation practices, the farmland would remain as a viable productive base, and Union Grove Lake will continue to function as a valuable resource for users here in central Iowa.



Heavy rains this past season created heavy erosion damages. Here Ray Drewelow, SCS, examines silt damage in this cornfield. Special federal funding was made available for cleanup and repair in 1982.

Urge Woodland Maintenance

Marketing timber can be profitable and woodland productivity can be maintained if owners follow the proper steps when selling trees, says Paul Wray, Iowa State University extension forester.

Most woodland owners let loggers cut and haul trees, a process referred to as selling stumpage. A few owners may cut timber and sell as logs, which usually brings a higher price, but the risk and equipment cost also are higher.

To get an idea of the potential value of the woodland and ensure that productivity is maintained, Wray advises contacting a consulting or district forester.

A timber sale should be advertised because there is no given price for a tree or stand of timber. The price is whatever the buyer and seller agree on and is influenced by tree species, number, size, quality, market location and accessibility of the logging area. Trees to be sold usually are marked to estimate volume and determine species giving the owner a way to judge bids.

A consulting or district forester should know the

buyers who are active in the area. The sale notice should include the names and address of the seller, location of the timber, description of the trees, times when trees may be inspected, conditions of the

sale and date, time and place bids will be opened.

The last step in a profitable timber sale involves regular inspection of the cutting ensure both parties are abiding by the contract.

Reduced Tillage Only One Way To Save Soil

"If your goal is to conserve soil, reduced tillage is just one way," says Damon Bahnsen of rural Inwood. If the only concern is saving money, then reducing tillage can do that too, he says.

Bahnsen believes farmers who are really concerned about conserving soil should use all conservation methods suited to their area. He made a firm commitment to soil conservation 10 years ago by setting up a plan to terrace all land that needed it. This gives him the needed flexibility for reduced tillage systems. Some years no-till or strip-till won't work because of weed or moisture problems. By terracing, he doesn't worry about erosion if plowing or disking is needed that year.

His soil is Moody silty clay loam with 2 to 6 percent slopes. All terraces are broadbased because he believes terraces aren't needed on his soil.

The tillage he uses depends on the previous crop and field conditions each spring. He sees no difference in yields between no-till, strip-till and conventional-till on his land. "I don't decide what tillage to use by my yields," Bahnsen says.

Last year 340 acres were planted no-till, 170 acres strip-till and 300 acres were disked before planting—all in corn. Strip-till is used when corn is planted where corn was grown the previous year. He has a Buffalo planter for strip-tilling corn and a John Deere Maximerge for planting no-till and conventional-till corn.

The 300 acres were disked to allow incorporation of Sutan because weed problems were

expected in those fields. This year Bahnsen plans to plant all the corn no-till and strip-till because weed control was good on the no-till fields. Also, some of the disked ground eroded last year.

On the no-till corn, three quarts per acre of Bladex was applied April 20 before any weeds were up. This controlled weeds up to planting and long enough after planting to give the corn a headstart. Cultivating eliminated the rest of the weeds. Bahnsen applied five pints per acre of Sutan to the disked ground and 1.6 quarts per acre of Bexton to the strip-till corn. Bahnsen says one-third of the herbicide is used on strip-till ground because it is applied only to the tilled area made by the planter. Spot treatments of Banvel and 2, 4-D are used as needed on all corn.

Cultivating is usually needed, especially on the strip-tilled corn. Weeds are usually present if there is no tillage before planting. Cultivating also builds ridges which Bahnsen feels are a "must" for strip-till. The ridges act like mini-terraces when done on the contour.

All 450 acres of soybeans were disked before planting. An International planter is used for planting soybeans in 19-inch rows. Disking is done to get weed control by incorporating Treflan. At planting time weeds are too big to plant beans no-till and tillage is used to get good weed control. This year Bahnsen plans to try Lasso as a preplant overlay as he did with Bladex in corn. If weeds are controlled, soybeans will be planted no-till. Herbicide rates last year were 1.75 pints

Treflan and one-third pound Lexone per acre incorporated before planting and one-third pound Lexone per acre at planting.

Bahnsen does not change fertilizer rates because of the tillage used. He samples each field on a regular basis and sends the soil to the ISU Soil Testing Laboratory and applies the fertilizer rate recommended for each field. On fields testing high, 80 pounds per acre of 15-35-10 dry fertilizer is applied as starter in a band with the planter. On fields testing low, 100 to 150 pounds per acre of the same fertilizer is applied.

The starter fertilizer takes care of the phosphorus and potassium needs with the balance of the nitrogen applied as anhydrous ammonia. Between 100 and 125 pounds per acre of nitrogen is applied to all corn except where soybeans were grown the year before. On these fields, the nitrogen rate is cut back about one pound per bushel of soybeans produced.

Before switching to strip-till, Bahnsen recommends buying a minimum-till cultivator. Ridges can be built the first year and the farmer can test a portion of the different management required. He also advises trying the new tillage system on about 10 percent of the land the first year to allow the farmer to experience the different management practices that are needed.

Even after 10 years Bahnsen is still learning because every year is different. "If a farmer tries a new system all at once, he will learn it quickly, but it will be a very expensive education," Bahnsen said.

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Tama Co. Above Average Soil 2000 Program Begins In Land Not Tilled

Tama County ranks above the state average in the percentage of land not tilled last fall, according to the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

"In Tama County, we estimate 98 percent of the soybean land wasn't tilled last fall, and 95 percent of the corn ground wasn't plowed with a moldboard plow," says SCS District Conservationist John Nicholson. "The corresponding statewide figures are 80 percent for soybean ground and 82 percent for corn ground."

Across the state, there was less tillage last fall than probably any other year, because of the weather and changing farmer attitudes.

"The plowing of corn stalks and tillage of soybean ground were singled out for the survey because of their impact on soil erosion," Nicholson says. "If there were no moldboard plowing of cornstalks, and bean ground was planted into directly with no-till, we'd have a significant amount of soil savings."

Nicholson is urging farmers

who didn't till their ground last fall to follow up with reduced tillage this spring.

Iowa farmers probably tilled their soil less last fall than any previous year, an informal survey by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service indicates.

The survey estimates 80 percent of the state's bean ground was not tilled at all, and 82 percent of the corn ground was not plowed with a moldboard plow.

"We think there are two primary reasons for that," says William Brune, State Conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service. "One is the kind of fall we had, with wet weather that didn't lend itself to field work. The other is the major change in farmer thinking on whether fall tillage is necessary," Brune says.

A 12-county area in north-west Iowa had a 90 percent average of bean ground undisturbed and corn ground not moldboard plowed. The lowest figure came from a 15-county area in north-central

Iowa, where cropland has traditionally been tilled in the fall. "Still, the estimate there is that two-thirds of the soybean ground wasn't disturbed, and about the same amount of corn ground wasn't moldboard plowed," Brune says.

Brune says the figures mean less hazard for wind erosion this winter in Iowa and indicate potential for less tillage next spring.

"What we see is an excellent opportunity for farmers to reduce tillage next spring, with resulting benefits in controlling soil erosion," Brune says. "We're expecting more farmers to plant corn directly into soybean ground with no-tillage, and that does a lot to control erosion."

SCS is cooperating with the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation, local soil conservation districts, and the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation this winter in an organized effort to promote reduced tillage. In a number of counties, bumper stickers are being given to conservation tillage farmers.

Five soil conservation districts are participating in a pilot program for distribution of conservation folders to landowners and operators, reports James Gulliford, director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

The pilot effort is part of the "Iowa Soil 2000 Program," which has an overall goal of controlling erosion in Iowa to applicable soil loss limits by the year 2000.

The participating districts are Cass, Page, Dubuque, Jones and Winnesnech. Train-

ing sessions in these pilot areas were held earlier with district staff, soil conservation district commissioners, county extension directors and other local officials.

Distribution of conservation folders will begin later in priority watersheds or areas identified in those counties by the five elected soil conservation district commissioners from each district.

The Code of Iowa requires local soil conservation districts

to provide a conservation folder to each farm unit in the state by Jan. 1, 1985, or as soon thereafter as funding is available.

The conservation folders will contain information about the topography, soils, drainage characteristics, and other pertinent factors related to a farm unit.

After receiving a folder, a landowner may request the development of a farm unit soil conservation plan. When the plan is developed a farmer may enter into a conservation agreement with the local soil conservation district. Eventually, the availability of state cost-share funds for carrying out needed conservation work will be based on the existence of a conservation agreement for the farm unit.

The pilot project will allow field testing of the regulations and guidelines developed for the Iowa Soil 2000 Program before initiating the distribution of folders on a statewide basis in 1983, Gulliford explained.

Stewardship Duty

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C.W. Gee

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Conservation Defined

Soil conservation is any act, any practice, or any treatment that would in anyway improve the condition, the fertility, or productivity of the soil.

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"Conservation farming is the combination of idea and practices used to preserve or increase the productivity of the land."

Misplaced Spending

"If we can afford to spend billions of dollars developing the resources of foreign countries, surely we can afford to spend a few million dollars in conserving the resources of our own."

Senator Richard B. Russell of Georgia

Soil Conservation Service Volunteer Program

Why Volunteer

Thousands of volunteers are needed to help battle soil erosion and other natural resource problems. People who volunteer their time and talents to help the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and local conservation districts can put more conservation on the land while keeping federal costs down. Even though there is no compensation for your service, you will have the satisfaction of carrying out some of the most necessary work in this country. You will receive recognition for your work hours and will have legal and insurance protection for any work-related injuries.

Who Can Volunteer

Anyone may apply—retirees, professionals and nonprofessionals, students—anyone interested in conservation. You may work part time or full time; outdoors or in a local Soil Conservation Service office. A volunteer under 18 must have written consent from a parent or guardian. There is no upper age limit.

What Volunteers May Do

In volunteering to help SCS protect the nation's natural resources, you will be personally involved in soil conservation activities at the grass roots level. SCS, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, helps farmers, ranchers, and other landowners reduce wind and water erosion, keep streams clear, and promote good land use.

Where Volunteers Might Work

On the land—with soil conservationists who are working with farmers, ranchers, and other land users in their efforts to reduce soil erosion. You can help them as they study the land and its water courses and plan conservation measures. You can help with field surveys and conservation planning and see the results of your work in more conservation on the land.

In schools—elementary, high school, vocational school, and college. Explain the importance of understanding the interrelationships of plants, animals, soil, water, and man. Help teachers train students for land judging contests. Help schools plan outdoor classrooms where students learn about natural resources. Help students transform an eroded schoolyard into a smooth and pleasant place to play. Introduce city school students to conservation through outdoor classrooms where they might analyze conditions and plant appropriate grasses, flowers, and trees.

With organizations—youth groups, churches, garden and service clubs. Ecology and the interdependence of living things can be presented, then put to practical use in outdoor activities. Clean a trash-filled creek. Reclaim abandoned, eroded land and turn it into a nature center or a playground.

In offices—where your SCS or conservation district office may want to use your talents for organizing information, preparing newsletters, or talking with other prospective volunteers. You may help keep the public informed of local conservation concerns.

How To Volunteer

Apply to your nearest SCS office. Look in your phone book under United States Government, Department of Agriculture. The SCS office will give you an application form asking for any special qualifications, experience, interests, and hobbies; your past or present employment; and the schedule you would like to work. You will be notified of your eligibility.

All programs of the Department of Agriculture are available to anyone without regard to race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

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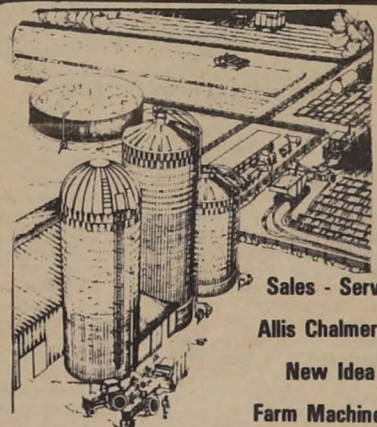
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Dave Podhajsky Making Believers

Dave Podhajsky had many skeptical eyes looking his way back in 1974 when he first experimented with no-till farming. But now, some of those eyes are beginning to believe what they are seeing.

During his first year of planting no-till corn, Podhajsky increased his yields by nearly 50 bushels per acre. "That convinced me," he says.

While using conventional tillage methods, Podhajsky had been getting 90-100 bushels of corn per acre. His ground was dry and cloddy, and his stands were poor. He said he knew there had to be a better way of farming.

So, nine years ago he tried a no-till planter loaned free to farmers in his area from the Ortho Chemical Company. Although 1974 was exceptionally dry, Podhajsky saw his best yields ever — nearly 150 bushels per acre.

Podhajsky, who farms 210 acres of hilly land near Clatter in Tama County, is enthusiastic about his no-till operation. He admits he was the talk of the neighborhood when he began planting no-till, however.

"I never saw so many people nearly drive into the ditch watching me plant corn," he laughed. "It takes guts to do this."

He says many farmers still are not convinced, but they are "waking up" to the success he's had with no-till.

After seeing how well no-till worked on his farm the first year, Podhajsky bought a four-row International "C-10" Cydo planter, which he has been using since. The planter features fluted coulters, which cut a narrow track for receiving seed. It also has center ribbed press wheels that press the seed down into the furrow track.

He generally rotates his crops between corn and soybeans, although he does plant some continuous no-till

corn. He uses soil samples as guidelines for fertilizer rates each year.

Podhajsky's pre-plant operations on his cornfields this year included 200 pounds per acre of 10-20-20 dry granular bulk fertilizer. On some land, he injected liquid manure from his hog operation instead of the 10-20-20 plant fertilizer.

On continuous no-till corn, his pre-plant herbicide treatment was one pint of Paraquat with X77 spreader and one gallon of Blades. With the herbicide, he applied 120 pounds of 28-0-0 liquid nitrogen as a carrier. If the crop needs a "rescue" treatment, he applies Banvel, or 2, 4-D.

During planting, he applied 50 to 60 pounds of 8-32-16 starter fertilizer and 10% pounds per acre of Moxap insecticide.

He employs a crop monitoring service to monitor his fields for pests. This year he applied insecticide to only half of his fields during planting.

In no-till corn following soybeans, he used a pre-plant treatment of three quarts of Lasso and piggybacked on one-half pint of 2, 4-D and one-half pint of Banvel combination in addition to one pint of Paraquat and X77 spreader. Soil samples on all his fields were similar, so Podhajsky applied the same rate of fertilizer in both corn following soybeans and continuous corn.

Podhajsky says he still experiments with herbicides, since weeds seem to be his biggest problem with no-till. Other than Paraquat, he doesn't use much more herbicide than conventional tillage farmers. Weeds don't seem to affect yields in a no-till field as much as in a conventionally tilled field, Podhajsky says.

"There will always be a few weeds that come back in a no-till situation. When they do come back, the corn is already knee high or better, so the



South Tama County fifth grade students hear about soil conservation at the annual outdoor classroom held at Otter Creek Lake Park. Over 250 students participated last spring.

corn isn't really bothered," he said.

Podhajsky says he avoids planting corn after alfalfa since alfalfa is especially difficult to kill. When he tried this in the past, he used a quart of Paraquat and X77 spreader, plus four to five pounds of atrazine.

Podhajsky said he was told to plant heavier than usual when he first began no-till, since the ground is generally colder during planting. His planting rate of 24,500 seeds per acre the first year turned out to be too heavy, and he had a lot of barren stalks. Since then, he plants around 23,800 seeds per acre, and gets a final stand of around 20,000.

Podhajsky plants a medium maturity variety of seed corn. This year, he began planting his 120 acres of corn April 28 and finished May 3.

Podhajsky adds that he is never in a hurry to get his fields planted since he's been practicing no-till.

"It (no-till farming) is just a whole different ballgame. It's so relaxed. Other farmers are still out in their fields after dark, but I go out there at seven in the morning and I'm always back by six at night," he said.

By planting no-till, Podhajsky not only saves time, but also fuel. He uses about one-half gallon of fuel per acre to plant corn, at a cost of about 50 cents.

Podhajsky said the Ortho Chemical Company warns farmers to expect a 10 to 15 percent yield reduction when planting no-till. But Podhajsky said he hasn't seen much loss in yield.

"I won't claim that you will get the same yield as with conventional tillage, but you'll get as many dollars in your pocket at the end of the year," he said.

Podhajsky says he thinks more farmers will be turning to conservation tillage and no-till as fuel prices continue to rise. He says he's seen more reduced tillage this year in his area, but most farmers still insist on plowing. "Plowing is a tradition that's hard to break," he admits.

Podhajsky's wife, Irene, says she thinks the appearance of the fields is one reason why many farmers are reluctant to

farm no-till.

"A plowed field looks so nice and clean. When you look at a no-till field, it just doesn't appear as pretty. Appearance is a big thing," she said.

Her husband agreed. "When you get done planting no-till, you just have to close the gate behind you and don't look back."

For farmers just getting into no-till, he suggests reading books on the subject. One

which he found helpful is "No-Tillage Farming," by S.H. Phillips and H.M. Young, Jr.

Podhajsky emphasizes the need to go into no-till farming with an optimistic outlook.

"You've got to have your mind made up that it will work, and you need to keep trying," he said. "I had no one around to help me when I first started, and it took pure determination."

"A lot of others tried no-till,

but never came back to it. They'd say that it didn't work the first year. But, you've got to keep trying and learning through experience, or it fails."

Although some farmers are still be pessimistic about no-till farming, Podhajsky says he has no doubts.

"The only thing I regret that I didn't start no-till farming a lot sooner," Podhajsky laughs.



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Soil Survey Maps To Computer Files

Steps are being taken by cooperators of the Iowa Soil Survey Program to develop a comprehensive program placing completed soil survey maps on computer file, says Iowa State University extension agronomist Gerald Miller.

The task of coding soil maps onto computer file is being handled by the Land Use Analysis Laboratory in the department of agronomy at Iowa State University.

Miller explains that computer files of soil maps allow soil conservation districts and farmers an opportunity to develop and evaluate alternative crop management plans and cropping sequences, conservation tillage systems, and soil conservation structures. Using current cost estimates, the economics of alternative management plans can be evaluated in terms of net farming

capacity, productivity, soil depletion, and environmental degradation.

A recent study was completed by soil scientists and an economist at Iowa State University using soil map data stored on computer file to evaluate a 7,100-acre watershed area.

On-site observation and assessment by local soil conservation district and extension personnel indicated that the cropping sequence of the land was continuous row crop with only a small amount of conservation tillage associated with fields harvested for corn and soybeans. Based on this assessment of cropland use a combination of five alternative cropping sequences and tillage systems were

FILES

Please Turn To Page 13

Midland Dairy Tips

Time was when you opened the crisper in the "average" American refrigerator, all you found was a banana, two stalks of celery and half a head of iceberg lettuce. But time has changed both the variety of produce available and the diet of Americans.

Interest in weight control, fitness and better nutrition, as well as simple curiosity, have led people to include more and different fruits and vegetables in their eating patterns. With the fibre, vitamins and minerals of fresh produce, Americans also are enjoying delightful flavors, textures and colors. So, while not every refrigerator houses alfalfa sprouts and watercress, most people's vegetable bins have seen their share of leaf lettuce, pea pods, nectarines and the occasional artichoke.

Fresh produce is no longer a luxury. Our country's orchards and fields provide an array that changes with the seasons. This abundance means there is always a good bargain to be found among fruits and vegetables at their peak. Home economists advise, to save money, buy in season.

Nothing complements the flavors of seasonal vegetables and fruits better than dairy foods. They are ideal for adding heartiness and a feeling of satisfaction, not to mention protein and calcium, to lighter meals.

Although they have a rich taste and texture that goes well with crisp produce, dairy foods such as yogurt, cottage cheese and sour cream maintain the lightness of your eating plan.

Four ounces of creamed cottage cheese, an average lunchtime serving, has only 120 calories. A tablespoon of dairy sour cream contains 26 calories, compared to 101 for mayonnaise, 83 in the average bottled Italian dressing and 65 each in French and mayonnaise-style salad dressings. An eight-ounce container of plain yogurt made from partially skimmed milk has 113 calories. Flavored yogurts range from 200 to 250 calories per eight ounces; sweeteners and preservatives add calories.

Vegetables

One of the favorite ways to eat fresh vegetables is in a tossed green salad. Dairy products make tasty dressings whether you prepare your own from scratch or use seasoning packets. Try mixing packaged dry dressing with yogurt or a blend of yogurt and sour cream instead of the oils or mayonnaise called for.

Homemade creamy garlic dressing is easily prepared by stirring together eight ounces of yogurt or sour cream with a clove or two of crushed garlic, two tablespoons fresh chopped parsley and salt and pepper to taste. Another light topping for a green salad is based on cottage cheese: Beat one cup until it's fairly smooth, about five minutes. Add a quarter cup of sour cream, a teaspoon of grated lemon peel and one-fourth teaspoon salt. Thin with a little milk, if desired, and then chill.

Here's an entire meal based on fresh vegetables and cottage cheese. It is special

enough for company and makes lunching alone or with your family a treat. Put two cups of cottage cheese, one-half teaspoon seasoned salt and one-eighth teaspoon pepper in a mixing bowl.

Beat on high speed of mixer until almost smooth. Place mixture in a serving dish and surround it with small bowls of toppings such as sliced green onion, sliced radishes, alfalfa sprouts, chopped hard-cooked egg and crumbled bacon. Serve with a variety of toasted breads and English muffins. Diners select a bread, spread it with cottage cheese and sprinkle on the condiment(s) of their choice.

Other favorite vegetable salads can be made substituting sour cream for traditional dressings. Try carrot and raisin slaw with sour cream, a dash of ground cloves, a teaspoon each sugar and fresh lemon juice and salt to taste. Cabbage slaw and potato salad also benefit from sour cream's rich flavor and lower calories.

Fresh vegetables don't have to be raw to taste good with dairy foods. Try sour cream and a sprinkling of dill on fresh, cooked green beans or sour cream and grated Parmesan cheese on steamed broccoli.

Fruits

Fruit salads are popular light meals, and dairy foods dress them well. Yogurt adds tang to this sesame citrus dressing: Blend together two tablespoons each sesame seeds and honey, one teaspoon each grated orange peel and grated lemon peel and a dash of salt. Stir in an eight-ounce container of plain yogurt and serve over citrus sections, green grapes and/or fresh strawberries. A cup of cottage cheese, beaten at high speed until smooth and then mixed with one cup lemon yogurt and two teaspoons grated lemon peel, also makes a pleasing dairy topping for citrus fruits, melon pieces and pineapple chunks.

Dipping is as interesting a way of eating fruits as it is for vegetables. Vanilla or lemon yogurt with grapes and pieces of pear, apple and pineapple is a simple, refreshing hors d'oeuvre for a cocktail party or brunch.

It's also an easy but nutritious snack for children. Be sure to dip sliced pear and apple in lemon juice to prevent discoloration.

Cottage cheese flavored with orange and cinnamon also can be served as a dip or can make a light meal with fresh fruit on a bed of lettuce. Beat one cup of cottage cheese until smooth and then beat in one-half teaspoon grated orange peel, one tablespoon orange juice and one-eighth teaspoon mace or cinnamon. Add sweetener and/or salt to taste, if desired.

When you are eating lighter, replace heavy, gooey desserts with fruit and yogurt parfaits or sundaes. Served in attractive glassware, they spark the end of the meal with visual as well as taste appeal. Layer apples with plain or vanilla yogurt and a dash of cinnamon or nutmeg. Bananas taste good with vanilla, too. Lemon yogurt goes with citrus fruits, melons and grapes. Sprinkle granola, bran cereal or wheat germ between the layers of fruit and yogurt for an interesting texture.

A delicious dessert or brunch food is fresh strawber-

ries, blueberries, peaches and/or bananas topped with a swirl of sour cream and a bit of brown sugar. Sour cream, like other creams, can be whipped. It takes longer to form peaks than whipping cream and does not become as firm, but the lightness and tang make it a superb topping for any dessert or fruit bowl.

The combinations of fresh fruits and vegetables with real dairy foods vary endlessly. Because these foods are easy to work with, they fit the lifestyles of cooks in a hurry. Because they're nutritious and light, they fit the eating patterns of many Americans. But most of all because they taste great together, they fit just about any meal you can imagine.

Tama Co. Extension News

During the 1970s, eastern Europe provided a rapidly growing market for Iowa corn and soybeans, says Dick Pulse, Tama County extension director. That has changed now as the Eastern European Countries are running into economic problems.

Iowa State University extension economist, Charles Gratto, points out that "during the 1970s the eastern European countries generally followed policies that encouraged growth in per capita income. At the same time retail prices for staple farm products were held at low levels. The demand for meat products rose and imported grain was used to produce the meat for the new demand."

"At the same time ambitious industrial development plans were started. The grain and technology imports were often financed with hard currency credits. For example 40 percent of the \$2 billion in 1980 agricultural exports to eastern Europe was financed by the U.S. guaranteed credit programs," Gratto says.

Poland, East Germany and Romania have traditionally been our major eastern European customers. Poland has encountered severe economic difficulties. In 1983, it is expected that its economy will have a negative growth rate of 8 percent.

Without credits to purchase grain, the broiler industry in Poland is about shut down, Gratto explains. Hog and cattle numbers are falling and per capita meat consumption will decline by about 10 percent this year. The hard currency debt is big and additional credits are hard to come by. While Poland will still buy some grain and soybeans this year, U.S. sales will be down sharply compared to past years.

"The situation appears about normal in East Germany. However, Romania has run into trouble," Gratto continues. "Romania has become a major debtor and has had to reschedule its debt payoff. Also Romania is now close to grain self-sufficiency. Good crops and currency shortages will limit our sales there."

Czechoslovakia's strategy is to reduce hog numbers by 10 percent, increase forage production, and bring up cattle numbers. If successful, this change could put grain

self-sufficiency within their reach. And that will cut into our sales, Gratto adds.

On the plus side Romania, Hungary and Yugoslavia remain eligible for hard currency purchase credits. Yugoslavia recently used the new blended credit program to purchase U.S. farm products and is expected to be in the

The Toledo [Iowa] Chronicle Saturday, February 12, 1983—Page

market for U.S. agricultural products this year, the economist says.

In the longer run, prospects for improvement in sales to eastern Europe are not good. It will be two to five years before economic growth resumes there and the debt problems are settled.

A sharp reversal in U.S.-

Polish relations is required before that country returns its former place as our number one eastern European customer. Until then sales grain and soybeans to eastern Europe will hover around the billion dollar mark. That only half of what was sold there only a few years ago

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MARSHALLTOWN

Farm plans help save soil

by Lynn Betts

A soil conservation farm plan will help you get maximum benefit from your land at the same time you hold soil losses within the limits of Iowa law. Says Mervyn Danielson, state resource conservation officer for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). It is an outline of how the farmer wants to farm, along with what he plans to do to take care of his land.

More than 100,000 Iowa farmers have become cooperators with their local soil conservation district, and have either developed or are in the process of developing a conservation plan for their land.

A conservation plan includes the following:

- (1) your plans for cropping and managing the farm, including livestock numbers, tillage plans, etc.;
- (2) your decisions on erosion control practices to use, including where and when to be applied;
- (3) a color-coded soil map of the farm, indicating wetness, erosion, and other limitations of soils for various kinds of farming;
- (4) a plan map for field planning;
- (5) narrative descriptions and management guides for all soils on the farm;
- (6) alternative suggestions for conservation measures from SCS; and
- (7) information on establishing and maintaining conservation measures.

The procedure for making a plan is simple. Don Hach of Benton county says, "I'd heard in an adult education class that you could get planning help at no charge. So when I bought another 200 acres last March, I signed up as a district cooperator. It wasn't long before Floyd Peters of the SCS came out to help plan. We went over the entire farm, looking at the kind of things I needed to do to save soil and increase production."

Hach's plan includes contouring gently sloping land, and rotating crops for erosion control. He intends to build grass back-slope terraces on the 10% slopes this year, and keep the steeper slopes in permanent hayland. By following his plan, Hach will keep soil losses within limits established by the Benton county

soil conservation district.

You can start a conservation plan whether you've operated a farm for years or just bought one.

Wayne Curille is one cooperator who believes the sooner the better. "I bought a farm in 1969. When I lost a lot of soil the next spring from just one rain, I decided it was time for a plan. I built more than 1½ miles of grass back-slope terraces that year, and it was none too soon. Those terraces withstood last fall's 12 to 16 in. rain-storm remarkably well," Curille says.

In addition to farming in Audubon county, Curille is principal at Manning Elementary School.

Wayne has 47 acres of steep-er land in pasture, and has a pond for erosion control and livestock water. He'll build a diversion terrace and several hundred feet of grassed back-slope terraces to complete his plans. SCS district conservationist Bill Mozingo says, "That should keep his soil losses to within the limits set by the Audubon county soil conservation district."

An SCS conservationist can suggest ways to keep your land productive, but you make the decisions. You'll want to think several years ahead. Cost estimates for improvements can be included in the plan.

If you can only decide what to do on part of the farm, your decisions are put down only on that part. The district conservationist makes suggestions on the rest of the farm. But the choices are yours. You plan at your own pace.

You and the soil conservation district both get a copy of your plan. If the land is rented, both the owner and tenant get a copy. "The planning should be together; it's important that a tenant know what decisions are being made by the owner," Danielson says.

You can change, or even cancel, a plan at any time.

Dale and Emil Schuette of Plymouth county have been operating by a plan since 1955, but it's been revised and updated since then.

Farm Profit Meeting In Marshalltown

Dr. Michael Boehlje of Iowa State University and Chet Randolph of public television's "Market to Market" program will highlight Fidelity Brenton Bank's tenth annual "Farm Profits" meeting on Saturday, Feb. 19 in Marshalltown.

Dr. Boehlje will speak on the topic of "Management Strategies for the '80s" and Randolph will address "Marketing Strategies" in the meeting to be held at the Marshalltown High School Cafeteria.

Other speakers will include Craig McGarry, trust officer for Brenton Banks, Inc., on the subject of estate planning and Matt Hamlett, agricultural loan officer for Fidelity Brenton Bank, on the use of the micro-computer in agriculture.

Dr. Boehlje, a Professor in the Department of Economics at ISU is regarded as one of the nation's foremost agricultural economists. He has authored several books and countless articles on agricultural economics and farm management and is widely sought after for speaking engagements and radio, television and print media interviews.

Chet Randolph is currently a affiliated with Clayton Brokerage Co. of St. Louis, Inc. as a grain and livestock marketing specialist although his career has been in broadcasting.

Born and raised on the family farm near Ankeny, Randolph received his degree in agriculture from Iowa State. His experience in the food business ranges from operating his family's farm and judging livestock to serving as Executive Vice President of the American Soybean Association.

Craig McGarry is a new member of the trust division at Brenton Banks, Inc., in Des Moines, having served the previous three years as a supervisor of estate planning

services for the Federal Land Bank in Omaha. He is a 1977 graduate of the Creighton University Law School.

Matt Hamlett joined the staff of Fidelity Brenton Bank in June of 1981 following graduation from Iowa State with a degree in dairy science.

The program opens at 10 a.m. with a welcome by Tom Smith, President of Fidelity Brenton Bank. McGarry will speak at about 10:30, Dr. Boehlje at 11 a.m. and Randolph at about 1 p.m.

The meeting is open to the public and reservations are requested by calling the bank no later than Wednesday, Feb. 17.

Doors to the cafeteria will open at 9:30 a.m. A lunch prepared by the Marshall County Cattlemen's Association and the school food service will be served at noon.

Soybeans Part Of Frozen Tofu

Frozen tofu is in, frozen yogurt is out, according to a list of what's vogue for 1983. Do soybean farmers know they are producing a suddenly fashionable crop?

Most people know that bread is made from wheat. U.S. farmers grow a lot of wheat. But the United States produces even more soybeans. In fact, more than any other country. And tofu, frozen or otherwise, is a high-protein, cheese-like product made from soybeans.

The people who list the ins and outs for 1983 are a little late. About 2,000 years late. Tofu has been a diet staple in Eastern Asia, where the soybean originated, long before anyone began writing about its nutritional merits.

In 1981, Japan's tofu industry used nearly 17 million bushels of soybeans, according to the American Soybean Association (ASA). Sixteen million of those bushels came from the United States. This is quite a success story for ASA, says Dennis Blankenship, director of market development at ASA headquarters in St. Louis.

When ASA opened an office in Tokyo in 1956, Japan's tofu industry used less than a million bushels of U.S. soybeans. Japanese government restrictions and the tofu industry's quality standards held back industry growth,

says Blankenship. Meanwhile, tofu manufacturers were using nearly eight million bushels of soybeans produced domestically and imported from China.

ASA began working with tofu manufacturers by providing research and technical assistance. ASA arranged for two Japanese scientists involved in the tofu industry to spend several months at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Northern Regional Research Laboratory in Peoria, Ill. The scientists conducted production research on tofu to determine which U.S. soybean varieties were best for the Japanese tofu industry. At the same time, the Japan Tofu Association, the Food Research Laboratory of the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, and ASA repeated the tests using various varieties of U.S. soybeans.

The result was development of a new tofu production method. One advantage of the new method was that less water-soluble proteins were lost as compared to traditional tofu production procedures. The new process produced higher yields of tofu and, most important to U.S. farmers, the researchers discovered that U.S. soybeans were the most suitable for use in the new process.

The next step was to teach tofu manufacturers the new process and how to use the new soybean varieties. ASA conducted a series of demonstrations to illustrate the qualities of the U.S. soybeans and the new processing methods.

"Processors soon began using our product," says Blankenship. "They were impressed by the presentations made at the seminars, by the dependability of the U.S. supply and by the improvement in quality. We succeeded in destroying the myth that only Japanese and Chinese soybeans could serve the tofu market."

So if the United States is such a big soybean producer, why aren't more soy foods being consumed here? One reason may be that the soybean is the new kid on the U.S. agricultural block. Missionaries brought the soybean from China to Europe and the United States in the late 1880s. Since then, the crop has blossomed, and farmers have planted more and more acres in response to increasing demand. Total production last year was 2,229 billion bushels.

Soybeans were first grown for oil which was used in industry. Today nearly all the oil goes into food uses. Most of the meal, a by-product of the oil extraction process, is used

as a high-protein component of livestock feed.

Even though soybean oil, soy flour, and soybean lecithin fortify many kinds of food products, most people have not eaten or ever heard of a soybean product such as tofu. Other soybean products include miso, a seasoning paste made from a fermentation of soybeans, salt and water; and tempeh, cakes of cooked soybeans.

Many people still think of soybeans as food for animals, says a researcher at Iowa State University. Also, some of the tofu available in grocery stores is not the best quality because the people who are making it have not been trained in the food sciences, says Lester Wilson of the ISU Department of Food Technology.

"If it's not a good quality product, people are not going to like it," says Wilson, who is finishing the second year of tofu study supported in part by the Iowa Soybean Promotion Board. Wilson is evaluating three tofu manufacturing techniques using three soybean varieties with different protein levels. Wilson hopes to develop approximate quality guidelines that a tofu manufacturer could use to evaluate tofu characteristics such as flavor, color and texture.

What Wilson would like to do next is study the possibility of adding to tofu flavors such as cheese, butter, strawberry or seafood. Tofu is very bland, almost too bland for most American consumers, but when cooked with other foods, it will pick up the other flavors.

"I suspect what happened with yogurt could happen with tofu," Wilson says. "Both started as health foods. People mixed plain yogurt with other foods, but didn't really eat a lot of it. Once it was flavored, the sales took off."

"Consciousness of people is being raised," Wilson says, "because tofu is being mentioned, often as a diet food, in many magazines and newspapers. It's high in protein, low-calorie, low-fat, has no cholesterol."

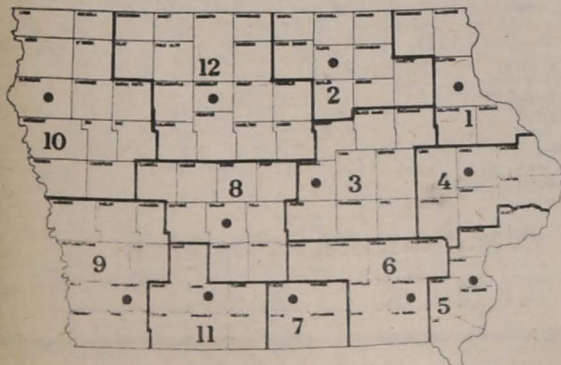
A typical eight-ounce serving of tofu has 147 calories. Weight Watchers has included tofu in its program for about two years, according to spokeswoman for Weight Watchers of St. Louis Inc.

According to Richard Leviton, head of the Soyfood Association of North America in Colrain, Mass., a research group in New York City estimates a 300 percent growth in the U.S. tofu industry by 1986. So if you've not heard of it yet, relax. It looks like tofu will be in for a long time.

District Foresters

For woodland advice contact the "District Forester" at the appropriate locations for your county.

District 1	319-245-1891 - Box 662, Elkader - 52043
District 2	515-228-6611 - Box 4, Charles City - 50616
District 3	515-752-3352 - Box 681, Marshalltown - 50158
District 4	319-462-2768 - Box 46, Anamosa - 52205
District 5	319-523-8319 - Box 62, Wapello - 52553
District 6	515-472-2370 - Box 568, Fairfield - 52556
District 7	515-774-4918 - Route 3, Chariton - 50049
District 8	515-993-4133 - Box 175, Adel - 50003
District 9	712-623-4252 - Box 152, Red Oak - 51566
District 10	712-546-5161 - Box 65, LeMars - 51031
District 11	515-782-8211 - Box 2, Creston - 50801
District 12	515-332-2761 - 102 8th Street South, Humboldt - 50548



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Grain Marketing Seminar Set

A two day seminar on grain marketing, for farm men and women, will be held at the Tama State Bank on Wednesday, Feb. 16 and 23. Meetings start with coffee at 9:30 a.m. both days, continuing until about 3 p.m.

The marketing school will be sponsored by Tama County Extension Service and Tama State Bank.

Dick Pulse, Tama County Extension Director and Mike Hagerty, Tama State Bank, say the seminar is designed to help fill a need by farm producers to develop individual marketing strategies which can include more use of forward pricing through contracts and hedging, and a better understanding of techniques such as charting and other means of market analysis.

Part of the seminar will be devoted to a review and study of the 1983 ARP and PIK programs and how they can affect individual production and marketing plans.

Pulse says that effective marketing must be approached on an individual farm basis,

taking into consideration cash flow needs, risk factors affecting a farm, financial position of the operator, on farm storage and handling facilities, lease characteristics, etc., so that strategies which fit one situation may not be appropriate in another.

Phil Hufferd, Iowa State University Extension Management Specialist, will be the main resource person during the two day seminar. Bob Wisner, Iowa State University Extension Marketing Specialist, will also take part in the program.

Farm couples are encouraged to participate and farm wives are especially invited since many farm wives participate in marketing decisions.

The meetings on February 16 and 23 deal with different phases of grain marketing and the second day is a continuation of the seminar, not a repeat of the first day, so participants should plan on participating on both days according to Dick Pulse and Mike Hagerty. There is no cost involved for participants.

FmHA Makes 24 Loans To Iowa Sources

The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) made 24 loans and grants to communities and rural businesses during fiscal year 1982, which ended September 30, FmHA State Director R.R. Pim said today.

FmHA is a credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It provides loan assistance to farmers, small rural communities, non-profit agencies and other rural residents who need credit but cannot get it from other lending institutions. FmHA provides service through more than 2,000 field offices nationwide with 60 county offices and seven district offices in Iowa.

In Iowa, total grants for water and sewer systems were nine for \$2,557,500; loans totaled 17 for \$8,769,100. Other assistance during the year included:

Six loans for \$980,000 for community facilities;

Loan guarantees in the amount of \$2,600,000 for rural businesses.

Nationally, FmHA made 444 grants for rural water and sewer systems totaling \$133.8 million, plus 928 loans for \$375 million. Other assistance included:

267 loans totaling \$126.1 million for essential community facilities in rural areas;

74 loan guarantees totaling \$125 million for rural businesses, including fuel alcohol production;

Six loans totaling \$1.9 million for such purposes as flood prevention, watershed protection and resource conservation.

The total for all community and business program was \$761.8 million nationally.

For essential community

facility loans and water and waste loans the interest rates will be set by FmHA at least each quarter of the fiscal year. For the period between January 1, 1983 and March 31 the interest rate will be 9 1/4% for "market" rate borrowers and 7 3/8% for "intermediate" rate borrowers. The interest rate for an applicant is determined on the median family income in the area to be served by the applicant. Each individual applicant should confirm the rate of interest they are eligible for by contacting a FmHA office.

Emphasis will be placed on the utilization of non-federal funds with FmHA financing in conjunction with the construction of these various community facilities. FmHA may provide financing in part or total where the eligibility requirements may be met and where other commercial financing may not be available from investment brokers, banks or savings and loan resolutions.

The Appropriation Bill has been passed for fiscal year 1983 and funds are available for all of the above programs during the coming year.



Most geologists believe the Great Lakes were once river valleys enlarged by glaciers during the Ice Age.



Fish have been seen at ocean depths of almost 7 miles.



Tama County Conservation Board Executive Director Bob Etzel leads a nature hike last spring. The hike was part of the

county Fifth grade outdoor classroom held annually at Otter Creek Lake.

Money Management For Farm Families

"How to Avoid Financial Crisis" will be the central theme at a seminar for farm couples, to be held at the Tama County Extension Office on Monday, Feb. 21.

According to Dick Pulse, County Extension Director, the meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. with coffee. Farm couples are asked to register in advance for the meeting so that luncheon arrangements at the office can be made.

The only charge will be \$3 per person for lunch.

Phil Hufferd, farm management specialist from the Iowa State University Area Extension Office, will discuss the current financial squeeze affecting farm families, and review some of the factors which have tended to make financial management more difficult. He will point out that low farm prices are an important part of the current

situation but that there are some factors contributing to money problems which can be controlled to a considerable extent by farm families through study and planning.

These factors will be discussed and considerable emphasis will be placed on working with lenders, the importance of satisfactory records, how to prepare a cash flow budget, how to analyze the farm business to see if it is

financially sound or if it has a reasonable chance of surviving.

All farm couples who want to sharpen up their skills in this area are urged to participate. Lenders, accountants and others with a high stake in this subject are also invited.

Registration for the meeting and for the noon luncheon will be made at the County Extension Office in Toledo by calling 515-484-2703.

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