



RFD—

Many Uses Found for Farm Pond

Underwood, Ia.

National Soil Conservation Week, which started Sunday, marks the beginning of the summer lull in earth moving work. It's also a time to sit back a moment and survey what has been accomplished in the last year.

Conservationists in the Ryan-Henschal Watershed west of here point with pride to the progress they have made.

Work Unit Conservationist Leon Foderberg, my tour guide on a trip through the area a year ago, invited me to revisit it again this spring.

A dam across a gulley between farms owned by Eldon Ravlin and Florence Finley was under construction in June, 1964. This year terraced cropland surrounds a peaceful pond.

* * *

Uses

The structure was obviously accomplishing its purpose—to curb erosion. Despite heavy rains this spring, the area below and above it showed no new evidence of erosion.

A good stand of bromegrass and alfalfa flanked the walls of the structure where only a year before heavy machinery churned up clouds of dust.

Along the west shore a weathered cornstalk duck blind testified to another use for the pond last fall.

"I know they got some geese from those blinds and I think they got a few ducks," Mr. Foderberg said.

"The pond was stocked with fish, too. So it serves several purposes."

* * *

Wildlife

The pond itself covers about five acres. A large basin terrace and several level terraces protect the pond from the inward flow of silt on the Ravlin side. Diversion terraces keep out silt on the Finley side.

The area, including the pond, has been declared a State-Federal Wildlife Development. It soon will be fenced to keep livestock from straying into the region and frightening away game.

Multiflora roses, honeysuckle and other shrubs have been planted to provide cover and food for the wild birds and animals which, in turn, will afford good hunting for the area's sportsmen.

Several acres, in addition to the pond area, were taken out of crop production by the structure, only one of several hundred built by conservationists in West

Pottawattamie County in recent years.

Dale Ohrtman,
Farm Editor.

The largest apartment house in North America, for centuries, was the Pueblo Bonito, New Mexico. Ruins of some eight hundred rooms are still evident.

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Checking Progress . . . of honeysuckle around game habitat are Eldon Ravlin, left, and Leon Foderberg. Lake is in background.—Nonpareil Photo.

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Game Habitat Completed

By DONALD K. PATTON
(Nonpareil Sports Writer)

WESTON — The first farm-game habitat in the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District has been completed northeast of here.

Iowa Conservation Commission employes have fenced the 12-acre area and planted honeysuckle, wild grape, wild plum and multi-flora rose around the game refuge.

The site is located at the lower reach of the Ryan-Henschal Watershed about two miles northeast of Weston. It is centered in an area bounded by farms owned by Eldon Ravlin and Florence Finley.

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A six-acre lake is the center of attraction to wildlife, especially fowl. Ravlin has stocked the lake with 1,200 catfish and 1,200 bass and is looking forward to "a couple years from

now when they will be just the right size for eating."

The project is financed through the Pitman - Robinson Fund, a federal fund set up to promote wildlife development in cooperation with state and local governments, explained Leon Foderberg, Work Unit Conservationist with the SCS in Council Bluffs.

The Ryan-Henschal Watershed was developed with funds provided by Public Law 566. The upland treatment, the 700-foot dam and spillway was engineered and supervised by the West Pottawattamie SCS from 566 funds.

About a section of land drains into the game refuge, Foderberg noted. The lake will remain at its present size, drain-

ed by the large concrete spillway.

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Not many ducks or geese have visted the lake yet, Ravlin said. Conservation workmen have been on the site for several days, erecting a half mile of hog-tight fence and the fowl has bypassed the lake.

But he hopes to have a good population there next spring. And he's looking forward to spending a lot of time at the lake with his fishing pole.

Home Ransacked

CARTER LAKE —Arthur J. Cloonan reported Tuesday to Carter Lake police that his home was entered and ransacked, but apparently nothing was taken. Contents of drawers were dumped.

Bluffs Man Outstanding SCS Leader

*Memorial
9-22-69*

Eldon Dale Ravlin, 62, was named outstanding district commissioner of Iowa Soil Conservation at the 23rd Annual Confer-



**Eldon D.
Ravlin**

ence for district commissioners in Des Moines.

Ravlin, 1222 Harrison St., heads the West Pottawattamie County district.

Ravlin has been here 10 years and was instrumental in starting five watershed programs.

He is also chairman of the Ryan - Henschal Watershed Board, contracting officer in Indian Creek Watershed, and assistant contracting officer in Ryan - Henschal Watershed.

Watershed Sees Erosion Control

UNDERWOOD — Eldon Ravlin was re-elected to a 3-year term as director of the Ryan-Herschel Watershed. Bob Hough was elected to a 3-year term to fill Howard Jensen's expired term. Terry Ravlin replaces Ervin Larsen for a 1-year term.

Soil Conservation Service Area Engineer Jerry Hollander said that to date 12 erosion control structures have been constructed in the watershed. These are either concrete or earth-fill structures. Six structures remain to be constructed. Three of the 18 structures are road structures financed by both federal and county funds. It is hoped that federal funds would be available for construction after July 1st. *Feb 19, 1969*