

Fayette County Soil Conservation District's Annual Report, 1983

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 1982 — June 30, 1983

IM BUDGET

Commissioners travel expenses to district, regional & state meetings and other travel in county on district business	\$ 578.86
Office Supplies & Expenses	492.57
Total Allocation	\$ 1,071.43

IIIM BUDGET

Salary, travel, Insurance, Equipment for State Employee	\$ 14,388.00
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COMMISSIONERS REVOLVING FUND

Balance on Hand July 1, 1982	\$ 2,039.05
Receipts July 1, 1982 — June 30, 1983	3,156.63
Total Funds Available	5,205.70
Miscellaneous Expenses	2,904.22
Balance on Hand June 30, 1983	2,301.48

IIIM BUDGET

1983-83 Fiscal Year Total Allocation	\$ 69,595.00
1982-83 Amount Spent on Conservation Practices	68,479.81
1982-83 Amount pending — seeding in Spring	420.00
1982-83 Funds Released	695.15
1983-84 Fiscal Year Total Allocation	\$102,265.00
1983-84 Amount Spent on Conservation Practices	49,624.61
1983-84 Amount Pending	12,515.00
1983-84 Unobligated Funds	40,065.39

DISTRICT GOVERNING UNIT

James Burrack, Arlington	Chairman
Jonathan Steege, Maynard	Vice Chairman
Leslie Anderson, Clermont	Secretary
Paul Nuss, Hawkeye	Treasurer
George Halstead, West Union	Commissioner

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE

Belva J. Bauer	Clerk-Typist III
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U.S.D.A. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Gerald L. Muff	District Conservationist
Jay G. Custer	Soil Conservationist
Wendell B. Jones	Soil Conservationist
J.K. "Bud" Siebrecht	Soil Conservation Technician
A.W. "Wally" Oxley	Soil Conservation Technician

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

	Number	Acres
Cooperator Agreements	15	2,368
Soil & Water Conservation Plans	324	3,802
Farms & Groups Served	130	
Farms & Groups Applying One or More Practices		

MAJOR PRACTICES APPLIED

	Number	Acres
Waste Management Systems (number)	2	3,515
Minimum Tillage (acres)		1,978
Contour (acres)		1
Windbreaks, Farmstead & Feedlot (acres)	4	
Grade Stabilization Structures (number)	2	4
Grassed Waterways (acres)		8
Stripcropping (acres)		399
Water & Sediment Control Basin (feet)		9,362
Tile Outlet Terraces (feet)		114,703
Wildlife Upland Habitat Management (acres)		262

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISTRICT ACTIVITIES, 1983

The District Commissioners held regular monthly meetings and attended special meetings to conduct the business of the district. This included plans and preparations for the various events that are sponsored by the district, also reviewing all new cooperators, basic conservation plans, group plans, cost-share assistance applications, amendments, and completed cost-share projects.

The public was informed of soil conservation progress with news stories and radio releases. The office staff and commissioners assisted with or conducted conservation tours, talks, demonstrations, presentations and contests.

In January Jerry Muff, District Conservationist (DC) and Jay Custer, Soil Conservationist (SC) attended several training sessions at U.I.U., Fayette.

George Halstead, Commissioner assisted in contacting Volga Lake Watershed Committee members. Plans made for several group meetings to be held during the winter. The Slough Bill — 22 landowners applied for approximately 470 acres of wet lands, recreational lakes, forest cover, rivers and streambanks, and open prairie for property tax exemptions subject to approval by County Board of Supervisors.

No-Tillers Club and Volga Chemical Co., sponsored a tour to Eastern Iowa Tillage Show in Cedar Rapids. Fifty-four people participated.

Muff, DC and Custer, SC presented information on Soil Loss in Iowa and wildlife to a senior class at North High School.

Custer, SC presented conservation information to 2 classes of 8th graders at West Central School.

A contractors meeting was held for contractors who work in Fayette County.

Bud Siebrecht, Soil Conservation Technician (SCT) returned to work parttime in March and full-time in April after recovering from an accident at home.

Wally Oxley and Siebrecht, SCTs attended training session at U.I.U., Fayette.

Fayette and Winneshiek Counties held a joint woodland and windbreak meet at Area 1 Technical School, Calmar.

Muff, DC gave soil conservation presentation at St. Francis Catholic Church, Fayette to Strangers & Guests, a Catholic rural environmental organization.

Custer, SC helped implement "Living Snowfence" project with North High FFA and Valley FFA. Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) was consulted on site and species of shrub selections. Approximately one-half mile was planted in Spring.

The Soil Conservation District held a breakfast for local clergymen in Fayette County to encourage participation during Soil Stewardship Week in May. Muff, DC presented a slide set on local soil conservation projects and slide set tape on wildlife.

Volunteers in Protecting Soil (VIPS) worked with staff on layout of practices, checkout and office work. Andy Oxley, Oslan, worked several days in May and June before returning to U.N.I., Cedar Falls and Jim Arnold, Oelwein worked one day a month for several months on layout.

Custer, SC prepared and presented soil loss data for Co-op No-Till Field Day.

Custer, SC served as group leader for Youth Leadership Program at Springbrook Conservation Education Center.

Fayette County No-Tillers Club took a bus tour of Dan Statmueller farm in Jones County and viewed several local fields on return trip.

Jon Steege, Commissioner and Muff, DC gave a presentation at Region 4 Commissioner meeting at Valhalla.

Louis Hutter, Center township, was chosen for Isaac Walton Windbreak Award entry.

Technical staff attended Volga River Forestry Field Day. Muff, DC presented soil loss difference on grazed vs. nongrazed woodland.

At Annual Farm Bureau Banquet, Muff, DC gave a presentation of the conservation practices applied by this year's Outstanding Conservation Farmer Charles Jacobsen, West Union.

Wendell Jones, Soil Conservationist from Walnut Grove, Miss., entered on duty at West Union Field Office in October.

Muff, DC and Jones, SC gave presentations to Starmont High School Ag class on "Soil Conservation in Iowa" and "Wildlife, a Product of the Land."

Custer, SC gave a presentation on "Soil Erosion in Iowa" at North High FFA Initiation banquet.

Wally Oxley, SCT received "Superior Performance Award" and a cash incentive for work performed in 1983.

Custer made a presentation to the West Central Junior High School eighth grade class on soil conservation and wildlife.

Jones and Custer, SCs gave a presentation on Soil loss equation to a sophomore FFA class at West Central High School.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Fayette Soil Conservation District actively promotes soil conservation, but not without tremendous assistance from others.

We would like to express our gratitude to the following:

Fayette County Extension Service — outstanding help in promoting the No-Till Program. ASCS — for their cooperation in administering an effective cost-share program. Fayette County Board of Supervisors — financial assistance of \$1,000 for no-till promotion and for allowing the Slough Bill tax exemptions. Fayette No-Tillers Board for promoting no-till in the county and organizing tillage tours. Department of Soil Conservation — state cost-share program and the No Interest Loan Program. Iowa Family Farm Development Authority — leadership on the Soil Conservation Loan Program. Iowa Department of Transportation — Vo Ag Dept. — North High and Valley High Schools, Fayette County Conservation staff, Living Snowfence Project. Iowa Conservation Commission, and FmHA.

Earthmoving and the contractors for their cooperation and time work in constructing conservation practices. This includes help in surveying and layout of practices.

All newspapers and radio stations and their reporters covering soil conservation activities.

Fayette County schools for teaching conservation education in the schools.

A special thanks goes to all the landowners and operators who cooperated with us throughout the year.

Soil Conservation District directors

The Fayette County Soil Conservation District Commissioners are shown here at one of their regular meetings. Seated in front are George Halstead of West Union and Jim Burrack of Arlington. Burrack is chairman. In the back are Jon Steege of Maynard, vice chairman; and Paul Nuss of Hawkeye, treasurer.



Tuesday,
February 28, 1984

The Register

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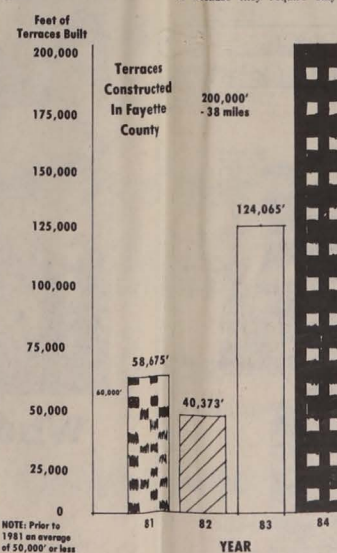
The year the ball got rolling

by Gerald Muff
District Conservationist
Would it be an overstatement to say "the soil conservation bandwagon is finally rolling? Read on and judge yourself."

First of all let's look at what terrace accomplishments have been doing in the last several years.

time when our State of Iowa increased state cost share funds approximately 50 percent.

Another nice improvement with the terrace program is the relatively new "narrow-base terrace" which is about half the price of more conventional grassback slope terraces. This is because they require only



NOTE: Prior to 1981 an average of 50,000' or less were built per year.

This increase is the result of many factors. FFA gave us an important benefit we've waited for many years, that is the opportunity to construct terraces during summer months — (see article "Plan or 84 Construction Work" to acknowledge all benefits of summer construction).

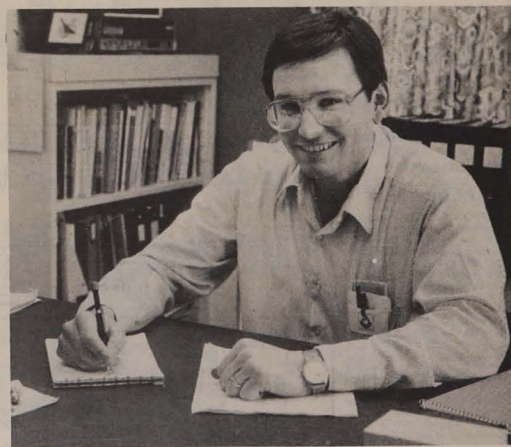
We are now also seeing results of being a "Target" County. Nationally several areas were designated as having the most critical soil erosion problems and therefore received more soil conservation personnel and funds to combat the problem.

Fayette County received an additional two full-time Soil Conservationists, Jay Custer and Wendell Jones and one full-time Soil Conservation Technician, Wally Oxley.

Previously only two full-time and one part-time employee worked as technical personnel in Fayette County. Our ASCS cost share funds almost doubled at a

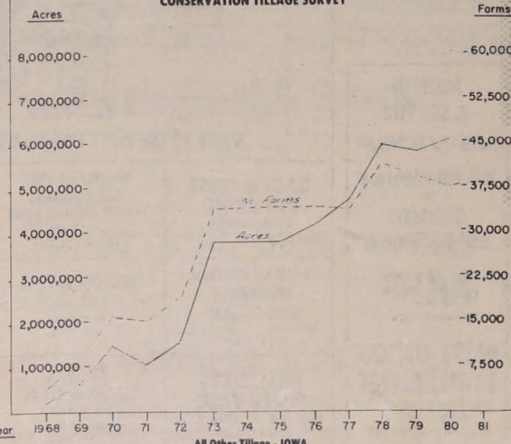
about half the amount of earth fill which means less soil disturbance. Improvements have been made recently with terrace layout which makes today's terraces easier to farm. This means the terraces have gentler and more uniform curves which are better suited to modern sized equipment, although perfectly parallel terraces are rarely achieved.

While terraces have grown in popularity, they are not the number one selection for everyone. Conservation tillage is obviously the fastest growing conservation practice not only in Fayette County, but in the mid-west. Moldboard plows are almost given away at farm sales. They've been replaced by the Soil Saver, Digger Disk, Conser-Till and multitude of brand names of implements which are basically chisel-disk combinations. Of course the old



DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST — Gerald Muff of West Union is the district conservationist with the Fayette County Soil Conservation District.

CONSERVATION TILLAGE SURVEY



(Continued on Page 2)

The year . . .
chisel plow and offset disk are still popular among conservation tillage implementers. These implements will leave and incorporate crop residue rather than bury it entirely, which has a significant soil conserving value.

No-till has to be the most effective of all conservation tillage methods. This is only logical as all the crop residue is left on the soil surface as a protective cover. Be sure to look closely at the pictures of John Garner's no-till field and conventional planted field in this issue. Regardless of the type of conservation tillage implement you use the effectiveness of reducing soil erosion increases directly as the percent of surface residue cover increases. So why do many farmers buy the big expensive so called minimum tillage implements only to take pride in burying the residue with it? These implements are never the less improvements over the moldboard plow. Speaking of bandwagons and trends, have you seen any of the latest herbicide and pesticide commercials aimed at reducing soil erosion? Note the graph comparing tons of soil lost for a given slope with the varying amounts of corn residue left on the surface. (Fayette County's rainfall factor and our prairie soils or Kenyons are exemplified in this graph.)

Terraces and conservation tillage aren't the only practices that have been used. Dramatically, contour farming, the easiest practice for most farmers to apply because there is no capital outlay needed, no equipment change required (in most cases) yet the soil saving effectiveness is great. Depending on the steepness and length of slope, it can reduce sheet erosion by as much as 50

(Continued from Page 1)
percent. This is enough of a reduction of soil loss to bring many fields to within the acceptable soil loss in itself. One word of advice — please ask Soil Conservation Service (SCS) for contour layout assistance. Many farmers think they are contouring when planting up from a drainage way, or they plant straight rows seemingly across the slope — but usually not.

Why has contouring increased so dramatically? Good question. I suspect it is because of increased visual soil erosion that has occurred the last three years, which is due in part to the increased row crop intensity. Maybe it's because of the increased power steering in tractors — who knows. I really believe it comes automatically with the departure of the plow. I know from first hand experience how hard it is to plow fields on the contour.

Contour stripcropping is one of the greatest conservation practices of all. It consists of alternating strips of close grown crops with row crops on the contour. It can reduce soil loss by 75 percent, offers excellent wildlife diversity, aesthetically pleasing to see, and is the most natural method to conserve soil available. The trouble is the accomplishments for this practice has not been growing as the others, because there is a shift from forage crops to row crops which makes strip-cropping less popular. This trend is not encouraging.

I believe we are making progress in timber management and wildlife habitat development. It is very difficult to document actual progress along these lines. But it is encouraging to have approximately 500 acres signed up under the "Slough Bill" which qualifies a landowner to place land in a tax-

exempt status if he leaves the land for wildlife habitat and does not disturb or use it for economic gain. Timber Reserve acres in Fayette County is approximately 4,000 acres which is also encouraging — this is woodland that is also tax-exempt but must have livestock excluded, although timber and firewood harvest may be made as long as 250 trees per acre are left. We can thank the County Board of Supervisors and Dale Hyman, Assessor, for their support and assistance with these programs. Many other counties are much less supportive.

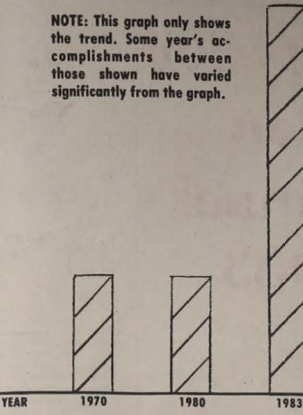
While these growth curves and other figures are encouraging to the conservation minded, this does not give us reason to slack off in promoting conservation, because the problem with curves is that they can also level off or worse, go the other way. I'm personally very optimistic about the future in soil conservation, not as much because of the graphs and statistics we have but primarily because I sense a major improvement of the public's attitude. This is the most important factor of all.

WOOD CHIP ENERGY
NEW YORK (AP) — Cutting oil production by making efficient use of wood waste has enabled the paper manufacturing industry to exceed its national energy efficiency goal, reports Energy User News. By using such wood waste products as wood chips and bark, the publication says, the industry reduced oil consumption by 49 percent between 1972 and 1982, while increasing pulp and paper board consumption by 13 percent. The industry requires vast amounts of generated heat for production processes, including pulping and drying.

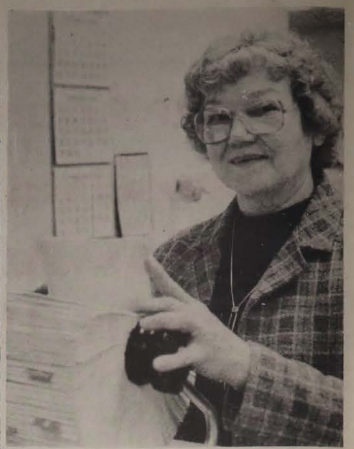
Fall is good time to work on pastures

AMES — Early fall is an excellent time to work on pastures for growth now and next year. 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. Clipping eliminates seed production in some late-flowering weeds and weakens perennial broadleaf weeds, making them easier to control next year. Fall spraying of grass pastures with 2-4-D can control weeds that start in late summer and ones that regrow 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. Weeds can continue to grow as late as October.

CONTOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS (ACRES) FOR FAYETTE COUNTY



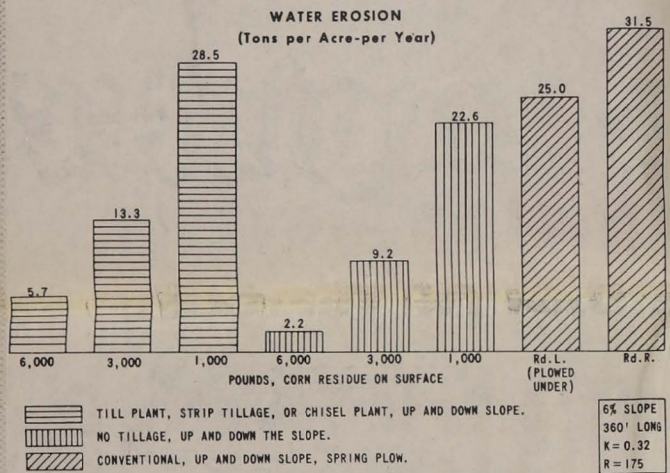
NOTE: This graph only shows the trend. Some year's accomplishments between those shown have varied significantly from the graph.



CLERK-TYPIST III — Belva Bauer of Hawkeye is the clerk-typist III with the SCS district office in West Union.

Notice to all Fayette Co. businesses:
This Fayette SCD Annual Report is distributed to over 14,000 residences — Show your support for Soil Conservation by advertising in this yearly issue

QUANTITY OF SOIL EROSION WITH CONTINUOUS CORN



Reduce tillage to conserve your topsoil

INWOOD — "If your goal is to conserve soil, reduced tillage is just one way," says Damon Bahson of rural Inwood. If the only concern is saving money, then reducing tillage can do that too, he says. Bahson 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 grass backfilled terraces aren't needed on his soil. The tillage he uses depends on the previous crop and field conditions each spring.



With more resources than he, Bahson has been able to terrace his land, which is continually eroding, to provide the view here that the soil has to offer, and still practice, protect and enrich the land for future generations. We are proud to be a part of America's top producers in the world.

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CONSERVATIONIST — Jay Custer of West Union is a soil conservationist with the SCS office.

Tax exemptions in slough bill

by Jay Custer
Soil Conservationist
According to Jay Custer, Soil Conservation Service (SCS), the county board of supervisors and the county assessor's office allow areas of farmland to be exempted from taxation to help protect wildlife habitat, which includes native pastures, ungrazed grasslands, streambanks and woodlands. There is a category to fit any size piece of land. The only restrictions are that these areas can not be graded, have machinery stored on them or

with the exception of Timber Reserve, be used for economic gain. Signup runs from Jan. 1 to April 15, except native prairie must be signed up with the County Conservation Board by Feb. 1.

For applications and more information, contact the SCS or the ICC Wildlife Biologist, both located beneath the Federal Land Bank — Production Credit building at junction of highway 150 and 56 or the County Conservation Board office at the County Care Facility.

No-interest loans available for farmers

Participating soil conservation districts are now taking applications for no-interest loans for the construction of permanent soil conservation practices.

Landowners can borrow up to \$10,000 at no interest for up to a 10-year period. Loan funds received may not be used in combination with any other public cost-sharing or incentive program for soil and water conservation practices. To be eligible, a landowner must have a net worth less than \$300,000.00, be able to secure the

loan, and be capable of repaying the loan in equal annual installments.

Legislation passed in the 1983 Session of the 70th Iowa General Assembly authorized the program and provided \$1 million for this year and next.

As announced, the program will allow each district a minimum of \$5,399.00 in available loan funds, with some receiving as much as \$20,000.00. Application forms and procedures are available at local county soil conservation district offices.



The Fayette County Soil Conservation Commissioners are proud of the District's accomplishments for Fiscal Year 1983 as many articles in this issue will express. This work could not be possible without the work and cooperation of our Earthwork Construction and Draining Tiling Contractors who are listed below.

THANKS,
FAYETTE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT.



These Contractors Are Proud To Be A Part Of The Soil Conservation Efforts in Fayette Co.



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Use of grass can help cut down on loss of soil through erosion

by J.K. "Bud" Siebrecht
Soil Conservation Technician
USDA, SCS

There is a very good book published called the Summer of '82. I could write a book on the summer of '82 and the days that followed. On May 16, 1982 I had a rather bad accident and spent 4 months in the Lutheran Hospital in La Crosse, Wis. Then I recuperated at home 'til March of '83 when I returned to work with SCS on a part time basis. In



TECHNICIAN — Bud Siebrecht of Clermont is a soil conservation technician with the field office of the SCS in West Union.

Put your conservation acreage to work for wildlife

by Arthur Roseland
ICC Wildlife Biologist

Farmers have an excellent opportunity to help wildlife populations in 1984, at no cost to their farming operation. Improved habitat and higher wildlife numbers are possible through proper management of our Acreage Conservation Reserve of the 1984 Feed Grain Program.

Safe nesting cover is often the most critical need for upland birds, and the most limited cover. Intensive row cropping for example, provides little nesting cover as few forage crops or small grains are available for nesting. On rotated acreage, alfalfa may be an attractive cover for nesting birds, but the crop is mowed too early for nest success. The 10 percent diversion of this year's Feed Grain Program however, can provide safe, attractive nesting cover, if properly managed.

Proper management of the "diverted acres" is the key to improved wildlife production. Unfortunately, many people mistakenly assume that any land idling program will have great wildlife values. Often however, management of the "diverted acres" destroys potential wildlife benefits. Late seeding of oats for example, or light seeding rates, may not result in nesting cover being available at the needed time, or of poor density. Early clipping or unnecessary tillage may actually destroy nests.

Let's look at some of the cover type options on your program, and see how they improve wildlife habitat.

Oats — If you seed to a small grain, plant with at least two bushels/acre and seed early, preferably by mid-April.



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FDIC 425-3395

meets our specifications, everything looks great but the job ends up a disaster. What happened? The job was only half done. No grass. No job complete until there is grass growing. The most critical and vulnerable time for any new construction is from completion of the earth moving until the grass is growing. Weeds will not do the job. They don't even look good and your neighbors are not too thrilled either when the backslope of your terrace or dam is a mass of weeds.

Sometimes everything checks out okay, the seeding is done but the grass does not come good. Did the seeding fail? Did we, the landowner or the technicians fail? Did we give the right recommendations? Did the landowner follow them? The answer to these questions will tell us why the grass did not come. Mother Nature may have said no and we have to try again. An example is this summer, a waterway was designed, built right and a good job of seeding and mulching was done but then came the rain. The grass was not up high enough to protect the water way and help carry the water off to the center washed out. This kind of problem happens often and is never solved by ignoring it. The center of the waterway had to be reworked, reseeded and mulched again. It will work okay now. We just have to stay with it when problems like this come along.

Getting the seeding done on time with the right seeding mixtures for the soil type and season is very important. Rye is a good companion crop for summer and fall while oats should be used in the spring. Bromegrass is an excellent permanent seeding for dunes, waterways and terraces. Bird-foot trefoil and crownvetch are both good for terraces —



BIOLOGIST — Art Roseland of West Union is a wildlife biologist with the Iowa Conservation Commission.

Lighter rates provide density too poor for good nesting cover and late planting doesn't provide cover soon enough. Clip as late as possible to avoid nest destruction.

Seeding — Your best opportunity to help wildlife would be to divert a hay field. These fields provide valuable residual nesting cover which attracts early nesting. Successful early nesting means more eggs per clutch and more chicks per brood. Do not clip, or at least delay until July. If you can anticipate diversion in the following year, allow regrowth before fall dormancy.

Other — Sorghum-sudan hybrids can provide excellent winter food and cover and can be grown without danger from common herbicide carryover. These cover crops however, will not usually provide much nesting cover. Remember, not cropping a

FORT ATKINSON NURSERY

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WINDBREAK TREES

Arbor Vitae, 18" to 24".....	\$15 each
2' to 3'	\$18 each
Bareroot Heavy, 3 times transplanted, Bald and burlaped	\$1.50 per tree
Black Hills Spruce 18" to 24", bald and burlaped	\$22 each
2' to 3', bald and burlaped	\$25 each

WINDBREAK SHRUBS

Zabiel Honeysuckle Best red, 18" to 24"	\$1.50 each
Ninebark, 18"	\$1.50 each
Lilac, 18"	\$1.50 each

however, crownvetch should only be planted in the spring or frost seeded. Big Bluestem and other native grasses are excellent for controlling erosion and provide good cover for wildlife.

There are many cool and warm season grasses that may be used to improve the quality and carrying capacity of a pasture if used in the right combination and managed right. Using cool season grasses 'til about June 15th, then go to a warm season grass 'til about Sept. 15, then back to your cool season grasses through October.

Cool season grasses like tall fescue — orchardgrass, smooth brome, timothy and Kentucky blue grass make up to 70 percent of their growth by June 1. If a cool season grass pasture is grazed hard during the spring sowing season there will be little grass for summer. When cool season grass production slows, your native warm season grass has a good start and continues through the summer.

By having 40-50 percent of your pastures in native warm season grass you may increase the carrying capacity by 40-50 percent and much better conception rates has also been noticeably increased. Surely the extra management effort should be worth the extra beef.

If you have any questions on pasture improvement and native cool and warm season grasses I will be glad to help you with an answer.

Our grasses are very often overlooked as to their important role while being the key link in making erosion control practices work effectively and to get better production from our pastures. So let's give our grasses the care, attention and credit they so deserve in conserving our resources.



CONSERVATIONIST — Wendell Jones, a native of Walnut Grove, Miss., now living in

Primary concern: Stop loss of valuable topsoil

by Wendell Jones
Soil Conservationist
USDA, SCS

The Fayette county soil conservation district has a primary concern of preventing the loss of valuable topsoil. In dirt to protect our soils, the soil conservation staff and the district commissioners are responsible for various activities that provide educational information to groups and individuals on many aspects of soil conservation practices and policies.

The past year has been filled with presentations, contests, exhibitions, meetings, tours, awards, and much more. Presentations have been made to high school agriculture classes at North, Stormont, and West Central high schools. The junior high classes at West Central also received some background information on soil conservation.

Gerald Muff and Jay Custer worked with the local FFA chapters to plan and establish



Technicians spend winter time lining up work for next year

by Wally Oley
Conservation Technician
USDA, SCS

Bud Siebrecht and Wally Oley are the technicians assigned to the Fayette County Soil Conservation District. Generally technicians are the people who design and apply the

practices in the district. However, during the winter months when contractors and farmers are unable to get into the fields, the technicians are not idle.

Each winter they go out on "follow-up." This program is designed to line up work for the

following summer. We do this by visiting farms and talking conservation. During the conversation we try to determine the farmer's interest in conservation and what program would fit the farmer's needs.

Usually a landowner will

mention a gully or a field which is a problem.

Then we can draw up a cost estimate of fixing the problem, more importantly, fixing the causes of the problem.

Linking the cost of repair and the way to prevent the problem from recurring is an effective way to "sell" conservation practices. If the landowner wishes to go ahead with repairing the damage he has the cost estimate to use in hiring a contractor, and an understanding of the cost of neglecting the cause.

Another purpose of the follow-up program is to help the farmer use the conservation plan. Over the years the conservation plan may be forgotten or lost. Also government programs change, economics change and operators change and all these alter the conditions which existed when the plan was written. The technicians then give alternative which take into account the new conditions. There is a lot to talk about.

We have information available on pasture improvement, woodland management, grassed waterways and windbreaks. Also wildlife management is increasing in importance. The new property tax laws such as the slough bill, woodland reserve and native prairie exemptions are details which must be available.

The follow-up program is an important part of the Fayette County Soil Conservation District program. It is largely responsible for doubling the district's accomplishments last year and becoming one of the top districts in northeast Iowa.

been issued out and are readily available at request.

The conservation technicians have been actively involved with follow up procedures that include individual contacts with landowners to discuss possible conservation practices that may help to reduce soil loss.

The SCS staff and district commissioners are always cooperative and willing to provide any information or assistance that will aid in a worthwhile effort of protecting the soil.

The Fayette County Soil Conservation District and Fayette County No-Tillers Would Like To Express Our Gratitude To The Following Ag Businesses For Their Excellent Support In The Promotion Of No-Till Farming.

The following made major donations to the No-Tillers annual meeting.

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Shell Chemical	Stadtmueller Tour and Door Prizes
Velsicol	Trip 82 Eastern Iowa Till Show and Door Prizes plus Stadtmueller Bus Tour

This ad paid for by Fayette Soil Conservation District and Fayette County No-Tillers

SCS field office and area office different

The Fayette Soil Conservation District and Soil Conservation Service (SCS) field office which assist local county residents have not moved. They are still located at walkout level of PCA-FLB building on west side of highway 150 south edge of West Union.

The SCS Area office now is in the new building with PMA on the east side of Highway 150, south edge of West Union, does not assist local county residents; they supervise and assist each of the SCS offices in a 15-county area.

Area Office Staff include Earl Cosby, Area Conservationist; Roger Koster, Resource Conservationist; James Evans, Civil Engineer; Douglas Morningstar, Civil Engineer; John Wildman, Civil Engineer Technician; and Linda Schmitt, Clerk Typist.



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A new era in soil conservation

by Earl Cosby
Area Conservationist
West Union

The Fayette County Soil Conservation District is a prime example of a new era in soil conservation. The District is contributing to the quality of the environment through the new targeting approach in soil conservation.

This new targeting concept has been in Northeast Iowa for about a year. Targeting has put an increased conservation effort in force.

Through the targeting concept, parts of Iowa including Fayette County are given increased technical personnel, through the Soil Conservation Service, and increased cost share dollars, through ASCS, to accelerate conservation treatment. The increased funding for personnel and cost share are coming from other parts of the country where soil erosion is not as serious as it is in Iowa.

Excessive soil erosion is a serious problem in parts of Iowa including Fayette County. Many soils have been robbed of their most productive capacities. Even the least productive capacities of these soils that remain on the slopes are moving downstream in the form of sediment at an alarming rate. This remaining productive capacity will be gone in a few years if land treatment is not accelerated.

The Fayette County landowners can do much to accelerate their land treatment programs through the targeting approach.

They can take advantage of additional technical and financial assistance available to plan and apply good land use and soil conservation measures.

They can assure that every acre of land within Fayette county is used according to its capabilities and treated according to its needs.

Well, I just broke an axle

by Jim Evans
Area Engineer
USDA, SCS

Soil erosion takes place in three phases: 1. sheet erosion; 2. rill erosion; 3. gully erosion.

Of these three phases, gullies (or ditches) are the most noticeable. Bear in mind that most erosion takes place as sheet erosion — the least noticeable. "Tolerable" soil loss in Iowa is defined as less than four tons/acre/year. The soil loss from a 40 acre field, if tolerable, would be 160 tons, or 320,000 pounds! At 90 lbs./ft.³, that translates into 3,555 ft.³. A "V" ditch through that 40 acre field (120 feet long) would have to be two feet deep and three feet wide to represent the same amount of soil loss — and it would have to erode in one year! So, don't be confused — gullies are much more a symptom than the disease!

Active gullies, however, do pose real problems for the landowner. Crossing gullies is tricky business. Culverts usually wash out, and bridges are expensive. Advancing gullies often threaten existing buildings and road fills, and they are an eyesore something nobody likes their neighbor to see!

Gullies form because the resistance offered by the soil and vegetation on that landscape is less than the energy available in water running across the land. To prevent gullies from forming, or to successfully fill and hold them, the landowner has two options:

1. Increase the resistance force that the land and vegetation offers or mechanically increase the resistance, slowing the water down, thus decreasing the energy available for erosion.

2. Store and/or divert the water off the area prone to gullies.

Several methods can be used to increase the resistance to water flow. Altering the soil is probably not feasible, but often just switching vegetation will slow the water enough to prevent erosion. This is what

grassed waterways in cropland fields accomplish. Contour strip cropping may also slow the runoff enough to stop gully erosion.

Where the gullied area is too steep for grassed waterways, rock lining or a mechanical drop spillway may be required. Also, water itself can be used to slow the runoff. A farm pond with a permanent pool that backs water over the gully head will stop the erosion, assuming the area above that waterline is stable.

A farm pond may also be created above the gully, with adequate storage, and an acceptable release rate, to protect that gully area. Such a farm pond need not store any permanent water. In that case it would be classified as a grade stabilization structure.

Other storage structures include terraces and water and sediment control basins. Both of these type structures commonly transport the stored water through tile to a satisfactory outlet. Last, a diversion may be used to take water off the area in question, conducting that runoff to a point where it can be disposed of safely.

So, gullies are a problem, but not an insurmountable one. Often, a good long look at the land use above gullies will be required. Remember that gullies are a symptom. A good conservation cropping system, with or without terraces may solve the gully problem, as well as reduce sheet and rill erosion.

Soil Conservation Service personnel, working through your local Soil Conservation District will be glad to discuss your erosion problems with you.

In 1982, the cost of all accidents rose to \$88.4 billion from \$87.4 billion in 1981. However, deaths owing to these accidents dropped for the fourth year in a row. A National Safety Council report notes that 93,000 accidental deaths occurred in 1982 — down 6,000 from 1981.

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We must sell importance of this productive land

First Iowa 2000 plan completed



NO-TILL BEANS — SCS Area Resource Conservationist Roger Koster is observing a no-till drilled soybean field. This is becoming a popular practice in Fayette County because of the rental program offered to Fayette County farmers. "This drill is specially designed for no-till and is doing a fine

job," says Koster. "Weed control becomes a concern when we totally eliminate the possibility of cultivation but with the new post-emergent herbicides on the market, which can be used as a rescue treatment, this is no longer a concern."

Soil erosion increases with crop of soybeans

by Roger A. Koster
Area Resource Conservationist
West Union

QUESTION: Do soybeans affect erosion in rotations?

ANSWER: We have all observed what we thought was severely increased erosion on the crop that followed soybeans in the crop rotation. This has been a regularly asked question at farmer get-togethers. I've been associated with in the last 28 years as a soil conservationist.

Recent research reinforces our observations — "we are just seeing things." Here is the seven-year Research Report. I am referring to on water-related erosion caused by the soybean crop.

How do soybeans affect erosion in rotations with corn?

Not so well, says John M. Laflen, ARS, agricultural engineer, Ames. He measured soil and water losses over a seven-year period at Beaconsfield, Iowa. Soil losses when corn followed soybeans averaged 4.3 tons per acre from spring plowing to spring planting. Soil losses when corn followed corn averaged 3.1 tons per acre.

"Apparently, soybeans left the soil more susceptible to soil erosion during the following cropping season than did corn," Laflen says.

Soil is lost as sediment carried

in runoff water, so the amount of soil lost is closely related to the volume of water that runs off the field. Water loss from corn after soybeans averaged about 13 percent more than from corn after corn. Sediment concentrations in runoff water from corn after soybeans averaged about 20 percent more than in runoff from corn after corn.

Based on the results of this study, under continuous row cropping conditions, soil losses from corn following soybeans would exceed losses from corn following corn by more than 40 percent," he says.

The study was on a Grundy silt loam soil that had a 6 percent slope. Conventional spring moldboard plowing tillage systems were used.

John M. Laflen is located at Iowa State University, Davidson Hall, room 211, Ames, Iowa 5001.

The Grundy silt loam, six percent slope, studied by Laflen is similar in erosion hazard to the upland ridges and the more gentle sloping hillsides found in some areas of Fayette County. So it makes a useful comparison for us as to the erodibility of soybeans. But, a check of the Fayette County Soil Survey shows about 30 percent of the Cropland soil type acres are on steeper sloping land than used in the Research. With 344,000 acres in Cropland in Fayette County,

by Glenn J. Burrows
Region 4 Director
ASCD

How often have we seen the ad, "We must sell." "Forced to sell." "Having decided to quit, will sell." So often these kinds of advertisements bring out a tone of sadness, the ending or being defeated. But "we must sell" can also be a challenge, a new beginning opening up doors to new horizons.

We in soil conservation must ignite a new selling process in the United States so that everyone in this great nation will become sales persons to promote the selling of the importance of this productive land.

Where can we find a more perfect product than the soil, a necessity of life as is clean water and pure air. We spend billions of dollars every year in the United States so that everyone in this great nation will become sales persons to promote the selling of the importance of this productive land.

The food producing land shouldn't have to be sold to its importance, but the way we use, abuse and destroy the soils ability to produce food, it makes one wonder why we as a nation apparently do not understand the importance to the sustenance of life.

As we travel through the breadbasket of the world, we witness all kinds of land abuses. Surely if everyone realized that in a short 35 years there will be



Glenn Burrows

double the mouths to feed that there is today, there would be a 100 degree change in our use of the soil. When we observe all plowing or chiseling up and down hills, I believe we have failed to sell that individual on how much soil that is eroded and it is costing them in dollars not only for loss of soil but for the nutrients that go with it. Two thousand five hundred acres gobbled up every 24-hours by urban development, highway systems, recreation areas, and the list goes on. The land developer, federal and state highway commissions and others permanently taking land out of food production forever. How often does the permanent loss of land happen because someone is out to make a few bucks? So often money is the

main goal in life and in the end, we destroy the land for its intended use. We need to sell everyone that a balanced supply of food is more important than money. Dollar bills with catsup would not be palatable.

School systems, church organizations, farm groups and civic clubs must all become better salespersons to help to inform everyone in this nation but we have a responsibility to protect our food base. It is the foundation upon which this nation was founded. Without its ability to produce food for the early settlers sustenance those early people would never have remained here.

We in soil conservation are very pleased with some farm operators for their awareness and concern for the protection of the land. But we also become very disturbed by the ignorant violator who shows no concern about the loss of land. Those selfish, greedy persons apparently have but one goal in life. "I have to have this." "I've got to have that," totally ignoring the needs of others now and in the future. It is very gratifying to know the importance that some churches place on soil stewardship, not only during that week but throughout the year. Some school systems have active programs in their curriculum so that the young generations will become aware of the life sustaining importance of the land. Farm organizations and other groups are also realizing the necessity of keeping out production capability for the welfare of our future generations.

Our federal, state and local governments are aware of the loss of our productive land, but are reluctant to adequately protect it because they are not sure

what the voting majority of the populace wants.

I believe that everyone in this great nation, whether it be a New York housewife or a Los Angeles attorney, should be willing to give their moral and monetary support to guard and protect the food producing land of this country. We must become better salespersons and try to sell everyone on the importance and the necessity of maintaining the food producing capability of this great nation. Without it the foundation upon which this country was built will be destroyed and future generations will be deprived of a lifestyle that we cherish but all too often have taken for granted.



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Plan now for 1984 projects

by Gerald L. Muff
District Conservationist

All landowners now planning or just thinking of completing a soil conservation project in 1984 should strongly consider putting that area in the set-aside program according to District Conservationist Jerry Muff for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). But he emphasizes to contact the SCS office located in the walkout basement of the Farm District Building, south edge of West Union for assistance in planning for the project whether it be for tile outlet terraces, waterways, erosion control structure, etc.

SCS personnel can assist in applying for cost share, determine cost estimates and determine just what area should be idled for summer construction.

"Many landowners will wait until spring and decide that they'd like to build terraces on set-aside acres, so they leave an area for this, only to find that the project can't be completed because additional area was needed for construction. Occasionally the farmer sacrifices some crops to get the project done.

This is really unnecessary if SCS is given notice to plan these projects early and can flag the proposed construction area before planting season.

The advantages to doing construction during summer months are:

1. Soil conditions are most likely to be dry, easier to work and therefore less expensive involved in the project. This year many projects had to be overbuilt because eight to 12-inch chunks of frost were pushed in the fills which will settle significantly.
2. Contractors are not as busy, and you can be assured that they will be able to do your project, sometime during the summer.
3. Spring construction compacts the soil and reduces crop production where heavy equipment has tracked.
4. The Fayette Soil Conservation District Commissioners place summer constructed terraces on highest priority for cost share approval. The Fayette Soil Conservation

District achieved new heights in applying permanent soil conservation for fiscal year 1983 due to at least in part to the PIK program. Tile outlet terraces combined with sediment basins accumulated to over 125,000 feet (or 24.6 miles) in Fayette County. This is 2 to 3 times the average yearly accomplishments for these practices.

Soil Conservation District Commissioners and SCS field office staff are very encouraged by the recent upsurge of interest in applying soil conservation practices and hope the trend continues in this direction.

Conservationist tells of background

by Wendell Jones
Soil Conservationist

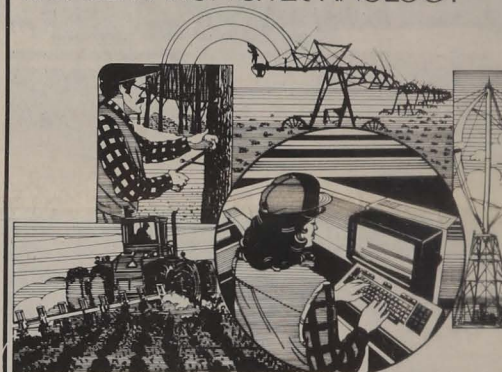
It is with great optimism that I join the Fayette County Soil Conservation staff. I hope that by participation in the effort of soil conservation will be satisfying as well as productive. I am looking forward to working with the landowners throughout the county.

I am originally from Walnut Grove, Miss., where I attended Axtell State University and received a degree in agriculture education. During college I was involved with the soil conservation service as a student trainee. I was stationed in Iowa at the Allamakee, Mahaska and Adair county soil conservation districts.

I began work in Fayette county in October. Since that time, I've found that there is a great concern among many farmers to conserve the soil. It is good to see so many conservation practices being applied. I must admit, however, that it is also disappointing to see fields that are fall-plowed straight up and down.

Even with the conservation work that has been done, there is still much needed work and consideration necessary to protect the soils. With the interest and cooperation we can all work toward this most important goal.

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Soil conservation is gaining in Fayette Co.

by George W. Halstead
Soil Conservation Commissioner

Soil conservation is gaining in Fayette County, even though at times it seems to be gaining painfully slow.

We can go on record in Fayette County saying that we spend all the cost share money which we are allocated. We only approve money for cost share on permanent soil conservation practices, most of which are terraces.

No-till farming is another place we can get a lot of soil conservation for the money involved. No-till has been practiced for enough years now that we know it works. We have no doubt, I'll admit that you do have to have better management with no-till farming.

We no-till farm. I think weed control is much more important. You shouldn't skip the amount of herbicide. You also should use at least 20 gallons of water per acre, with even more than that desired.

Another thing for no-till is to equip your planter for no-till planting. Most all planters have no-till attachments to put on. I like to chop the stalks especially where I plant no-till. That way, I can plant on the old row without any trouble.

However, it is not necessary to chop stalks as many farmers plant no-till without doing anything to the stalks. Then, where the no-till coulters come in — to make a slot for the seed.

I have planted no-till on about 40 acres per year for the past three years. I feel that my yields have been comparable between my no-till and my chisel tillage. There is no doubt in my mind of how much erosion is reduced with no-till. No-till is definitely the fastest and cheapest way to apply soil conservation to the land.

Fall tillage is one way we lose a lot of soil. I do very little fall tillage anymore. I like to chop the stalks in the fall. That's what it improves the residue cover on the land. Then, in the spring, I chisel the ground once and drag it once (to smooth it down), and plant. I like to follow only a day or so behind with the planter as this assures the seed will get into moist ground. With fall tillage, about all I accomplished was to work the ground once more. And, I got more erosion.

I can't get over all the moldboard plowing that was done this past fall. This land has been



think it pays in order to reduce soil erosion.

I do sometimes wonder what the future holds for Fayette County in regards to soil conservation. I think that each and everyone of us should do all we can to conserve our soil. We can accomplish a lot if we set our minds to it. If we don't, I'm afraid that down the road, we'll have mandatory soil conservation. I doubt if very many farmers would like this; so, we better do all we can now to keep soil conservation on the voluntary basis.

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West Union farmer gives conservation views

by Richard Jensen

West Union
When Bud Siebrecht, SCS Conservation Technician, SCS, asked me to write a few lines about what I have done to conserve soil and preserve woodlands, I felt somewhat guilty and unworthy of the compliment. My priorities have changed from when I began farming. At the time I handed the call to produce and declared war on Mother Nature.

Economists, agronomists, and opportunists encouraged fence to fence plowing and planting. I responded well by clearing trees, plowing up fragile, erodible ground, straightening out creeks and gouging out fence rows. "Outstanding Farmer" awards were won by long straight corn rows, three times cultivated and fall plowed fields.

No one seemed concerned about anything except increased production. Sure, there were responsibilities of keeping tight and legal fences, and we had to comply with, containing your bull from the neighbors, restraining your dog, and receiving permission to torch old buildings, and guidelines on animal cruelty. These responsibilities were shared by everyone but towards our soil and woodlands showed contempt.

From the forestry department of Iowa Conservation Commission I received much appreciated help in tree and shrub planting. Odd size corners and steep, less productive areas were planted with pine, oak and shrubs for wildlife. I think many farmers have overlooked timber management as a profitable alternative.

I soon learned I could eliminate weeds and quick wood with the new chemical arsenal that was hitting the market. With bulldozers, chain saws, and chemicals I waged war on Mother Nature with a vengeance. Selfishly, I struggled on in a collision course with my own future. I could not comprehend that there would be no winners in this conflict.

Why didn't I lend my ear to get my sense of values in order and practice soil stewardship? Why didn't the chemical companies inform that quick grass had a beneficial side in holding my waterways? Why didn't the engineers of new farm equipment take the lead years earlier in designing conservation type equipment? I guess there were many reasons, but it really doesn't matter — we discarded our gift and saved the wrapper.

I believe many of us lost our emotional and spiritual connection with nature. We were driven by the cost price squeeze. Our sense of values became a self-centered attitude characterized by the phrase "dirt cheap." This applied to the rape of the land and slaughter of our woodlands.

During all this time I think I realized that something was wrong, but wasn't sure what. I began feeling guilty about taking all I could and returning nothing for future generations. I was fighting against Mother

these orders will come stronger controls on our operations. By the way, my uncle's name is Sam."

On Sept. 30, 1946, an international military tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany, found 22 top German Nazi leaders guilty of war crimes and 11 of them were sentenced to death.

blowing snow. Notice the fence line at the edge of the honeycuckie. It is almost covered with snow.

The windbreak was well cared for during its first two years. The trees were watered as necessary and Ann stated that she even wrecked the lawn mower from mowing the tough grass so often. Weed and competing plants were controlled until the windbreak was well established.

If the Hutterers ever plant another windbreak, there are a couple of things that they would do differently. One thing that they learned was that a hog lot drainage area was not a good place to plant trees. Louis put a few trees there in an effort to extend the windbreak and the

tree died. Another thing that Ann can vouch for is that they wouldn't seed oats as a cover crop again. The oats got off to a good start and became more of a problem than some of the toughest weeds.

Louis and Ann both feel that all cost and efforts necessary for the establishment and maintenance of their windbreak were well justified and they have no regrets.

The district would like to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Hutter for a job well done!

Robert is an active conservation farmer. In photo at right above are members of the LaVerne Swenson family who also farm near Clermont. They, too, are good stewards of the land.

For wildlife, recreation and soil and water conservation we also have two ponds. One a half acre runoff pond with bass and bluegills in it, and the other a spring fed 1.3 acre trout and bass pond. Being the type of person who finds it hard to take a day off to go fishing at the river, I find it just as enjoyable to walk over the hill for a couple of hours and try for a two or three pound bass or trout.

Also included in our conservation program is 61 acres in the timber reserve. We find this a great place to unwind, since all our family enjoys hunting wildlife, wild flowers, mushrooms and raspberries. This area is also managed as a timber cash crop since most of the trees are red and white oak or walnut. Within the reserve are some thousand pine trees which help attract wildlife and are great Christmas trees.

Farming with Grace and I are our two sons, Rick and Martin. Rick with his wife Marsha and three children, Beth, Jennifer and Matthew live on the farm previously owned by Carmel Swenson and before that my grandfather Swenson.

Martin with his wife Carol lives on an acreage near our home. Shannon, our third son, is an equipment dealer at Valley Junior High.

To insure a better future for our children and grandchildren

we need to take some initiative to protect our farmland to be the best of our ability. As a closing thought, I have an uncle who every now and then has some famous and not so famous remarks.

One of them is, that if we don't do more to have our soil someday our state or federal government will step in and order us to do more — along with

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Trees and shrubs available from Fayette County SCS

DECIDUOUS TREES

(Minimum order - 50 trees of each variety. Also please order in multiples of 50)

	Size	Each	50
Apricot - <i>Prunus sibirica</i>	18"	70	\$35.00
	18"	90	45.00
	2"	110	55.00
	3"	110	55.00
Ash, Green - <i>Fraxinus penn. lanceolata</i>	12"	40	\$15.00
(60")	12"	40	30.00
(Turns yellow in Fall)	18"	60	30.00
	18"	80	40.00
	2"	110	55.00
Cherry, Wild Black - <i>Prunus serotina</i>	12"	70	\$35.00
(Excellent timber lumber)	18"	90	45.00
Crab, Siberian - <i>Malus baccata</i>	3/16"	60	\$20.00
Maple, Amur or Ginnala - <i>Acer ginnala</i>	6"	40	\$20.00
(Fall leaves scarlet)	12"	70	35.00
Maple, Silver or scot - <i>Acer dasycarpum</i>	12"	48	24.00
	18"	64	32.00
	2"	80	40.00
Maple, Sugar - <i>Acer saccharum</i>	12"	76	\$38.00
(Fall - leaves yellow to orange to fiery red)	18"	90	45.00
Mulberry, Russian - <i>Morus alba tatarica</i>	12"	50	\$25.00
	18"	60	30.00
Oak, Bur - <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	6"	60	\$30.00
80-160"	12"	80	40.00
Oak, Pin - <i>Quercus palustris</i>	6"	60	\$30.00
(Adapts to most soils except alkaline)	12"	80	40.00
	18"	100	50.00
	2"	140	70.00
Oak, Red - <i>Quercus borealis rubra</i>	6"	60	\$30.00
(Fast growing, 80-90")	12"	80	40.00
(Furniture, lumber)	18"	100	50.00
Oak, White - <i>Quercus alba</i>	6"	60	\$30.00
(50" Furniture, hardwood floors)	12"	80	40.00
Poplar, Lombardy - <i>Populus nigra italica</i>	18"	50	\$25.00
	2"	90	45.00
	3"	90	45.00
**Minimum order - 25 trees	**4"	120	30.00
Order in multiples of 25	**3"	160	40.00
Poplar Sargent - <i>Populus sargentii</i>	18"	40	\$20.00
Cottonwood (Native)	2"	60	30.00
Poplar, Robusta - <i>populus robusta</i>	18"	50	\$25.00
Cottonless cottonwood	2"	70	35.00
	3"	90	45.00
Poplar, Siouxlant, <i>Populus siouxlant</i>	18"	50	\$25.00
Cottonless cottonwood	2"	70	35.00
	3"	90	45.00
Red Bud - <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	12"	70	\$35.00
(25-35")	18"	90	45.00
Russian Olive - <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	6"	36	\$18.00
(Very Hardy, Crooked trunk, Grey Leaves)	12"	50	25.00
	18"	70	35.00
	2"	90	45.00
Sycamore, American - <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	12"	56	\$28.00
	18"	76	38.00
	2"	96	48.00
Walnut, Black - <i>Juglans nigra</i>	12"	80	40.00
(75", nuts & lumber)	18"	100	50.00

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

(Minimum order - 50 plants of each variety. Order in multiples of 50)

	Size	Each	50
Autumn Olive, "Cardinal"	12"	50	\$25.00
Elaeagnus umbellata	12"	50	25.00
(12" Silver foliage when young, yellowish white flower)	18"	70	35.00
Bitter sweet, American - <i>Celastrus scandens</i>	5/32"	70	\$35.00
(Climbs to 20', yellow flowers, crimson seeds)	5/32"	70	35.00
Buffalberry - <i>Shepherdia argentea</i>	5/32"	40	\$20.00
Dogwood, Hedoier - <i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	12"	60	30.00
(6-8", white flowers, twigs turn red in winter)	12"	60	30.00
Dogwood, silky - <i>Cornus amomum</i>	12"	60	\$30.00
6-8", white flowers, purplish branches - June	5/32"	80	\$40.00
Hazelnet, American - <i>Corylus americana</i>	5/32"	60	\$30.00
Honeysuckle, Tatarian - <i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	18"	90	45.00
(Pink flowers - 10')	18"	90	45.00
Lilac, Common - <i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	2"	120	60.00
	12"	80	40.00
Plum, American (Native)	12"	36	\$18.00
	18"	56	28.00
Plum, Nemah - <i>Prunus hortulana</i>	12"	40	\$20.00
	18"	56	28.00

EVERGREEN TRANSPLANTS

(Two & Three Year Root-Pruned)

(Minimum Order - 25 plants of each variety. Order in multiples of 25)

	Size	Each	25
Arbutus, American - <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	6"	70	\$17.50
30-40"	6"	90	22.50
Fir, White - <i>Abies concolor</i>	6"	70	\$17.50
(Silver Foliage & Trunk)	6"	90	22.50
Fir, Douglas - <i>Pseudotsuga taxifolia</i>	6"	90	22.50
5 (needles pine - deep sandy soil)	6"	44	\$11.00
Pine, Austrian - <i>Pinus nigra</i>	6"	44	\$11.00
(Clay or Sandy Soil - good city tree)	6"	60	15.00
Pine, Jack - <i>Pinus banksiana</i>	6"	44	\$11.00
(Grows on difficult or droughty sites)	6"	60	15.00
Pine, Ponderosa - <i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	6"	44	\$11.00
(Needles 5-8" long, Well Drained land)	6"	60	15.00
Pine, Scotch - <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	6"	44	\$11.00
(Long green needles - Christmas tree)	6"	60	15.00
Pine, White - <i>Pinus strobus</i>	6"	60	\$15.00
(35 needles pine - deep sandy soil - Christmas tree)	6"	90	22.50
Spruce, Black Hills - <i>Picea glauca densata</i>	6"	70	\$17.50
(Bluegreen color - Windbreaks)	6"	90	22.50
Spruce, Colorado Blue - <i>Picea pungens glauca</i>	6"	70	\$17.50
(Grey-green to blue, slow growing dense tree)	6"	90	22.50
Dry well - drained sites	6"	70	\$17.50
Spruce, Norway - <i>Picea excelsa</i>	6"	90	22.50
(Windbreaks or Christmas trees, dark green, flat needles)	6"	70	\$17.50
Spruce, White - <i>Picea glauca</i>	6"	90	22.50
(Short blue green needles, slow growing, needs moist, well drained porous soil, Christmas trees, windbreaks)	6"	90	22.50

NO-TILL — John Garner, treasurer of the Fayette County No-tillers, is shown looking over conservation tillage equipment at the Eastern Iowa Tillage Show (photo at left). The former structural engineer took over the family farm in the early 1970s and soon saw that the combination of plowing and a corn-soybean rotation was causing excessive soil erosion. The change from a cattle set-up to grain crops meant that they didn't need hay anymore. John began no-tilling to control his erosion. He now also sees economic payback. With the help of some of the chemical dealers, he has found a solution to the wirestem muley invasion in the area. When planting beans, the wirestem grows to the stage where Bronco can effectively kill most of the wirestem and Past is used to catch escapes.

NO-TILL HELPS — John Garner no-tilled soybeans into corn stalk ground. The beans were healthy in appearance, practically weed-free and notice there are no signs of soil erosion (photo at left). Photos above show conventionally planted soybeans, which were taken the same day very near the Garner field with similar slopes. The varying shade of soil surface illustrates a tremendous amount of sedimentation, due to erosion on the cropland.

depth which relates to the plant available water capacity of a soil; and (3) depth to maximum clay content in the soil profile. A decrease in topsoil thickness usually results in the maximum clay content being closer to the surface in eroded soils.

Erosion Potential — The northeastern Iowa region includes upland soils formed in loess on narrow ridge-tops. Loess thickness on ridge-tops is variable, ranging from 2 to 20 feet. Parent material on ridge-tops is 2 feet or less of loess or till, or bedrock. Many soils in the severe erosion potential area of northeastern Iowa are designated fragile soils due to the shallow depth of the plant rooting zone above bedrock.

Summary — Soil erosion in Iowa is a major problem. It is estimated that the average annual soil displacement or cropland average is 4.9 tons per acre per year on more than 26 million acres planted to row crops, small grain, and forages for hay production.

The lack of economic incentives in the market place for soil conserving activities is a major obstacle to the adoption of soil conservation practices on potentially erosive lands. In addition, public funds for both cost-sharing and subsidies for soil conserving practices have been and probably will continue to be in short supply.

The Iowa legislature recognized the need for maintaining the long-term

In 1977, President Carter caused the oil industry of seeking "the biggest rip-off in history" and not being interested in solving energy problems.



NO-TILLERS CLUB — What does Fayette County have that others don't? The Fayette County No-Tillers Club, an acre organization of farmers, chemical and implement dealers, bankers and natural resource agencies who have promoted the practice of no-till farming for three years. Among their activities in 1983 were: a bus trip to the Eastern Iowa Tillage Show and lunch; presentations at Upper Iowa University with the best speakers on the topic available; twilight tour of county no-till farms; tour to Dan Stradtmeier farm in Jones County; lunch, and a visit to the Tom Hayes farm south of Arlington; informational newsletters to keep farmers up-to-date with the latest information, such as insect outbreaks, new chemicals, yield contest and reports and no-till special events; worked with implement dealers to have conservation tillage planters available for rental by farmers; and received generous donations from the chemical companies and co-operatives for use in providing educational information on no-till farming. Board members in photo at left above are, in front, Jim Graham, Chairman Joe Scheckel, Secretary Jim Burack; in back, Vice Chairman Veryl Burkhardt and Treasurer John Garner.



NO-TILL MEETING — The Fayette County No-Till Club, shown at a session at Upper Iowa in photo at left above, now numbers more than 100 members. About 85 of them are shown listening to a presentation by Ernie Bohm (shown in photo at right above), well-known speaker, author, farmer, who promotes

ridge-till system of planting corn and beans, a system that leaves all previous crop residue on the surface and between the rows. He then plants the crop on a ridge where soil is warmer and drier in the spring. He previously was a district conservationist for the SCS and encourages planting on the contour.



TONS OF TROUBLE — This display at the Fayette County Fair showed in a very visible manner the magnitude of the soil erosion problem in the county. Spread over an acre, this amount of soil would be a layer the thickness of a sheet of paper. When topsoil reaches fence rows and road ditches, it becomes a liability. Recently the county has charged landowners for the cost of cleaning their soil out of road ditches, where excess erosion was found. County-wide, the average soil loss is 16-12 tons per acre per year. At this high rate, many soils will have a marked reduction in productivity in less than 40 years.

A HELPER — Dan Burkhardt, Fayette County Extension Director (at right in photo), is shown looking over a no-till bean field that was recently cultivated. Dan's promotion of no-till is one reason the practice is so successful in Fayette County.



FLAT EROSION — Who says the flatter prairie soils don't erode? SCS technician Wally Oley is shown in photo at left above standing in a gully. This field averaged three to four percent slopes and has eroded to the unproductive till layer in many areas. Terraces were constructed here to solve the problem. The rock or "pebble band" (photo at right above), is more evident that the surface layer of the Kenyon soil is completely gone.



ON TOUR — On July 1, the Fayette County No-Tillers Club sponsored a tour to Jones County to look at the Dan Stradtmeier farm. Stradtmeier is known state-wide for his innovative conservation methods. His main claim to fame is his row pattern of six rows corn alternating with six rows of soybeans planted no-till. The group examined and asked questions about the various pieces of equipment Stradtmeier uses. Among the unusual

things were a planter set-up to pull a bulk fertilizer wagon and continuously feed the hoppers on the planter, also his combine was modified to increase capacity, needed because of the alternate crops. The advantages of the unusual row pattern were weed control and insect control and erosion control. On the return trip, the group stopped at Tom Hayes' farm to look at his drilled beans, which were very clean and well-developed.

TERRACING — These recently constructed terraces show how contours fit the hill. Long smooth curves are characteristic of current methods of terrace layout, with most terrace systems being parallel as much as the topography allows. Soil loss is cut by up to two-thirds with terracing and the resulting contouring.

Locate brush piles in areas out of the way, where they will not hamper tractor operations. Areas where the slope is too steep to farm or where soil is extremely poor offer ideal spots for pile placement. Odd areas, the corner of pastures or adjacent to woodlots are good. Near farm ponds, pile brush below the dam

Did you ever stop to think of the value brush piles have for wildlife? Yes, that's right, brush piles provide excellent cover for many wildlife species. Cottontail rabbits, a favorite game animal of all farm boys, use brush piles all year long. Many females use that old tangle of limbs and winter when much of the cover disappears, brush piles provide excellent protection. On cold winter days rabbits, quail, grouse and other wildlife seek these protected areas.

and to one side. Don't pile brush into ditches. Brush piled into gullies will not stop erosion, and its silted prevents natural healing. In some cases, brush pushed into ditches actually speeds up erosion.

If brush piles become an eyesore, there are varieties of climbing plants that can be established to cover them. Virginia creeper, bittersweet and grape will hide brush piles. These plants can be collected in the wild, or they can be purchased from one of the many nursery supply houses.

Seventy brush piles were constructed on the Volga

Recreation area last winter to improve habitat for rabbit, quail, grouse and other wildlife.

These piles were made from hardwoods thinned from the edge of timbered areas. The brushpiles are secure winter cover and the edge thinning encourages sapling and shrub growth on the woodland edge.

So, when you think about burning that brush pile, remember how nice it looks to rabbits and quail on a cold winter day. It certainly looks better than a pile of ashes.

Soil erosion and the Iowa 2000 soil program

In the spring of 1980, the Iowa General Assembly enacted comprehensive legislation that specifies long-term objectives concerning erosion of topsoil. This legislation established what is referred to as the "Iowa Soil 2000 Program." The primary objective of this program is reduction of excessive erosion from all land within the state by the year 2000. To achieve this goal in an orderly and timely manner, the Iowa General Assembly developed legislation to support a coordinated program that includes educational, financial and technical assistance.

The program evolved from a series of hearings conducted by legislative interim study committee in 1979 at several locations across Iowa. The purpose of the legislative study committee was to review and strengthen the existing Iowa soil conservation program.

Soil erosion is a natural process. Most forms of agriculture practiced on sloping land increase the erosion potential, which is commonly called accelerated or excessive erosion.

When a soil is experiencing accelerated erosion, however, removal of renewed soil losses range from 2 to 3 tons per acre per year for different soils.

Societal Concerns — Erosion reduces the natural productivity of Iowa's soils while also polluting the water resources. More Iowans are becoming aware of this as the soil erosion problem has become a major public issue. As a result, many Iowans are voicing their concern about soil erosion.

Unfortunately, just being concerned about soil erosion is not enough. Excessive soil erosion can be controlled. Farmers and other land users must continue to effectively use soil and water conservation practices and develop a soil stewardship ethic.

Consequences of Erosion — Soil erosion and soil productivity are intricately related and cannot be easily separated. Erosion of any soil usually results in a net decrease of the long-term inherent productivity of the soil.

Soil erosion affects long-term productivity by reducing till and the soil's water holding capacity. In particular, long-term productivity is decreased by removal of plant nutrients and organic matter from the soil surface horizon; by removing the fine silt and clay sized particles that relate to a soil's ability to hold plant available water and provide nutrients to plant roots; and by decreasing water infiltration into the soil which increases water runoff.

In Iowa, the effect of soil erosion on long-term productivity can be measured by changes in three properties of the soil profile. These are: (1) topsoil thickness; (2) rooting

Cropland eroding faster than soil regenerates

by James B. Gulliford, Director of Iowa Department of Soil Conservation

Efforts on the part of Iowa's soil conservation districts, and the state and federal soil conservation agencies that support them, have never been greater. Yet, erosion persists as much today as in the past. More than one-third of our state's cropland is eroding at a rate greater than the soil regenerates itself. The reasons for this continuing erosion are both obvious and obscure: managerial as well as physical. The erosion problem we face is dynamic in nature due to the many forces that influence it. Physical factors including slope steepness, slope length and rainfall intensity govern the amount of erosion that occurs based on the amount of vegetative or residue cover that protects the soil. The balance of these factors is the result of the agricultural management used by the farmer.



James Gulliford

cropping has on soil erosion. As farm equipment is purchased, consideration should be given to adopting conservation tillage systems that hold down farm costs and save soil. As fields are planted, planting dates, varieties, planting dates, and other farm decisions, it should include conscious soil conservation decisions as well. As crop rotations are chosen, consideration should be given to the impact that intensive row-

as is the benefit of reduced erosion. The Iowa farmer continues to be the best farm manager and crop producer in the world. The management skills that farmers have allowed them to deal with erosion at the same time they produce crops. Our soil conservation districts are committed to helping the farmer in this regard.

Districts across Iowa have initiated the Iowa Soil 2000 program and are beginning to contact their farmers through development and distribution of conservation folders. These conservation folders contain information that describes both the nature of erosion occurring on each farm and the production and yield consequences that sustained erosion causes. The folders also offer alternatives to treat erosion and offer the services of the soil conservation district in developing conservation management systems to control erosion. In years to come, all farmers can expect to receive this information.

cost-share program is funded to assist low net worth farmers. Details of these programs can be received by contacting the Fayette County Soil Conservation District office. As stated above, our efforts to address erosion problems are great. We look forward to 1984 as a milestone year toward initiating new and sustained efforts toward helping farmers meet their soil conservation needs.



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(Continued on Page 10)

WORKING TOGETHER—The spring of 1983 saw a number of organizations get together. "The Living Snowflake Project" was a joint venture of the North and Valley FFA Chapters, the Iowa Department of Transportation, the Soil Conservation Service, and the County Conservation Board to plant trees and shrubs on state highway right-of-ways to keep snow off the highways. Norris Walvatne of the IDOT worked with Jay Custer of the SCS to choose sections of Highways 156 and 18 that had snowdrift problems. The FFA chapters provided the labor and money for

the project. On a cool and breezy April day, everyone got together and planted ninebark, dogwood and arbor vitae. The County Conservation Board gave instructions on proper planting methods and assisted with the planting. In a follow-up report, Custer found a 78-80 percent survival rate. The group posed for a picture shown at left above. They are, in front, Jerry Mull, SCS district conservationist; and two members of the FFA; in back are Norris Walvatne of the IDOT, Joel Janus of the County Conservation Board, and Brian Harper, vo-ag instructor.

Conservation award presented

Charles Jacobsen was awarded the Conservationist of the Year award by the Fayette County Farm Bureau and Fayette Soil Conservation District. The plaque was given at a banquet at the Farm Bureau building in Fayette Oct. 10, 1983.

Chuck is not a newcomer to conservation. When he started to farm his present farm in the area he became a member in the Fayette County Soil Conservation District. His plan called for contouring and stripstripping his moderately rolling land west of the highway and using a six-year rotation. The three years of hay would provide the first two years and pasture the third year. The three years of hay would build up the soil so that it would hold together during the row crop years. Even so Chuck wanted to do better. Where it was not

necessary to provide pasture he liked stripstripping. Charles is a friendly man of tall athletic build. Lines around the eyes show a good many summers of hard work and large sinewy hands know the bale strings and give a hearty handshake. Chuck also has a deep respect for the land, the sanctity of God's creation. He believes in working with nature rather than against it. This is shown by the beautiful strips he maintains just a mile north of West Union east of highway 156.

In 1967 Charles bought another 80 acres which gave him the northwest quarter of section 5 of Union township. He completely stripstripped the 160 acres and has kept them since. The hay strips are seeded to alfalfa and a grass mixture with an oats nurse crop. When the alfalfa thins out it is plowed up and put to corn while the next strip which had been in corn is planted to hay. In this way

Strip Crops—Contour strip crops on the Charles Jacobsen farm. water can not run on cultivated land more than 100 feet before coming to a hay strip which slows the water and catches the soil. Loss on those strips is less than two tons per acre per year.

Charles would recommend stripstripping to anyone interested in saving soil. "The soil just seems to get better each

Iowa 2000 folders from SCS

by James Burrack, Chairman, Fayette Soil Conservation District. 1984 will be the year that the Iowa 2000 Folders will be put together by the staff at the County Soil Conservation Service Office.

These folders will be distributed to each farmhand owner and operator. The Iowa 2000 folder will offer each farmer ways to reduce soil

erosion to within limits considered acceptable. There has been much publicity about soil conservation in the news media this year. Secretary Block personally feels that there should be close compliance between Federally Funded Farm programs and land being under a conservation plan. He said he will continue to push for such action in the future. As you receive your

folder for your farm this year, give the plan some careful consideration. Interest in permanent soil conservation practices has risen sharply this past year, helped by the FFR program's idle acres. There were about 200,000 of these acres in Fayette county this year. The extra money allotted for Fayette county also helped make this construction possible.

Saving your soil with limited capital outlay

by Andy Oxley, VIPS—Volunteer In Protecting Soil. Iowa is losing its greatest resource: Soil.

One hundred years ago Iowa's topsoil averaged 16 inches. Today's average is seven inches and decreasing. Everybody sees the problems. Ditches, gulches

and rills are present in many of our fields. Nobody wants to lose the soil, but how can you save the soil without spending a fortune?

The Soil Conservation Service has options that can save your land and not cost you a cent. Many of these you have used before, some you have seen, others are just beginning to become popular. All of these practices can save your soil and not cost much, if any, money.

Contouring can be a very effective method to reduce erosion. Losses can be reduced by as much as 50 percent. But don't do it on your own, request SCS assistance for the project. A common problem that persists even with contouring is the end rows. Severe erosion on these ends can be decreased with grass headlands. Headlands can qualify for reduced acreage programs if it is 66 feet wide.

Contour stripstripping is one of the most effective of the conservation practices. It will reduce soil loss by as much as 75 percent compared to continuous corn with straight rows. This effectiveness is accomplished by growing close grown crops such as hay or oats in alternating contour strips with row crops.

Obviously reducing the row crop intensity also reduces sheet and rill erosion. Two years corn, oats, two years hay rotation will reduce erosion 50 to 60 percent from that of a continuous corn rotation, and more when compared to corn, soybean rotation.

Minimum tillage or no-till are two of the most growing measures to reduce soil loss. Conservation tillage by a chisel plow will leave approximately 20 percent residue cover and no-

VIPs help county's SCS office

In 1983 we had a number of inquiries for VIPS positions (Volunteers In Protecting Soil). We were able to use two of them for laying out terraces and checking out the practices for completion.

Jim Arnold, an Osceola area seed representative, worked one day a month as a surveying aide. His father was a longtime Soil Conservation Technician in Keosauqua.

Andy Oxley volunteered his time between sessions at UNI where he is a pre-law student. His father, Wally Oxley, is one of the Soil Conservation Technicians in our office. Andy helped with practice layout, as well as writing news releases for our office.

A VIPS can perform any type of service for the SCS, and has the protection of our insurances. They have full use of our equipment, under the supervision of the District Conservationist.

If you have some spare time and feel you can help, call us and we will get you involved with helping save the soil.

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WINS AWARD—A. W. "Wally" Oakey, soil conservation technician with the SCS (at left), received a superior performance award from the Soil Conservation Service. He received the award for his outstanding sales of conservation

and excellence with practice design and layout. His supervisor, District Conservationist Jerry Muff (at right), is shown as he presented the certificate to Oakey.

Walnut care can be investment

by Gary Beyer
District Forester

Black walnut is the money tree in Iowa. Other species such as red oak and ash also bring good prices, but walnut always has been and probably always will be king.

In 1982, Iowa produced more veneer walnut logs than any other state in the nation. North-east Iowa produces some of the highest quality walnut in the world! Not bad for the "Tall Corn" state.

Most of the large veneer trees harvested today are native and grew with little help from us. The trees are high quality because they grew in dense woods. They had to compete for sunlight and were forced to grow straight and tall. The lower limbs were shaded early in the trees life and died, eventually falling off. The wounds healed over and clear, veneer quality

wood was produced out of the limb scar. I saw a tree

which bring a small fortune. But the streets are full of rusted out fenders and dented bodies. How can you help your young walnut trees become Cadillacs?

The most important step is not to graze your timber. Livestock compact the soil and damage the root collar. Walnut trees that are pastured generally are slow growing and develop hollow bases. I assisted with a walnut sale where the logger said he would have paid twice as much if the trees had not been pastured. Those herds cost the farmer \$25,000. The cattle were in the pasture where they belonged and out of the woods pronto! The Forest Reserve Law exempts timberland that is not grazed from property taxes.

You can start to "train" walnut at an early age. Seedlings can be correctly pruned to remove major forks. It's important to maintain one straight, central stem. The trees need leaf area to produce food for growth, so prune lightly. No side or bole pruning is needed until the trees are at least two inches in diameter. It's tempting to overprune, which results in reduced growth. Trees that are beyond repair can be cut off at ground level during the dormant season. Several sprouts

will grow from the stump. Keep the one best sprout and remove the rest.

Fast growth is the best way to promote straight young trees. In most cases, this requires weed and grass control. Competing vegetation robs moisture and nutrients from the tree. Trees in thick grass usually grow slowly and develop into walnut bushes. Herbicides are effective in controlling competition from weeds and grasses. A combination of Kerb-Princep-Surflan will control existing vegetation. Apply the herbicide on an area three to four feet around each tree after a killing frost in the fall. Follow label directions carefully when applying herbicides.

Trees two to 10 inches in diameter can be improved with pruning and release. Remove lower limbs up to one half of the total height of the tree. Cut the limbs flush with the trunk during the dormant season. February through March, prior to bud break, is the best time. Do not cut limbs over two inches in diameter because they heal too slowly to prevent rot. No wound dressing is needed. Dressings may make you feel better, but may actually slow

the healing process. The growth of young walnut can be increased by removing trees that are competing for sunlight. Remove trees with crowns (leaves) within four to five feet of the main crown. Leave trees that are not directly competing for light so they continue to force the walnut to grow straight.

An acre can support roughly 100 mature walnut trees, which is an average of 20 feet between trees. It doesn't make sense to prune and release 300 trees per acre because many of the trees will be removed to firewood to make room for your best trees. Select your best trees per acre and concentrate your efforts on these. Work sites suitable for walnut growth. Walnut require a deep well drained loam soil. Wet areas and heavy clay soils are poor suited for walnut production. Now you're ready to open your IRA. With proper care, your investment will build an mature. Your land value will increase annually as your tree add veneer quality wood. You are protecting the soil from erosion and providing valuable wildlife habitat. Wouldn't you really rather own a Cadillac?

Gary Beyer

growing in a ravine which was 30 inches in diameter and had four 16-foot veneer logs. The tree was valued at \$15,000 to \$20,000. Trees like that are few and far between. I see many more \$50 trees which fork at eight feet and have numerous branchy scars and defects. Walnut trees are similar to selling cars. There are a few Cadillacs in mint condition

Check nozzles for uniformity

1. Check nozzles for uniformity of delivery by catching and recording the number of ounces sprayed by each nozzle in 15 seconds. Calculate the average output of all nozzles. Replace any nozzle whose output differs more than five percent from the average of all nozzles on the boom.

2. In the field to be sprayed, measure a 102 foot course and place a flag at each end.

3. Add water to the tank until it is approximately one-half full.

4. Select and note the desired gear and throttle setting or engine r.p.m. to be used when spraying the field. With a stop watch, time the sprayer through the 102 foot course in both directions and determine the average number of seconds to travel the course.

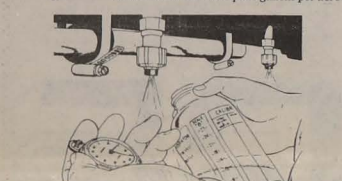
5. With the equipment stationary, engage the pump and operate the engine at the same throttle setting or r.p.m.

used when timing the 102 foot course. Turn the boom on and adjust the pressure to within 35 to 50 psi. With a measuring container graduated in ounces, catch water from one nozzle for the number of seconds required to travel the 102 foot course. Repeat for at least one nozzle in each boom section and determine the average number of ounces delivered per nozzle.

6. Depending on the nozzle spacing on the boom, refer to the appropriate equation below to determine the output of the sprayer in gallons per acre.

7. If necessary to increase or decrease gallons of spray delivered per acre, change the nozzle size, vary speed, or adjust pressure within 35 to 50 psi at the nozzle and recalibrate. *Nozzle spacings of greater than 40 inches are not recommended for Paraquat application.

NOZZLE SPACING, INCHES	EQUATIONS FOR CALCULATING SPRAYER OUTPUT
20	Ounces collected x 2 equals gallons per acre
40	Ounces collected equals gallons per acre
60*	Ounces collected x .67 equals gallons per acre



Set-aside special program

Don Carpenter, C.E.D. for ASCS in Fayette explains that "farmers who enroll in the 1984 set aside program may be eligible for special 90 percent cost sharing to establish grass or trees on the set aside acres."

The set aside land must be predominantly class III or higher class land which, under normal farming conditions, was

Latin America's trade balance showed a surplus of \$7.7 billion in 1982. This, according to the Inter-American Development Bank, indicates the countries of the region are making an extraordinary effort to generate resources needed to pay their loans. Mexico alone accounted for most of the surplus—\$6.9 billion. That represented a \$10.3 billion turnaround since 1981, when Mexico had registered a deficit of \$3.4 billion.



Don Carpenter

subject to soil erosion at rates at least twice the established tolerable ("T") level. The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) will assist farmers in determining the soil loss and the land class of the set aside land.

If approved, the farmer must agree to maintain grass cover for a minimum of 5 years or tree cover for 10 years.

Jerry Muff, District Conservationist for SCS, emphasized that this is an ideal way to recover woodland or grassland on marginal cropland which should have never been converted in the first place.

Sign up for this special program at your local ASCS office at the same time you sign up for the 1984 set aside program. The deadline is Feb. 24—so act now.

Woodland owners newsletter ready
Iowa State University, in cooperation with the Forestry Section of the Iowa Conservation Commission, has begun a quarterly Woodland Owners Newsletter, to improve communications with Iowa woodland owners.

They intend to include timely tips and up-to-date information on a variety of topics important to woodlands.

If you are interested in receiving this free publication, send your address to: Forestry Extension, 251 Bessey Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011.

ASCS announces cost share plan

ASCS announces cost share program for 1984, according to CED, Don Carpenter.

Landowners must apply for the following practices at the ASCS office. The SCS personnel at West Union will contact the applicants that are approved to determine feasibility and cost estimate of the proposed practice.

The cost share rates shown are not automatic percentage payments to landowners — but are considered maximum amounts a landowner can receive. Landowners are also limited to \$3,500 per year.

APRACTICES	FOLLOWING YEAR OF INSTALLATION	RATE	LIFESPAN
SL-1 Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment	60%	5 years	
SL-2 Permanent Vegetative Cover Improvement	60%	5 years	
SL-3 Stripcropping Systems	\$6/ac	5 years	
SL-4 Terrace Systems	50%	10 years	
SL-5 Diversions	50%	10 years	
SL-7 & 9 Windbreak Establishment or Restoration	60%	10 years	
SL-13 Contour Farming	\$6/ac	3 years	
SL-15 No-Till Systems	\$10/ac		
WC-1 Water Impoundment Reservoirs (Ponds)	50%	10 years	
WP-1 Erosion Control Structure	75%	10 years	
WP-3 Waterways	75%	10 years	
WL-1 Permanent Wildlife Habitat	75%	5 years	
FR-1 Forest Tree Plantations	75%	10 years	
FR-2 Forest Tree Stand Improvement	75%	10 years	

Conservation . . .

(Continued From Page 9)

lake and a modern camp area near the lake.

In order to build the beach facility, the Iowa Conservation Commission must first construct a silt dam across the west arm of the lake. A road will cross the top of the earthen silt dam to provide access to the beach area.

The \$400,000 silt dam was planned for last season but had to be postponed in the face of federal budget cutbacks. The ICC is again hoping to get this back in the picture for 1984.

There should be good fishing for bluegill and catfish this year in the new lake. The bluegill will quite often run 7 inches in length and the catfish will range from 1 1/2 to 3 pounds. Note that there is a 14 inch minimum length restriction on the large-mouth bass in the lake. Most of these bass will not be keepers this season.

I remind you not to overlook the 17 miles of hiking and horse trails. These trails are in very good shape and provide

beautiful access for hiking, sight seeing, photography, etc.

Take some time to get outdoors this spring and see what the Volga River Recreation Area has to offer in conservation recreation.

Funds . . .

(Continued From Page 7)

Because the Soil Conservation District Commissioners are concerned about this area they have decided that Iowa 2000 folders will be prepared and distributed for all landowners in the watershed. Landowners will be invited to come to the SCS office in West Union when the folders are ready.

We were happy to see an increased interest in conservation tillage and no-till farming. These practices along with contouring and stripcropping will go a long way towards reducing soil erosion.

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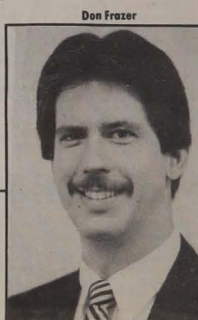
Stop in soon . . . we'll be glad to help.



Don Crandall



Carol Tousey



Don Frazer



Dave Helscher

Don Crandall, Don Frazer and Carol Tousey are three of our farm credit officers. They are prepared to help you with all your needs.

They can also suggest other financial services that we offer.



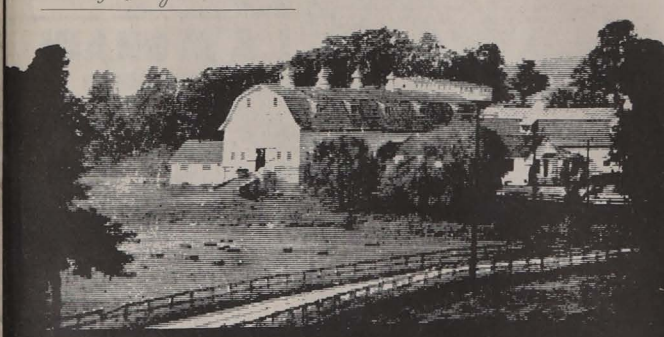
Bill Ramsey

Dave Helscher and Bill Ramsey are available to discuss retirement accounts and other financial planning for your farm or family needs.

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2 HP 10 . . . 321.31 165.65

2 HP 10 . . . 343.44 171.85

5 HP 10 HIT . . . 610.08 330.98

7 1/2 HP 10 HIT 825.84 439.89

2 HP 20 . . . 187.24 110.67

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