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May 1970

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

This is the first of what we hope to be a continuation of a monthly Soil Conservation District report to Iowa county residents.

Although most of our work is with the farmers of Iowa county we encourage rural and urban people alike to take an active interest in conservation. Not only conservation of our soil and water but of our total environment.

As many of you probably know, there has been quite a shake up in our office the last month. Charles Shirley, the former district conservationist here, has been promoted to a similar position at Hampton. Rick Cordes began duties here March 23 replacing Mr. Shirley. Mrs. Judy Carney, our secretary, and her family has moved to North English and has accepted a position with Off, Elwood, and Elwood lawyers. Mrs. Lennis Doehrmann has been hired to replace her. If you come in and see several new faces, don't leave, you're still in the right office.

Ken has been quite busy the last few weeks with layout work. It seems when the fields dry out in the spring, we need about two extra men to keep up. Luckily, we have received some additional part time help from John Gray. Several waterways and diversions have been shaped and several thousand feet of tile has been laid since field work began. Some of the completed jobs include a total of 8950 feet of diversion terrace on the farms of Bob Walker, Max Markwell, Wayne Kelly, David Van Dee, Floyd Smith, Plank Estate, and Charles Shirley. Hugh O'Meara and James (Doc) Garringer have each built a pond on their farms.

22,679 feet of tile has been completed on Fred Blythe, Walter Boyd, William Brown, Mervin Knock, Harry Haack, and Marvin Meyer farms.

Arnold Weibert has completed one acre of waterway this month. Several others are in the process of completion.

In the months to come, we will be reporting to you more accomplishments in conservation.

Anyone who is interested in doing some conservation work this year is encouraged to contact the Soil Conservation service as soon as possible so we can get your name on our schedule.

As was mentioned earlier, this is our first or at least my first monthly report. We entitled this months report "Comments on Conservation." If anyone has any catchy ideas for a new title we would appreciate hearing from you.

I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what directions we are moving.—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

June 1970

The Iowa County Farmer, Williamsburg, Iowa

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

GOOD news, as many of you know, the Iowa county lake watershed has been approved for 80% cost sharing on conservation practices to control erosion on the upland and prevent siltation of the lake. The practices eligible for cost sharing include establishing permanent vegetative cover, improving vegetative cover, farm ponds, livestock watering pipelines, waterways, terraces, and erosion control structures. This is an excellent example of how the federal cost sharing program can help not only the farm owners but everyone who enjoys the county lake.

LAST month we told you about all of the personnel changes that had taken place in our office. Well, there will soon be another change. Ken Christensen, our conservation technician, has resigned effective July 6. He plans to move to Anita, Iowa and sell real estate. We all hate to see Ken leave but wish him good luck. As of yet there is no one to replace him.

THE Iowa County Soil Conservation district held their conservation Art contest May 27 at Parnell. Jim Thys, Charlene Aurich, and Becky Dietze were first, second and third place winners on the high school level and Connie Driscoll, Tom Spratt, and Liz Collier were first, second and third place winners on the elementary level. Our congratulations go to these winners. We appreciate the time and effort of the other students who participated in the contest. The winning entries are on display at the Soil Conservation Service

office.

THINGS haven't seemed quite as busy as last month. Once planting gets underway, our work seems to slow down to some extent. This months completed jobs include 8 acres of waterway shaping on the farms of Paul Rudin, Vincent Driscoll, Stuart Blythe, Alfred Wyant, Mary Zuber, and Arthur Tibben. A total of 395 acres of contouring has been newly established on several farms this month. Lynn Popham has constructed 3,950 feet of terraces on his farm. 8,973 feet of tile has been reported completed on the Russell Kinsinger and Bill Brown farms. Bill Keegan and LeRoy Weiss have each constructed a diversion terrace on their farms for a total of 4,900 feet.

EFFECTIVE July 1, cities and towns will be included in soil conservation districts. The bill signed by Gov. Robert Ray gives urban property owners the chance to vote in the election of the district commissioners who direct the local soil conservation activities. Urban residents may also serve as commissioners with no more than one commissioner elected per voting precinct. Until recently, the election was restricted to rural residents. This bill recognizes erosion in housing developments, along streets and highways, and other problem areas which may need technical assistance from the Soil Conservation Service.

WHILE the farmer holds title to the land, actually, it belongs to all the people because civilization itself rests on the soil.—Thomas Jefferson.

July 1970

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

Register and Tribune Contest
District winners of the Des Moines Register and Tribune contest were chosen by the district commissioners this past month. They are Kenneth Dawson, long time district cooperator; Jay Roller and Norman King, owner-tenant division, and Robert Durr, new cooperator.

Mrs. Ford, H-L-V. Stacy Howell, Amana, and Harold Bezoni, Williamsburg, were nominated for the conservation teacher award. Harold Bezoni was the county winner.

The winners will advance to the regional contest where they will again be judged. The regional winners will then compete on the state level.

Environmental Action Guide

A recent newsletter from the National Association of Conservation districts gave suggestions aimed at improving environmental problems. Some people are not aware of the services their local Soil Conservation district can provide. This is a list of a few suggestions for action that your district can provide assistance with:

1. If you own a farm, forest land, or other large property, ask your conservation district for a conservation plan. There is no charge. If you live in town and have conservation problems on your lot, call your district for information on how to solve them.

2. Become familiar with the resource inventories prepared by your conservation district such as the county soil survey, land capability interpretations, conservation needs inventory, district long-range plan, and watershed plans. Study them in class and in community meetings.

3. Ask your district to organize a tour covering local environmental problems and conservation progress for your P.T.A., service club, school class, or other group.

4. Schedule a program on conservation and the environment at meetings of the organizations to which you belong.

5. Make sure large public installations have conservation plans and are using them.

6. Adopt a stream in cooperation with the district and work to eliminate pollution in the entire watershed.

7. Assist the conservation district in sponsoring Soil Stewardship Week each year. Booklets, church programs, place mats, posters, and other materials are available.

8. Study the problem of sediment pollution in the district. Find out how soil eroded from suburban construction areas, new highways, building sites, and farm lands is damaging water supplies. Encourage county and municipal governments to adopt sediment control programs in cooperation with the conservation district.

These are a few of the things we can do to improve the communities in which we live.

"When the soil is gone, men must go, and the process does not take long."—Theodore Roosevelt.

August 1970 CONSERVATION COMMENTS

YOUR Soil Conservation office is once again fully staffed. Clem McBride from Poweshiek county started work with us Aug. 3. Clem will be replacing Ken Christensen who left in July. Now that there are two of us again, we hope to be able to keep up with the farmers and contractors.

WORK has started at the Lake Iowa watershed. Wayne Meyer has completed 1,821 feet of tile inlet terraces and Fred Bott has completed a farm pond. Lloyd Wiebold, Larry and Clarence Davis and Cecil Gorsh will start construction soon.

HAROLD Sherman, chairman of the Iowa County Soil Conservation District was chosen outstanding district commissioner for Region 7. Harold won over several other entrants. Our congratulations go to Harold.

PRESIDENT Nixon declared July 19-25 as farm safety week. Agriculture ranks second to the construction industry in accidental deaths. Most accidents are preventable. Review your family activities at work, in the home, at recreation, and on the highway. Be constantly aware of the potential dangers around you and your children.

FALL is just around the corner and the Sept. 15 deadline for waterways shaped should contact the Soil Conservation Service and a contractor as soon as possible.

September 1970 CONSERVATION COMMENTS

DON'T forget the Sept. 15 deadline on waterways. The tiling does not have to be done at this time, however, it is better if it can be. We realize this pressures the contractors and land owners at this time of year since there is such a short time between oat harvest and the 15th. The reason for setting this deadline is to allow time for seeding to become established before winter. Without adequate vegetation cover. On the waterways the spring rains are very damaging.

BE watching the Wallaces Farmer magazine. There will be an article on Harold Sherman, chairman of our district commissioners, as outstanding regional commissioner in this area. I might mention the names of our other commissioners of Iowa county at this time. They are Dick Muchka, Marengo; Fred White, Parnell; Vernon Sandersfeld, Homestead; and Don Eash, Parnell. David McCartney, Millersburg and Carl Selby, Parnell, are our assistant commissioners. If you have a problem or would like information concerning conservation, any one of these men would be glad to help.

JULY 1 started a new year for us with several farmers completing various practices over the county. A total of 107,628 feet of tile has been laid on various farms over the county since July 1. 11.9 acres of waterways have been shaped on the farms of Rudy Schroeder, Dennis Berger, Don DeRyke, Robert Walker, Dan Miller, Lon Jennings, Edwin Koehn, Ronald Herdliska, Art Von Ahsen, and Duane Schwarting. Charles Huber, Wayne Meyer, and Charles Shirley constructed 2,850 feet of diversion terraces on their farms. Fred Bott and Mrs. G. O. Jones each built a pond. Duane Schwarting also installed a larger structure on his farm.

SEVERAL others have completed work, however, we haven't given them the final check so they haven't been reported as completed.

"WE are all manufacturers, making goods, making trouble, or making excuses."

October 1970 CONSERVATION COMMENTS

THE Fall Workshop conference for conservation education for classroom teachers was at the 4-H camp near Luther on Oct. 2 and 3. The conference is held to help teachers present conservation in interesting and meaningful ways to students at all age levels. There were three teachers from Iowa county who attended with the local Soil Conservation district paying the expenses at the conference.

THIS year's theme was "Resources-Respect-Responsibility—Three More R's". The training included ideas on how to plan and conduct field trips, studies on pollution, plant ecology, geology with demonstrations and exhibits. Speakers were Frank Miller, cartoonist for the Register and Tribune, the winner of the State Soil Conservation Speech contest, and Bob Russell of the Iowa Izaak Walton league.

CONSERVATION work books were provided to each school in the county that requested them. The district provided the county schools with 549 workbooks for each sixth grade. The workbooks were written by the Palo Alto Conservation Education committee from Palo Alto county as a tool to help Iowa teachers cover the field of conservation in the classroom.

THE 24th annual conference of the Iowa Soil Conservation district commissioners was held in Waterloo on Sept. 13-15. About 500 commissioners, district clerks, SCS personnel and other conservationists attended. Those attending from Iowa county were Mr. and Mrs. David McCartney, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sherman, Mr. and Mrs. Fred White, and Rick Cordes. Harold Sherman was presented an award as outstanding district commissioner of Region 7. Harold also accepted for the district a 25 year certificate.

"CHARACTER" is property—it is the noblest of possessions."

November 1970 Conservation Comments

OCTOBER was a little slow in way of conservation accomplishments. Several projects have been ready to go but haven't been started due to the rainy weather.

THOSE who have completed some major practices this month include Dean Jacobs, farm pond; Byron Goldthwaite, Chris Kelting Estate, Ray Murphy, Fergus Flanagan, LaVerne Wieskoph, Gilbert Von Ahsen, Hilbert Schwarting, Virgil Koehn, Leo Jacobi, Carl Lantz, Eugene McMenomy, James Welsh, Ralph Wagner, Milton Maack, and John Welsh have completed 18.7 acres of waterways; Gilbert Von Ahsen and F. E. Lyle have each installed an erosion control structure. This makes a total of 9,077 feet of diversion terraces, 5 farm ponds, 4 erosion control structures, 66.4 acres of waterways, 1,821 feet of parallel terraces, and 235,590 feet of tile since July 1.

THE districts Award Banquet was held Oct. 21 to honor the Des Moines Register and Tribune conservation winners of Iowa county. Jay Roller and Norman King, Kenneth Dawson, Robert Durr, and Harold Bezoni each received a plaque for their outstanding work in conservation. Robert Durr was also chosen Regional Winner in the new cooperator division. He and his wife will be honored at the Regional Awards banquet in December.

IT has come to our attention that many farm owners are not aware of one of the services which we provide. This is a conservation farm plan. This consists of signing a cooperative agreement with the Soil Conservation District indicating a desire to conserve the soil and water on your farm. The plan contains areal photographs of the farm with the recommended field division and cropping systems indicated. A soils map of the soil types and description of each soil and its capabilities is also included. Along with the maps a conservation plan is written to set forth a logical sequence for the application of conservation practices. Upon completion of the plan, the land owner will retain a copy for his files and one will also be kept in the SCS office. Anyone desiring a conservation plan or more information concerning one is encouraged to stop in the SCS office.

THE highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for it, but rather what he becomes by it."

December 1970 CONSERVATION COMMENTS

LAND owners who have applied for government cost sharing for 1970 conservation practices should start work on their projects before the end of the year. Any project that has not been started by then will be cancelled and a new application will have to be made in 1971.

ALTHOUGH we prefer to see spring plowing on hill ground we realize that many farmers will be plowing this fall if the weather holds out. If you are planning on fall plowing, contact the SCS for assistance in laying out contours on strips. On a given rotation and slope, contouring will decrease soil loss by one-half. Strip cropping is twice as effective as contouring. With land prices as they are, that's money washing down those slopes.

IOWA county farmers desiring to stock their farm ponds with fish should make their application within the next couple months to assure delivery this coming spring. Channel cat and bass are the species available. Application forms are available at the Soil Conservation Service office.

WHEN we get this close to the end of the year, each month shows a few less accomplishments than the month before. Much of our conservation work this month has been in the way of starting the practices before Dec. 31 rather than with the intention of completing them. This month's accomplishments include: Farm ponds: Gerald Maas, Gingerich Brothers,

and Lloyd Pilkington; 62,602 feet of tile was installed; 6.1 acres of waterways were completed on Carroll Shaul, David Williams, Herb Miller, Francis Lyle, and Mervin Jack farms; 2,350 feet of diversion terraces were constructed on Maurice Hartz, Blanche Peterson and Leonard Dietrich farms.

GOOD depends not on things but on the use we make of things.

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

CARING for a farm pond is much like caring for the home. It takes continual care and maintenance to keep a pond in top condition.

RICHARD J. Cordes, district conservationist, Iowa County Soil Conservation district, says a pond should be inspected frequently.

SOME of the problems to look for are wave action, erosion, livestock damage, rodent damage, debris around the inlet, and undesirable tree growth. Prompt action when any of these hazards are noticed may avoid costly major repair later.

WAVE action and other erosion around a pond can usually be controlled by vegetation such as Reed's canary grass if established soon enough. If this type of damage is not repaired quickly, a more expensive remedy such as riprap or rock fill is needed.

LIVESTOCK can severely damage the grass cover on an earth fill dam by overgrazing. Often, the lush growth on the dam makes excellent pasture and grazing helps control weed and tree growth if practiced in moderation. Mowing the area around a pond also discourages weeds and trees and promotes a dense sod. Periodic fertilization will encourage a lush grass cover around the pond.

THE roots of water-loving trees can cause damage to structure drainage systems and spillways. All woody growth should be controlled for a distance of 30 feet from the toe of the fill or any of the spillways.

ANY debris left near the spillway after a rain should be removed as soon as possible. A few minutes spent doing this may eliminate many costly hours needed to clear a clogged pipe.

MUSKRATS can cause severe damage to the earth fill. Whenever muskrat activity is found, steps should be taken to discourage them.

WHATEVER type of maintenance is needed, Cordes said, the local Soil Conservation District will be glad to give assistance. Contact them early for work to be done next year.

IOWA county land owners desiring to plant any trees next spring should make their order out by February to assure delivery of the species preferred.

THERE are various seedling species of evergreens and deciduous trees available from the state forest nursery at Ames for a minimal cost.

A MINIMUM of 500 plants may be ordered with a minimum of 250 plants per species. The exception to this is black walnut with a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 1500 species.

A special wildlife packet is available which contains 250 plants including 50 evergreens, 50 ninebark, 25 honeysuckle, 50 dogwood, 25 multiflora rose, and 50 other plants beneficial to wildlife. Illustrative suggestions for odd areas and farm pond plantings will be furnished with each order. The wildlife packet may be ordered without meeting the 500 plant minimum.

ORDER forms for the trees may be obtained from the conservation officer, Soil Conservation service office, county extension director, or the ASCS office.

WE are now starting a new year, we hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and will have a pleasant new year.

THIS is the time to start thinking about your conservation plans for the coming year. Maybe you'd like to fill that ditch you've been farming around for the past several years, finally do a little contouring you've been thinking about trying, or construct some terraces to stop the silt that has been collecting along your fence at the bottom of the slope. Possibly you'd like to provide water to the livestock by building a farm pond. Whatever your needs or plans, stop at your local Soil Conservation Service office for technical advice or assistance.

MUCH of our time from now until spring is concentrated on developing conservation farm plans with Iowa county farmers. This is one of the services we provide land owners in the county.

ALL of us believe in conservation or at least most of us; however, we sometimes forget to look in our own back yard and ask, "What can I do to conserve the soil and water on my farm?" Did you know that on a given soil type with a 4% field slope 200 feet long you will lose 34.6 tons of topsoil per acre? By contouring, it is reduced to 17.3 tons per acre and by strip cropping it is reduced to 8.6 tons per acre. When tile inlet terraces are constructed the soil loss is considered to be less than 1 ton per acre. (These figures are based on continuous follow and a soil type considered to have an allowable loss of 3-4 tons of soil per acre per year.)

MANY people don't realize how much soil they are losing until they have developed a conservation plan helping them to better understand the needs and potential of the soils on their farm.

THE objective of conservation planning is the attainment of sound soil, water, and plant use. The conservation planning process is systematic decision making, based upon a logical evaluation of the alternatives for land use and treatment. It must involve a careful inventory of the soil and water resources to determine the best practices from a conservation and economic viewpoint.

THE conservation plan will include a soils inventory and capability map. This includes all of the soils on the farm and their recommended use. An aerial photograph of the farm with the field divisions, field numbers and approximate acres in each is included. Each field will have indicated the proper land use.

HOW do you get a conservation plan? First you sign a cooperative agreement with the Soil Conservation District indicating your desire to conserve the soil and water on your farm. Then we order the aerial photos of your farm. When we receive the photographs, we discuss with you your cropping rotations, field boundaries and planned conservation practices. This information is written up along with any recommendations we may have. When it is completed, a copy is given to the landowner and operator, if it is a rental farm, and we keep a copy in our files. If the plan is outdated in a few years, it is then revised.

THE last step in developing a

plan, and most important, is the responsibility of the farmer. We can spend hours developing a conservation plan but if it is not used or developed it is a waste of time.

THIS is meant to be your plan and not ours. It is a long range plan through which we hope the farmer will ultimately have the soil and water on his farm controlled by accomplishing one thing each year or as time and finances permit.

SPECIFIC discussion topics will include analyses of the 1970 Iowa crop seasons, conservation-related legislative issues, conservation in urban areas, and mass communications and agriculture.

THIS year's short course will emphasize grass-land agriculture, resource development, education for resource conservation, and environmental concerns.

THE annual short course is an educational program aimed at helping soil conservation district commissioners in their effort to conserve the natural resources of the state.

THE Iowa soil conservation district commissioners will hold their 26th annual short course on the Iowa State university campus January 19 and 20.

Conservation Comments

ONE of the big national concerns of agriculture today is environmental quality or pollution control. The total effort to clean up the environment may have convinced you that something has to be done at any cost. But did you ever think that it might have some economic benefits to you as an individual?

Think about it a little, and you probably will agree that the conservation minded farmer is often the prosperous farmer, while the man with less concern for the countryside can be the man who is losing money because he is wasting and despoiling the land.

Here's a list of farming practices that will improve the environment and at the same time lead to more profitable farming. Let's look at the conservation and economic value of each of them.

1. Prevent soil erosion on your farm. The sheer physical loss of soil in windstorms or hard rains is well known. In the humid regions of the United States some soils have lost six inches of topsoil in their first 100 years of cropping. In the "dustbowl" of the 30's, whole farms blew away on the strong, dry winds.

The U.S. Soil Conservation service waged an effective campaign for erosion control in the 30's, 40's and 50's, and many farmers healed the scars of erosion and were able to again make a living from their land.

Today, farmers are being told that soil sedimentation is our worst environmental problems in

the rural areas. Soil sediments are the main carriers of phosphorus and nitrogen into surface waters. On gently sloping land with no conservation practices a pound of phosphorus lost from every acre can pollute the surface water. The best way to prevent this kind of water contamination is to practice good conservation methods.

Stop stream pollution through better soil saving methods, and at the same time you will be doing a better job of managing your land.

2. Don't spread manure on frozen sloping land. Manure spread daily on frozen fields can result in loss of two to five pounds of phosphorus and up to 20 pounds of nitrogen per acre washed into the streams, farm ponds and lakes where it causes weeds and algae to thrive and pollute the water.

Manure itself has value, and a 20 acre field could lose 100 pounds of phosphorus and 400 pounds of nitrogen worth \$40. It makes sense to prevent water pollution and put a few more dollars in your pocket.

3. Don't overuse nitrogen fertilizer. Because nitrogen is relatively cheap, many farmers "pour it on" to get a bigger crop. The crop can only use a certain amount, and the excess usually ends up in the groundwater, lakes, ponds or streams.

If you apply 300 pounds of nitrogen per acre and take off only 150 pounds of nitrogen in your corn crop, 150 pounds of nitrogen go to waste. On a 20-acre field, that's a ton and a half of nitrogen worth \$200. Doesn't it seem to be good business to save yourself some money while you are also keeping the environment clean?

4. Leave some land in the wild state. Hedge rows, marshes or woodlots in their natural state enhance the environment for wildlife

and beautify the countryside.

The economic value? You might provide good hunting or camping, which could bring in outside income. Or an undisturbed farm forest will get a chance to develop into profitable forest products.

5. Improve the total appearance of your farm through good conservation practices. This final point may seem to have only psychological value to you as an owner or manager. But the fact is that the conservation farm has an overall higher value than the farm where conservation is not practiced.

Good practices increase productivity of every acre. The same amount of land can carry more livestock and support more people. If you are in the business where

customers stop to use your land, to buy livestock or to harvest your crops, your well-kept lands and farmstead will be an attraction.

That's the positive economics of conservation farming. There's a negative economic side, of course. For example, it takes extra money to build a manure holding pit, to terrace a sloping field, to build a dam across a gully or to replace a faulty well. But some of these costs are already being at least partially subsidized by government cost-sharing under the federal Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP).

And though some conservation practices may cost money in the short run, they will make money for you over a period of years.

April, 1971

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

IN the latest issue of the Successful Farming magazine there is an article telling the importance of topsoil depth. A comparison was made on two soils with the same conditions except for topsoil depth; one soil 8-10" deep, the other 18-20" deep. Over a six year period, the deep soil averaged 23 bushels per acre more than the normal soil. During the dry seasons, yields were consistently better in the deeper soil.

WITH spring coming on and the field work begins, why not try some contouring or contour strip-cropping. On a given slope, rotation contouring reduces your soil loss of 50% and strip cropping reduces it by 75%. That is "potential profit."

MARCH and April is also a good time to be planting a farmstead windbreak or other trees and shrubs for wildlife. Windbreaks can reduce these cold north winds protect your house and livestock protect farm yards from drifting snow, provide protection for wildlife and greatly improve the appearance of a farmstead.

COST sharing for these conservation practices is available through the ASCS with technical assistance provided by the SCS.

SEVERAL landowners have received assistance in developing conservation plans this winter. Those receiving this assistance since Jan. 1 are: Rudy Schroeder, Dean Ward, Virgil Schmidt, La Verne Ebel, Gilbert Meyer, Dairyl

Faas, Marion Marine, George Ketterling, John R. Tandy, Basil Davis, Wilbur Litwiller.

Conservation Comments

Three Iowa county commissioners, Harold Sherman, Don Eash, Fred White, and Conservation Technician, Clem McBride, attended the Commissioners Short Course at Ames Jan. 19.

A film was shown by Dean Floyd Ande on the University from its small beginning, with very few students, to its present enrollment. Other speakers discussed planned development, plant disease, and resource development.

Charles Laverty, State Senator from Indianola and Representative Andrew Varley from Stuart presented the proposed Conservancy Bill. This bill establishes and provides for administration of six conservancy districts which will include the entire state of Iowa. These districts will have no authority to levee taxes but are created to help control effectively soil erosion and prevent siltation of Iowa's lakes and streams. This bill also requires local soil conservation commissioners to inspect private land and determine what practices are needed and direct that they be established in conformity with district regulations and to obtain a Court Order in case of noncompliance to require compliance. The affected land owners would have the right to appear in court to show cause why they should not be required to comply with the regulations set by the commissioners. The proposed cost share would be 75%.

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

This has been a month of conservation contest and tours.

Since the Scouts have been working on a special project called SOAR, Save Our American Resources, we conducted a conservation tour for some Boy Scouts in Williamsburg. We hope they were consequently better prepared for their demonstrations May 15.

The junior high students from the Lutheran interparish school in Williamsburg were also given a conservation tour. They saw some tile being installed, a waterway under construction, contour strip-cropping, tile inlet terraces, and a farm pond.

A conservation art contest was held May 14 with over 400 entries. Our congratulations goes to the winners and our appreciation goes to the teachers and students who helped make it a success.

Many of you have probably received our annual report by now. We hope you will take the time to read it and discuss it with us if you have any questions.

The application of conservation practices seems to be progressing fairly well. Although there haven't been too many completed there has been several applications for conservation work. Although we don't like to see these heavy rains, they prove the need for more conservation practices in many places.

If you have applied for government assistance on control feedlot runoff, don't lose hope. We recently received specifications for this practice so we will be in touch with you in the near future. Our S.C.S. area engineer is in charge of these and he has 12 counties to service, so it all takes awhile.

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

MANY Iowans are discovering a recreation bonus from ponds of water built primarily for flood prevention and gully control, according to Wilson T. Moon of the USDA Soil Conservation service.

State Conservationist Moon says that 261 ponds, all built since 1958 as part of the small watershed program under Public Law 566, are being used for everything from fishing and camping to swimming and water skiing. He expects people to use the 1600 acres of newly-created surface water more this year than ever before.

These ponds have been built in 29 watersheds located in 20 different Soil Conservation Districts, mostly in the southwest part of Iowa. While most have a surface area of five to ten acres, one in Pony Creek Watershed in Mills County has 83 acres.

"Technically, they are not recreation ponds but sediment storage areas", says Dewey Bondurant, SCS State Conservation Engineer. "All 261 structures have been built to control gullies and provide downstream floodwater protection. The sediment storage areas are designed to catch and hold sediment from the area for 50 years, but could last even longer if terraces, permanent vegetation and other good land treatment practices are put on the land draining into the ponds. Most of this time, the ponds should be excellent for recreation."

Fishing is the primary recreation activity. Moon says nearly all the ponds have been stocked, adding that last year he got reports of excellent bass and bluegill fishing. Some of the ponds along public roads and in parks are accessible to the public, but most are located on private land. Moon cautions fishermen to get permission from landowners, for they have the right to keep people off their property. He adds, however, that most landowners will allow fishing if the people ask permission.

Ducks and geese are using the bodies of water, too, according to SCS State Biologist Sylvan Runkel. Runkel says the structures in western Iowa in particular are good for duck and goose hunting. Many of these are along the Missouri flyway.

"Any time you create new bodies of water, you boost one of the essential requirements for wildlife," Runkel explains. "This includes pheasant and quail, and larger species like deer." Last year Runkel and his son each bagged a deer from a brush area below a watershed structure in western Iowa.

Summer recreation use of the

ponds is growing fast. In the Davis Battle Creek Watershed, for example, the pond on the Ralph Oldham and Ralph Gorham land was so popular that the Monona County Conservation Board leased the area. The Conservation Board constructed picnic tables, a boat dock, a raft, two bath houses, sanitary facilities, a sand beach, and night lighting for the area. A one-half mile access road was also constructed. Picnic tables, a boat dock, of 50 people use the area each weekday in the summer and on weekends as many as 150 people use it.

In the Pony Creek watershed, the Mills County Conservation board has acquired and developed a 20-acre park adjacent to an 83-acre impoundment. Roads, picnic tables, playground facilities, toilets, and trailer parking facilities have been installed.

Eldon and John Stroberg have developed recreation facilities around Site A-3 in the Blockton Watershed in the Taylor County Soil Conservation district. Picnic facilities, a well, a swimming beach and diving board, and toilets have been installed. Trees have been planted around the 10-acre pond, too. The area is lighted and has a gravel access road. As many as 200 people have used the Strobbergs' popular recreation area on summer days.

Under Public Law 566, local watershed sponsors can get additional water storage for recreation and fish and wildlife purposes by paying for half the cost of the water above the requirements for gully control and flood prevention. Two stipulations are that the pond be at least 50 acres and that the public be allowed access to the

pond. Five local sponsors are including these structures in their watershed plant now.

The ponds may also furnish hunting and trapping opportunities. Waterfowl use many of the ponds during migration. Pheasants may also use the fringe area around the ponds. Muskrats occasionally overpopulate a pond and endanger the dam by burrowing, and landowners may welcome trappers.

Many other ponds have been constructed on Iowa farms which provide recreation opportunities similar to the watershed ponds.

Cost-sharing through the Rural Environmental Assistance Program of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service has assisted many farmers in pond construction. In northwest Iowa, numerous structures with substantial reservoir areas have been constructed under the Little Sioux Flood Prevention Project administered by the Soil Conservation Service. In certain locations, the Iowa Conservation Commission has assisted farmers in constructing ponds to protect existing state-owned lakes.

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

July 1971 CONSERVATION COMMENTS

A LEGISLATIVE bill has been passed by both houses and signed by the Governor. This bill is House File 73, commonly referred to as the Conservancy District Law. Governor Ray signed the bill into law on May 28. It became effective July 1.

THE main purpose of the bill is to control sediment when it becomes a nuisance and is creating damage. Sediment can be declared a nuisance and abated as such after due process. However, no landowner can be forced to install permanent soil conservation practices unless 75% public cost-sharing funds are available.

JUNE marks the end for the Soil Conservation service. You might be interested in knowing the accomplishments of some major practices in the county. Since July 1, 1970, there have been 50 landowners indicating a desire to conserve the soil and water on their farms by signing up as "district cooperators". 30 conservation plans were developed, 10 revised plans were completed, 2239 additional acres were contoured, 19,612 feet of diversion terraces were constructed, 15 farm ponds, 11 erosion control structures, 165 acres of waterway shaping, 330 new acres were strip cropped, 606,000 feet of tile was installed, and 6000 feet of terraces were constructed. The number of terraces installed were much less than we had hoped for, however several thousand feet were started that won't be completed until fall.

TERRACING is the only permanent conservation practice that can keep the soil on the farm ground where it belongs. Other practices control only one small area or a ditch. With the tile inlet type terraces, many crooked rows and point rows are eliminated, improving 30-40 inches with leaves ex-times, the need for expensive concrete structures are eliminated by terrace construction. We hope to see many more Iowa county farmers trying these terraces.

Soil and Water Conservation Week
Iowa farmers and land owners are doing something positive about improving the quality of the environment

They have created over 35,000 acres of water area in Iowa over the past few years in the form of small farm ponds. Wilson T. Moon, state conservationist, U.S. Soil Conservation service, said while most ponds are built primarily for livestock water, almost all of them are used for other purposes too. Most of them are stocked with bass and channel catfish. Many of the ponds are excellent for boating and swimming.

Moon said over 1,000 such ponds were constructed last year in Iowa. Many farmers are further developing the pond areas for wildlife by tree, shrub, and grass plantings in fenced areas around the ponds.

In commenting on the 34th annual observance of Soil and Water Conservation week, June 20-27, Moon said 71,000 farmers have conservation plans designed to control erosion and improve the total environment.

The terraces built on Iowa farms last year, if laid end to end, would reach from Des Moines to New Orleans. Fifty-seven thousand miles of terraces now protect Iowa's hill-sides from erosion, her lakes from sedimentation, and the streams from harmful pollutants.

Soil Conservation districts are actively encouraging the planting of trees not only to control erosion but to provide environmental improvement. Farmstead windbreaks are popular in Iowa. They not only provide a barrier against cold wintry blasts, they are designed for use by wildlife as well.

The inclusion of landscaping trees and shrubs also adds beauty to the landscape. Over 1,500 acres of trees are planted annually on individual farms.

Moon said soil and water conservation has become a major enterprise in Iowa. There are 875 contractors who do soil conservation work either full or part-time.

In 1970 there was \$19 million dollars spent in the installation of conservation practices on Iowa farms.

The problems of managing soil and water are found both in the city and the countryside. Land use is changing rapidly especially around expanding urban areas. Vegetative cover is removed, natural drainage patterns broken, and soils are used for new purposes. Soil Conservation Districts can now provide assistance in solving erosion problems connected with urban development. Interpretation of soil surveys can be made for city planners, residential and industrial developers and realtors to assist them in selecting suitable sites for development.

Soil scientists of the Soil Conservation service cooperating with the Iowa agricultural experiment station are involved in one of the nation's most active soil survey programs. Over 28 million acres have been surveyed to date. The Iowa state legislature has made \$100,000 available annually since 1967 to the State Soil Conservation committee for acceleration of soil surveys. In addition, 25 counties have made financial commitments to supplement federal and state assistance in completion of the survey program in their county.

October 1971 CONSERVATION COMMENTS

The Soil Conservation service, Forest service, and Economic Research service are cooperatively working on a watershed approach on the Iowa and Cedar rivers. The basin includes the area from Austin and Albert Lea, Minn., through Mason City, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Marshalltown, Iowa City and Burlington. The land included is 12,970 square miles of which about fourfifths is in cropland. Planners have divided the basin into 117 small watersheds for making the study more effective. The problems are flooding and sedimentation that cause about \$4 million damage each year, erosion that is a problem on over two million acres amounting to \$1 million, impaired drainage on six million acres and about 40% of the 415,000 acres of woodland needs more management for more productivity. Sediment accumulation in the Coralville reservoir has pointed out how better sediment control measures are needed upstream. The study will consider all land and water quality resources within the basin.

The Iowa county commissioners attended the 25th annual conference for Soil Conservation District Commissioners in Des Moines on Sept. 12, 13, 14. Program highlights included soil conservation speech finals, address by Dr. Cecil Wadliegh from the Washington SCS office and awards to long-time workers in conservation. Harold Higgins presided at the meeting which completed his one year term as president of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation district commissioners.

Tile inlet terraces are now under construction on Raymond Britton's farm in Greene township. Carl Schnebbe in Hilton township has recently completed some similar terraces on his farm, with more to be constructed after harvest. Raymond Britton's terraces will have farmable backslope, while Carl Schnebbe's have the steep grass backslope terrace. Anyone who is interested in terraces should visit either of these men or stop in at the Soil Conservation Service office.

Conservation practices that have been completed since July 1 are:

Windbreaks: Heitshusen Turkey Farm, Danny L. Albert, and Robert Durr.

Ponds: Hedrick Brothers, Rudy Schroeder, Leonard J. Smith, George Schindler, Harvey Maas, and Donald Westcott.

Structures: Anton Huedepohl and George Hinrichs.

Terraces: Dale Noyes and Harold Sherman.

Diversion Terraces: Marie Ayres, Clyde McElhinney, and Leonard Lower.

Waterways: Leonard J. Steele, Raymond Morrison, Gertrude Foubert, Anton Huedepohl, Ed Burman, Willard Hagen, Harvey Burgy, George Hinrichs, Larry Davis, Willie Schropp, J. O. Wickham, Everett Schlesselman, George Schindler, Mellen Schmidt, and Marvin Kilberger.

November 1971 CONSERVATION COMMENTS

Environmental thrust is the name of a new effort by U.S.D.A. to stimulate action to improve natural resources. Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin has announced the availability of a new handbook of suggested environmental projects, and has committed Department of Agriculture personnel to assist local leaders with community improvement programs.

To date, the campaign leaders in Iowa county are vocational agriculture instructors, Farmers Home administration, county extension director, ASCS, and the Soil Conservation service.

The handbook outlines lists of objectives, suggestions for work plans, criteria for evaluating effectiveness, and available resources for each project. The following subjects are covered:

Safe Drinking Water, Sanitary Landfills, Trash and Junk Removal, Sewage Disposal, Animal Waste Disposal, Land Use Planning, Landscape Improvement, Protecting the Landscape, Pesticide Safety, Safeguarding Food Quality, Disposal of Pesticide Wastes, Improving Recreation Resources, Improving Rural Housing, Noise Reduction, Controlling Ticks in Recreation Areas, Controlling Poison Ivy, Oak, and Sumac, Controlling Aquatic Weeds, Brush Control, Controlling Poisonous Plants, Controlling Ragweed.

If anyone has projects or a particular interest in some way of improving the environmental, contact anyone of the Department of Agriculture offices.



Rotation, Stable Manure Only Soil Efforts During WWI Era

By Doris McCartney
Gazette Correspondent

MILLERSBURG— Rotation and stable manure were the only standard soil conservation efforts practiced by most farmers in the World war I era, D. H. Zentmire told a gathering of 40 last Sunday afternoon at a Lake Iowa picnic.

The event marked the 25th observance of the Iowa county soil conservation service, the 55th organized in the state.

"Other methods were untried," the former veteran Iowa county extension director said.

As one of his numerous duties in 1918, Dee Zentmire planned with Lambert Elwood, of Williamsburg, a ditch filling project.

The wire-dirt-brush fill prevented further erosion but the team's experience later proved that they had labored in reverse to solve the soil runoff, since they had begun at the bottom of the ditch.

However, that same year, another three successful ditch projects were finished.

At least three farmers became enthused on limestone spreading by wagon box or spreader the next year, Zentmire's records indicate. Among them were: Hank Ploughman, of Conroy, George Marsh, of Pilot township, and R. Edwards, near Williamsburg.

"The word got out that some farmers had begun scattering rocks on their acres and had rocks in their head," Zentmire claimed.

The limestone was free then, except for the freight costs. In the beginning, eleven farmers spread 970 tons in one year and from 1920-30, a total of 12,700 tons of the product covered county farms.

From 1938 to 1945, the supervisors purchased the limestone with the county agent acting as administrator of the program. A total of 15,423 tons at an average cost of \$1.47 per ton appears on Zentmire's ledgers as he adjusted to the added task of dealing with the farmers on this project.

Under the supervision of Paul Burson, from 1936 to 1949, Iowa county shared a full time technician with Tama, Benton and Poweshiek counties. The state paid Burson's salary, while the counties shared the travel expenses.

Stepped up conservation methods, including contour fields, terraces, strip cropping and tree plantings were evident under Burson's years. One of the first terraces and

strip cropping appeared on the Sylvester Sherman farm in Honey Creek township. In Greene township, the first terrace improved the Charles Patterson farm.

The advent of World war II halted the soil conservation program because of the lack of available technicians and funds. By 1945, the farmers were expressing their hopes for a soil conservation district, Zentmire said.

Petitions calling for the county service were signed by 503 farmers, and on June 8, 1945, election results showed 164 favoring the organization while only eight farmers rejected the proposal.

Early commissioners were: Earl Morse, Jess Misbach, Richard Owen, Ed Kinsey and Henry Morse.

Following World War II and the Korean war, some 350 veterans enrolled in farm classes taught by Howard Watkins (14 years) and Ed Kinsey (eight years).

During the depression years, Lambert Elwood recalled that a couple of farmers paid for the lumber re-

quired in building forms used on constructing water structures. Modest rental fees were charged to the farmers and the forms circulated until unusable.

One of the most eventful demonstrations planned by Zentmire was held on the Elwood Brothers farm, southwest of Williamsburg, during the plague of the cinch bugs. Elwood said that a group of 15-20 farmers was expected.

By the end of the day, nearly 500 visitors had converged on the farm to watch the furrow-fence post-creosote treatment, promoted to destroy the insects.

"That evening the well had gone dry and the fences were sagging," Elwood sighed.

Former Iowa county soil conservation technician Charles Shirley, who recently transferred to Franklin county, summed up reports, saying: "Success in the local district can be measured through steady cooperation, enthusiasm by all the farm operators and the active educational program being promoted by the commissioners."

Zentmire Tells History Of Soil Conservation

D. H. Zentmire traced the history of soil conservation in Iowa county from 1918 through the formation of the Soil Conservation Service district in 1945 for those who attended the silver anniversary of the SCS Sunday.

Zentmire, retired county extension director, told of the early efforts to get limestone, then gradual use of commercial fertilizers, operation of the old C. C. C. program, the first terraces, strip crop, etc.

Trophies were awarded to the winners of the SCS sponsored art contest although neither Jim Thys who is hospitalized recovering from an injury received getting his foot caught in an elevator, nor Connie Dietze who were winners were able to attend.

About 35 attended the picnic at Lake Iowa including former technicians Charles Shirley, Hampton, and Edward Edwards, Rudd, and their wives, the current technician and his wife, the Rick Cordes'. A number of former commissioners were also there. Currently serving as commissioners are Harold Sherman, Richard Mouchka, Don Eash, Fred White and Vernon Sandersfeld with Carl Selby and David McCartney assistant commissioners.

The regional SCS meeting and speech contest will be held at the Ox Yoke Inn Monday, July 20, beginning with a 6 p.m. dinner. Robert Murphy, Parnell, Iowa county winner, will give his speech which he also gave for the members at the picnic Sunday.



—Photo by Doris McCartney, Millersburg

EARLY SUPPORTERS — Some of the early supporters of the Iowa county soil conservation district gathered at Lake Iowa last weekend at the 25th anniversary picnic. They included, left to right, seated: Howard Watkins, Marengo; Ed Kinsey, Marengo; and D. H. Zentmire, Marengo, veteran Iowa county extension director. Standing are Howard Beyer, Belle Plaine, left, and Lambert Elwood, Williamsburg.

Soil Conservation District Celebrates 25 Years Service

On June 22, 1945, Iowa's Secretary of State signed the charter making the Iowa county Soil Conservation district a subdivision of the state and the 55th county in Iowa to be recognized as such.

The commissioners of the district at the time the charter was signed were Earl W. Morse, Marengo; the late J. D. Misbach, Williamsburg; and R. G. Owen, North English. The first commissioners meeting was held Aug. 16, 1945, with Morse, Misbach, Owen, W. J. B. Boatman, W. T. Maakestad, R. A. Denzler and D. H. Zentmire present.

In the past 25 years there has been 20 Iowa county farmers who have served as a district commissioner or an assistant commissioner.

Several changes in the soil conservation district have taken place in the past 25 years. Two of the most recent and important changes include changing the number of commissioners from three to five and very recently, including towns and cities in the district.

July 12, the Iowa county dis-

trict will be celebrating its 25th year by inviting all of the past commissioners, assistant commissioners, SCS personnel, and anyone who has assisted the district during its years of existence, to a picnic dinner for reviewing and reminiscing the past 25 years.

April 22, 1971
Williamsburg J-T

Soil Conservation District Sponsors Art Contest May 14

The Iowa County Soil Conservation district is sponsoring a conservation art contest to be held from 7 to 9 p.m. May 14 at the Williamsburg town hall.

The elementary grades will be judged separately from the junior and senior high grades. The judging will be based on artistic techniques, conservation content, general effect and its typicalness to Iowa County.

The first, second, and third place winners of the elementary level will receive a plaque and \$7.50, \$5.00, \$3.00, respectively. The three winners of the junior and senior high level will each receive a plaque and \$20.00, \$15.00, and \$10.00. The public is invited to view the art projects.

June 1971
Iowa County Farmer

Winners in Soil Conservation Art Contest Announced

Winning entries of the Iowa County Soil Conservation Art contest were Bonnie McCraw, H-L-V; Linda Lockridge, English Valley, and Shelley Risdon, Williamsburg. They placed first, second and third respectively, in the high school level. Nancy Voss, Williamsburg community school; Mark Logan, English Valley, and Jan Rathjen, Iowa Valley, placed first, second and third in the elementary level.

The winners will each receive a plaque and \$20, \$15, and \$10 for first, second, and third place in the high school level, and \$7.50, \$5 and \$3 for the elementary level.

English Valley, Williamsburg, Iowa Valley and H-L-V schools were each represented by contestants. The combined entries from the schools totaled over 400. Judges were Mrs. Wayne Stanerson, Larry Aurich, and Rick Cordes.

June 3, 1971
North English Record

Linda Lockridge, Mark Logan Win S. C. Art Contest

Winning entries of the Iowa County Soil Conservation Art contest were: Bonnie McCraw, HLV; Linda Lockridge, English Valleys, and Shelley Risdon, Williamsburg. They placed first, second and third respectively, in the high school level.

Nancy Voss, Williamsburg community school; Mark Logan, English Valleys, and Jan Rathjen, Iowa Valley, placed first, second and third in the elementary level.

The winners will each receive a plaque and \$20, \$15, and \$10 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the high school level, and \$7.50, \$5 and \$3 for the elementary level.

English Valleys, Williamsburg, Iowa Valley and HLV schools were each represented by contestants. The combined entries from the schools totaled over 400. Judges were Mrs. Wayne Stanerson, Larry Aurich, and Rick Cordes.

Pioneer-Republican June 3, 1971



HE'S PLEASED—Jon Rathjen, an Iowa Valley sixth grader, received his plaque and check for \$3 for third place in the Soil Conservation Service sponsored art contest from Don Goering, county extension director. Jon is son of Larry Rathjens. His chalk drawing on bulletin board shows a number of conservation practices.

Sherman Is Chosen Outstanding Regional Soil Conservation Director

Harold Sherman, chairman of the Iowa County Soil Conservation district, has been chosen as outstanding district commissioner in region 7.

This contest is sponsored by the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation district commissioners in cooperation with Wallaces Farmer magazine, Des Moines.

Sherman has served as district commissioner since his first election June 15, 1959. Since this time he has served as chairman twice and has served on the forestry committee, nominating committee for district commissioner's state officers, speaker for a wagon train at the conser-

vation field day at Eldora, and was a judge for the state plowing match in Benton county.

He has been active on many community projects and committees. This includes chairman of the Marengo school board, elder of the Presbyterian church, Sunday school superintendent, township trustee, served on a 4-H club committee, and on the Iowa County Beef Producers board.

A state winner will be selected from the nine regional winners. All nine regional winners will be presented a plaque by Wallace Farmer at the annual conference in Waterloo.

Pioneer Republican
July 30, 1970

Muscatine Girl Wins Conservation Speech Contest At Amana

Kathy Krewer, 16, of Muscatine was named winner of the region 7 Soil Conservation speech contest held July 20 at Amana. She received a certificate and a check for \$25 as first place awards.

Second place honors in the contest went to Mary Lou Schnack, Cedar county Soil Conservation district representative who received a certificate and a check for \$15.

Robert Murphy, son of the Raymond Murphys of Parnell, represented the Iowa county district.

County Conservation Air Tour, July 26th

A Conservation Air Tour, sponsored by the Iowa County Soil Conservation District, is being held July 26, 1970 at the Ladora Airport beginning at 9:00 a. m. and will last throughout the afternoon.

The flying tour is open to all Iowa County residents who would like to view their farms or anything else from the air during a 15 minute ride.

County Winners Named In Annual Conservation Contest

The local winners of the soil conservation contest awards were chosen last week by the district commissioners.

There are three divisions for the contest: division I, longtime soil conservation district cooperator; division II, tenant operated farm; and division III, new cooperator during the year 1968 or later.

The local winners are Kenneth Dawson, division I; Jay Roller and Norman King, division II; and Robert Durr, division III.

The scoring is based on correct land use, conservation work accomplished, crop utilization of the farm, community service in the soil conservation district program, and the general appearance of the farm.

A conservation teacher is also sponsored by the same contest. Harold Bezoni, Williamsburg school, was chosen by the education committee as the county winner. Other teachers that were nominated and deserve recognition

include Mrs. Ford, HLV; and Stacy Howell, Amana.

The winners of the local contest will go to the regional one for judging and the winners at the regional go on to compete at the state level.

Kathy Krewer, 16, Wins Conservation Speech Honors

Miss Kathy Krewer, 16, of Muscatine, was named winner of the Region 7 Soil Conservation Speech Contest held July 20, 1970 at the Ox Yoke Inn at Amana, Iowa. Kathy represented the Muscatine County Soil Conservation District in the regional competition and received a certificate and a check for \$25.00 as first place awards. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gailard Krewer.

Second place honors in the contest went to 14-year-old Mary Lou Schnack, of Cedar County.

Third place honors went to 10-year old James Everett of Winfield, of the Louisa County Soil Conservation District.

The Iowa County Soil Conservation representative in the contest was Robert Murphy of Parnell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Murphy.

As winner of the Region 7 contest, Miss Krewer will represent the region in the state contest at Waterloo, Iowa, on September 13, 1970. The state contest will be held in conjunction with the 1970 Annual Conference for Soil Conservation District Commissioners. Top prize in this contest is a \$250 college scholarship and \$100 in cash.

Art Contest Is Sponsored By Conservation

The Iowa County Soil Conservation District is sponsoring a conservation art contest to be held from 7 to 9 p.m. May 27 at the civic center in Parnell.

The elementary grades will be judged separately from the junior and senior high grades. The judging will be based on artistic techniques, conservation content, general effect and its typicalness to Iowa county.

The first, second and third place winners of the elementary level will receive a trophy and \$7.50, \$5, \$3 respectively. The three winners of the junior and senior high level will each receive a trophy and \$20, \$15, and \$10.

The public is invited to view the art projects.

First Place Art Contest Winners Are Announced

Jim Thys and Connie Driscoll were first place winners of the conservation art contest for the high school and elementary levels.

Charlene Aurich and Becky Dietze were second and third place winners, respectively, on the high school level. The second place winner on the elementary level was Tom Spratt and Liz Collier third.

Judging was based on the artistic technique, conservation content, general effect and being typical of Iowa county. Judges were Mrs. Wayne Stanerson, Marengo, and co-owner of Home Decorating; Rick Cordes, district conservationist, and Robert Bauer, professional artist.

The contest was sponsored by the Iowa county Soil Conservation district. Harold Sherman, chairman of the district commissioners, said that holding such a contest creates interest and an awareness of the beauty and need of conservation. The district plans to present the trophies and checks to the contest winners July 12 at the 25th anniversary of the Iowa county district.

The winning entries are on display at the SCS office.

Sherman Named Top District Soil Conservation Commissioner

The Iowa County Soil Conservation District received a 25 year certificate at the 24th annual conference of the Soil Conservation district commissioners.

Harold Sherman, chairman of the Iowa county district commissioners, received an award as outstanding district commissioner region seven. There are nine regions in Iowa.

The petition for organization of the Iowa County Soil Conservation district was sent to the Iowa Soil Conservation committee Apr. 28, 1945. The state

committee held the hearing May 11, 1945. The referendum was held June 8, 1945, with 164 votes for formation of the district and eight dissenting votes.

The charter for the district was issued by the Secretary of State June 22, 1945. W. J. Boatman, district conservationist at Toledo, supervised the beginning activities of the Soil Conservation Service and Howard Oak, district conservationist at Iowa City, assumed this post later. D. H. Zentmire was the county extension director.



Harold Sherman
Region 7

HAROLD SHERMAN farms 280 acres near Ladora in Iowa county. His livestock program includes 30 beef cows, feeding beef, and raising 400 hogs. He has been named Master Swine producer and has won corn yield contests.

Conservation practices on his land include a windbreak, grass waterways, field border plantings, and terraces. He has served 11 yr. as a commissioner, including 2 as chairman. Along with other activities, he has served on state committees and as a judge for a state plowing match.

The Shermans have 3 sons; Richard, now a professional musician; Don who is working for an advanced degree in metallurgy; and Alan who is a research engineer. They also have 5 grandchildren.

SOIL - and Our Standard of Living

(by Booth Wallentine)

Next to its people, America's greatest resource is the soil. And the quality of life in our country is directly related to the quality of our soil and water.

That's why soil and water conservation is everybody's business. Farmers do have a major responsibility for preserving the resources they control. But increasingly, city people must carry the torch for conservation.

Bulldozers strip away the vegetation from a million acres of farmland each year to make way for housing and shopping centers. Construction and soil erosion go hand in hand.

A study in the Washington, D. C. area indicated farmlands lost 100 to 500 tons of topsoil per square mile each year thru sheet erosion. But neighboring suburban areas were losing 1,000 to 2,500 tons of topsoil each square mile in the same period.

In Detroit, construction activity eroded nearly 70 tons of topsoil per acre while surrounding farmlands lost only 1.5 tons per acre. In Fairfax County, Virginia, residential construction sent 25,000 tons of sediment to the bottom of Lake Bancroft for every square mile urbanized in that rapidly growing area.

Motorcyclists and trail bike enthusiasts are adding to the problem with the destruction of watersheds when they ride up and down hillsides.

Under the best conditions a good farmer can rebuild about five tons of top soil per acre each year. But rebuilding topsoil in suburban areas is very difficult, particularly when much of the land is left exposed while housing speculators try to sell it.

This week (June 14-20) is Soil and Water Conservation Week in Iowa.

And because this is a state with more acres under cultivation than half of the other states combined, most of the emphasis will be on farmland conservation.

It may be a good time for some new emphasis on soil and water conservation in the cities and towns.

Erosion Control Planned For Lake Watershed

June 14-21 marks the thirty-third observance of soil and water conservation week in Iowa.

Harold Sherman, chairman of the Iowa county Soil Conservation District, said the activities of the district are no longer confined to the individual farm. The Iowa legislature during the last session recognized that wise use of resources is of equal concern to all citizens regardless of their place of residence. Accordingly, cities and towns are now officially included along with the agricultural lands in each soil conservation district.

Sherman said the environmental issues of today make it doubly important that rural and urban people work together in solving common problems related to resource management.

He said major efforts of the Iowa county district during 1970 will be placed on achieving erosion control within Lake Iowa watershed hoping to improve the lake for all of the county residents.

Other efforts will be placed on encouraging farm owners to construct tile inlet terraces. These give complete erosion control. They stop all of the soil on the field. The terrace temporarily stores the runoff water until it can all drain through the tile inlet. This slows the water allowing it to soak into the soil to help provide the moisture necessary for productive yields. These terraces are somewhat more expensive, however, as one farmer said, "It's well worth it to protect my present investment of \$500 per acre."

Some of the major accomplishments for the past year include 2,191 acres of contouring, 1,042 acres of strip cropping, 29,010 feet of diversion terraces, and 51,065 feet of all other types of terraces.



LOOKS OVER PROGRESS—Rick Cordes, Iowa County Soil Conservationist, was at the Duane Schwarting farm southwest of Homestead Friday morning as the Gahring Construction Company, Williamsburg, did the grading necessary for a grade stabilization structure being built. Cordes was standing where the earth dam would come in from the south. In back of him is another ditch going north which will be controlled by the work being done. A six and one half foot diameter tube will go through the dam east and west to control both ditches. Tile, 3400 feet of it, will also go up both sides of the ditch.

Iowa County Farmer - August 1971

Pond Weed Control Is Presented July 3 at McBride Home

Weed control in farm ponds was described as a three-step program by Extension Wildlife Conservationist Dr. Robert Moorman of Iowa State University.

Talking to approximately 20 Iowa county farm pond owners at a pond management meeting held at the home of Clem McBride on the edge of Williamsburg, Moorman told the group that weed control starts with the design of the farm pond.

He stated that the first step in weed control is to design and build a farm pond that has steeply sloping shores because these have less weed trouble and also have less evaporation loss and makes fishing much easier.

He mentioned that the second step in weed control in farm ponds is to physically pull the weeds out when they first appear in the pond, after the pond is built and in the beginning of each season.

He then outlined the chemical control, stating that this was the last resort in the farm pond weed control program. He did mention

that it is extremely effective.

Compounds that he recommended for the rooted weeds include Aquathol or Diquat, and stated that Copper Sulphate or (a new product) Cutrine is on the market to control the algae which develops in farm ponds. He cautioned pond owners that none of the products mentioned kill fish. However, if ponds are heavily infested with weeds or algae that the decaying algae and weeds remove the oxygen from the water and could possibly cause some fish suffocation if the weed or algae problem is very severe. In this case, he recommended that pond owners treat a third to half of their pond at a time which will allow the water to retain sufficient oxygen for the fish.

He did caution dairy farmers in that they cannot use any chemicals for weed control if their animals are being watered from the pond water.

In discussing time, Moorman suggested that late June or early July is the best time to use the chemicals on the rooted weeds; while algae control is best conducted during June 10-15.

In discussing the stocking of new ponds, Dr. Moorman stated that the U.S. Wildlife and Iowa Conservation commission are currently providing bass and catfish (either separately or in combination) for

farm ponds.

They mentioned a number of other species of fish with some feeling that bluegills could be added to steeply sloping banked ponds to provide bait for the bass.

Bulletins are available at the extension office giving information on farm pond algae and rooted weed control and pond owner interested in this material should contact the Extension Office in Marengo, concluded County Extension Director Don Goering.

Wins Conservation Award



WORK ON PROGRAM—The Robert Durrs, who farm Southwest of Williamsburg, pause in the front yard of their home. The field in back of them across the road tops one of the hills that led to the need for conservation practices on their farm. They have been named the regional award winner in the new cooperator division of the annual soil conservation contest. Their grandson Dale, 3, who make his home with them is photographed with the Durrs.

Pausing on a hilltop on the Robert Durr farm southwest of Williamsburg one can view a number of the conservation practices which he has incorporated in his farming and which won for him the new cooperator regional award in the annual contest sponsored by the Iowa Soil Conservation Service and the Des Moines Register.

Durr will receive his award along with those made to county winners at a banquet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, at the Presbyterian church, Marengo. County winners are Kenneth Dawson, long time cooperator; Jay Roller, owner, and Norman King, tenant, in the owner-tenant division; and Harold Bezon in the teacher category.

From the hill east above their pond the Durrs can look west across the acres toward their home, out of sight by yet another hill. However they easily see the acres of soybeans, corn and hay ground and pasture that they have cleared of brush and timber. Some of the timber area remains along a small unnamed creek which runs through that part of the farm.

Durr has had a one acre farm pond built with an earth dam. The pond has been stocked with catfish, large mouth bass which already weigh about one pound and bull heads. The pond will be open to the public next year Durr said. There is another small pond above the present one which was built before they moved to the farm.

A swimming beach was included in pond construction, but it has not been sanded as yet. A waterway below the pond has

been tiled to the pond over-flow pipe.

The hills in the area were brush and timber covered except for the hill-tops which were cropped when they moved there. Durr bought a caterpillar, and they began the long task of clearing. Timber has been left along the creek and in some of the steeper draws. Elm which they left on purpose now show the ravages of Dutch elm disease. Some of the oak were taken when a pipeline went through the area, a fact about which Durr was none too happy.

He has done some experimental seeding of a royer legume on the hillside.

Deer frequent the area, two doe and their fawns were most frequently seen this summer. Pheasants too gather particularly in the winter. Durr started feeding them on an every other day basis two years ago when ice covered much of their natural feeding area. That year he fed them in the shrubs in their yard, but last year he took the feed to the timber areas by tractor. While 15 to 20 birds would gather at first, later two or three hundred pheasants would be attracted by the feed.

Of the 400 acre farm the Durrs moved to six years ago, they have 116 acres in crop including about 86 acres corn, 14 acres beans, 30 acres hay, 56 diverted acres and the rest pasture and timber. There are 179 acres farmed according to the soil conservation district program said Rick Cordes,

The Pioneer-Republican Of Iowa County

The Pioneer-Republican Photo Features

Marengo, Iowa 52301

Thursday, Oct. 8, 1970

SOIL - and Our Standard of Living

(by Booth Wallentine)

Next to its people, America's greatest resource is the soil. And the quality of life in our country is directly related to the quality of our soil and water.

That's why soil and water conservation is everybody's business. Farmers do have a major responsibility for preserving the resources they control. But increasingly, city people must carry the torch for conservation.

Bulldozers strip away the vegetation from a million acres of farmland each year to make way for housing and shopping centers. Construction and soil erosion go hand in hand.

A study in the Washington, D. C. area indicated farmlands lost 100 to 500 tons of topsoil per square mile each year thru sheet erosion. But neighboring suburban areas were losing 1,000 to 2,500 tons of topsoil each square mile in the same period.

In Detroit, construction activity eroded nearly 70 tons of topsoil per acre while surrounding farmlands lost only 1.5 tons per acre. In Fairfax County, Virginia, residential construction sent 25,000 tons of sediment to the bottom of Lake Bancroft for every square mile urbanized in that rapidly growing area.

Motorcyclists and trail bike enthusiasts are adding to the problem with the destruction of watersheds when they ride up and down hillsides.

Under the best conditions a good farmer can rebuild about five tons of top soil per acre each year. But rebuilding topsoil in suburban areas is very difficult, particularly when much of the land is left exposed while housing speculators try to sell it.

This week (June 14-20) is Soil and Water Conservation Week in Iowa.

And because this is a state with more acres under cultivation than half of the other states combined, most of the emphasis will be on farmland conservation.

It may be a good time for some new emphasis on soil and water conservation in the cities and towns.

Erosion Control Planned For Lake Watershed

June 14-21 marks the thirty-third observance of soil and water conservation week in Iowa.

Harold Sherman, chairman of the Iowa county Soil Conservation District, said the activities of the district are no longer confined to the individual farm. The Iowa legislature during the last session recognized that wise use of resources is of equal concern to all citizens regardless of their place of residence. Accordingly, cities and towns are now officially included along with the agricultural lands in each soil conservation district.

Sherman said the environmental issues of today make it doubly important that rural and urban people work together in solving common problems related to resource management.

He said major efforts of the Iowa county district during 1970 will be placed on achieving erosion control within Lake Iowa watershed hoping to improve the lake for all of the county residents.

Other efforts will be placed on encouraging farm owners to construct tile inlet terraces. These give complete erosion control. They stop all of the soil on the field. The terrace temporarily stores the runoff water until it can all drain through the tile inlet. This slows the water allowing it to soak into the soil to help provide the moisture necessary for productive yields. These terraces are somewhat more expensive, however, as one farmer said, "It's well worth it to protect my present investment of \$500 per acre."

Some of the major accomplishments for the past year include 2,191 acres of contouring, 1,042 acres of strip cropping, 29,010 feet of diversion terraces, and 51,065 feet of all other types of terraces.



LOOKS OVER PROGRESS—Rick Cordes, Iowa County Soil Conservationist, was at the Duane Schwarting farm southwest of Homestead Friday morning as the Gahring Construction Company, Williamsburg, did the grading necessary for a grade stabilization structure being built. Cordes was standing where the earth dam would come in from the south. In back of him is another ditch going north which will be controlled by the work being done. A six and one half foot diameter tube will go through the dam east and west to control both ditches. Tile, 3400 feet of it, will also go up both sides of the ditch.

Iowa County Farmer - August 1971

Pond Weed Control Is Presented July 3 at McBride Home

Weed control in farm ponds was described as a three-step program by Extension Wildlife Conservationist Dr. Robert Moorman of Iowa State university.

Talking to approximately 20 Iowa county farm pond owners at a pond management meeting held at the home of Clem McBride on the edge of Williamsburg, Moorman told the group that weed control starts with the design of the farm pond.

He stated that the first step in weed control is to design and build a farm pond that has steeply sloping shores because these have less weed trouble and also have less evaporation loss and makes fishing much easier.

He mentioned that the second step in weed control in farm ponds is to physically pull the weeds out when they first appear in the pond, after the pond is built and in the beginning of each season.

He then outlined the chemical control, stating that this was the last resort in the farm pond weed control program. He did mention

that it is extremely effective.

Compounds that he recommended for the rooted weeds include Aquathol or Diquat, and stated that Copper Sulphate or (a new product) Cutrine is on the market to control the algae which develops in farm ponds. He cautioned pond owners that none of the products mentioned kill fish. However, if ponds are heavily infested with weeds or algae that the decaying algae and weeds remove the oxygen from the water and could possibly cause some fish suffocation if the weed or algae problem is very severe.

In this case, he recommended that pond owners treat a third to half of their pond at a time which will allow the water to retain sufficient oxygen for the fish.

He did caution dairy farmers in that they cannot use any chemicals for weed control if their animals are being watered from the pond water.

In discussing time, Moorman suggested that late June or early July is the best time to use the chemicals on the rooted weeds; while algae control is best conducted during June 10-15.

In discussing the stocking of new ponds, Dr. Moorman stated that the U.S. Wildlife and Iowa Conservation commission are currently providing bass and catfish (either separately or in combination) for

farm ponds.

They mentioned a number of other species of fish with some feeling that bluegills could be added to steeply sloping banked ponds to provide bait for the bass.

Bulletins are available at the extension office giving information on farm pond algae and rooted weed control and pond owner interested in this material should contact the Extension Office in Marengo, concluded County Extension Director Don Goering.



POND IS NEW—Robert Durr, Williamsburg area farmer, and Rick Cordes, Soil Conservationist, look over some of the conservation practices that won the regional new cooperator award for Durr in the annual soil conservation contest. The pond in back of the men has been stocked with fish and has a swimming beach although this

soil conservationist. There are about 93 acres converted to pasture from cropland according to their recommendations.

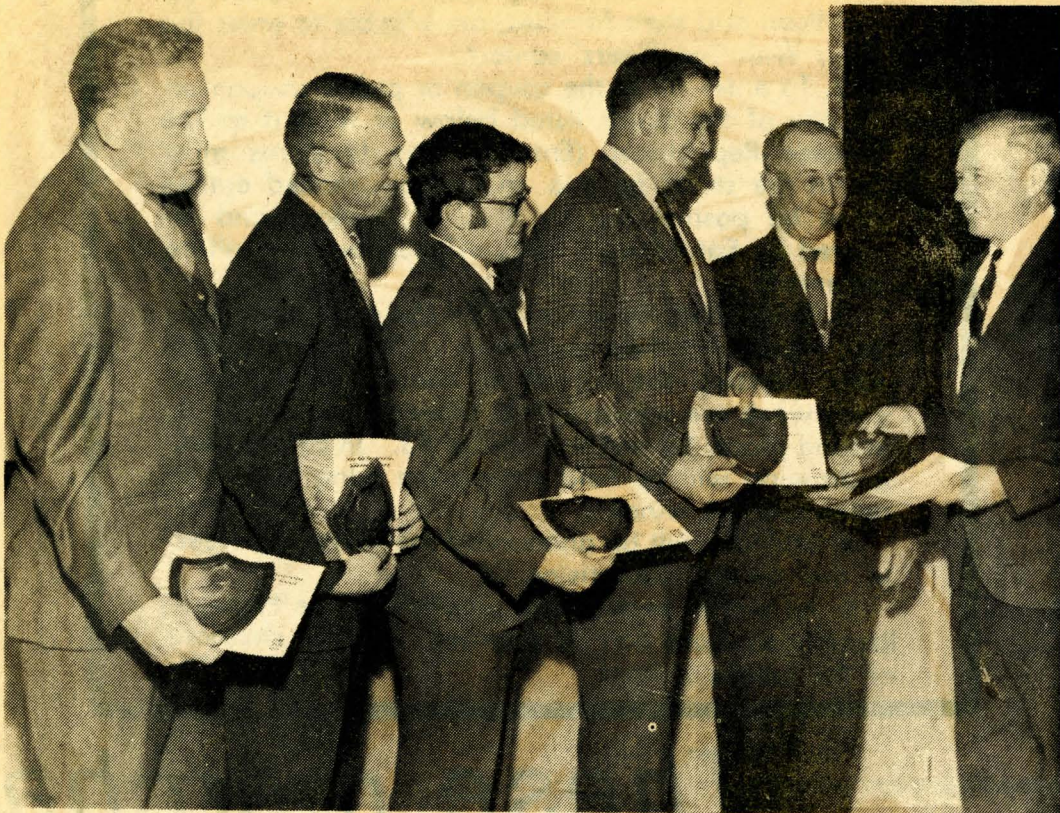
Durr has put 84 acres into contours, 25 acres in strip cropping, about an acre in waterways, does about 50 acres in mulch or minimum tillage and has renovated about 106 acres of pasture according to Cordes' figures.

Durr who had rented one farm for 13 years and another for one year before it was sold, now has 45 head of stock cows and feeds

four to five hundred head of hogs bought as feeder pigs.

The Durrs have a son Steve who lives at home and works for Ed Folkmann, a daughter Linda who lives in Williamsburg, and a grandson Dale, who makes his home with them.

is not sanded as yet. The slopes on either side of the pond and in back center stretching toward the far hill top were covered with brush and trees which the Durrs removed before planting crops. A small creek flows through the center background. Some trees were left on purpose but have now been hit by Dutch elm disease.



Receive Conservation Awards

RECEIVE AWARDS—Harold Sherman, right, presented plaques to these men for their participation in soil conservation work. Left to right are Jay Roller, owner, Norman King, tenant in the owner-tenant division; Harold Bezoni, Williamsburg community school instructor winner in the teacher division; Kenneth Dawson, long time cooperator, all winners in the county contest, and Robert Durr, new cooperator winner in both county and region. Sherman, chairman of the county Soil Conservation District, made the awards at the annual dinner Oct. 21 at the Presbyterian church here.

Care Needed To Keep Pond Effective

Caring for a farm pond is much like caring for the home. It takes continual care and maintenance to keep a pond in top condition.

Richard J. Cordes, district conservationist, Iowa County Soil Conservation District, says a pond should be inspected frequently. Some of the problems to look for are wave action,

erosion, livestock or rodent damage, debris around the inlet, and undesirable tree growth. Prompt action when any of these hazards are noticed may avoid costly major repair later he advises.

Wave action and other erosion around a pond can usually be controlled by vegetation such as Reed's canary grass if established soon enough. If this type of damage is not repaired quickly, a more expensive remedy such as riprap or rock fill is needed he continued.

Livestock can severely damage the grass cover on an earth fill dam by overgrazing. Often, the lush growth on the dam makes excellent pasture and grazing helps control weed and tree growth if practiced in moderation. Mowing the area around a pond also discourages weeds and trees and promotes a dense sod. Periodic fertilization will encourage a lush grass cover around the pond.

The roots of water-loving trees can cause damage to structure drainage systems and spillways Cordes explained. All woody growth should be controlled for a distance of 30 feet from the toe of the fill or any of the spillways.

Any debris left near the spillway after a rain should be removed as soon as possible. A few minutes spent doing this may eliminate many costly hours needed to clear a clogged pipe Cordes said.

Muskrats can cause severe damage to the earth fill. Whenever muskrat activity is found, steps should be taken to discourage them.

Whatever type of maintenance is needed, Cordes said, the local soil conservation district will be glad to give assistance. Contact them early for work to be done next year.

Tree Orders Should Be Made For Plantings

Iowa county land owners desiring to plant any trees next spring should make their order out by February to assure delivery of the species preferred says Richard Cordes, soil conservation service.

There are various seedling species of evergreens and deciduous trees available from the State Forest Nursery, Ames, for a minimal cost. A minimum of 500 plants may be ordered with a minimum of 250 plants per species. The exception to this is black walnut with a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 1,500 species.

A special wildlife packet is available which contains 250 plants including 50 evergreens, 50 ninebark, 25 honeysuckle, 50 dogwood, 25 multiflora rose, and 50 other plants beneficial to wildlife. Illustrative suggestions for odd areas and farm pond plantings will be furnished with each order. The wildlife packet may be ordered without meeting the 500 plant minimum.

Order forms for the trees may be obtained from the conservation officer, Soil Conservation Service office, county extension director, or the ASCS office.

Journal-Tribune 12-9-70



Some idea of how a drainage problem was solved on the Ahrens estate farm a mile west of Conroy can be gained from this picture. A dam was constructed to collect water from a 52-acre area. When the pond is full it will be 12 feet deep and will cover 1½ acres. The overflow pipe five feet from the top of the dam is 15 inches in diameter and flows directly into a tile. The dam contains 6265 cubic feet of dirt and is 400 feet long. Construction was carried out by the Iowa County Soil Conservation service.

Siltation Is New Problem Facing Iowa Lake Board

Many Iowa county residents and visitors have been enjoying the recreation facilities and the beauty that Lake Iowa has provided since its construction in 1963.

Since its construction, however, little consideration was given to the siltation and consequent destruction of the lake.

In 1969, the Iowa County Conservation board realizing the possible destruction of the lake and its potential for recreation and wildlife, requested assistance from the Soil Conservation service in the application of conservation practices.

The subsequent study showed that approximately 40,000 cubic yards of sediment had accumulated in Upper Lake Iowa since 1965. This left approximately 20,000 cubic yards of storage available above the causeway.

During the study it was determined that the conservation needs within the watershed were 72,000 feet of terraces, 790 acres of contouring, 508 acres of stripcropping, 252 acres of pasture improvement, five livestock ponds, 5.2 miles of waterways, 6,000 feet of livestock watering pipelines, four erosion control dams, and six windbreaks. The total estimated cost came to approximately \$70,000.

A meeting was held between the land owners, county conservation board, ASCS and SCS to decide what could be done to control soil erosion within the lake watershed. The ASCS applied for approval of a special project within the lake watershed allowing for 80% government cost-sharing for establishing permanent vegetative cover, improving vegetative cover, ponds, waterways, pipelines, terraces, erosion control structures, and feedlot runoff control.

This special project was approved and has been in effect for the last two years. During this time, work has been completed or started on two farm ponds, 60 acres of stripcropping, one erosion control structure, 80 acres of contouring, 10,000 feet of terraces are planned, some of which have been constructed. 9,950 feet of waterway shaping has been started along with 22,850 feet of waterway tile.

It is hoped that this special project with 80% cost-sharing will be continued until all needed conservation practices have been installed.

Soil Stewardship Week Is May 16-23

Soil stewardship responsibility is shifting from the man behind the tractor to the man behind the desk.

Wilson T. Moon, state conservationist, U.S. Soil Conservation Service, in commenting on Soil Stewardship week, May 16-23, said the bounty of the land is shared by urban and rural people alike. The responsibility, he said, for the land therefore falls not only on farmers who make up less than seven percent of our population but also on the 93 percent in towns and cities.

Moon said the pattern of land use in Iowa is unique. Over 95% of the nearly 36 million acres is devoted to agriculture making it one of the three highest states in the nation in percent of total land area used for agricultural purposes.

The 100 Soil Conservation districts of Iowa are now equipped to aid all of the state's land users. As of July 1, 1970, the Iowa law was amended to include cities and towns in Soil Conservation districts.

The Soil Conservation Service furnishing technical assistance to districts is now working not only with individual land owners but with groups of people, governmental units, and even groups of counties.

An example of the close cooperation between local, state and federal agencies is demonstrated in work being carried out in the watersheds of state-owned lakes. Large amounts of sediment reaching state lakes from urban and rural areas was rapidly deteriorating some of the lakes for fishing, swimming, boating, and other forms of water recreation. The Iowa Conservation commission during 1970 requested assistance from 25 Soil Conservation districts to make an inventory and evaluation of the sediment producing areas in these state-owned lake watersheds. The districts gave the Conservation commission an estimate of the total cost of the land treatment recommended on nine watersheds. Inventories will be made on the remainder of the lakes in the future. Soil Conservation Service personnel assisted local Soil Conservation districts in developing the inventory and evaluation and these will serve as the basis for a coordinated plan to prevent further deterioration.

There are now three Resource Conservation and Development projects in Iowa representing 15 counties. The goal of these projects is to raise their economic level through conservation and development of the communities' natural resources. This community effort, Moon said, is creating an attitude of unprecedented cooperation among people working together on mutual resource problems.

Two of the projects are in operation. They include the seven-county Southern Iowa Resource Conservation and Development project whose chairman is Charles Ehm, Creston; and the Chariton Valley Resource Conservation and Development project, chaired by Ollie Kaldenbert, Albia.

The third project consisting of five counties in extreme northeast Iowa is called the Upper Explorerland Resource Conservation and Development project. The chairman of this project is Ralph Fitzgerald, Cresco.

Moon noted soil stewardship as it relates to the total environment is an opportunity for total involvement by all citizens of Iowa. Many of the churches throughout the state are planning special observances to highlight the stewardship obligations of all people.

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Journal-Tribune 3-25-71

Soil Conservation Speech Contest to Be Held April 16

Contestants are now being accepted for participation in the 1971 Soil Conservation Speech contest. The statewide contest which is sponsored on the local level by the Iowa County Soil Conservation district, is open to all junior and senior high school students in the county.

The topic for this year's contest will be "Soil and Water Management Benefits My Community."

The local contest will be held at the Williamsburg town hall, April 16 at 7:30 p.m. The winner of the local contest will advance to the regional competition which will be held in June or July.

The first, second, and third place winner of the local contest will each receive a plaque and \$15.00, \$10.00 and \$5.00 respectively. Each additional participant will receive \$2.00.

Anyone interested in entering the Conservation Speech contest may obtain information from the Soil Conservation Service office in Williamsburg. All youths, whether rural or urban are encouraged to enter the contest.

Journal-Tribune 4-29-71

Tom Schlesselman Places Second in Conservation Contest

Joan Cronbaugh of Marengo was named winner of the Iowa County Soil Conservation District Speech contest. The title of her speech was "Soil and Water Management Benefits My Community."

Joan will advance to the regional contest to be held in June or July where she will compete with several other district winners.

Second place honors went to Tom Schlesselman of Williamsburg.

They each received a plaque and \$20 and \$15 for first and second place prizes.

Pioneer-Republican 5-27-71

Winners Named In SCS Art Contest

Winning entries of the Iowa county soil conservation contest were Bonnie McGrew, HLV; Linda Lockridge, English Valleys; and Shelley Risdon, Williamsburg. They placed first, second, and third respectively in the high school level.

Nancy Voss, Williamsburg community school; Mark Logan, English Valleys; and Jon Rathjen, Iowa Valley, placed first, second, and third respectively in the elementary level.

The winners will each receive a plaque and \$20, \$15, and \$10 for first, second and third place in the high school level and \$7.50, \$5, and \$3 for the elementary level.

English Valleys, Williamsburg, Iowa Valley, and HLV schools were each represented by contestants. The combined entries from the schools totaled over 400.

Judges were Mrs. Wayne Stanerson, Larry Aurich and Rick Cordes.

Soil Conservation Speech Contest Plans Announced

Pioneer-Republican
3-16-72

Area Students Will Play In Cornell Concert

The 31-member Cornell college wind ensemble will present its third concert of the season Monday, Mar. 20 at 8 p.m. in King Chapel. The program is open to the public at no admission charge.

Taking part will be John Schoenfelder, Marengo, and Bernadine Feller, Victor, both baritone horn.

Dr. Jesse G. Evans, professor of music, is director of the group, which consists of woodwind, brass and percussion players chosen by audition. It was formed last fall as a successor to the concert band, a

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Topic for the contest will be "Better Soil and Water Conservation Through Community Action".

The local contest will be held at the Williamsburg city hall Apr. 14 at 7:30 p.m. Winner of the local contest will advance larger group for which no auditions were required.

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First, second and third place winners of the local contest will each receive a plaque and \$15, \$10 and \$5 respectively. Each additional participant will receive \$2.

Anyone interested in entering the contest may obtain information from the Soil Conservation Service office, Williamsburg. All youths, rural or urban, are encouraged to enter the contest.

Name County Winners For Conservation

Iowa county winners in the Des Moines Register and Tribune conservation awards program were Raymond Britton, Kenneth

Klein-Carroll Shaul, and David Stevens. Mrs. Irene Ford, HLV, was chosen as the outstanding conservation teacher.

Each year the newspaper sponsors a state wide conservation awards program to recognize individuals with outstanding achievement in conservation.

The farmer division has three categories, division I, owner-

operator; division II, landlord-tenant; and division III, new soil conservation district cooperator. Teacher division recognizes teachers in all grade levels who have taught and promoted conservation through their classroom.

County winners will advance to regional competition where they will be judged against other county winners in this region.

Iowa County Farmer 3-72

Watershed Projects Are A Source of Rural Water Supply

Terraces with tile outlets are receiving increased acceptance as a successful erosion control measure. The use of underground conduits to remove surface water ponded in depressions above terraces permits construction of essentially parallel terrace systems that can be efficiently farmed with modern equipment on hilly and rolling topography. These terraces are designed to contain and to temporarily store the rainfall from a 10 year frequency storm in planned pondage areas, where most of the sediment is deposited and the excess water is safely discharged in a 24 to 48 hour period through subsurface drain outlets. Within the terrace interval, with time, the natural erosion and deposition process that takes place tends to smooth and level the topography.

Although most of the soil is retained, some sediment is lost with the discharged water. Little quantitative information is available on soil and water losses from tile outlet terraces even though they have received wide use.

Major factors affecting soil and water loss from water pondage areas around tile outlets are inflow and outflow rates of both soil and water to and from the pondage area and the water retention time in the pondage area.

As water reaches the pondage area, the flow velocity drops drastically and sediment in suspension begins to settle out. The larger particles settle out first, and depending on the retention time and the distance the sediment must fall before it reaches the tile outlet, only the finer particles are discharged through the tile outlet.

Soil loss was measured at four locations in Iowa. The terrace systems have been in continuous row crop with management by the farm operator. The annual soil loss ranged from 42 to 924 pounds per acre with 80% occurring during May to July. Of the 15,752 pounds of soil per acre, estimated to be delivered to the pondage areas, only 624 pounds per acre were lost. Under given conditions, tile outlet terraces can reduce the expected average annual soil loss by approximately 96%.

As the study shows, soil losses have been significantly reduced by the use of tile outlet terraces.

Condensed from a report presented to the American Society of Agricultural Engineers by J. M. Lafen, H. P. Johnson, and R. C. Reeve.

Reduce Soil Losses From Tile Outlets Used with Terraces

The people of several rural Iowa communities are looking to the small watershed program for municipal and industrial water.

Corning, Afton, Creston, Leon, Decatur City, Lamoni and Osceola, which all face a quality water supply problem, have joined other local sponsoring groups in planning watershed projects for watershed protection, flood prevention, municipal water supply, recreation development, and a land treatment program. The towns will get their water supplies by adding additional capacity to single purpose flood-control structures. Several of these structures will also incorporate additional storage for recreational use. This makes complete use of the potential structure site for flood prevention, recreation and water supply.

An adequate supply of good quality water is essential to any community, large or small, not only for future economic growth, but to satisfy present demands. The need for water is constantly rising due to the population growth, migration to urban centers, greater per capita consumption for domestic use, and expanding industrial needs. Many communities throughout the nation as well as Iowa have come to realize that their water supplies are inadequate as a result of seasonal droughts, depletion of groundwater supply, increasing demands, and other factors. Too often, little attention is given to this important problem until shortage is imminent. Small watershed projects carried out under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention act (Public Law 566) have proven to be successful means of helping to provide the needed water supply.

Iowa County Farmer 3-72

Soil Losses From Tile Outlet Terraces

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Elimination of an eight-foot gulley and the construction of a farm pond has been completed by the Iowa Co. Soil Conservation service for Roland Holden on the Von Ahsen farm, southeast of Williamsburg. The pond will contain about two acres of water and will drain a watershed of 61 acres. A 12 inch pipe to allow excess water to discharge has been installed in the dam to keep the water level at a uniform depth.

Journal Tribune 10-7-71

DEPARTMENT OF SOIL CONSERVATION — State of Iowa — NOTICE OF ELECTION RE- SULT OF COMMISSIONERS OF IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED NOTICE IS
HEREBY GIVEN: That the tabulations set out be-
low give a full, correct, and true report of the
result of an election of commissioners for the Iowa
County Soil Conservation District held on the 3rd
day of August, 1971.

NAMES OF ALL CANDIDATES VOTES REC'D

Keith Enochson, Hilton Precinct	103
David McCartney, Dayton Precinct	70
Vernon Sandersfeld, Iowa Precinct	88
Jerry Timm, Hartford Precinct	85
TOTAL VOTES CAST IN ELEC.	346

Department of Soil Conservation.

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JOURNAL-TRIBUNE
WILLIAMSBURG, IOWA 52361
THURSDAY, AUG. 12, 1971

DEPARTMENT OF SOIL CONSERVATION

State of Iowa

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SOIL CONSERVATION ELECTION RESULTS

DEPARTMENT OF SOIL CONSER-
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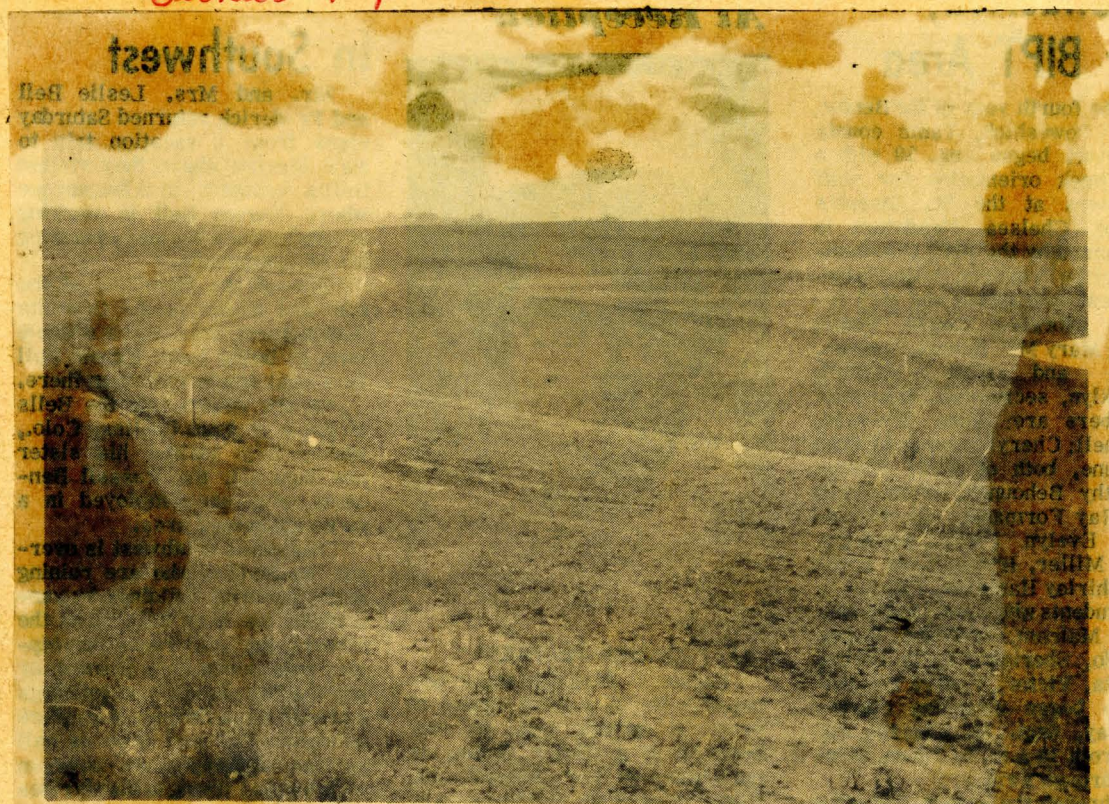
Soil Conservation Commissioners

Are Elected

Commissioners for the county
soil conservation district were
elected Aug. 3, during voting at
the Iowa county fair.

Candidates and their votes
were Keith Enochson, Hilton, 103
votes; David McCartney, Dayton,
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There were 346 votes cast.

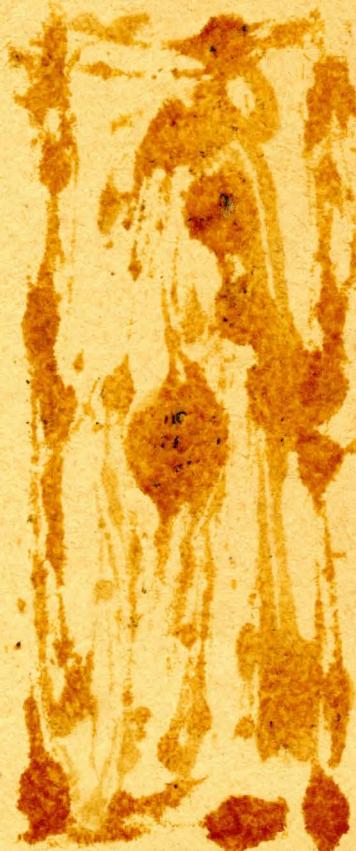
Pioneer - Republican 9-16-71



Eighty Acres Will Have Terraces

BUILDS TERRACES—When terrace work is completed in future on the Carl Schnebbe farm in Hilton township there will be about eighty acres terraced. These terraces above were completed in August. There were about 15,000 feet in the five terraces and Schnebbe is planning to do another 3,000 feet when corn is out this fall. Uprights at center left and right are surface inlets. Strip cropping is used on other side with grass back sloped on the terraces said Rick Cordes, conservation director.

Pioneer - Republican 9-9-71



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David McCartney, Dayton precinct	70
Vernon Sandersfeld, Iowa precinct	88
Jerry Timm, Hartford precinct	85
Total Votes Cast in Election	346

SOIL CONSERVATION ELECTION RESULTS

DEPARTMENT OF SOIL CONSER-
VATION

State of Iowa

NOTICE OF ELECTION RESULT
OF COMMISSIONERS OF IOWA
COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED,
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

That the tabulations set out
below give a full, correct, and
true report of the result of an
election of commissioners for
the Iowa County Soil Conserva-
tion District held on the 3rd day
of August, 1971.

NAMES OF ALL CANDIDATES	NO. OF VOTES RECEIVED
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TOTAL VOTES CAST IN ELECTION:	346
DEPARTMENT OF SOIL CON- SERVATION	

Soil Conservation Commissioners Are Elected

Commissioners for the county
soil conservation district were
elected Aug. 3, during voting at
the Iowa county fair.

Candidates and their votes
were Keith Enochson, Hilton, 103
votes; David McCartney, Dayton,
70; Vernon Sandersfeld, Iowa,
88; Jerry Timm, Hartford, 85.
There were 346 votes cast.

WAR CHANT Red Running Hoods

HLV Varsity Girls Track
began Feb. 28. There were
18 girls out at the 1st practice.

The returning letterman are
Jill Hawkins, Jan Fetzer, and
Carolyn Maschmann as seniors,
Christel Brown, Mary Brugge-
man, Debbie Butler, Judy
Rhinehart, and Cindy Ward as
juniors, Virginia DeMeulenaere,
Sue Feller, Connis
Rhinehart, and Alicia Simpson
as sophomores.

Also these girls are out, Barb
Cooney, Dena DeMeulenaere,
Debbie Healey, Rhonda Heit-
mann, Kathi Koble, Brenda
Landuyt, and Joyce Rhinehart.

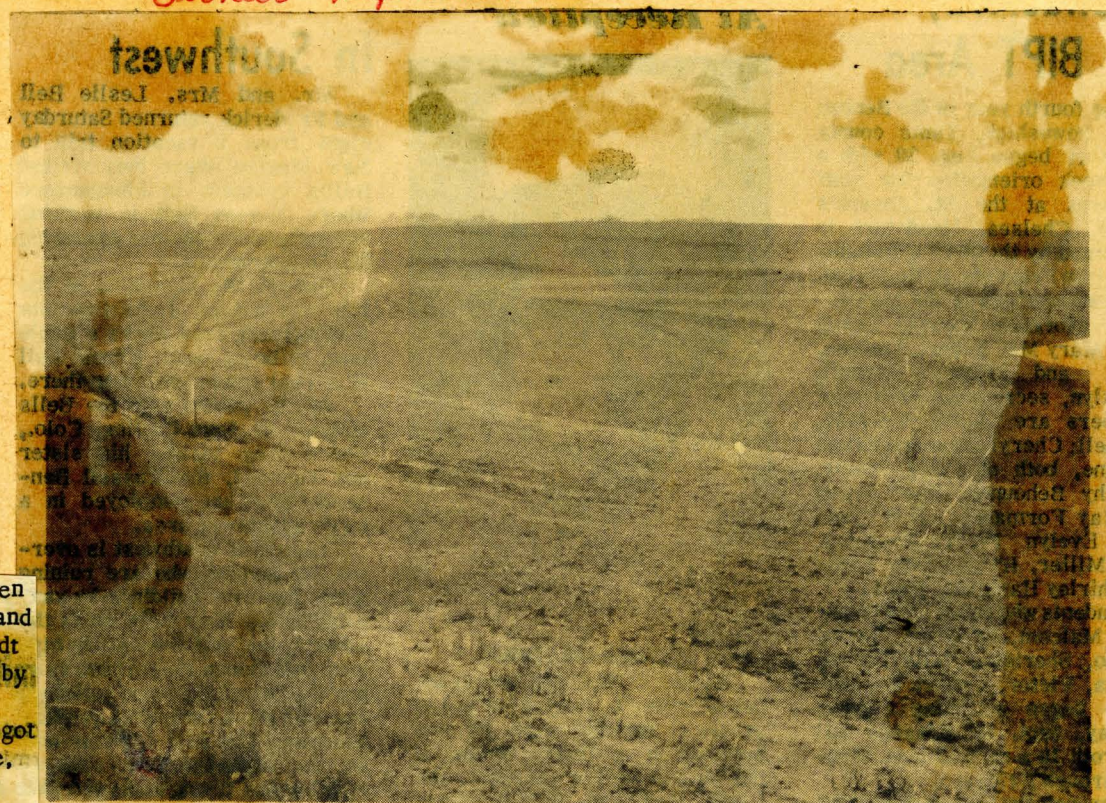
On March 11, the girls will go
to the Drake Indoor Meet. The
girls will only have 2 weeks of
practice for this meet but they
feel that it is a good practice

first quarter 13 to 14. Then
ballets by Reggie Deitze and
free throws by Niles Fruendt
pulled the Warriors ahead by
10 at half 35 to 25.

In the second half BGM got
to within eight points once,
but the Warriors kept their
poise and pulled ahead by
17 with three and a half
minutes to go and held on
for a 15 point win.

The Warriors once again
went to their bench for help
and Steve Schultz responded
with 11 points and Niles
Fruendt with 6. Reggie
Deitze had 20 and Lee Border

Pioneer - Republican 9-16-71



Eighty Acres Will Have Terraces

BUILDS TERRACES—When terrace work is completed in future on the Carl Schnebbe farm in Hilton township there will be about eighty acres terraced. These terraces above were completed in August. There were about 15,000 feet in the five terraces and Schnebbe is planning to do another 3,000 feet when corn is out this fall. Uprights at center left and right are surface inlets. Strip cropping is used on other side with grass back sloped on the terraces said Rick Cordes, conservation director.



Honored For Conservation Practices

AWARDED PLAQUES—Iowa county soil conservation district held its annual awards night at Colony Village last Wednesday night with honors going to winners in four divisions for top conservation practices. The Raymond Brittons, Parnell, left, won the long time cooperators division; the Carroll Shauls, Millersburg, won the operator and the Kenneth Kleins, Cedar Rapids, right, the owner division and Mrs. Arlene Ford, HLV teacher, third from

left, standing, won the teacher award. Not present was David Stevens who won the new cooperators division. Linda Triggs, Williamsburg teacher, talked on the fall teachers conservation workshop at Luther, and Roy Larson, Williamsburg, showed slides on the eastern European tour he took last summer. Also attending the event were the Harold Higgins, Traer. Higgins is president of the state conservation association.

Teacher, Farmers Honored Awards Given Soil Conservation

Winners in three farm division and one teacher were presented plaques at the annual county soil conservation achievement award program at a banquet Wednesday night, Oct. 20 at Colony Village.

Those honored were Raymond Britton, Parnell, long time cooperators division; Kenneth Klein, Cedar Rapids, and Carroll Shauls, North English, in owner-tenant division; David Stevens, Marengo, new cooperators; and Arlene Ford, HLV teacher in that division.

Mrs. Ford, an elementary teacher, is also a regional winner and will be honored later at a regional dinner also. Award in that division is for outstanding service in creating public awareness of the need to safeguard national heritage of natural and human resources according

to criteria guidelines set up by contest sponsors, the Des Moines Register and Tribune and the Iowa Farm and Home Register.

Presenting awards was Fred White, chairman of the Soil Conservation Commissioners. Roy Larson, Williamsburg banker, showed slides of his European tour of banking institutions, and Linda Triggs, Williamsburg teacher, told about her experiences at conservation camp this last summer at Luther College said Rick Cordes, SCS district conservationist.

Cordes outlined conservation practices used by winners in the various divisions.

On the 120 acre Stevens farm west of Marengo, along highway 212 there are about 80 acres strip cropping, 500

feet diversion terraces, two and a half acres of waterways and 6,000 feet tile.

Britton who farms 504 acres has 156 acres contoured, 6.9 acres waterways, four miles of terraces, 6 mile diversion terrace, two farm ponds and 300,000 feet tile.

The Klein-Shauls farm is 153 acres of which 48 acres are contoured, 77 strip cropped and 146 acres on which mulch tillage is used. There are 1.2 acres waterway, 5 acre diversion terrace and 8,000 feet of tile.

*Victor Record
3-22-72*



—Photo by Doris McCartney, Millersburg

These individuals were honored at the Iowa county soil conservation awards program this week near Williamsburg. The winners included, left to right: Front row, Raymond Britton, Parnell, Carroll Shaull, North English; and Kenneth Klein, Cedar Rapids. Back row, Mrs. Britton, Mrs. Shaull, Arlene Ford, Brooklyn, who received the teacher's award, and Mrs. Klein.

Iowa County Soil Awards Presented

WILLIAMSBURG — The Iowa county soil conservation awards were presented on Wednesday evening at the Colony Village on the interstate with 65 people attending the event.

The division one award for a long time cooperator was earned by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Britton of Parnell, who farms 504 acres, improved by conservation plans.

The owner-operator division two awards were shared by Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Shaull of North English and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Klein of Cedar Rapids. The Shaulls farm 200 acres of their own and rent the Klein 160 acres, where conservation efforts in the past three years have been in progress.

Mr. and Mrs. David Stevens, of Marengo, won the division three for a new cooperator in conservation practices. Stevens bought a 120 acres in recent years and rents another 129 acres.

Awarded a citation for 12 years to the SCS organization was Harold Sherman of Ladora, retiring chairman.

Linda Triggs, of Williamsburg, reported on the teachers conservation workshop at Luther college this month. Roy Larson, of Williamsburg, provided an illustrated talk on his European trip.

Iowa Farm City Week

Governor Robert D. Ray has proclaimed Nov. 19 to 25 as Iowa Farm-City Week.

In signing the proclamation, he urged "all citizens of Iowa, whether urban or rural, to recognize the good quality of Iowa life" and "to work year round to continue to improve our good Iowa living."

The Iowa Farm-City Committee is urging groups throughout the state to devise programs and meetings to insure a cooperative effort "to truly make Iowa a place to grow."

Fred White, chairman of the Iowa County Soil Conservation District, says that Farm-City Week provides an excellent opportunity for rural and urban people to get together and plan for community development. It also serves as a reminder that all people depend on soil and water resources, and everyone has a responsibility in saving those resources, White says.

Terrace Tour For Farmers Is Today

Iowa county farmers interested in tile inlet terraces are encouraged to attend a terrace tour Jan. 27.

Grassed backslope terraces, broadbase terraces on a steep field slope and broadbase terraces on a flat field slope will be observed. According to Rick Cordes, district conservationist, one of the three examples should be typical to most situations.

Tour will begin at the Soil Conservation Service office in Williamsburg at 1:15 p.m. Depending on the number attending, travel arrangements will try to be provided.

11/25/71 Williamsburg JT

Postpone Terrace Tour Thursday Due To Heavy Snow Fall

The Soil Conservation service tour, planned for last Thursday, was postponed to some undetermined date. The snow storm raging at that time made it impossible to view the grassed back slope terraces, broadbase terraces on a steep field, and similar terraces on a flat field. According to Rick Cordes, district conservationist, a date will be set when weather and field conditions are favorable for such a tour.



—Gazette photo by Al Swegle

Six farmers and the Iowa county conservation board had a hand in establishing a tile outlet terrace system which drains through this concrete structure. Rick Cordes of Williamsburg, Iowa county soil district conservation, pictured standing by the structure, said the project would help control erosion from a 690-acre area which drains into Lake Iowa west of Williamsburg.

Farm News

Farmers Fight Soil Loss In Lake Iowa Watershed

WILLIAMSBURG — A two year educational campaign to encourage farmers to control erosion in the Lake Iowa watershed is paying off.

Six farmers have joined together with the Iowa county conservation board to install a tile outlet terrace system, and eight of the 11 farmers in the 1,015 acre watershed are doing conservation work.

Already more than seven miles of tile have been laid and nearly two miles of waterway has been shaped. Another mile of tile will be laid next year before the project is complete.

The conservation work is being financed by a special Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) under which the federal government cost shares 80 percent of the cost of the project.

The one tile outlet terrace system covers a 690 acre drainage area. The Iowa county conservation board is installing the 35 by 16 feet concrete structure on the upper end of the lake, and five of the six farmers already installed tile.

The tile project will be completed next year when the berms are in place, and soil officials plan to shape the waterway and install the remaining tile.

Here's what the cooperators in the project have done so far:

—Basil Davis, Ladora, installed 200 feet of tile this year.

—Clarence Davis, Ladora, installed 2,800 feet of waterway and 11,348 feet of tile the past two years as well as constructing a livestock pond.

—Larry Davis, Ladora, in-

stalled 4,716 feet of tile and 1,556 feet of waterway in 1970 and 8,577 feet of tile and 520 feet of waterway in 1971.

—Lloyd Wiebold, Williamsburg, installed 3,500 feet of tile and 1,750 feet of waterway in 1970 and 2,476 feet of waterway and 4,600 feet of tile in 1971.

In addition, Larry Schafbuch of Ladora plans to build 5,000 feet of tile outlet terraces next year, and Harry Hawkins of Williamsburg plans to do some tiling and waterway shaping next year as a part of the single project.

Other farmers in the watershed have also done soil conservation work. Last year Wayne Meyer of Ladora installed 1,200 feet of terraces and Fred Bott of Victor constructed a livestock pond.

Rick Cordes of Williamsburg, Iowa county soil district conservationist, said the erosion control project was needed to halt the loss of soil in the lake.

The tile outlet terrace system works best on long, flat, slopes, Cordes said. The terraces cost more on steeper slopes, Cordes said one ter-

race cost 22 cents a foot on a three percent slope and another terrace cost 42 cents a foot on a steeper 7 to 8 percent slope.

Cordes said he was personally pleased with the cooperation farmers were giving in the watershed the past two years.

THE PIONEER-REPUBLICAN
Marengo, Iowa, Feb. 24, 1972 Page

6B

Terraces With Tile Outlets Accepted For Erosion Control

Terraces with tile outlets are receiving increased acceptance as a successful erosion control measure says Rick Cordes, soil conservation service.

Use of underground conduits to remove surface water ponded in depressions above terraces permits construction of essentially parallel terrace systems that can be efficiently farmed with modern equipment on hilly and rolling topography. These terraces are designed to contain and to temporarily store the rainfall from a ten year frequency storm in planned pondage areas, where most of the sediment is deposited and the excess water is safely discharged in a 24 to 48 hour period through subsurface drain outlets. Within the terrace interval, with time, natural erosion and deposition process that takes place tends to smooth and level the topography.

Although most of the soil is retained, some sediment is lost with discharged water. Little quantitative information is available on soil and water losses from tile outlet terraces even though they have received wide use.

Major factors affecting soil and water loss from water

pondage areas around tile outlets are inflow and outflow rates of both soil and water to and from the pondage area and water retention time in pondage area.

As water reaches pondage area, flow velocity drops drastically and sediment in suspension begins to settle out Cordes explained.

Larger particles settle out first, and depending on retention time and distance sediment must fall before it reaches tile outlet, only the finer particles are discharged through the tile outlet.

Soil loss was measured at four locations in Iowa. Terrace systems have been in continuous row crop with management by farm operator. Annual soil loss ranged from 42 to 924 pounds per acre with 80 percent occurring during May to July. Of the 15,752 pounds of soil per acre, estimated to be delivered to the pondage areas, only 624 pounds per acre were lost. Under given conditions, tile outlet terraces can reduce the expected average annual soil loss by approximately 96 percent.

As the study shows, soil losses have been significantly reduced by the use of tile outlet terraces Cordes added.

J-T - 2-10-72

Iowa Co. Landowners May Apply for Trees From State Nursery

Iowa county landowners desiring to plant any trees for establishing or improving existing forests, erosion control or wildlife cover can obtain them from the state forestry nursery. There are various types of deciduous and evergreen trees available. Some shrubs and a special wildlife packet may also be obtained at a minimal cost to the landowner.

According to Clem McBride, conservation technician, the wildlife packets are especially useful developing wildlife areas around farm ponds. He continues, however, not to plant the trees closer than 30 feet to the dam.

Order blanks are available from the Soil Conservation service, ASCS office, county extension service, conservation officer, and district forester.

Other than wildlife packets and black walnut seedlings, a minimum order of 500 trees in multiples of 250 will be accepted.



—Gazette photo by Al Swegle

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3-Acre Pond at Harley Carter Farm



A bulldozer puts the finishing touches to the large earthen dam for a huge pond at the Harley Carter farm, just north of North English. When completely filled with water the pond will cover three acres, making it the second largest farm pond in Iowa county. It will be large enough for boating and water skiing and, of course, Mr. Carter plans to stock it with fish.

The ASC County Committee, along with office personnel and Leslie Furuseth, District Director and Robert Watson, Director at Large, recently went on a Conservation Tour of Iowa County projects. The tour was planned by the Soil Conservation office with Rick Cordes, Technician, and Mr. Fred White, Chairman of the Soil Commissioners, serving as guides.

The farms visited and the practices observed at each farm were as follows:

Raymond Britten—Terraces.

Fred White—Terraces.

Benny Osweiler—Grassed waterway, erosion control structure and terraces.

Harley Carter—Grassed waterway and erosion control structure.

George J. Hinrichs — Erosion control structure, waterway and terraces.

Larry Davis—Terraces and waterways.

At each place, Mr. Cordes and

Mr. White explained the practice and how it solved a conservation problem. In all cases, the farmers either have been or will be cost-shared on their work under the Rural Environmental Assistance Program. The tour was very informative and enjoyed by all.

N.E. Record 4-27-72

Soil Stewardship Week Is May 7 To 14

The week of May 7 to 14, 1972 is Soil Stewardship Week. This special event will be observed in churches all over the state of Iowa.

It is the responsibility of man to use wisely the treasures of the land, the waters and wildlife, the forest and the fields.

Conservation is a chore for everyone. Do your share.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Oldfield came from Wellman Sunday to get Fern Darby and Walter to spend the day with them. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Oldfield and family were there also.

Soil Conservationist Explains to Kiwanis Club about New Law

Richard Cordes, Iowa county soil conservationist, explained to his fellow Kiwanians Thursday noon the various options and requirements of the new soil conservation law adopted by the state legislature which went into effect last July 1.

He illustrated his remarks with colored slides, showing terracing, strip farming, contouring and farm ponds.

He also explained the procedure in case one neighbor feels that he is being subjected to a run-off condition which is destroying his crops and farm land. This is done, of course, with an appeal to the soil commissioners who make an investigation. In case he doesn't get the cooperation he feels he is entitled to, then the next step is to appeal it to the district court.

As for contouring, he stated there have been instances where soil erosion has been reduced from 20 tons to 3.2 tons. He continued by saying there are several conditions contributing to erosion: type of soil, amount of rainfall, crop rotation.

One of his pictures was of a farm pond just completed this year which will hold back the flow of water, but also provide recreation for the farm family such as fishing and boating. Not many farmers will assume the risk of opening their ponds for outside fishing, he said.

He also explained the cost sharing in soil conservation projects which amounts to a maximum of \$500, though \$300-\$400 is the more common amount. It has been demonstrated, he said, that where soil conservation has been put into effect corn yield has increased from three to five bushels an acre.

Pioneer-Republican 3-16-72

Eash Is Named FHA Farm Family Of Year

The Iowa county Farmers Home Administration committee consisting of Edward F. Reitzler, Arnold E. Huedepohl and John W. Stevenson, along with Vernon W. Nelson, recently recognized the Donald E. Eash family, rural Parnell, as the 1972 Farmers Home Administration farm family of the year.

The Eash family began with FHA in 1965 with a farm operating loan and with the aid Eash switched his farming operation from turkeys to hogs and beef cows. Presently they operate a 205 acre farm owned by Mrs. Eash's father.

Eash's enthusiasm for livestock shows in the 8.5 litter average from the sow herd and the hybrid vigor and

growth rate of his crossbred calves.

Eash is a staunch believer in soil conservation, as evidenced by his ten years as a soil conservation commissioner. Every effort is made to rotate crops, prevent erosion and pollution and conserve the soil for future use. Nelson, FHA administrator, pointed out.

Mrs. Eash helps with the farm work and helps in the local Mennonite church, of which she is a Sunday school teacher. Gardening, sewing and caring for the three children, Michael, 19, Merridy, 16, and Martin, 12, are a part of Mrs. Eash's day.

Through cooperation with FHA, careful money manage-

ment, and a good set of records, the Eash family has greatly improved their financial position and has made their family farming operation a successful and profitable enterprise. Nelson concluded.

Consider Water, Land In Iowa-Cedar Basin

Iowa City League of Women Voters hosted a community planning session on how water and land resources in the Iowa-Cedar basin should be developed at Southeast Junior high school Dec. 8 at Iowa City.

Rock Island district corps of engineers gave a presentation of alternatives: flood plain management, flood-proofing, construction of dams and lakes on main tributaries, tributary watershed soil and water conservation programs, advanced treatment of municipal and industrial wastes, environmental corridors, and the alternative of doing nothing about problems and needs. Most of the meeting time was spent in group review and discussion of possible solutions that should be investigated and utilized to satisfy water and land resource needs in the basin.

Following is a summation of various opinions expressed at the meeting.

Participants felt the most acceptable alternative, to control runoff and reduce soil erosion, would be to expand

watershed soil and water conservation program. The opinion was that this alternative attacks the problem at its source and its extensive use would greatly reduce erosion and reduce stream pollution from quantity of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides that presently enter the streams in the basin.

Many of the people believe that the tributary watershed soil and water conservation programs would also reduce the flood problems in the immediate area and satisfy some of the recreational needs in the basin.

It was the general opinion that progress in tributary watershed soil and water conservation programs should be greatly accelerated. The group considered that these programs benefit the entire basin and that they could be greatly accelerated if federal and state participation was increased, thus reducing cost to landowners.

Meeting participants indicated that the second most acceptable or desirable alternative to satisfy water and land resource needs in the basin

was a combination of flood plain management, flood plain evacuation and environmental corridors. There were statements to the effect that basin flood plains should be used to satisfy some of the open space recreation and wildlife habitat needs.

Viewpoints were expressed that the feasibility of acquiring and converting the flood-prone area into a recreational area should be investigated before structural solutions are investigated, and that future flood plain developments should be regulated by the various flood plain management techniques to reduce additional future flood damages.

It was general consensus of the group that structural solutions, such as dams and lakes on main tributaries and levees and floodwalls, might be the only economic means of reducing flood damages. However, these solutions should be considered only in those cases where problems and needs cannot be satisfied by tributary watershed soil and water conservation programs, flood plain management, flood plain evacuation, or the environmental corridor concept. It was also noted that quality of any lakes or reservoirs on main tributaries in the basin would be greatly increased if good conservation practices were conducted in the upstream watershed.

It was the general consensus of the group that channel improvement to reduce flooding generally is not an acceptable solution due to its adverse environmental effects.

The group felt that the need for advanced treatment of municipal and industrial waste should be analyzed for each individual situation, and that due to the lack of information available at the meeting it was impossible to make any general comment.

The group believed that the "do nothing" alternative was not acceptable, that water and land resource needs will continue to increase and there should be striving to satisfy resource needs.

Rock Island district corps of engineers will utilize information obtained at the Iowa City meeting, along with information obtained at the five similar meetings held throughout the basin in May 1971 for initial water resource planning for the Iowa-Cedar river basin study. The next series of meetings, to be scheduled at a later date, will present various basin plans which have been developed, with costs, for consideration by the public.

Windbreaks Take Bite Out Of Winter

Farmers who can spare an acre of land on the north or west side of their farmstead mainly for evergreen trees may cut well over 50 percent of the bitter winter wind and knock out at least two-thirds of the wind chill according to Ed Grafton, extension forester at Iowa State University.

Grafton said that a good three-row windbreak of trees 25 feet in height can reduce the velocity of a 10 mile per hour wind by 80 percent on the protected side of a windbreak.

A good windbreak provides many benefits he continued. Among these are reduced wind velocities, reduced fuel consumption, reduced livestock feed costs, control of snow drifting and noise abatement. Windbreak also adds beauty to the farmstead year-round, shelters wildlife and provides more pleasant winter working conditions.

Grafton said windbreaks can reduce fuel consumption for home heating by 30 to 35 percent when the outside temperature is -10 degrees Fahrenheit, wind velocity is 20 miles per hour and the inside temperature is set at 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

Grafton suggests that a large part of the windbreak be evergreen trees for the best wind stoppage. He recommends red cedar, Douglas fir, Black Hills spruce, white pine or Scotch pine. Other conifers can be used if environmental factors are suitable.

A good reason for using mostly conifers in a windbreak is that broadleaf trees have shed their leaves in winter when wind protection is needed. Also, once established, evergreen trees will give good protection for a much longer time than most broadleaf trees. Possible loss of broadleaf trees because of herbicide sprays should also be considered when selecting windbreak trees.

Farmers interested in planting a windbreak are urged by Grafton to look into the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) under which the federal government will pay up to 80 percent of the cost of planting a windbreak. The government will pay farmers up to \$2.50 for each windbreak tree planted.

For more information about

this program, farmers are urged to contact the Soil Conservation Service, the county extension office in Marengo, or the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

4-72
Iowa County Farmer

Gobbling Up of Farmland Stirs Fears; Other Uses

More than 25,000 acres of agricultural land is being converted to other uses annually in Iowa, and it is up to Iowans to see that this land is being converted to the best uses.

That was the feeling expressed Friday, March 10, by Minott Silliman, Jr., of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in Washington, D.C., in a speech in Des Moines.

Silliman, speaking to about 400 Iowa Farm Bureau members attending a day-long land-use management conference at Hotel Fort Des Moines, pointed out that 1-1½ million acres of agricultural land is being diverted to other use each year in the nation.

"We have a lot of options" on how this land should be used, he said, and the general public has a right to voice its opinion about the matter.

Most of the land is being gobbled up for new shopping centers, housing, highways, schools, churches and other uses, he said.

And, he added, "new demands for land are increasing at an accelerated rate."

J. Merrill Anderson of Newton president of the Iowa Farm Bureau, reminded the group that the bureau's policy is to put pressure on the federal government "to give high priority to agriculture" when considering how land should be used — especially in Iowa.

Silliman noted that about 20 per cent of the land in the nation now is used for agricultural purposes.



—Photo by Doris McCartney, Millersburg

Iowa County Soil Speech Winners

These four teenagers were presented awards last week as winners of the Iowa county soil conservation speech contest by Keith Enochson, right, of Conroy. The winners are seated, left to right: Dean Keller, 17, Marengo, third place, Dean Dickel, 15, Marengo, second place, and Kevin Brower, 17, South English, first place. Jerry Hiesband, 14, standing at left, of Millersburg placed fourth.

Soil Conservation Speech Contest to Be Held April 14

Contestants are now being accepted for participation in the 1972 Soil Conservation Speech contest. The statewide contest, which is sponsored on the local level by the Iowa County Soil Conservation District and Patrons Mutual Insurance Ass'n of Williamsburg, is open to all junior and senior high school students in the county.

The topic for this year's contest will be "Better Soil and Water Conservation through Community Action."

The local contest will be held at the Williamsburg town hall, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. The winner of the local contest will advance to the regional competition, which will be held in June or July.

The first, second, and third place winners of the local contest will each receive a plaque and \$15, \$10 and \$5, respectively. Each additional participant will receive \$2.

Anyone interested in entering the contest may obtain information from the Soil Conservation service office in Williamsburg. All youths, whether rural or urban, are encouraged to enter the contest.

Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp Announces Schedule

University of Northern Iowa, Iowa State Department of Public Instruction and Iowa State Conservation Commission will again cooperate in sponsoring the Iowa teachers conservation camp at the conservation education center at Springbrook state park near Guthrie Center. The first session will begin June 11 and go to July 1 and cover Iowa conservation problems I. The second session will begin July 2 and extend to July 22, and cover Iowa conservation problems II. Both courses will offer three hours graduate or undergraduate credit.

Major fields emphasized in problems I (Biology 104g) are forest resources, ecology and fish-wildlife management. Problems II (Biology 105g) stresses rocks and minerals, soil and land management and water conservation. Students will be guided and taught by some of the ablest resource people in the state.

The conservation camp is normally attended by teachers from throughout the state. Both sessions are open to interested college students.

Participants will stay in the

new dormitories at the conservation education center. Activities include in-class instruction and outdoor educational experiences. Recreational facilities include fishing, swimming and hiking.

Scholarships are available in most counties for persons wishing to attend. Contact your local soil conservation district, federated women's club, garden club, sportsman's clubs, service clubs, and Izaak Walton League. Further information may be obtained by contacting Bernard Clausen, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, or the Conservation education center, box 139, Guthrie Center, 50115.

Announce Winners Of Speech Contest Soil Conservation

The Iowa County Soil Conservation district annual speech contest was held April 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Williamsburg town hall.

There were four contestants present. They were Kevin Brower, English Valley, Dean Dickel and Dean Keller, Iowa Valley, and Jerry Husband, Deep River-Millersburg Community. The first, second and third place winners were: Kevin Brower, Dean Dickel, and Dean Keller respectively. They each received a plaque and \$15, \$10, and \$5.

Kevin Brower will go on to compete at the regional level sometime in July. The winner at this contest will advance to state competition.

Judges for the contest were Mrs. Glenn Reed, Mrs. Rick Cordes, and Norman Skadburg. The contest was sponsored by the Iowa County Soil Conservation district and Patrons Mutual Insurance association.

Kevin Brower Named Winner SCS Contest

Kevin Brower, English Valleys student, was named winner of the annual county soil conservation district speech contest Apr. 14 in Williamsburg.

Dean Dickel and Dean Keller placed second and third respectively. Both are Iowa Valley students. Winners were each awarded a plaque and \$15, \$10 and \$5 respectively. Also participating was Jerry Husband, Deep River-Millersburg community school.

Brower will compete at the regional level sometime in July.

Judges for the contest sponsored by the county soil conservation district and Patrons Mutual Insurance association included Mrs. Glenn Reed, North English; Mrs. Rick Cordes and Norman Skadburg, Williamsburg.

Kevin Brower Is SCS District Speech Winner

The Iowa County Soil Conservation District Annual Speech Contest was held April 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Williamsburg City Hall.

There were four contestants present. They were Kevin Brower, English Valley, Dean Dickel and Dean Keller, Iowa Valley, and Jerry Husband, Deep River-Millersburg Community.

The first, second, and third place winners were: Kevin Brower, Dean Dickel, and Dean Keller respectively. They each received a plaque and \$15, \$10, and \$5.

Kevin Brower will go on to compete at the regional level sometime in July. The winner at this contest will advance to state competition.

Judges for the contest were Mrs. Glenn Reed, Mrs. Rick Cordes, and Norman Skadburg.

The contest was sponsored by the Iowa County Soil Conservation District and Patrons Mutual Insurance Ass'n.

Students Encouraged To Enter —

Art Contest Set

The Iowa county soil conservation district will sponsor their annual soil conservation art contest Tuesday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Williamsburg city hall.

Elementary grades will be judged separately from the junior and senior high grades. Judging will be based on artistic techniques, conservation contest, general effect and its typicalness to Iowa county.

Winners in the elementary level will each receive a

plaque and \$7.50, first place; \$5, second place, and \$3, third place. Junior and senior high level will each receive a plaque and \$20, first place; \$15, second place; and \$10, third place.

Students may bring their entries to the Soil Conservation Service office in Williamsburg any time before 3 p.m. May 9.

The public is encouraged to come and view the art entries.

C.R. Gazette - 5-11-72



—Photo by Donna McCartney, Millersburg

Observe Soil Stewardship Week

Soil stewardship week was observed by the Iowa county soil conservation district with an art contest which drew a flood of entries. Plaques and \$60,000 in cash prizes were awarded. High school winners, first through third placings were: Marty Nowotny, H-L-V district, Larry Aurich and Chris Driscoll, both of Williamsburg. Elementary awards went to: Darrel Schwarting, and Gene Last, both of Homestead; and Peggy Meade, Williamsburg. Fred White of Parnell, chairman of the SCS board, presents a plaque and a check to Peggy Meade for her art entry, while Cindy Huedepohl and Angie Petz, right, both of Williamsburg, display other winning entries.



SCS DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Seated Left to Right: Keith Enochson, Vernon Sandersfeld, Dick Mouchka, Fred White, Chairman. Standing Left to Right: Donald Eash and David McCartney. Not pictured is Carl Selby.



OFFICE STAFF: Seated; Mrs. Lennis Doehrmann, Clerk. Standing left to right: Rick Cordes, District Conservationist and Clem McBride, Technician.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MAJOR PRACTICES	UNIT	1971
Contour Farming	Acre	1,975.6
Stripcropping	Acre	359
Diversion Terrace	Feet	13,185
All Other Types of Terraces	Feet	28,000
Tile Inlets for Terraces	Number	74
Pasture and Hayland Management	Acre	1,775
Grassed Waterways	Acre	176.6
Ponds	Number	24
Tile	Feet	720,741
Erosion Control Structure	Number	18
Conservation Cropping System	Acre	3,350
Pipeline	Feet	14,651
OTHER SERVICES		
Referrals Served	Number	334
PLANNING PRACTICES		
New District Cooperators	Number	54
Basic Conservation Plans	Number	31
Revised Conservation Plans	Number	12

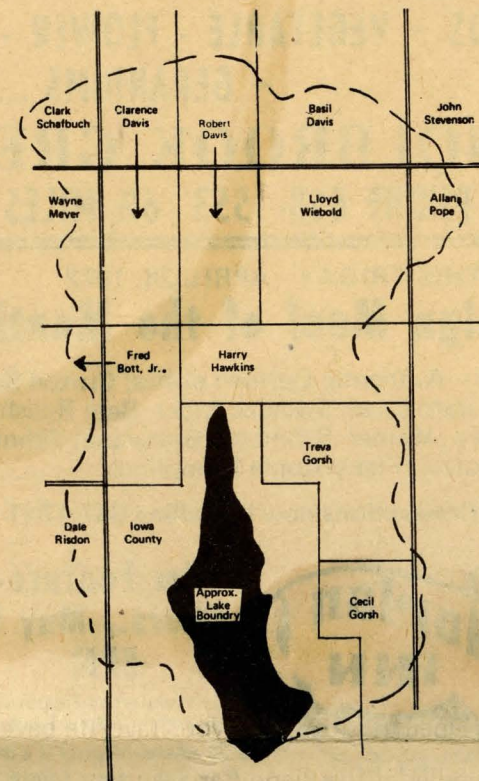


REGISTER AND TRIBUNE CONTEST WINNERS

Plaques were presented to these winners for their participation in soil conservation work. Front Row Left to Right: Raymond Britton, Division I, Carrol Shaul, Division II, Kenneth Klein, Division III. Back Row Left to Right: Mrs. Britton, Mrs. Shaul, Mrs. Arlene Ford, teacher (H.L.V. Community School) and Mrs. Klein. Not pictured, David Stevens, Division III winner.

IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

409 Court Street — Williamsburg — Phone 668-2359



Above is a map of the landowners and farm boundaries in the Lake Iowa Watershed.

To control the silt before it collects in the lake, a special project was organized by the ASCS, SCS, County Conservation Board and the landowners in the project to allow 80% cost sharing for certain conservation practices within the watershed.

To date a total of 5,500 feet of terraces, 9,102 feet of waterways, 2 livestock ponds, 1 grade stabilization structure, and 37,293 feet of tile have been installed in the watershed. The ASCS County Committee has cost-shared a total of \$20,776 with all the landowners participating in the past two years.

The land owners participating are: Clark Schafbuch, Clarence Davis, Robert Davis, Basil Davis, Wayne Meyer, Lloyd Wiebold, Fred Bott, Jr., Harry Hawkins and the Iowa County Conservation Board.

This project will be continued again through 1972.

I-M BUDGET

Commissioners Expenses	\$ 249.53
Office Expenses	21.47
Office Supplies	35.00
Prizes For Contests	123.82
Total	\$ 429.82

II-M BUDGET

Technical	\$ 492.66
Clerical	4137.84
Travel	10.80
Equipment	25.00
Total	\$4666.30

STATE PERSONNEL

Lennis Doehrmann Clerk

USDA SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL

Rick Cordes District Conservationist
Clem McBride Conservation Technician
Millen Sandersfeld Conservation Aide

OTHER SCS PERSONNEL ASSISTING DISTRICT

Keith Glandon Area Conservationist
Wilma Kimball Area Clerk
Lorne M. Nestrud Soil Scientist
Deane S. Glen Civil Engineer Technician
Francis W. Vos Civil Engineer Technician
Jackie D. Langford Civil Engineer Technician

Wildlife and Biology Specialist available on request.

Victor Record 5-18-72

Marty Nowotny Is Art Contest Winner

Marty Nowotny won the art contest of the Iowa County Soil Conservation District at Williamsburg, with an oil painting "Terracing". He received twenty dollars and a 1st place plaque. Marty is the son of Mrs. Harold Nowotny of rural Victor.

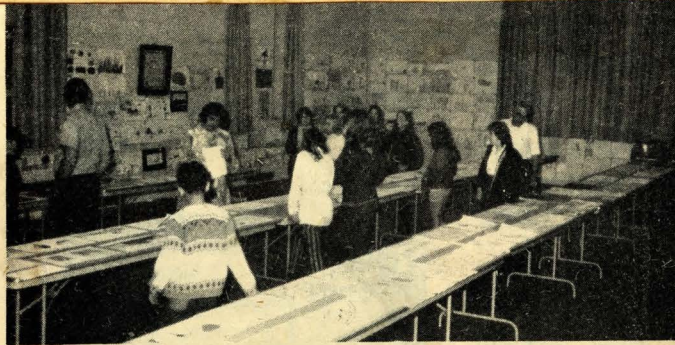
This is the third year an

HLV student has won first-the others were Bonnie McGrew and Jim Thys.

The picture is displayed in a store window on the square in Williamsburg. Marty has taken art three years at HLV. The instructor is Mrs. Lila Rohrer.

Lucy VanOtegham

Iowa County Advertiser - 5-18-72



SCS ART CONTEST WINNERS NAMED

Winning entries of the Iowa County Soil Conservation District Art Contest were Marty Nowotny, HLV, 1st; Larry Aurich, Williamsburg, 2nd; and Chris Driscoll, Williamsburg, 3rd; in the High School Division. Darrel Schwarting, 1st; Gene Last, 2nd; Peggy Meade, 3rd; all of the Williamsburg Community School in the Elementary Division.

The winners will each receive a plaque and \$20, \$15, and \$10 in the High School Division, and \$7.50, \$5, and \$3 for the Elementary Division.

English Valley, Lutheran Inter-Parish, Williamsburg, and HLV School were represented by contestants. The combined entries totaled almost 400.

Judging was based on the artistic technique, conservation content, general effect, and being typical of Iowa County. Judges for the contest were: Mrs. Francis Dillon, Mrs. Ken Reck, and Clem McBride.

The winning entries are on display in the window of the former Glandorf Electric, Williamsburg.

Two Conservation Camps for Teachers At Luther, Wyoming

Assistant State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service Howard M. Hugdes was elected president of the Iowa Conservation Education Council at a meeting held at Marshalltown this week.

Elected vice president was Dr. Ben Clausen of the University of Northern Iowa. Dr. Frank Shaller, extension agronomist, Iowa State university, was reelected secretary-treasurer.

One of the major projects sponsored by the Council along with other agencies and organizations, says Dr. Paul Joslin of Drake university, who has served as president of the Council the past two years, is the fall conference for teachers held at the 4-H Camp near Luther. The conference will be held again this year on Oct. 13-14.

Due to increased interest among teachers attending this conference, there will be a similar program carried out at Camp Ewalu near Strawberry Point. The reason for holding the conference at two locations this year, according to President Hughes, is partly because of the limited facilities at the 4-H camp and also to make it possible for teachers in eastern and northeastern Iowa to hold their meeting in the "Switzerland of Iowa" and drive fewer miles.

The conference is open to all teachers and educators interested in conservation and features field tours in soil conservation, geology, water, and related natural resources. It will also include outstanding speakers and displays of current materials.

Pioneer-Republican
2-03-72

Would Stimulate Economy In Years Ahead -

Plan Suggested To Establish "Model County"

A plan for establishing Iowa county as a "Model County" by developing a county-wide travel host program was unveiled at Marengo Rotary club's regular noon luncheon by Carl Oehl last Thursday. The development would coincide with the U. S. Bicentennial celebration in 1976 and a planned International Food Exposition in Iowa.

Oehl, a well known Iowa tourism promoter and proprietor of the Colony Market Place in South Amana, feels that Iowa county has ample floor space and facilities as well as the resources and necessary ingredients to carry out such a program.

He suggests a plan of action that would involve participa-

tion of the county planning commission, extension service, farm related agencies and organizations, county supervisors and conservation board, historical society, community officers, county legislators, various county organizations and groups as well as interested citizens in general.

Once the proposal has gained exposure and penetrated through the county, Oehl suggests that an organizational meeting be set up for discussion and establishment of a program, the delegation of authority, naming of committees and planning and research.

The entire country will be participating in the U. S. Bicentennial in 1976 commem-

orating the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Iowa is one of 48 states that have already committed themselves to join the year long festivities and is developing a theme for a World Food Expo.

In conjunction communities are being asked to join in with related events. It is estimated that World Food Expo would attract approximately 10,000,000 tourists to the state over a four-month period. Backers estimate these tourists would spend in the neighborhood of a quarter million dollars.

Oehl's proposal would involve the county in joint endeavor rather than each community going it alone. Make

Iowa county a "Model County", he said, participating in an all out joint project with emphasis towards outdoor recreation, hunting-fishing, winter sports, camping, history and historical sites, soil and wildlife preservation, restoration, tourism and travel, host facilities, farm vacations—to name only a few areas of participation. In summary a county-wide travel host program.

Such a project would make Iowa county the model county in the state and would focus attention and publicity towards this area, Oehl stated, and in addition to all other advantages will be a healthy stimulant to the economy. It would provide new jobs, become a tax provider and increase the need for goods and services. He suggests the bicentennial as a target date but foresees the possibilities of the concept becoming a permanent attraction.

Such a plan would also give more unison and cooperation to all elements of the county such as commercial and non-commercial, farm and town, and above all community with community, Oehl said.

An established well planned county program will be an effective tool for school age citizens in planning future occupational opportunities in our area he continued.

Oehl was excited by the county's location in relation to Des Moines. "We're only minutes away from the proposed site of Food Expo," he explained, which he expects will become a growing area in years to come with the possibility of the site becoming the new location of the state fair-

NOTE OF APPRECIATION
We wish to thank all our relatives, friends and neighbors for the cards, gifts and flowers we received. A special thank you to Dr. Byram, Dr.

CARD OF THANKS
We want to thank our relatives and friends for attending our open house on Jan. 30 for the many gifts and cards which we received. It is day we will always remember. God Bless all of you.
Mr. and Mrs. William Mantz

J-T 4-20-72

Soil Conservation Offers Booklet on Attracting Birds

It's spring—birds on the wing—and time to consider how you can attract more robins, bluebirds and cardinals to your neighborhood. For Midwestern home owners, a colorful new brochure, "Invite Birds to Your Home—Conservation Plantings for the Midwest" has been prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation service.

The brochure describes and illustrates a number of trees, shrubs and other plants that attract different birds. It suggests how to create a landscape design, mentions the needs of various plants for sun, soil and water, and lists the plant foods preferred by common midwestern birds.

Single copies of "Invite Birds to Your Home—Conservation Plantings for the Midwest" PA-982 are available from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250.

Rick Cordes, district conservationist in the Iowa Soil Conservation district, says the office in Williamsburg also has a limited supply of the booklets.

Budget Hearings Are Set

Budget Hearings -

(Continued from page 1)

year, up from \$386,931 this year and \$360,206 for 1970-71 year. Tax asking is \$237,943 for this next year and estimated taxes per \$1,000 assessed valuation is \$52, down from \$57 last year. Total tax asking last year was \$250,152.

Amana Community School

The Amana community school will have its budget hearing at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 9 at the superintendent's office, Lakeside school.

The budget calls for a total \$503,256 up from \$489,843 spent this year. Of the total amount \$412,451 is estimated to be raised in taxes.

The general fund budget total is \$450,840 up from \$444,126 this year. Of the amount \$360,035 will come from taxes. The amount for school house bond and interest is down from \$45,667 to \$34,674, school house 2½ mill levy budgeted for \$17,742; \$50 was the amount last year.

Iowa Valley

Iowa Valley district will have its school budget hearing at 8 p.m. Aug. 14 at the high school. The budget totals \$970,415, down from this year \$1,253,339, reflecting a drop in the school house bond and interest fund and a larger drop from \$393,050 for school construction to \$37,630. School site is up about \$4,000. Total school house fund calls for \$117,975 versus \$471,589 for this year and a tax asking of \$80,345 for the coming year in that category.

The general fund proposal is \$852,440 up from \$781,750. Of the total \$444,594 is to be raised from taxation.

Soil Conservation

Also scheduled for a public hearing, although one of a different type, is that on the proposed soil loss limit regulations within Iowa county soil conservation district. Hearing will be at 8 p.m. Aug. 3 in the soil conservation office, Williamsburg.

Under state code county commissioners with permission of the state committee have set soil loss limit regulations applicable to the district. The hearing covers those for construction sites, non-agricultural lands and agricultural and horticultural lands.

Most governmental bodies will be having their budget hearings for 1973 sometime during the next three weeks. One, that of the county assessor, was held Tuesday night.

Legal publications for each unit have or will be published soon.

Extension Service

Hearing on the Iowa county extension council budget for 1973 will be held at 8:30 p.m. July 26 at the 4-H building.

The budget has been set at a total \$24,650 for 1973 of which \$23,650 is to be raised through taxes. The 1971 budget was \$20,720 and the 1972 actual and estimate \$20,382. Taxes per \$1,000 assessed valuation will be \$.463 according to the legal publication of the budget.

Marengo

City of Marengo will have its budget hearing at 7 p.m. Aug. 7 at city hall. The total budget is up \$23,168 over this year although the general fund budget shows only a raise of \$1,500. In other funds the amount for debt service is down, that for tort liability is up \$500, sewer rental up \$5,000, street up \$15,000 and liquor profit up \$2,000. None of these three take money.

In the general fund budget the amount allocated for streets is down from \$40,000 to \$29,500 with \$26,112 to be raised by taxes. Administration is up \$3,500, police and fire up \$5,000, library and cemetery up \$4,000, park down \$500. Because of cash on hand and other receipts, tax askings do not amount to the dollars listed in the budget. Budget totals \$109,370 to be raised by taxes, the amount last year \$113,986. Estimated taxes per \$1,000 assessed valuation is \$38.99.

County

Hearing by the county board of supervisors on the county budget has been set for 10 a.m. Aug. 3 at the court house.

Tax askings for the total budget are up from \$1,221,169 requested a year ago to \$1,455,837. Estimated taxes per \$1,000 assessed valuation are \$17.897 corporations; \$30,276 townships. The amounts estimated last year were \$13.64 and \$27,557 respectively.

The general fund budget is up \$70,000 from \$280,000 to \$350,000. Tax asking in this category is \$244,650.

Both FICA and IPERS are up, a total \$9,000. Emergency fund is up \$5,000, court expense up \$4,295 to a total \$55,295. The 1971 actual expense amount was \$42,920.

Another item that shows an

increase but is actually not such a large one as reflected is state institution which jumped from \$138,000 to \$238,000. However the county mental health and mental health center funds which totaled \$95,000 in the budget a year ago are not listed for 1973.

Other increases include bangs eradication, up \$1,000; bovine tuberculosis, not listed for two years, now set at \$16,879 none to be raised by county taxes.

Conservation fund is up from \$68,000 to \$112,000 of which \$60,265 comes from taxes. Farm to market roads remain the same at \$328,000; secondary roads up slightly from \$1,207,592 to \$1,271,800. Of the amount \$505,000 is to be raised from taxes.

Allotted for crime commission is \$5,000; civil defense \$27,000. The civil defense budget disbursements for 1971 were \$21,818 of which \$5,713 came from the federal government, \$2,971 from towns to pay the radio operator; \$310 hauling water to farmers and \$96 county home for blankets, a total of \$9,090. IPERS and FICA in civil defense are paid 50 percent by federal government in state reimbursement.

Salary of night radio operator is in civil defense budget although it is primarily one of law enforcement according to Bob Gunzenhauser, civil defense director. Salary has been paid 50-50 county and towns.

When federal matching funds are used for any project, the total amount, though part is reimbursed, is shown in the civil defense budget.

New items in the county budget include \$1,400 errors and omissions and the election expense for this year \$15,000. See budget publication for other break down of items.

County Board of Education

Hearing for the county board of education budget is 8 p.m. Aug. 1 at the court house, Marengo. That budget is up from \$219,903 for 1972 to \$231,890 proposed for 1973. The 1971 expenditures were \$203,352.

The amount to be raised by taxes for 1973 is \$196,504 up from \$189,353 from this year. The estimated taxes per \$1,000 assessed valuation is \$3.478, last year, \$3.365.

Deep River-Millersburg

Budget hearing for the Deep River-Millersburg school district will be held at 9 p.m. July 31 at the Millersburg school house. Budget estimate is \$398,300 for the next school

(Please turn to page 3)

THE PIONEER-REPUBLICAN

Marengo, Ia., May 18, 1972 Page

Name Winners For SCS Art Contest

Winning entries of the Iowa county soil conservation district art contest were Marty Nowotny, HLV; Larry Aurich, Williamsburg; and Chris Driscoll, Williamsburg. They placed first, second, and third respectively in the high school division.

Darrel Schwarting, Gene Last, and Peggy Meade, all Williamsburg community school, placed first, second and third respectively in the elementary division.

Winners will each receive a plaque and \$20, \$15, and \$10 for first, second, and third place in the high school division and \$7.50, \$5 and \$3 for the elementary division.

English Valleys, Lutheran Inter-Parish, Williamsburg, and HLV schools were represented by contestants. The combined entries from the

Information Meeting On Iowa River Basin Planned

A public information meeting on resource and conservation needs in the Iowa river basin will be held Monday, July 17, at 8 p.m. at the Iowa City Library auditorium. The meeting is being sponsored by the Johnson county soil conservation district.

According to Ray Brannaman, district chairman, purpose of the meeting is to identify local needs, problems, and goals of people living in the basin in regard to soil and water resources. Problems in the area are flooding, potential water shortages, pollution and soil erosion.

Public will be informed of the Iowa-Cedar cooperative basin study now underway by the USDA Soil Conservation Service and other federal and state agencies.

A result of the study will be to identify and plan in detail certain small watershed areas where problems are more severe and potential for possible project action exist. Upstream problems related to flooding, drainage, erosion, sediment, water supply, pollution, recreation, fish.

8-72 Ia. Co. Farmer

Conservation needs meeting assembles in Iowa City July 17

A public information meeting on resource and conservation needs in the Iowa river basin were held Monday, July 17, at 8 p.m. at the Iowa City library auditorium. The meeting is being sponsored by the Johnson County Soil Conservation district.

According to Ray Brannaman, district chairman, the purpose of the meeting is to identify local needs, problems, and goals of the people living in the basin in regards to soil and water resources. Problems in the area are flooding, potential water shortages, pollution and soil erosion. The general public will be informed of the Iowa-Cedar cooperative basin study now under way by the USDA Soil Conservation Service, and other federal and state agencies. Governmental leaders, community groups, and others from a six-county area of the lower Iowa river basin are invited to the Iowa City meeting.

A result of the study will be to identify and plan in detail certain small watershed areas where problems are more severe and potential for possible project action exist. Upstream problems related to flooding, drainage, erosion, sediment, water supply, pollution, recreation, fish and wildlife, and other environmental factors are being considered in the study.

Pioneer Republican
7-20-72

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED SOIL LOSS LIMIT REGULATIONS WITHIN IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Under authority set forth in Chapter 467A, Code of Iowa, 1971, as amended, the commissioners of the Iowa County Soil Conservation District, with the approval of the State Soil Conservation Committee, have formulated soil loss limit regulations applicable to said District as follows:

SOIL LOSS LIMIT REGULATIONS Iowa County Soil Conservation District

1. Construction Sites — including housing developments, shopping centers, industrial park developments, commercial building sites, highways, drainage channels, floodways, water impoundment structures, and other similar projects. Maximum rate of soil erosion permitted on such lands will be 5 tons per acre per year leaving the site.

2. Non-Agricultural Lands — including public parks, urban lands, industrial parks, airports, public and private recreation lands, roads, streets, highways and other public lands. The maximum rates of erosion for these lands will be the average annual soil loss of 5 tons per acre per year.

3. Agricultural and Horticultural Lands. Maximum rates of soil erosion for these lands will be the average annual soil loss expressed in tons per acre per year for each soil type in the district as follows:

Soil No.	Name of Soil	Soil Loss Limit*
192	Adair Clay Loam	3
422	Amana Silt Loam	5
291	Atterberry Silt Loam	4
171	Bassett Loam	4
193	Bertrand Silt Loam	4
43	Bremer Silty Clay Loam	5
	Chariton Silt Loam	5
63	Chelsea Fine Sand	5
80	Clinton Silt Loam	4
133	Colo Silty Clay Loam	5
520	Coppock Silt Loam	5
175	Dickinson Sandy Loam	3
377	Dinsdale Silty Clay Loam	4
162	Downs Silt Loam	4
428	Ely Silt Loam	5
163	Fayette Silt Loam	4
179	Gara Loam	3
75	Givin Silt Loam	4
41	Hagener Fine Sand (Used Sparta)	5
373	Hopper Silt Loam	5
219	Jackson Silt Loam	4
8	Judson Silty Clay Loam	5
395	Kenyon Loam	4
180	Keomah Silt Loam	4
425	Keswick Loam	3
688	Koszta Silty Loam	5
76	Ladora Silt Loam	4
226	Lawler Loam, deep	4
484	Lawson Silt Loam	5
65	Lindley Loam	3
280	Mahaska Silty Clay Loam	4
119	Muscatine Silty Clay Loam	5
88	Nevin Silty Clay Loam	5
220	Nodaway Silt Loam	5
281	Otley Silty Clay Loam	4
24	Shelby Loam	4
122	Sperry Silt Loam	5
165	Stronghurst Silt Loam	4
279	Taintor Silty Clay Loam	5
120	Tama Silty Clay Loam	5
353	Tell Silt Loam	3
	Udolpho Loam	4
172	Wabash Silty Clay	5
160	Walford Silt Loam	5
687	Watkins Silt Loam	4
771	Waubeek Silt Loam	4
350	Waukegan Silt Loam	4
7	Wiota Silt Loam	5
54	Zook Silty Clay Loam	5

*Represents average annual soil losses expressed in tons per acre per year. Source: U. S. Soil Conservation Service, Work Unit Technical Guide.

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held at 8:00 P.M., Aug. 3, 1972, at Soil Conservation Office at which time and place an explanation of the regulations will be made and opportunity will be given for any landowner or occupant of land who would be affected thereby to be heard for or against the proposed regulations.

Commissioners of Iowa County Soil Conservation District
By Fred White, Chairman

Soil Conservation Week Is Set For October

Soil conservation week in Iowa this year will be Oct. 1-8, according to William Greiner, director of the Iowa department of soil conservation.

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

8-22-72 Alar Rapids Gazette

Long-Term Conservation Bill Passed By Congress

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Without fanfare or much attention outside professional farm and conservation circles, congress has quietly authorized a major new long-term conservation subsidy program for farmers.

The "Long-Term Rural Environmental Protection Contract" program, modeled after a 15-year-old conservation contract system operating in parts of 10 Great Plains states, is included in a rural development bill which won final congressional approval last week.

Under the new program, farmers would work with local soil and water conservation districts and soil conservation service technicians to draw up a basic conservation plan.

Then, the landowner would agree in a contract with the agriculture department to install necessary new conservation features in annual stages running from 3 to 10 years. As each phase of the project was completed, the landowner would get a federal payment covering part of the cost of the work.

The program expands a long-standing conservation aid plan now titled the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP). The REAP program provides one-year-at-a-time cost-sharing payments to farmers who carry out approved conservation practices, with payments this year due to total about \$195 million.

Federal aid under the new long-term contracts, and under the one-year REAP assistance, could be made for projects to curb pollution from animal waste as well as for the traditional soil-saving practices. Stepped-up work in both fields is necessary to help reduce sedi-

ment clogging and pollution of the nation's waterways, according to senate drafters of the new program.

The new rural development bill is silent on how much should be spent on the 3-to-10 year contracts, which could be offered in all parts of the country. Senate aides pointed out, however, that spending could go up to about \$250 million a year eventually if future administrations and congresses agreed.

Legislative experts said one growing group of rural landowners would be shut out of the new long-term conservation subsidy program. The bill restricts the aid to "agricultural producers," barring subsidies to people who buy farms and other rural land for recreation or vacation-home use. The old REAP program similarly bars payments to nonfarmers.

SCS District Will Compete For Prizes

Iowa conservation district will compete for the top prizes in the 26th annual Goodyear conservation awards program, according to Fred White, Parnell, district chairman.

The district will pit its 1972 record of conservation achievements against other districts in the contest sponsored by Goodyear Tire and Rubber company in cooperation with the National Association of Conservation Districts. An independent judging committee will select first and second place districts in the state.

Each first place district wins expense-paid, vacation-study trips for its outstanding cooperators and a member of the governing board.

Iowa County Partners Cited For Soil Conservation Work

By Doris McCartney

MILLERSBURG — A Millersburg farmer, Jim Baldwin, 47, and his landlord R.R. Schroeder, of Marengo, a retired banker, have been cited by the Iowa county Soil Conservation Service (SCS) for outstanding use of soil conservation practices on their farm located five miles northwest of Millersburg.

The two, who operate a partnership totaling 488 acres, began their association in 1953 when the Baldwin family moved to a 248-acre farm purchased by Schroeder in the middle 1930s. Three years ago Schroeder bought another farm two miles away adding that to the original unit.

According to Fred White, Parnell, chairman of the Iowa county SCS committee,

the two men have integrated soil conservation practices into their farming operations.

Their most recent project, a flood control pond on the main farm, was begun on Aug. 3. A total of 8,057 cubic yards of earth were moved in creating the 2.17-acre water-holding structure.

Called a grade stabilization structure, the pond will provide for water to a depth of 25 feet and contains 92 feet of twelve-inch outlet pipe.

According to Baldwin, the work was begun just in time. Two days after construction began devastating rains fell on the area. Fortunately the earth-moving efforts were far enough advanced to contain the run-off.

Last year a pond was built on the west farm with an estimated 5,600 cubic yards of dirt moved for that project.

The very first soil conservation structure was built some eight to ten years ago. Since the construction of that first diversion terrace, nearly 2,000 feet of five-inch tile have been installed on the two farms.

One of the reasons their partnership has been so successful, Schroeder says, is because, "Jim was willing to see land improvements and he wasn't one to over-crop a farm."

"I was a believer in conservation before the offices were locally established. I've seen too many farmers lose land because of soil erosion," Schroeder continued.

"A tenant in Poweshiek county had his freshly planted corn fields saved after a three-inch gully washer because I had persuaded him to try contour plans that spring."

Some 27 years ago Schroeder first had a ditch dynamited on his farm to drain floodwaters from the English river that borders his property. He also established some one-acre and some half-acre wildlife preserves on the rolling hillsides of the farm.

"Around the west pond I personally planted evergreens, honeysuckle and multiple roses. I like to see wild life when I visit the farm," Schroeder added.



—Photo by Doris McCartney, Millersburg

Jim Baldwin, 47, above, farms in partnership with his landlord R. R. Schroeder, a retired Marengo banker, northwest of Millersburg. The two, who are firm believers in soil conservation and have completed extensive soil conservation practices on the two farms they operate in partnership, have been cited by the Soil Conservation Service for their work.

Another reason for farming harmony, adds Baldwin and his wife, Evelyn, is that the owners have been generous with building improvements.

The barns and sheds all have a new coat of paint. In previous years a small barn was moved and enlarged. Steel grain bins have been erected.

Upon moving there, the house was not modern, but later the bathroom and furnace were installed. Within the past three years, a vast remodeling project has been realized. Architectural plans were submitted by Mrs. Schroeder, after evaluating the family needs. The Baldwins are the parents of three: Robert, 17, Dennis, 14, and Connie, 8, all of whom attend the Deep River-Millersburg Community schools.

The dwelling transformation resulted in a 14-foot west addition, another bath, a laundry unit, chore clothes storage,

kitchen and porch remodeling, and enlarged upstairs bedroom. Windows were added to the south for a superb view from the hillcrest site.

Financed by the Schroeders, the total package also included new drapes and extensive carpeting.

The team has been moving into a crossbreed beef herd — Angus or Herefords with Charolais. Jim has been raising quite a few hogs and considerable fencing has been completed during the nearly two decades.

As a former banker figures it, it takes steady work habits to show in the net returns.

10-05-72 N. Eng. Record Ia. Co. Farmer 12-72

Soil Conservation

Gov. Robert Ray has proclaimed Oct. 1 to 8 as Soil Conservation week in Iowa. In his remarks, the governor emphasized that rational use of the state's land and water resources is essential to the maintenance of rural and urban income. He also stated that protection and improvement of the environment benefits all Iowans.

Prevention of soil erosion is an important task of farm operators, says Min Amemiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State university. He encourages farmers to select land use practices that reduce the movement of soil and water.

Some erosion control farming practices he advocates include contour farming, row cropping, terracing, and tillage systems that create rough surfaces for water storage, reduce runoff, and prevent surface crusting.

Soil movement by wind also can be a problem. The agronomist suggests cropping systems and soil conditions that leave the soil surface rough or protected with plant material to reduce soil movement by wind.

Farmers urged to end pollution from their farms

Are there major agricultural conservation and environmental pollution problems in your area? Too few farmers concern themselves with the answer to that question, says the Iowa County ASC Committee.

"All farmers and ranchers should look closely at their farming operations and make a concerted effort toward ending pollution on and near their farms," said the ASC County Committee as they discussed the environmental improvement thrust behind the 1973 Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP).

A main object of REAP is to solve conservation and environmental problems of farming operations in ways that will benefit farmers, the county, and the general public.

American agriculture is becoming more sensitive to correcting the causes of agricultural pollution—soil erosion, crop residues, and livestock waste. For example, gullies and other forms of erosion give evidence that tons of soil wash into our waterways each year. And smelly feedlots with waste runoff problems can spoil nearby water resources and make the surrounding environment generally unpleasant.

REAP cost-share funds can be used to help farmers solve these and other agriculture-related problems that lead to pollution of water, land and air. It can also be used to install projects that conserve soil, water, woodland and wildlife resources.

"Usually REAP shares from 30 to 50 percent of the cost of a conservation project. However, pollution-abatement practices which the State and County ASC Committees consider to be of high-priority for the county can be cost-shared at up to 80 percent of the cost. The higher rate is also available for most community projects which help correct agricultural pollution problems," they said.

A new leaflet entitled "The Rural Environmental Assistance Program in Action," has been issued which explains REAP in detail. Contact your County ASCS office for copies and for information about a specific REAP practice or environmental problem.



WIN CONSERVATION AWARDS — Iowa county Soil Conservation district winners were presented plaques at the annual awards banquet last Wednesday night at Middle America. Seated left to right are John LaRoque, Williamsburg, sixth grade teacher at Conroy, winner in

teacher division; Orville Wichmann, new co-operator division; James Baldwin, operator, and Rudy Schroeder, owner in owner-operator division; and Carl Schnebbe, long time cooperator division. Wives of the men are standing in back of each.

Name Five - -

Named Conservation Winners

Pointing to the need for conservation practices in Iowa county Fred White, Soil Conservation commission member, told the group attending the annual awards banquet last Wednesday night about a study of agricultural run off on the Iowa river between Marshalltown and Marengo.

The study, White said, was made three days between Aug. 30 and Sept. 1 after a two inch rain during the period. Organic content was up 26,000 percent after the rain White said of the study conducted by Dr. Robert Morris, head of the state hygiene laboratory. Organic content included soil, fertilizers, barnlot run off, insecticides and herbicides, etc.

"Farms are major polluters," White said.

Work on conservation is being done and five people were honored at the banquet for their efforts.

Awards went to Carl Schnebbe, long time cooperator division; Rudy Schroeder and James Baldwin, owner-operator division; Orville Wichmann, new cooperator; and John LaRoque, teacher division.

Schnebbe who farms 250 acres west of Conroy has 80 acres of contouring, 4.6 acres grassed waterway, 22 acres strip cropping, 13,439 feet of tile, 18,450 feet terraces, one erosion control structure and 192 acres of the land ade-

quately treated for soil conservation. Schnebbe feeds about 250 head of cattle, 600 hogs per year.

Schroeder owns 484 acres of land farmed by Baldwin, La-dora. There are two erosion control structures on the farm, 9.5 acres in wildlife management, two farm ponds, four acres grassed waterway, 16,247 feet tile, 1,400 feet diversion terrace and 355 acres of land adequately treated according to Soil Conservation standards. The farm has a beef-cow herd and hogs.

Land adequately treated is land used within its capability on which the conservation practices that are essential to its protection and planned improvement have been applied.

Wichmann who lives south of Homestead has a cattle-hog operation on the 215 acre farm. There are 7.5 acres grassed waterway, 11,387 feet tile, 86 acres contouring, 27 acres strip cropping and 140 acres land adequately treated.

All landowners applying for conservation practices that meet SCS specifications are eligible for government cost sharing through the REAP program administered by Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation service county committee. Cost sharing is available at varying rates depending on the type of conservation practices installed said Rick Cordes, SCS director.

LaRoque teaches sixth grade at Conroy. He tries to get his students out doors as much as possible on hikes, etc. he told the conservationists and tries to instill appreciation of land, wildlife around, soil and water conservation.

There were 12 teachers from

the county attending the fall teachers conservation workshop recently. Expenses for the group, larger than usual, normally cared for entirely by SCS were helped also by Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce and Jaycees.

Slides of their 4-H exchange trip to Tennessee were shown by Patricia Hagen and Phil Bott.

Also attending the dinner were Keith Glandon, Des Moines, area conservationist, and George Golinghorst, Walcott, commissioner in Scott county who has been vice president of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation district commissioners.

10-19-72 Journal-Tribune

John LaRoque wins conservation award

Special honor came to John LaRoque, sixth grade teacher in the Williamsburg community school system recently when the awards were presented in the annual Soil Conservation contest with awards going to farmers and teachers.

Winners in Region Seven Carl Schnebbe of Marengo and family operator Schroeder of Marengo and Baldwin, landlord-tenant; John A. LaRoque, teacher. Award in the teacher is based on effectiveness conservation education both classroom and on field. Contest is sponsored by Moines Register.

Primer-Republican 10-19-72

Tillage May Crop Diseases

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Winners in Region Seven were Carl Schnebbe of Marengo, owner and family operator; Rudy Schroeder of Marengo and James Baldwin, landlord-tenant operator; John A. LaRoque, teacher. Award in the teacher section is based on effectiveness in conservation education both in the classroom and on field trips. Contest is sponsored by the Des Moines Register.

Minimum Tillage May Increase Crop Diseases

Increased use of minimum tillage as a soil conservation measure may increase the incidence of certain crop disease in Iowa says Lowell McKean, county extension director.

tation and not planting seed for infected fields.

Crop refuse at the soil's surface aids certain disease-causing fungi and bacteria to overwinter according to Robert Nyvall, extension plant pathologist at Iowa State University. When crop refuse is buried in the soil, it is decomposed more rapidly by soil microflora than if the refuse is left on the soil surface. Many pathogenic fungi and bacteria are protected by the infected crop refuse and are poor competitors with other soil microflora. They rapidly die when buried in soil.

More spores that eventually infect plants are produced when fungi and bacteria have access to water and wind from fungi and bacteria growing in infected crop refuse on the soil surface.

One of the most common corn diseases that becomes more prevalent under minimum tillage is yellow leaf blight. Crop rotation, fungicides and resistant hybrids aid in its control. Goss's bacterial wilt, a relatively new corn disease, can be partially controlled by plowing under all refuse in the fall.

Soybean diseases associated with crop refuse on the soil surface are stem canker, pod and stem blight, and brown spot.

Plowing under infected refuse in the fall is an aid in disease control where soil erosion is not a problem. Other control measures are crop ro-

THE IOWA COUNTY Advertiser

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VOLUME 9 NO. 2

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1973

PUBLISHED BY BULLERS' LITHO

IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

409 Court
Williamsburg, Iowa 52361

NEWSLETTER

Telephone 668-2359

This is the first of a series of newsletters we plan to publish throughout the year and coming years. We hope you will become better acquainted with the District Soil Conservation Service personnel, and the services we provide.

Many people believe we strictly provide conservation assistance to farmers. Although in Iowa County, farmers do constitute the greatest number of our clientel, our services are not limited to this area. Any home owner in town, Civic organization or governmental unit needing assistance with a soil or water conservation problem need only ask and we'll do our best to provide the technical information necessary to solve the problem. In addition to on the land assistance, resource plans and inventories can also be prepared upon request from a governmental unit or an agency within the unit. For example, we assisted the county by identifying soils best suited for a sanitary land fill. We are presently assisting the county wide planning commission with soils information to help in making land use planning decisions. The Williamsburg Planning Commission requested assistance as to soil limitations for such things as residential development with public sewer and buildings for light industrial and commercial use. Woodland inventories, wildlife inventories, recreation inventories, and others could be developed.

We hope everyone will take the time to become better acquainted with the services available to them through their Soil Conservation District.

If you have any questions or comments of any kind we will be happy to assist you.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS

Today, school programs often provide the only opportunity for many young citizens to learn how they depend on natural resources and how man's use and care of soil, water and air affect our environment. Much can be learned from textbooks, lectures and discussions. But in an outdoor classroom, children can learn directly from the natural environment as well as about it.

As an integral part of the school site, an outdoor classroom expands the learning environment readily accessible to children and teachers. Its use requires no special permit, no time-consuming arrangements for transportation, lunches, and comfort facilities, and no shifting of class schedules. More important, it is immediately available for continuous studies, for the unexpected observation, for supervised individual study projects, and for capitalizing on the "teachable moment."

Here, through working with natural resources, students learn how their decisions and behavior affect other living things and how people are affected by the way they use soil, water, air and other living creatures.

By observing, classifying, measuring, analyzing, and interpreting phenomena, children gain not only essential learning skills but also an idea of their own relation to the natural world. As they acquire knowledge and understanding from and about the environment, they also develop some competence in evaluating alternatives for using and managing resources.

Attitudes guide our behavior, and they are shaped early in life. In outdoor classrooms, children can have the many sensory and other learning experiences with soil, water, plants and animals needed to develop a personal value system that gives priority to be-

havior consistent with rational and prudent use of these resources.

In integrating conservation instruction into the K-12 curriculum an outdoor classroom can serve as a laboratory for all studies in the curriculum: physical and social sciences, arts and humanities, vocational education, and others.

The decision to develop an outdoor classroom usually comes long after school building and facilities are in place on a site. But the un-used parts of a site, perhaps those too hilly, too wet, or otherwise considered undesirable, may be ideal for an outdoor classroom. Generally, a conservation plan for the entire school site is needed.

Each outdoor classroom is an individual project. It must be planned according to the size and shape of the area available and to the topography, climate, geologic features, geographic location, and special resource problems of that site.

Any schools interested in developing an outdoor classroom may contact the Soil Conservation Service office in Williamsburg.

RURAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (REAP)

As many of you have already heard, the administration has eliminated the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) For those who may not be familiar with this program it provided government cost-sharing to landowners applying conservation practices on their farms. The REAP program replaced the old ACP cost-sharing program two years ago. Since the conception of the cost-sharing program it was believed that since everyone benefits, everyone should bear part of the cost; not just the landowner.

According to the conservation needs inventory, from a total of 173,483 acres of cropland, 86,974 acres are adequately protected in Iowa County. We have a long way to go before we can consider our soils protected to the extent that they will maintain their productivity and that our lakes and streams will be clear of sediment.

At a recent Ag-Pollution Seminar in Iowa City, ag-engineers, agronomists and industrialists all agreed that the major portion of pollution could be controlled by more and better soil and water conservation. Good soil and water conservation practices are long term capital investments and farmers should not be expected to bear the cost alone, since all mankind benefits.

Take the time to write your congressman to convince him of the importance of a conservation cost-sharing program.

CROP CLINIC

A series of crop clinics are being planned by the Extension Service in January and February. Included in the program will be presentations on Iowa County soils and the Soil Conservancy Law which has been initiated in Iowa. More information concerning these and other topics will be provided by the Extension Service.

COMMISSIONERS SHORT COURSE

The district commissioners from Iowa County will be attending the 28th annual Short Course For Soil Conservation District Commissioners which is being held January 16 and 17 at Ames, Iowa. Some of the topics will include crop production, land use planning, drainage laws and drainage principles and Soil Conservation District Outlook. It should prove to be a very informative two days.

OFFICE PERSONNEL: Rick Cordes, District Conservationist; Clem McBride, Technician; Lennis Doehrmann, Clerk

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS: Fred White, Dick Mouchka, Don Eash, Vernon Sandersfeld, Keith Enochson, David McCartney, Ass't. Com.

Teachers Attend Conservation Workshop

Carol Gryp, third grade teacher, and Arlene Ford, sixth grade teacher, both at Hartwick, attended the Iowa Conservation Education Council's Western Iowa Conservation Education Workshop at the 4-H Camp near Luther, Oct. 13-14.

Some 150 teachers gathered to exchange information about time-tested and innovative activities and programs dealing with the workshop theme of "Ideas to Action".

Minimum tillage grows to 3 million acres in 5 years

DES MOINES — Minimum tillage has grown from virtually none in Iowa five years ago to being practiced on nearly 3 million acres now, according to Wilson Moon, state conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

According to a recent survey by the SCS, more than 28,000 farmers, or a third of all farmers in Iowa, have changed from the moldboard plow to conservation tillage machines and other tools to prepare seedbeds for corn and soybeans.

Moon says conservation tillage can substantially reduce wind and water erosion in the state. Leaving sufficient crop residue spread evenly over the field can reduce soil losses from water erosion by 90 percent over conventionally planted fields, and can totally eliminate soil loss on cropland from wind erosion.

"A variety of new machines and different uses for old machines account for the phenomenal

increase in conservation tillage in the last five years," Moon said.

Half the conservation tilled land was planted with special machines, including the till planter, chisel planter, no-till planter, and rotary till planter. Seedbeds on the other half of the land were prepared with machinery already available on farms, including the disk, field cultivator and similar equipment.

Although conventional machines leave less residue on the ground, they do help somewhat to reduce erosion, Moon said. The disk and other conventional machines are being used mostly on soybean ground.

The most popular special conservation tillage machine has

been the chisel plow. Its use increased 30 percent last year bringing the total land it is used on to 900,000 acres. Much of this land is in central and north-central Iowa.

A modest increase in till planting, most used in northwest Iowa, brought its total acreage to more than a quarter million acres.

No-till planting, a system of planting with the least soil disturbance and the most potential for erosion control, has increased to a total of 100,000 acres in Iowa. This system was developed for planting on grass sod but is also being used on corn and bean fields.

Moon said that some form of conservation tillage could be used on every farm in the state, adding

that it is most effective when combined with terraces, contouring and other conservation practices.

"It is a practice that farmers can adopt and use in a very short time. I think it has a promising future as a way of farming to protect Iowa's soil and water resources."

SCS defends channelization as conservation step

WASHINGTON — The U. S. Soil Conservation Service, sensitive to environmental grumblings, has published two articles on stream "channelization" aimed at clarifying the muddy waters of discontent.

Channelization is the process of straightening, dredging and cleaning out a stream so it will carry more water during periods of excess rainfall. The process is used commonly in SCS watershed programs which are designed to reduce soil erosion on farm land.

Critics say SCS too often applies channelization ruthlessly, thus causing damage to plant and wildlife ecology. Some groups, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., have gone to court in an effort to force SCS to tone down its channelization policy.

But Kenneth E. Grant, adminis-

trator of the Agriculture Department agency, says in the current issue of "Soil Conservation" magazine that channelization has been overplayed.

"Too often, channelization has been treated by its critics as if it were a total program," Grant said. "It isn't."

Grant said channel work is "just one ingredient" of water management in a small watershed project, and not everyone at that.

Some critics have said that SCS plans to channelize some 150,000 miles of natural, fulltime streams in the United States. Grant said "that figure has no basis in fact" and that the public has heard little about the benefits of channelization.

"One benefit is that you get excess water off agricultural land — and other lands, for that matter," Grant said. "If you keep

three feet of water out of your living room during Hurricane Agnes, I'd call that a benefit."

Grant's comments were published as a question-answer interview with Hubert Kelly, information director of SCS. Another article on the subject, entitled "Channelization — the Farmer's Friend", was written by James H. Canterberry, area conservationist for SCS at Edenton, N. C.

"To most farmers and townspeople channel work has long been necessary to drain the low-lying land, thus making farming possible and providing some protection

from floods," Canterberry said.

Further, he said, channelization also "is the only way" to restore some natural streams which have filled with sediment and debris.

North Carolina, in which Canterberry describes channel benefits, also is the site of the Chicod Creek Watershed Project, a planned operation challenged by the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The council was successful in delaying channelization earlier this year through court action until SCS provided a background statement on environmental effects.

Farm Ponds Provide All Around Resource

Abundant and clean sources of water have become the concern of many Iowa county residents including farmers says Carl Lantz, director of Iowa county ASC. Iowa county has been adding an average of ten farm ponds each year for the past five years.

Most of these ponds have been built with help from the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) and its predecessor program administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Uses for farm ponds go far beyond holding fish and catching rainwater Lantz notes. Firefighting, erosion control, recreation, and livestock and wildlife watering are other important functions of farm ponds.

Along with helping to control sediment and flood waters, farm ponds also provide a readily available supply of water for emergencies. Many times a readily accessible farm pond means the difference between the salvage of a barn and a total loss.

Farmers have long used the

farm pond as a conservation tool. Many are used to water livestock. Placed in a strategic location, a farm pond enables a farmer to more efficiently use and conserve more areas of his farm without over-grazing and damaging the protective cover or the land itself.

Along with providing habitat for wildlife, many farm

ponds also provide pleasant recreational areas.

Farmers interested in learning more details about REAP cost-sharing for farm ponds, or about other conservation practices which improve farmland and the environment, should contact the county ASCS office.

Need For Planning, Soil Study Influence Noted At Meeting

"Comprehensive regional planning is very similar to what we do as individuals or in our businesses," Don Shoup, Amana Society secretary, told a group of about 45 people who attended an informational meeting about the subject in Iowa county regional planning at Williamsburg city hall Nov. 29.

The meeting was not a hearing, only an informational one said Henry Zimpleman, chairman.

Shoup pointed out planning involves setting a goal, making plans, taking action, checking to see if it is working out, etc. Regional planning, he continued, differs from individual in that it affects the

county, sets guidelines for all major changes that will occur.

"Because such planning involves so many people it is necessary to have the cooperation of many, preferably all local governments," Shoup continued. "In Iowa county each of the towns and the county government have joined to form the Iowa County Regional Planning commission." He pointed out that the commission had no power or authority to enforce plans, ordinances or regulations. Its function is to recommend. Action comes from each individual government involved and only for their territory he explained.

Total cost of consulting services of three year period ending July 1, 1973 is estimated at \$43,750. Federal and state government are paying two thirds of this under the 701 program. Total local cost of program - consultant fee, secretarial services, supplies, etc. is \$15,909 or \$.35 cents per person per year.

Shoup told the group, "comprehensive regional planning is a tool whereby all concerned citizens through elected county officials can exercise definite control over the future development of the county. By becoming and remaining involved in sound planning process we can in-

sure planning process will remain under county control."

"One very important point to keep in mind," he continued, "is that if we choose to sit back and watch or refuse to become involved in time consuming controversy we will actually hasten the process whereby state and federal agencies will dictate planning processes instead of having the privilege of planning our own."

"One of our Iowa county municipalities initially chose not to participate financially or otherwise in the Iowa County Planning commission," Shoup noted. This same municipality recently made application for federal funds

for the purpose of design and construction of a sanitary system. Application for funds was denied by the federal government because the municipality was not participating in a regional comprehensive planning program. Needless to say, the municipality involved, after payment of previously outstanding assessments, is now a member of our planning commission.

"We might think of this action by the federal government as being a bit harsh, or dictatorial, yet it gives us a clear indication of the direction local government is expected to take," Shoup pointed out.

"We are being told (and, in

my opinion, rightfully so) to get personally involved in comprehensive planning for our region or county. We are also being told that if we don't involve ourselves others will do our planning for us. For this reason I feel it imperative that we get involved, all of us, not as citizens of Marengo, Williamsburg, Amana or Parnell, not as farmers or city dwellers, but as citizens of Iowa county."

Lorne Nestrud, a soil scientist with the Soil Conservation Service, presented a program showing how soils information can be used in planning. He pointed to examples where failure to give adequate consideration to soils

had resulted in expensive problems for highway construction and in residential developments.

Rick Cordes, local Soil Conservation Service, and other S.C.S. personnel assisted in the presentation.

Iowa county has 186 mapping units of soils. There are 49 different soil types in the county some good for growing crops, others not, some good for buildings, build roads, some for bases, etc., Cordes said. Soil needs to be considered first Cordes told the group. A soil survey report was issued here in 1967 and is available at the soil conservation service office he continued. It can help engineers

and others evaluate soil suitability for many uses.

The SCS assisted the county in locating or providing information on suitable soil types for the sanitary landfill he noted.

Cordes also pointed out in a series of slides how soils, water tables, etc. affect a variety of building and land uses. Slides from both Iowa county and out of the county showing various soils and a variety of uses were shown.

Nestrud recommended that those planning to build a house in the country should first consider how and where they are

(Please turn to page 2)

Iowa County Advertiser 2-22-73

Plan National Conference on Conservation Tillage -

ANKENY, IOWA - Using surface vegetative cover in crop production to maintain environmental quality will be the theme of a national conference on conservation tillage, March 28 - 30 in Des Moines, Iowa.

The conference is being sponsored by the Soil Conservation Society of America in cooperation with the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, American Society of Agronomy and National Association of Conservation Districts. It will be held at the Fort Des Moines Hotel.

George Bagley, NACD vice-president from St. Joseph, La. will deliver the keynote address at the opening session on Wednesday, March 28. Following will be a discussion of conservation tillage system concepts and a series of papers on the management principles involved in conservation tillage. These include soil physical properties, soil temperature effects, soil water storage and evaporation, nutrient availability, root growth, soil micro-organisms, weed control, plant disease and insect control.

A banquet will conclude the first day's program.

Environmental consideration, economics and specific conservation tillage systems are the focal points of the Thursday, March 29 program. The day's opening session will concentrate on the use of surface residues and tillage systems to control soil erosion and maintain water quality.

The following session will analyze the costs and returns of conservation tillage systems in humid and semi-humid as well as arid and semi-arid regions.

A luncheon session will precede a review of those specific conservation tillage systems that have proven effective in producing crops while reducing erosion.

The closing session of the conference on Friday, March 30, will deal with the acceptance of conservation tillage systems. Papers will consider the roles of the farmer, conservation districts extension and research in promoting widespread use of conservation tillage.

Complete details on registration can be obtained from the Soil Conservation Society of America, 7515 Northeast Ankeny Rd., Ankeny, Iowa 50021.

Iowa County Farmer 12-7-72

Conservation tillage is up

Conservation tillage has grown from virtually none in Iowa five years ago to being practiced on nearly 3 million acres now, according to Wilson Moon, state conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

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The most popular special conservation tillage machine has been the chisel plow. Its use increased 30 percent last year, bringing the total land it is used on to 900,000 acres. Much of this land is in central and north-central Iowa.

A modest increase in till planting, most used in northwest Iowa, brought its total acreage to more than 1/4 million acres.

No-till planting, a system of planting with the least soil disturbance and the most potential for erosion control, has increased to a total of 100,000 acres in Iowa. This system was developed for planting on grass sod but is also being used on corn and bean fields.

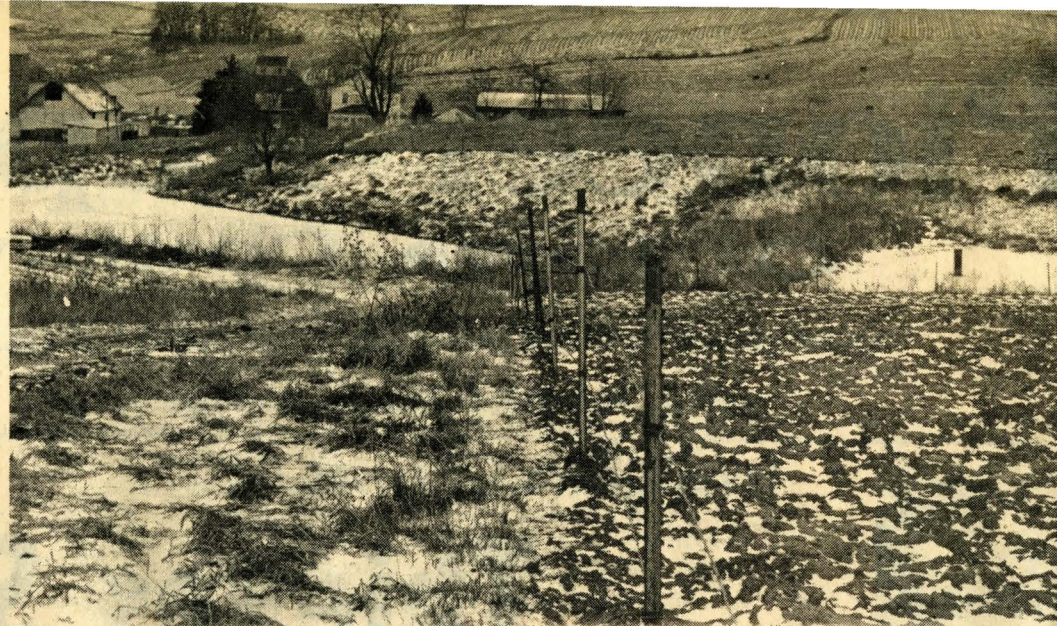
Moon says that some form of conservation tillage could be used on every farm in the state, adding that it is most effective when combined with terraces, contouring and other conservation practices. "It is a practice that farmers can adopt and use in a very short time. I think it has a promising future as a way of farming to protect Iowa's soil and water resources."



TAKE TOUR—Members of the county Soil Conservation and Agricultural Stabilization services, staff members and others toured several farms in the county last week to see how county funds have been put to use. Here left to right Mrs. Lennis Doehrmann, SCS office assistant; Mrs. Dorothy Kleinmeyer, Mrs. Irene Wetjen, ASCS office; Carl Lantz, ASC; Les Furseth, ASC area fieldman, and Clem McBride, SCS, look over part of the hog confinement operation at the Delmar Wetjen farm west of Conroy. Funds for the manure pit below the slats of the pen were applied for but have not been approved as yet pending engineers signature on the project. Projects which do not use already approved plans must be certified by licensed engineer.



LOOKS AT MANURE PIT—ASC and SCS committees toured the Nyle Felling farm southwest of Marengo. Cattle manure pit in foreground was frozen at time of tour. Project has not been approved because not enough reinforcement steel was used to meet specifications set by the state and federal governments for this type of cost sharing project. The SCS does not design manure pits. All concrete pits either meet specifications according to plans already on file or plans drawn up must be certified by a licensed engineer as meeting specifications. Runoff from the concrete manure pit here will go into lagoon across the road in back of the men looking over the project. Left to right are Lambert Elwood, Fred White, Carl Lantz, Felling, and Lowell McKean, county extension director.



LOOK OVER PONDS—ASC and SCS tour included the ponds at the Orlo G.J. Buswell farm southeast of Marengo where a confinement cattle feeding operation has been set up. Part of the lot is area right in foreground. Top pond is a settling basin while the bottom one is a collecting one. Runoff then goes into waterway and soaks into ground. Ponds have not been approved because they did not meet specifications as determined before the project began according to SCS. Dam structures were to be constructed with $2\frac{1}{2}$:1 slope and actual construction was $1\frac{1}{2}$:1 according to Clem McBride, SCS technician. The more gradual slope is more stable, not so apt to sluff off, is easier to seed and consequently less erosion occurs said Rick Cordes, SCS.

Iowa County Advertiser 2-22-73
Cancellation of REAP program affects Conservation

Since the 1973 REAP cost-share program was cancelled, many people have asked how this affects the assistance available through the Soil Conservation District and the Soil Conservation Service.

The Iowa County Soil Conservation District was organized in 1945 to carry out a program of soil and water conservation in Iowa County. A Memorandum of Understanding was entered into with the U.S. Department of Agriculture which outlined the assistance the Soil Conservation Service would provide to landowners in the District.

Conservation planning is the basis of all the services provided. This can include individual planning, group planning and planning for units of government. During the planning process, goals are discussed for the land unit. A soils map is provided with basic soils information and interpretations to aid in land use decisions. Land use capabilities are discussed and the decisions are recorded. The resulting plan enables the landowner to adequately protect his investment and economically develop his resources.

We hope that a new cost-share program will be established but even if it is not, SCS personnel will continue to prepare conservation plans, design conservation practices, and assist with the development and wise use of resources.

Pioneer-Republican 3-22-73
**1973 Iowa Teachers Convention
Camp Will Be Held At Two Sites**

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

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

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

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

For more information, Clausen advises writing him at UNI or contact the conservation education committee of the local soil conservation district. Iowa County teachers may contact John LaRoque, chairman of the education committee or the Soil Conservation Service office, Williamsburg.

Pioneer-Republican 3-15-73
**Announce Plans
For Conservation
Speech Contest**

Contestants are now being accepted for participation in the 1973 soil conservation speech contest.

Statewide contest, sponsored on the local level by county soil conservation district, and Patrons Mutual Insurance association, Williamsburg, is open to all junior and senior high school students in the county.

Topic for the contest will be "Long - Range Community Benefits from Proper Land Management".

Local contest will be held at the Williamsburg city hall Mar. 27 at 7:30 p.m. Winner of the local contest will advance to the regional competition in June or July.

First, second, and third place winners of the local contest will each receive a plaque and \$15, \$10, and \$5 respectively. Each additional participant will receive \$2.

Anyone interested in entering the contest may obtain information from the Soil Conservation Service office, Williamsburg. All youths, rural or urban, are encouraged to enter.

North English Record

Control of Erosin is Being Planned

Throughout Iowa county the finishing touches are being put on plans for cropping or construction projects conceived over the long winter months and the machinery is poised to begin carrying them out. Fred White, Chairman of the Iowa County Soil Conservation District, points out that an important part of planning considerations should be measures to assure the control of erosion from unprotected land.

He cautioned that "Never in history has the conservation and wise development of our natural resources been more important. Soil, water, forests, fish and wildlife, open space, natural beauty all are highly vulnerable to misuse and waste."

At the local level, officials of soil conservation districts are working to conserve and develop these resources for all people. White emphasized that soil conservation and planning services are available through the District office and these services are provided without charge to urban and rural residents alike.

Serving the Iowa County Soil Conservation District along with Chairman White are: Commissioners Donald Eash, Parnell; Richard Mouchka, Marengo; Keith Enochson, Conroy; Vernon Sandersfeld, Homestead; and Assistant Commissioner David McCartney, North English.

Septic tanks need cleaning in spring

Regular maintenance is required for successful septic tank operation in a home sewage disposal system, Dale Vanderholm told Iowa and Benton county residents attending a sanitary waste disposal meeting March 5 at the Colony Inn in Amana.

Vanderholm, extension agricultural engineer at Iowa State university, Ames, said septic tanks should be cleaned before sludge and scum accumulations build up and are carried out the outlet. Such discharge clogs the soil absorption system and is the primary cause of septic tank failure.

He explained that a septic tank combines anaerobic decomposition with settling and flotation to treat household sewage. The solids content of septic tank effluent is much less than that of raw sewage and can be infiltrated into the ground through a soil absorption system.

"A successful soil absorption system first requires a soil with adequate infiltration characteristics," he continued. "The system must be adequately sized and properly installed. The final requirement for successful operation is regular tank maintenance, which means a periodic cleaning."

Some areas are not suitable for septic tank systems, he added. High water tables, tight soils, fractured rock formations and some other conditions prohibit the use of septic tanks with soil absorption systems. Other treatment methods are available for such conditions. For example, naturally aerobic sewage lagoons

with surface spreading of the effluent may work in tight soil areas. Sand filter systems for septic tank effluent are another possibility.

Treatment systems using mechanical aeration are becoming available, according to the engineer. "However, it is doubtful that any of the current systems will produce an effluent of suitable quality for discharge into water courses", he said.

"Evapotranspiration systems appear successful in more arid parts of the country. But they may not function as well where natural precipitation and evaporation are nearly equal.

"While a simple solution to home waste disposal problems is not always available, we have enough alternatives to design a successful system for most situations", Vanderholm said.

Others on the program included Rick Cordes and Floyd Peters of the Iowa and Benton County Soil Conservation service offices. They discussed local soil types and their effects on sewage treatment systems. Mr. Harry Grant of the State Department of Health covered state regulations. Larry Webert, Benton County Sanitarian, explained local regulations.

The meeting was sponsored by the Cedar Rapids Area Extension service of Iowa State university. Three other educational meetings on home sewage disposal are scheduled throughout the Cedar Rapids extension area during the next two weeks.

Petitions Are Presented - - *Pioneer-Republic 4-12-73*

ment methods are available for such conditions. For example, naturally aerobic sewage lagoons

City Council Calls For Swim Pool Vote

Marengo city councilmen unanimously accepted petitions signed by 280 voters requesting a bond issue to vote on a new swimming pool. Council moved that a bond issue be held at the earliest possible date.

Tuesday morning Harold Swift, city attorney, told the P-R that he had talked with Philip Dorweiler, Des Moines, who has been bonding attorney for the new city hall, water tower and Marengo Memorial hospital addition. Dorweiler told Swift the petitions for the swimming pool would have to be recirculated including additional information on the amount of millage the new pool would cost. That amount will be determined when the valuation has been established and the council has agreed on the number of years over which to spread payment. For an amount of \$150,000 this might be 20 years Dorweiler said.)

Members of the new swimming pool commission met with councilmen Wednesday night and reviewed their findings. Included was possibility that federal funds may be available for the project. To be eligible for funds, however, a professional planner would need to be retained to carry out some work in preparation for an application.

Dave Hogan, spokesman for the pool commission, reiterated pool commission findings - that is based on existing conditions and needs a new swimming pool should be constructed. The present one, the commission says, would not meet minimum standards of the state board of health.

American Legion, which has owned, operated and staffed the pool for 42 years, has agreed to open the pool this year but will not next year. They plan to repair valves in the filtering system

and inlet piping so it may be opened this year and will completely drain and clean the pool with an acid bath to make it more sanitary.

The pool commission had retained D.C. Taylor company as a consultant. Consultation is free dependent on the company getting the bid on new pool construction or if a bond issue does not pass. If the company does not get the bid, then there is an 8 percent fee.

The swimming pool commission told the council they felt a bond issue, if bonding capacity allows this, should be for \$150,000 of which \$125,780 would be for actual construction of a 4,000 square foot pool. Additionally, money would be needed for first season operation and to begin retiring bonds, they said.

Hogan was told to contact a consulting engineer - Powers-Willis, Iowa City, to ask a representative to meet with

the council and commission to explain what was needed to obtain federal funds. That meeting was scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Apr. 11.

A letter of certification from the bonding attorney is also needed to determine bonding capacity. Harold Swift, city attorney, recommended the council retain an experienced bonding attorney as they have done on other projects in the past.

Members of the pool commission attending in addition to Hogan were Terry Housman, Mrs. Nyle Felling, Evelyn Behrens, Al Kloess and Keith Disterhoft.

Lowell McKean, county extension director, met with the council to discuss mosquito control. See separate article.

Housing Areas

James Sauerbrei met with the council on extension of city water lines to property he has agreed to buy and will build a

home on this summer. He pointed out there would be potential for four homes to be served in the area of Clinton and what would be the east extension of May street.

The city agreed to run a stub water line of about 200 feet on an easement agreement with Ed Brecht to run the line across his property so that he too could connect to it at a future time.

Mrs. Edward Shima appeared before the council to question procedures so far as the city is concerned on platting an area in the southwest part of Marengo. Mrs. Shima said they own about 200 acres in the area which includes land between Pine and Miller streets.

Shimas propose to plat the area on the south side of Pine street first. Water and sewer lines are on the other side of the street. She said they propose to have houses face exist-

ing streets and are planning on 100 foot lots to protect the look of the area.

There is presently no sewer line on Miller street with none serving the street west of Western avenue. Because the area is in the city Maas said the city would place a sewer line there.

Kenneth Hadenfeldt, water commissioner, pointed out that Pine street is offset in the area under discussion. Dr. David Fry, councilman, also pointed out that because water and sewer lines run north and south that even though streets are not put through between Pine and Miller an easement area should be left on what would be the street extensions for water and sewer lines.

Soil Maps

Richard Cordes, county soil conservationist, displayed soil surveys of the county indicating types of maps that the SCS can prepare for a municipality including an area within a two mile radius.

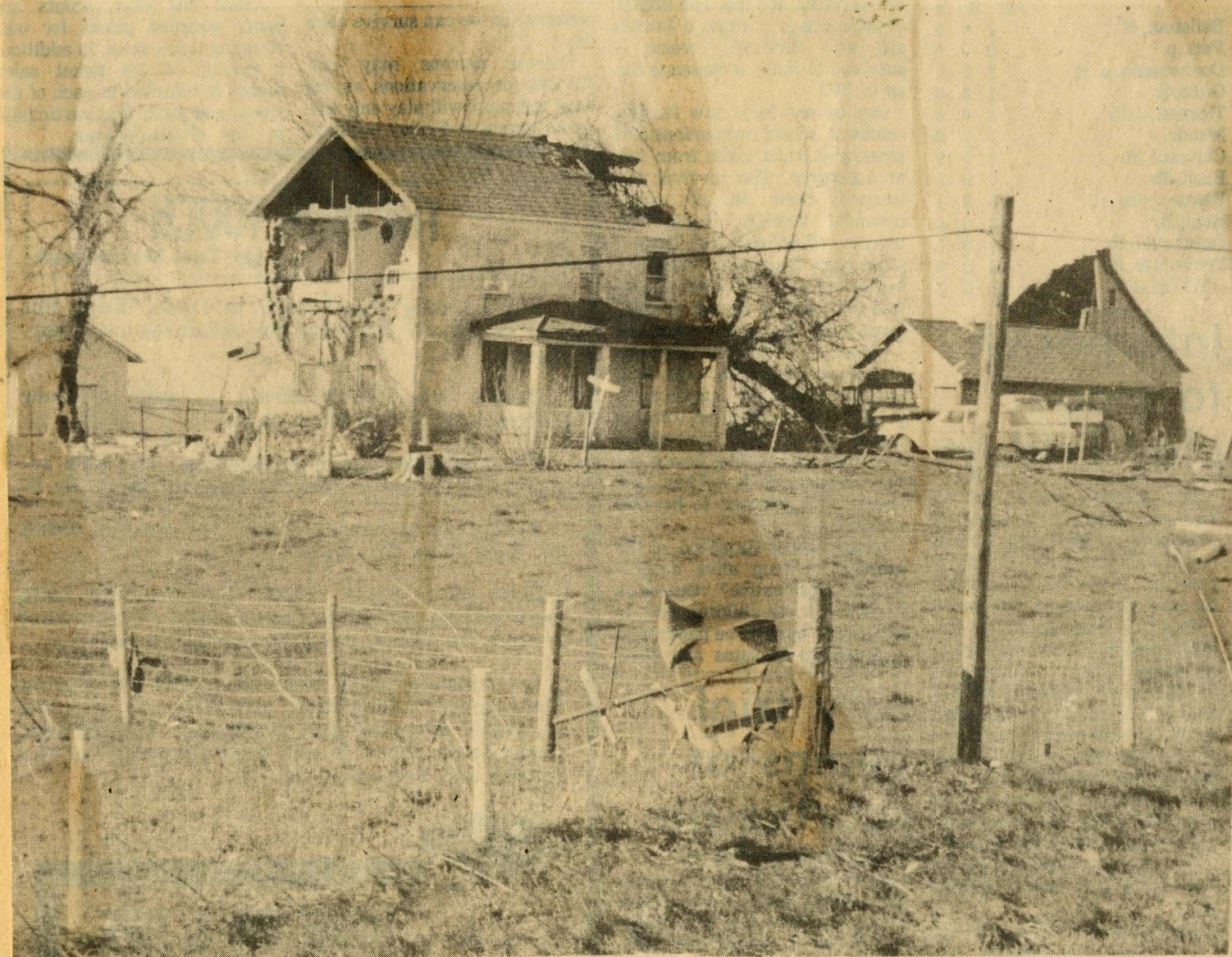
Maps are colored according to a code indicating soil limitations which effect land useage Cordes explained. This helps, he continued, indicate what special planning might

be necessary in building. He noted that sometimes extra expense is involved for people planning building when soil types are not suited for the proposed project.

Cordes explained that the service would be free to Marengo and in addition to the maps soil sheets would be included.

Tornado rips county Saturday, hits 19 farms; houses destroyed; crews move for cleanup and repair

SOIL CONSERVATION SERV
BOX 210
WILLIAMSBURG, IOWA 52336



A thundering tornado ripped through southeast and eastern Iowa county Saturday afternoon damaging or destroying 19 farms and causing an estimated \$600,000 in damage.

Workers moved in Sunday and Monday to begin to restore the damage and pick up debris.

Miraculously, there was no death and only one minor injury, to Mrs. Bert O'Brien, who was hit on the head with a brick. She was hospitalized overnight Saturday, but was back working at her wrecked home Sunday.

More tornado pictures
on Page 7

Perhaps the closest call in terms of probable death came at the Herbert and Lloyd Swain farm seven miles east of Williamsburg. The Herbert Swains lived in a trailer house about 50 feet from the farmhouse. When they spotted and heard the tornado, they decided to take cover in the cement block garage that is adjacent to the trailer. However, just as they stepped out into a lean-to entrance the tornado swept the trailer house away and dumped it about 100 feet from its original location in front of the farmhouse. The garage also was destroyed.

Neighbors, friends and other volunteers moved in quickly Sunday and Monday to help clean up the mess, and to aid with such restoration of buildings as was possible. A contingent of 139 men from the well-known Mennonite disaster relief corps appeared to work Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and possibly longer.

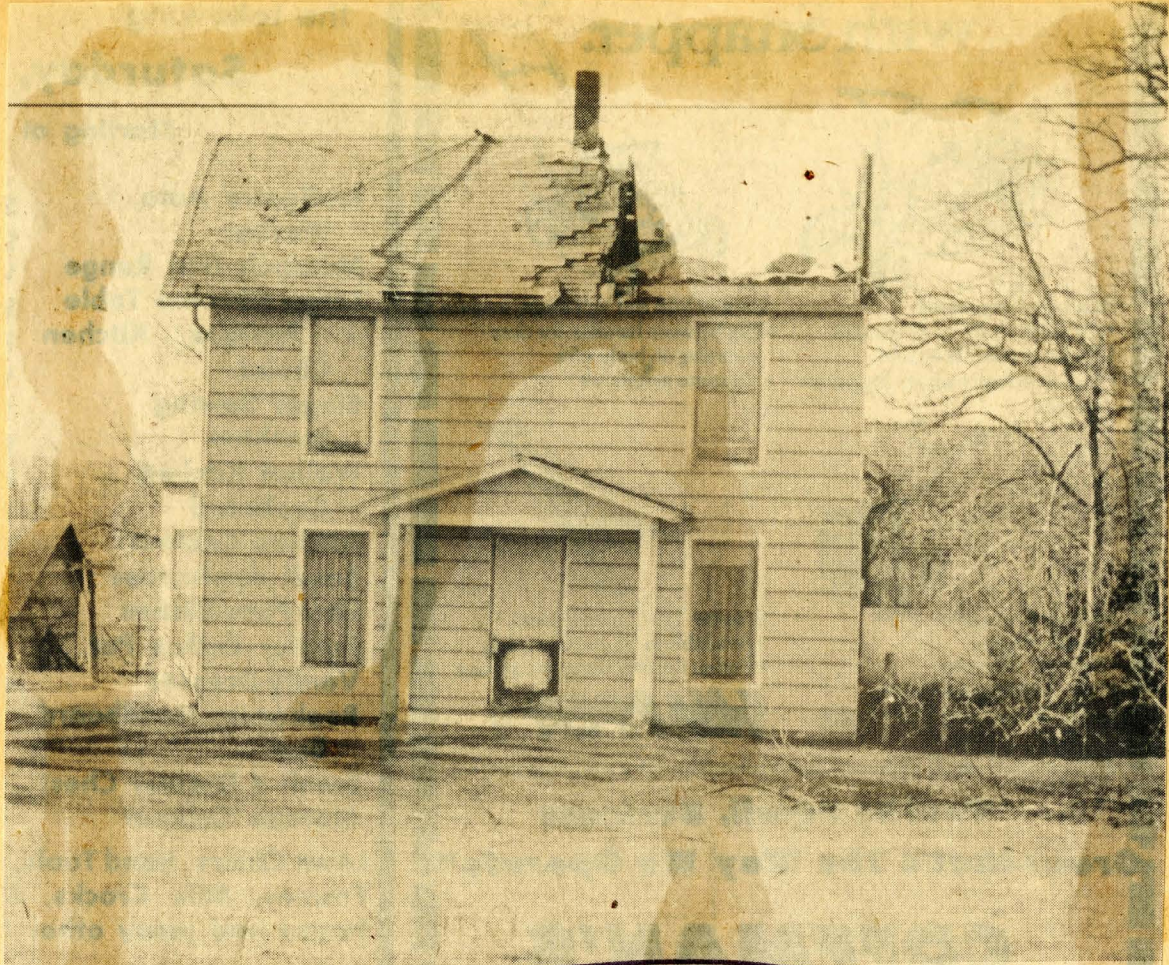
Clayton Ford home wrecked, burned down

Perhaps the worst damaged house from the tornado that struck Iowa county Saturday was the Clayton Ford home between Parnell and Holbrook. The solid brick structure, believed to be about 107 years old, had one end completely torn out of it. The venerable house was burn down Tuesday by

the Williamsburg fire department after insurance adjusters deemed it too badly damaged to salvage. Firemen reported that the outside walls were built with three thicknesses of bricks, and that two inside walls were two

bricks thick. The house did not burn quickly. These two pictures show the Ford house as it looked immediately after the tornado hit Saturday (left) and during the fire Tuesday afternoon.

Continued on Page 5, Col. 1



FRED WHITES LOST HALF OF ROOF
It was replaced by Tuesday

JOURNAL-TRIBUNE
WILLIAMSBURG, IOWA 5231
THURSDAY, APR. 26, 1973.



BERT O'BRIEN HOUSE WRENCHED FROM FOUNDATION
House was burned Tuesday

Tornado hits 19 area farms, destroys houses

Continued from Page 1

on the farms.

Lunches, snacks and other services for the victims and for the volunteers were furnished at St. Michael's rectory at Holbrook and at the Center in Parnell.

A disaster relief fund also was started in Williamsburg. Local businessmen set up accounts in the two banks where contributions can be deposited.

The Iowa county civil defense agency did a good job Saturday and Sunday of blocking off the entries to the disaster area to prevent tourists and other sightseers from disrupting the work and from possible looting and other illegal activities.

Some of the victims of the tornado spotted the storm before it hit, while others just knew there was a very strong wind and took cover.

Mrs. Lloyd Swain, who was at home with her three small children, said she did not know specifically that a tornado was in the area.

"I decided to take to the basement when I saw the children's swings standing straight out in the air," Mrs. Swain said.

Gone to work

Her husband had just gone to work at the Little Amana Gulf station about 15 minutes before the storm hit.

When she got to the basement, the wind knocked the house off the foundation. She said she thought the house was gone. She said she was drenched because she was in a corner that was exposed when the house was knocked about 10 feet off its foundation.

The injury to Mrs. O'Brien came when a brick apparently was knocked off their house's foundation hit her on the head. Their house also was knocked off its foundation. Both the Swain and the O'Brien homes are considered a total loss, although most of the furniture and other furnishings in them were saved.

Mrs. O'Brien said their family was warned by their son, Pat, who was outside. He came rushing into the house yelling for them to go to the basement.

Went upstairs

Bert O'Brien, however, went upstairs to close a couple windows. He never made it to the basement because he couldn't get the basement door open when he got back downstairs.

Mrs. O'Brien said she and her husband are considering retirement and may not rebuild the house, although their son, Pat, might.

Another farm that received major damage was the Luke Collins place. Collins was sitting in his living room visiting with his sister, Sister Anna Catherine, who teaches at a parochial school in Minneapolis, when he spotted the twister out the west window. The Collins then headed for the basement, where they were safe as the storm ripped the second floor off their house, destroyed their barns and other outbuildings and severely injured four market-ready Angus steers, all of which had to be killed.

The Fred White family, along with son Lee and his wife visiting his parents for Easter, were sitting around the kitchen table when Lee spotted the funnel out the west window. The White

family quickly headed for the basement, but not before Mrs. White grabbed pillows and blankets to protect their heads.

Wrenching noise

She said there was a loud wrenching noise when the storm took the west half of their roof off. The roof was being replaced Monday.

Perhaps the worst damaged house was the Clayton Ford home. However, the Fords were not at home at the time of the twister, rather being in North English. They arrived home shortly afterward to find their farm in a shambles and one end out of their house. It was judged a total loss.

Both the O'Brien and Ford houses were burned down by the Williamsburg fire department Tuesday. After insurance adjusters had finished their appraisals, it was deemed quickest and most efficient just to burn the houses in place rather than try to tear them down.

Several barns also have been burned.

There were five pockets of damage in the county. The most extensive was along the Black Diamond road between Parnell and Holbrook, where the tornado touched down first at the Arnold Hanson Jr. farm and then worked its way along the road for 1½ miles to the Ford farm before turning more northeast. There was nothing then until the Joe Black, and John Malloy farms on the road 1½ miles north of the Black Diamond.

The Malloys lost a barn, a large machine shed and had severe damage to their house, although the house can be repaired. Mrs. Malloy said the family was just ready to go to Holbrook—and had shut the barn doors preparatory to the storm—when they saw the funnel. They then headed for the basement.

Heads northeast

After leaving that road, and heading northeast again, the storm took out several buildings at the Dynese (Bud) Collums and then caused over \$100,000 in damage at the Virgil Meyer farm.

Mrs. Meyer said they also saw the funnel and got in the corner of their basement under a table. The storm ripped the roof off their house, which is relatively new. The basement of the split level place was untouched, so the family stayed there.

She said she heard the howling noise of the tornado, but they didn't know of the damage to the house until they came outside.

The Meyers also lost their barn and other buildings and a brand new silo was damaged. Workmen were well on their way to restoring the Meyers' roof by evening Monday.

Swains hit

The Swains live in the same mile as the Meyers, northeast, and were hit next.

The storm then skipped to the Harvey Prizler and then the Robert Martinsons, who live eight miles straight east of Williamsburg one mile short of the Johnson county line. They lost two barns. The storm then lifted again, as it continued on its northeasterly course, before touching down and ripping into two mobile homes in the Oxford area.

Here is a list of the 19 farms where damage in varying

Tornado hits 19 area farms, destroys houses

Continued from Page 1

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Here is a list of the 19 farms where damage in varying degrees occurred in the order the

degrees occurred in the order the tornado hit as compiled by Robert Gurzenhauser, director of the Iowa county civil defense office:

-Paul Septer (who lives seven miles southwest of Parnell, and apparently was the first hit), silo damage.

-Arnold Hanson, lost machine shed and fences.

-James Taylor, lost barn and part of roof off house. House still liveable.

-Bert O'Brien. Farmstead completely destroyed including

house, barn and outbuildings.

-Leonard Collins, part of roof off barn and minor damage to the house.

-Luke Collins. The roof and most of the second floor were torn off the house, the barn was destroyed and other outbuildings were damaged. Four cattle were killed, but three could be slaughtered immediately.

-Marguerite and Marie Spratt, lost part of the roof off their house their barn and garage. The house roof was being repaired. Also damaged was their corn crib.

-Fred C. White, part of roof was lost off house and their barn was practically destroyed.

-Clayton Ford. House destroyed. Barn destroyed, along with other buildings.

-Joe Black, lost barn and corn crib roof off.

-John F. Malloy, lost a machine shed and barn, some damage to the house.

-Dynise (Bud) Collum, house damage to roof.

-Virgil Meyer. Lost roof off house, also lost barn and other outbuildings. Brand new silo damaged.

-Herbert and Lloyd Swain. House off foundation and a total loss. Trailer home demolished. Barn demolished. Hog house demolished. Garage demolished. Corn crib damaged.

-Harvey Prizler (located one mile northeast of the Swains), damage to house, lost cattle shed and feeder. Damage to chicken house.

-Robert Martinson, located eight miles east of Williamsburg. Two barns demolished on two different farmsteads. Corn crib demolished and house damaged.



HERBERT SWAINS BARELY ESCAPED DEATH IN THIS TRAILER
 It was hurled 100 feet moments after couple stepped into leanto



ALL OUTBUILDINGS WERE DESTROYED ON THE JAMES TAYLOR FARM

Let Soils Dry Out

For most Iowa farmers, much field work remains to be done if crops are to be planted on time this year. Because of a late harvest last year and a wet fall, very little fall tillage and fertilization got done. And, if wet, cool conditions continue to delay soil drying—some farm operators will be tempted to “jump the gun” getting their spring field work done.

“Give your soils a chance to dry out,” advises Min Amemiya, ISU extension agronomist. Tilling soils when wet will turn up large slabs and clods—and it’s difficult to get a good seedbed without extra secondary tillage trips. And this takes time and labor which will be in rather short supply. In addition, these extra trips invite problems of soil compaction from tractor traffic.

For best results this spring, tillage should be shallower than usual, working with the dryer portions of the soil profile, regardless of the tool or system used. Reducing the number of trips over the field by eliminating operations or combining operations will probably be the pattern this year. This will not only cut time and labor requirements, but in most cases will also result in soil conditions more conducive to the control of soil erosion by wind and by water.

Even on heavy textured and poorly drained soils, a satisfactory seedbed can be prepared by a shallow disking or chiselling with no moldboard plowing, provided it’s done when soils are considered not too wet to plow. Disking under wet conditions can create a severe compaction problem. Where crop residues are heavy, you will probably have to disk twice or chisel once and disk once. The first trip should be at some angle to last

year’s rows, with the second trip being used as a secondary, smoothing operation just prior to planting. A disk opener type planter or a stub runner on the planter is suggested to get through heavy trash. Disking is especially recommended on last year’s bean ground going into corn this year. We feel it’s not necessary to plow bean ground.

On medium textured soils, there is little reason to believe that spring plowing will produce more corn than shallow seed bed preparation using a field cultivator or disk. Other conservation tillage systems such as till-plant or slot-plant should also work well so long as the soil is not excessively wet, and tillage depth is not excessive relative to the depth of planting to assure good seed contact with firm soil. With any reduced tillage system, weeds can be expected to be more of a problem than with the conventional plow-disk-harrow sequence, without a well planned weed control pro-

gram.

Where soil conditions permit, substituting light disking or chiselling for plowing, or the use of one of several one-pass conservation tillage systems such as till planting, slot planting or strip rotary tillage can save several days this spring with no sacrifice in crop performance. And, at the same time these alternatives to plowing, by leaving a mulch of plant residue on the soil surface will provide added benefits to the farmer and to society by reducing the movement of soil from the land through the action of water and wind.

To summarize:

1. Give your soils a chance to dry up.
2. Till shallow.
3. Plant shallow, but making certain there is good contact of seed and firm soil to assure good germination, early emergence and early plant growth.
4. Eliminate or combine operations.
5. Have a workable weed control program combining cultural and chemical methods.

IOWA COUNTY ADVERTISER Williamsburg, Iowa Thursday, August 2, 1973

Iowa County landowners interested in constructing permanent conservation practices can now apply at the Soil Conservation District office in Williamsburg.

50% cost-sharing assistance is available for the initial installation of parallel and graded terraces, diversion terraces, waterways and grade stabilization structures. Priority considerations will be given each practice in the order in which listed above.

To be eligible for cost-sharing assistance the landowner must enter into a cooperative agreement with the soil conservation district. The agreement will provide, among other requirements, that he has or intends to develop and follow a conservation plan for his farm that is acceptable to the district and that he will properly maintain the practices for which cost-share assistance is requested or refund the cost-share money.

The Soil Conservation District Commissioners will administer the cost-sharing funds. These men are elected by the residents of Iowa County for a six year term. Presently they include Fred White, Don Eash, Keith Enochson, Vernon Sandersfeld and Dick Mouchka.

Cost-share funds may be used to share the costs of installing soil conservation practices only where the district’s representative has inspected the site and determined that the practice is needed and practical prior to commencement of installation. The district’s representative will be the Soil Conservation Service personnel.

Anyone having questions should stop at the Soil Conservation District office and discuss them with Rick Cordes, Clem McBride or Lennis Doerhmann.

Soil conservationist describes various soils in Williamsburg

Richard Cordes, Iowa county soil conservationist, presented information about the different soil types within a radius of two miles of Williamsburg at the April meeting of the Williamsburg Planning and Zoning commission Wednesday night.

Using a black and white map, he projected colored slides on the map to show the different soil types: their suitability for building homes, buildings for light industrial and commercial use, cottages, intensive camp sites and picnics, as well as trails.

Different soil types in Williamsburg are described as: Ladoga, Colo, Otley, Adair and Shelby.

Teacher Conservation Workshops Available

Three conservation education workshops will be offered for Iowa teachers this October, announces Howard Hughes, president of the Iowa Conservation Education Council. One will be held at Camp Ewalu, near Strawberry Point, October 5 and 6; the other two workshops will be October 12 and 13 at the State 4-H Camp near Luther and at Camp Hitchcock, approximately 15 miles north of Council Bluffs. The two-day sessions are intended to give teachers first hand learning experiences in environmental studies.

Fred White, Chairman of the Iowa Soil Conservation District, says the three workshops offer about the same material; three locations are being of-

fered in an effort to bring the workshops closer to home for teachers. White recommends area teachers attend the workshop at Strawberry Point.

Costs of the two-day workshop will be similar to last year’s costs, estimated under \$15.

Those interested should contact the District office for reservation forms or more information.

Hughes says a total of 400 teachers are expected at the three workshops. They are sponsored by ICEC, the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners, the Department of Public Instruction, Iowa Department of Soil Conservation and the Iowa Conservation Commission.

Kinsinger, Cox Win SCS Contest

Local winners of soil conservation contest sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune have been chosen by district SCS commissioners.

There are three divisions for the contest: division I, long-time soil conservation district cooperator; division II, owner-operator; division III, new cooperator during the year 1969 or later.

Local winners are Russell Kinsinger, division I, and John Cox, division III. There was no winner in division II this year.

Scoring is based on correct

land use, conservation work accomplished, crop utilization on the farm, community service in the soil conservation district program and general appearance of the farm.

A conservation teacher is also named in the same contest. Mrs. Pamela Wyman, Williamsburg Community school, was chosen by the commissioners as county winner.

Winners of the local contest will go to the regional one for judging. Winners at the regional go on to compete at the state level.

Soil Conservation Speech Contest Plans Announced

Contestants are now being accepted for participation in the 1973 Soil Conservation speech contest. The statewide contest, sponsored on the local level by the county Soil Conservation district, and Patrons Mutual Insurance Association, Williamsburg, is open to all junior and senior high school students in the county.

Topic for the contest will be "Long-Range Community Benefits from Proper Land Management."

The local contest will be held at the Williamsburg City Hall, March 27 at 7:30 P.M. Winner of the local contest will advance to the regional competition in June or July.

First, second and third place winners of the local contest will each receive a plaque and \$15, \$10 and \$5 respectively. Each additional participant will receive \$2.

Anyone interested in entering the contest may obtain information from the Soil Conservation Service office, Williamsburg. All youths, rural or urban, are encouraged to enter the contest.

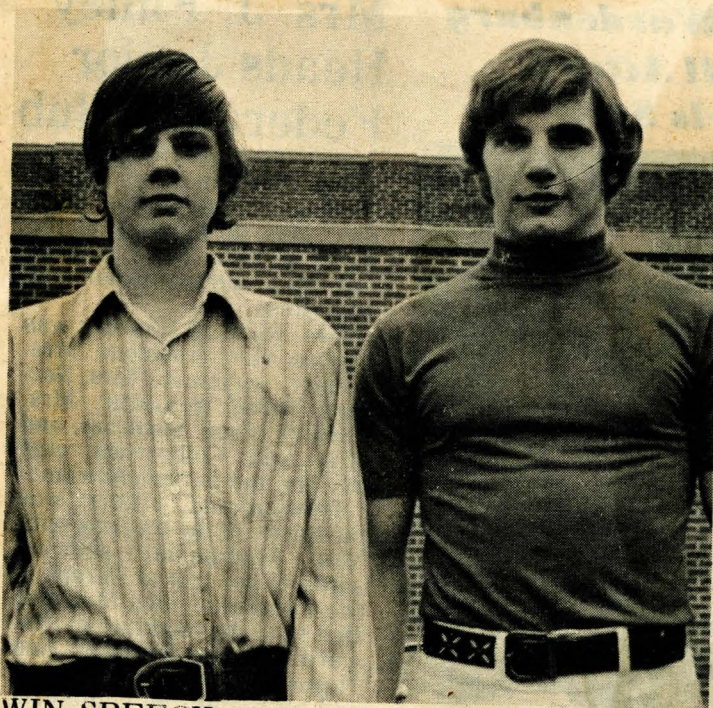


—Photo by Doris McCartney, Millersburg

Soil Speech Winners Named

Lee Hacker, 17, of Marengo, second from left, was the winner of the Iowa county soil conservation district speech contest on Tuesday evening in the city hall. Presenting checks to the winners is Lennis Doebrmann, Williamsburg, soil district secretary. Second place went to Kevin Brower, 18, South English, and third place to Dean Dickel, 16, Marengo. Hacker will advance to the regional contest later this year.

Pioneer-Republican 4-05-73



WIN SPEECH AWARDS — Lee Hacker, right, won first place in the Iowa county soil conservation speech contest held in Williamsburg Mar. 27. Dean Dickel, left, won third place. Speeches were on topic long range community benefits from proper land management. Second place was won by Kevin Brower, South English, who won first place last year. Hacker, who will go on to compete in the regional contest this summer, and Dickel attend Iowa Valley high school and Brower attends English Valleys. Boys won \$15, \$10 and \$5 prizes.

Pioneer-Republican - 7-12-73

SCS Speech Contest Winners Announced July 6

In a regional seven soil conservation district speech contest Friday evening at Seven Villages, I-80, cash awards of \$25, \$15 and \$10 were given to three eastern Iowa youth by sponsors Grinnell Reinsurance company and SCS ladies auxiliary.

Winners were: Mike Yoder, son of the Robert Yoders, Wellman, first; Kirk Baird, Clinton, second place; and Kent Lage, Columbus Junction, third.

Yoder, a senior this fall at Mid-Prairie and FFA member, will advance to state meet at Des Moines Sept. 9.

THE PIONEER-REPUBLICAN
Marengo, Iowa July 19, 1973 Page

THE PIONEER-REPUBLICAN
Marengo, Iowa July 26, 1973 Page

DEPARTMENT OF SOIL CONSERVATION STATE OF IOWA

Notice of election of commissioners for the Iowa Soil Conservation district encompassing lands lying in the County of Iowa in the State of Iowa:

To all qualified electors residing within the Iowa County Soil Conservation District:

Notice is hereby given that on the 31st day of July, 1973, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M., an election will be held for the election of commissioners for the Iowa County Soil Conservation District.

Polling places for election are as follows:

Iowa County 4-H Fairgrounds, Marengo, Iowa.

Eligible voters residing within the district shall cast their ballots at one of the polling places. Eligible voters who will be absent from the district on the day of election, may apply in person, or in writing, to the County Auditor at Marengo, Iowa, for "Absentee Ballots". Each applicant for an absentee ballot shall state his name and address when application for such ballot is made.

Department of Soil Conservation
By: George K. Aunan
Chairman, State Soil Conservation Committee
Department of Soil Conservation
29-21

THE IOWA COUNTY Advertiser

303 Highland (Hiway 149) Williamsburg, Iowa 52361 Phone (319) 668-1030

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VOLUME 9 NO. 15

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1973

PUBLISHED BY BULLERS' LITHO

409 Court Street,
Williamsburg, Iowa

IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

NEWSLETTER
Phone 668-2359

COUNTY WIDE SPEECH CONTEST

Each year the Iowa County Soil Conservation District and Patron's Mutual Insurance sponsor a county wide speech contest for all junior high and senior high students. The first, second and third place winners each receive a plaque and \$15, \$10, and \$5 respectively. Each additional contestant receives \$2 for participating.

The local winner goes on to compete at the regional level and the winner there goes on to state competition.

Our education committee organized the contest and did a real fine job. The only problem we have had with the contest is that not enough students participate. We would like to have 2 or 3 students from each school.

Judges were Mrs. Judy Giles, Marengo, Mrs. Diane Curtis, Williamsburg, and Norman Skadburg, Williamsburg. We appreciate the fine job the judges did.



Lee Hacker, 17, of Marengo, second from left, was the winner of the Iowa County Soil Conservation District speech contest on Tuesday evening, March 27th in the city hall. Presenting checks to the winners is Lennis Doehrmann, Williamsburg, Secretary-Treasurer to the Iowa County SCD Commissioners. Second place went to Kevin Brower, 18, South English, and third place to Dean Dickel, 16, Marengo. Hacker will advance to the regional contest later this year.

SOIL CONSERVATION ART CONTEST

All elementary and high school students in Iowa County are encouraged to participate in the annual soil conservation art contest to be held May 11th at the Williamsburg City Hall. Judging will be done between 6 and 7 p.m. with the contest open to the public from 7 to 9 p.m.

There are two levels of competition so the elementary students are not competing with the junior high and senior high students.

The first three places of each level receive a plaque and \$20, \$15, and \$10 for the junior high and senior high level and \$7.50, \$5 and \$3 for the elementary level.

The winning pictures will be placed on display at the Soil Conservation Service Office for one year. At the end of the year the student may reclaim the picture.

Judging will be based on artistic techniques, conservation content, general effect, and its typicalness to Iowa County.

We are looking forward to a lot of good contest entries. Kids bring your parents.

CONTOURING AND STRIPCROPPING



Clem McBride, Conservation Technician, staking contours at Orville Wichmann's.

Note the strip cropping in the background. Orville's strip cropping was staked last year and after having farmed it one year, he's firmly convinced that up and down hill farming is the wrong way. He exclaimed, "It's amazing just how much easier the plow pulls on the contour. The tractor never did have to really open up like it did going up the hills."

Others staking contours and strip cropping so far this spring are: Arnold Huedepohl, Ken Boeke, Adolph Zuber, Warren Gingerich, Arnold Schnebbe Jr., Dean Humphrey and John Cox. Ben Osweiler, Byron Goldthwaite and Duane Schwarting will be doing some later.

Some advantages of contouring or strip cropping is that machinery pulls easier, it reduces soil loss by 50-75%, conserves moisture, and increases yields. Although there are some short rows, there are also more long rows as compared to straight row farming.

What is lost in one location is gained in another.

Anyone wanting to do any contouring or strip cropping is encouraged to stop at the Soil Conservation Service office or call and make an appointment with Rick or Clem.

TILE OUTLET TERRACES



Parallel tile outlet terraces constructed on Russell Kinsinger's farm last fall.

This is one of the best permanent type conservation practices there is. Various experiments have been conducted in the state measuring soil loss from fields that have these terraces. The soil loss per acre per year has ranged from .24 to .38 tons. These same fields would have lost from 18 to 31 tons per acre per year without the terraces. The allowable soil loss in Iowa County ranges from 3 to 5 tons per acre per year, depending on the soil types.

In discussing the terraces with Dwight Schlabach who farms Russell's place, Dwight said, "This is the only way to go with terraces. You might just as well get the water underground." Many people accuse us of overbuilding these terraces, but Dwight said they have been over half full already this spring.

We originally thought about having a county wide tour in order to show interested individuals how these terraces work. However, we've decided that anyone who is interested in finding out more about these terraces should come into the Soil Conservation Service office and discuss them. Arrangements can be made to have Clem or Rick take you to various jobs and look them over and to be sure you don't get a prejudiced opinion, talk to the man who farms them.

Journal-Tribune
1-11-73

Legislators go back to work

BY DON REID

DES MOINES — The solons are here and are already at work.

The first week of the session is being used to get the two Houses "organized," to swear the members into office, to confirm officially what has already been pre-determined in party caucus, to attend Gov. Ray's inaugural ceremonies and in general to lay the groundwork for a fruitful session.

There will be new presiding officers, some new floor leaders, a new chief clerk of the house, many new committee chairmen and of course, many new legislators.

There will also be new programs and new priorities, along with some of the old ones such as "property tax relief."

It is a rather exciting week, not so much from what has actually been done as in anticipation of

what will come during the next few months.

Programs

There was bad news from Washington for Iowa farmers. First came an announcement that the Nixon administration was dropping the Rural Environmental Assistance Program, more commonly known as REAP. Next came word that disaster farm loans were being eliminated. Then, in another cost-cutting move, the administration announced it was abandoning the federal program that provides low interest loans for rural electric and telephone facilities.

REAP

The axe fell on the REAP program during the Christmas holiday weekend when a teletype message came from the Agricultural Department to offices of the

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. State and county ASCS offices were advised to accept applications submitted by Dec. 22 for work planned in 1973, but to reject all other applications.

Iowa had been allocated \$7.8 million in federal funds for 1972 and \$5.5 million for 1973. Most of these funds match spending of farm owners making permanent soil saving installations such as erosion control, dams and terraces.

The 1973 cost sharing for the Rural Environmental Assistance Program was set at \$225.5 million by Congress, but the agriculture department allocated only \$140 million and subsequently cut that to \$134.5 million in allocation to the states. Then, simultaneously with distribution of the REAP program handbook to county

ASCS offices, practically all funds were eliminated.

The Nixon administration announced that REAP funds and those used to preserve the nation's wetlands and wild waterfowl were being terminated.

"These two were among those selected after a review of federal programs to identify those of low priority that can be reduced or eliminated without serious economic consequences," the USDA handout proclaimed.

"It (cutback) was initiated as part of an effort to hold 1973 budget outlays to \$250 billion. Income supplements to farmers have been provided by REAP and WBP are no longer necessary. Realized farm income for 1972 will reach an all-time record \$19 billion. In view of this and because of the general acceptability and profitability of certain practices, it is believed they will go ahead with these programs without supplemental income," the agriculture department stated.

Reaction

The announcement caught politicians off guard.

Gov. Ray said he was going to protest to President Nixon. Ray called the move "illogical." He noted the REAP program had saved the farmer and city dweller alike from flood damage and remarked that some farmers contributing money to soil conservancy projects would not see any benefit during their lifetimes.

Withdrawal of federal funds put Iowa's soil conservancy program in jeopardy; it had been considered one of the nation's finest.

U. S. Sen. Harold Hughes said the administration's abrupt termination of the REAP program "shows a shocking lack of concern for the welfare of rural America."

The "Cavalier statement" by the Agriculture department that the two programs are no longer necessary because farmers can afford to do the work themselves, shows clearly the lack of

sensitivity and concern of the Nixon administration for rural problems, Hughes asserted.

In addition to cutting out the funding, the government is eliminating the coordination and guidance that needs to be provided from the national level for long-range ecological programs, he added.

Disaster loans

In recent years the Farmers Home administration has been making forgivable loans to farmers in disaster areas, such as a flood. Farmers were allowed to borrow up to \$5,000 which did not have to be repaid. But, no more. The Nixon administration is terminating disaster farm loans.

News of the administration's action evoked a strong protest from farm leaders.

J. Merrill Anderson, president of the Iowa Farm Bureau, wondered aloud whether this halt would also be applied to emergency loans to other citizens who suffer losses from natural disasters.

Oren Lee Staley, president of the National Farmers Organization, said dropping the disaster loan program was "a direct blow to the family farm."

REA loans

The third jolt was the announcement that the federal government would no longer provide two percent direct loans for rural electric and telephone facilities. The Agricultural Department announced that starting Jan. 1 the money would have to be obtained from private lenders at a higher rate with the governing insuring and guaranteeing the loans. The new rate on insured loans would be five percent.

Earl King, executive vice president of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, said the action will raise "havoc" with the rural electric co-ops. King said the change will have a "devastating blow" to those rural electric co-operatives that have long-range financial planning and loans pending.

Iowa County Soil District Gives Young Cooperator Honor To North English Man

By Doris McCartney

NORTH ENGLISH — Any claim to recognition rests lightly with John Cox, who next month will be cited by the Iowa county soil conservation district as the best among 12 entrants in a new cooperator contest.

Cox purchased a 400-acre farm near North English two years ago in February. The family had operated 600 acres on the Washington-Keokuk county line.

The move was a memorable one for Cox, as they marked the first evening in their new home with a special ceremony.

"I called my wife, Barbara, and our four youngsters together and told them we were dedicating our farm and our efforts to the Lord," John recalled.

"We had a special prayer together. I feel the Lord called me to be a farmer and with His help, I want to be the best one that I can with my energy and equipment."

According to the Iowa county soil conservation district, 83 percent of the Cox land meets conservation standards.

Some 4.8 acres have established waterways, another 75 acres are farmed on the contour, some 90 acres are strip cropped, and 10 acres are terraced.

Cox has installed 5,000 feet of tiling, and another 142

acres are under pasture management.

He has switched to conservation tillage on the 140 acres of corn and 20 acres of soybeans. The crop was planted with a no-till planter.

Cox installed a pit silo adjacent to the road for easy access for filling and time saving when unloading. The silo measures 80 by 30 feet with 8 foot sides.

This past summer he chopped one-third of his hay



John Cox

crop to cut down on labor costs. Last winter he fed only 1,000 bales of hay, relying instead upon ensilage for cattle and commercial feed for a balanced ration.

Cox has a Charolais and a Hereford bull which he crosses on his 70 head Angus cow herd to produce growthy crossbred calves. They feed out the calves in a fenceline bunker he installed this year.

He has purchased a chopper in partnership with a friend to avoid waiting for a custom operator to fill his silo. This wait can be costly when bad

weather delays harvest, Cox explained.

Farrowing six times annually, Cox is raising some 800 market hogs a year. The farrowing house is equipped with a furnace for farrowing in the coldest weather. Otherwise the sows are farrowed in A-frame huts out on the pasture.

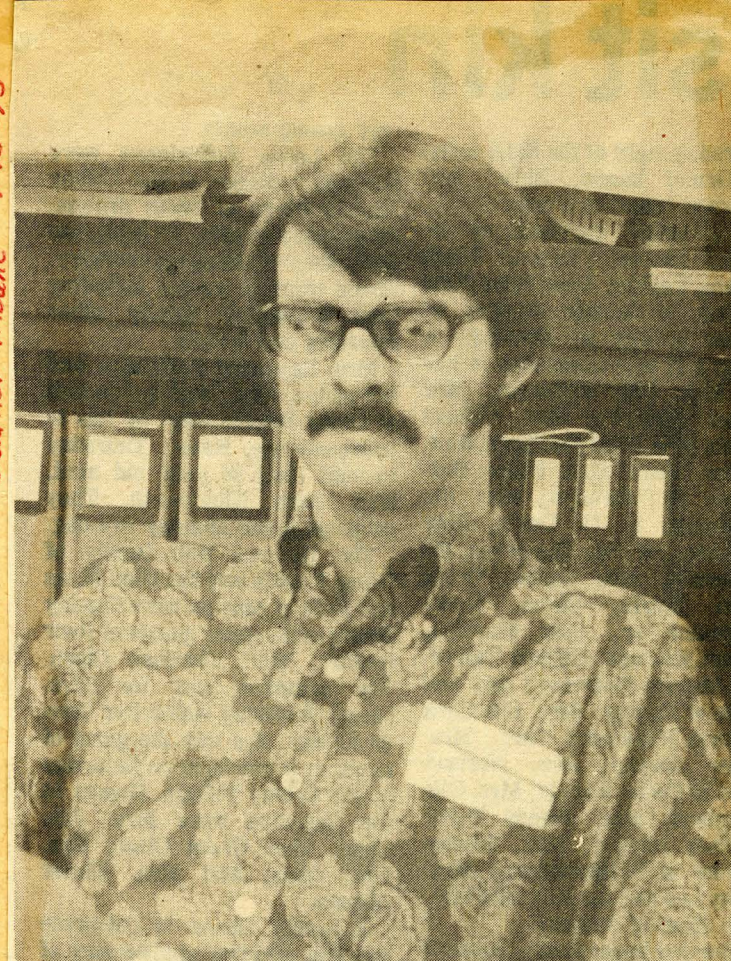
Eventually he plans to convert a now unused hay shed into a hog confinement building.

His wife, Barbara, helps out when John needs an extra tractor driver. Their oldest son, Johnny, 10, raked hay, straw and hauled manure for the first time this summer. Occasionally the family exchanges help with a neighbor, but that's about the only labor hired on the farm.

The Cox family has been thrilled with their reception in the community. A minister's wife brought them over a fresh loaf of home-baked bread the first day they moved, and another neighbor came by to visit.

The family started farming with a \$10,000 Farmers Home Administration loan and \$1,500 in savings which John had accumulated as a farm employee and Barbara a secretary.

Even losing all their belongings in a fire a number of years ago has not discouraged the family, and neither has the problem of out-guessing the market.



DUANE R. MILLER
New soil conservationist

New manager at soil district takes over

Duane R. Miller is the new district conservationist at the Iowa County Soil Conservation district office in Williamsburg.

Miller went to work at the county office last Monday replacing Richard Cordes, who was transferred to a similar position in Newton.

Miller moved here from Mason City, where he was a soil

conservationist in the Cerro Gordo county soil conservation office.

He is a native of Ida Grove and a 1970 graduate of Iowa State University in Ames.

Miller and his wife, Mary Jo, have two young daughters: Jennifer and Jill. The family moved to Williamsburg about two weeks ago.

North English Record - 10-11-73

Teacher Attends Education Workshop

Agnes Kovacs, third grade teacher of North English, attended the Iowa Conservation Education Council's Eastern Iowa Conservation Education Workshop at Camp Ewalu near Strawberry Point, Iowa, October 5-6, 1973. Some 140 teachers gathered to exchange information about time-tested and innovative activities and programs dealing with all aspects of environmental education.

Agnes Kovacs participated in two days of sessions that included field trips, projects, activities, mini-labs and small group discussions as well as providing outstanding speakers.

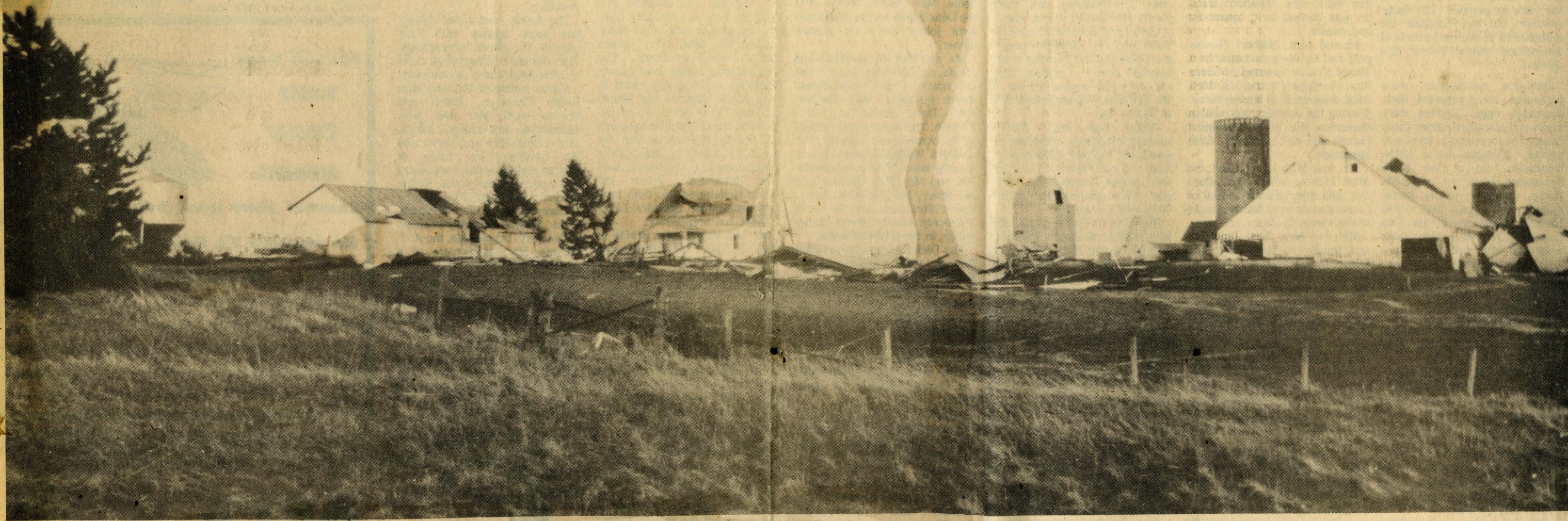
Dr. George Knudson from Luther College started the workshop with a presentation of the problems of preservation

of natural areas in Iowa. On Friday evening Dr. James O'Toole of Iowa State University presented the past, present, and future of the energy crisis that faces all mankind.

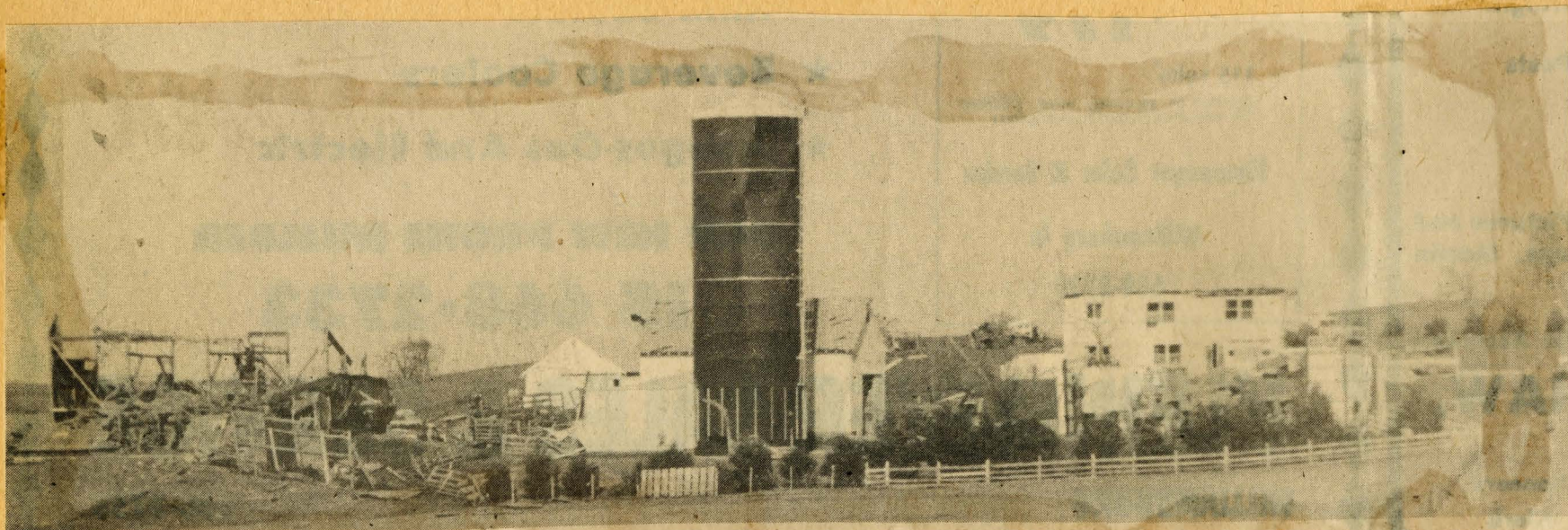
The Environmental Education Consultant for the Department of Public Instruction, Duane Toomsen, closed the two-day activity-packed meeting with his speech "Charge to Action."

The Iowa Conservation Education Council, Inc. is the coordinating body for conservation education in Iowa. The Iowa Conservation Education Council, Inc. consists of official representatives from Federal, State, County, and private organizations concerned with conservation in Iowa.

Tornado rips through county Saturday



Luke Collins farm received heavy damage to house and barns



HEAVY DAMAGE AT THE VIRGIL MEYERS FARM
Roof off house, barns destroyed (picture taken Sunday)

Iowa County Advertiser 5-17-73

The Iowa County Soil Conservation District is in the race for top honors in the 27th annual Goodyear Conservation Awards Program, Fred White, Chairman of the Iowa County SCD Commissioners, announced.

The district will be competing on the basis of its record of service to land users in the contest sponsored by The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in cooperation with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). An independent judging committee will select the award-winning districts.

Each first-place district will receive expense-paid; vacation-study trips for its outstanding cooperator and a member of the governing board. Representatives of the top 53 districts nationally will be the tire company's guests on the grand awards tour. Last year's winners went to Marco Island, Florida.

The awards program also provides recognition of the outstanding cooperator who will be selected by the district board from the 892 land users enrolled in Iowa District's program.

Members of the district governing board are: Fred White, Parnell; Richard Mouchka, Marengo; Donald Eash, Parnell; Keith Enochson, Conroy; Vernon Sandersfeld, Homestead and David McCartney, North English.

Iowa County Advertiser 5-24-73

SOIL CONSERVATION VITAL

It takes about 200 years for nature to replace a ton of top-soil. Three billion tons of soil are deposited in reservoirs and streams in the United States each year, with an annual damage to reservoirs alone at 100 million dollars. Two-thirds of Iowa's land needs some type of conservation practice to protect it from ruinous erosion. Sediment is Iowa's number one water pollutant by volume.

"These facts and many more point to one conclusion - erosion and resulting sedimentation continue to be serious environmental problems that must be solved," says Fred White, Chairman of the Iowa County Soil Conservation District.

"Landowners have carried a major portion of the costs to keep soil on uplands so far, even with federal cost-sharing," according to Mr. White. He expects many to continue the work on their own, now that federal cost-sharing has been eliminated.

"The Iowa County Soil Conservation District is still very active, ready to serve landowners in conservation planning. The Soil Conservation Service technical assistance will be available as it always has been for planning and laying out conservation practices. We hope there won't be a let-up in the amount of conservation work being done," White continued.

White says, "Conservation farmers have done more than any other single group to protect our environment and they take pride in caring for their land."

Farmers are helping others out by controlling soil erosion at the same time they help themselves. For instance, conservation tillage reduces farmer costs at the same time it controls wind and water erosion. Ponds stop gullies, improve land values, provide water for livestock and enhance the environment.

Terraces with tile outlets are a very good practice in Iowa County. They control soil erosion under continuous row cropping and allow the waterways to be farmed since there is no longer any surface water.

"We have always maintained that conservation pays. It's often a long-term investment, just as any major improvement on a farm is likely to be. But, then, that investment protects an asset that will be vitally important for a long time to come, too," White concludes.

Soil and Water Conservation Week

Iowa County Advertiser - 10-11-73

Governor Robert D. Ray has declared October 7-14 as Soil Conservation Week in Iowa. The governor stated that, "orderly development and wise use of Iowa land and water resources through soil and water conservation programs are essential to sustain and enhance both rural and urban standards of living, and to protect and improve the environment of this state for all citizens."

What better time of the year to consider soil and water conservation? Soon the crops will be harvested and you farmers will be considering next years growing season. This is the time to consider tillage systems.

Tillage systems, especially minimum and mulch tillage systems, are becoming more popular. These systems can reduce soil compaction and improve aeration, permeability, and tilth. They will reduce soil and water loss and deterioration of soil structure. But most important, they will reduce production costs by reducing the number of trips required to produce the crop.

One simple and inexpensive method of implementing mulch tillage is not to plow soybean ground. It has been proven repeatedly in research that there are no significant advantages to plowing soybeans, disking or chisel plowing is sufficient.

Minimum tillage may require a little extra management skill to control weeds and other problems but the benefits are definitely greater than the disadvantages.

terested than ever in conserving soil, water, and other natural resources.

An SCS survey shows that conservation tillage, the practice of leaving plant residues on the soil surface for erosion control, increased by 90 percent from a year ago. One-fourth of the state's corn and soybean land was planted using disks, field cultivators, or some other machine to help protect the soil, Moon reported. Since conservation tillage requires fewer trips across a field, it also conserves energy.

In 1973, 880 miles of terraces were built in Iowa. If all the terraces built in the state were laid end to end, they would stretch to the west coast and back 18 times. About a thousand acres of trees were planted to help control erosion and give wildlife food and shelter; about 700 ponds were built for the same purpose with added recreational benefits.

Soil survey field work has been completed in 44 Iowa counties, with surveys published in 19 counties. Federal, state and local monies are pooled to make the Iowa soil survey program one of the most successful in the nation.

More than two thirds of Iowa's landowners are cooperating with Soil Conservation Districts to voluntarily improve rural and urban environments. Most have a conservation plan they use as a guide in establishing conservation measures over the entire farm or tract of land.

"Soil and Water Conservation Week, October 7-14, is a good time to review progress in conservation," Moon says. "I think the record is an enviable one. Yet, there is much to be done - soil and water conservation is a never-ending task. With the current emphasis on food production, conservation measures will be needed more than ever before."

North English Record 10-15-73

Soil and Water Conservation Progresses

Interest in soil and water conservation in Iowa is as high as it has ever been, according to Wilson T. Moon, State Conservationist for the U. S. Soil Conservation Service in Iowa. Moon says conservation progress figures and recent legislative action both support the contention that Iowans, whether they be landowners or concerned citizens, are more in-



REVIEW CONSERVATION PRACTICES — Winner of the Iowa County soil conservation new co-operator award, John Cox, rural North English, reviews an album of farming practice photos, with his wife, Barbara.

Coxes Are Regional Winners

By Doris McCartney

John Cox, operator of 400 acres northwest of North Eng-

lish, who this month earned the Iowa county soil conservation new co-operator award, launched his career as a farm employee.

One of eight children, Cox and a sister were the only family members who did not seek a college degree.

"I have no regrets," Cox says. "I appreciate the kind of life my wife, Barbara and our four kids have here. I am the happiest being a farmer."

With a \$10,000 Farmers Home administration loan and \$1,500 in savings earned by Cox as a farm hand and through his wife's secretarial efforts, the couple had a modest start.

Conserve Land

Moving here in February 1971 from the Washington-Keokuk line, John began conservation practices that have earned him the new co-operator citation this year.

According to Iowa county soil conservation district, 83 percent of the Cox land meets conservation standards.

Some 4.8 acres have been established in waterways, another 75 acres are farmed on the contour, some 90 acres are strip-cropped and 10 acres are terraced. Another 142 acres are under pasture management. In addition, Cox has installed 5,000 feet of tiling.

His 140 acres of corn and 20 acres of soybeans were planted with a no-till planter in the spring. He has purchased a chopper in partnership with a friend to avoid waiting for a custom operator to fill his silo. Waiting can be costly when

bad weather delays harvest, he explains.

A major improvement Cox installed this year was a pit silo, measuring 80 by 30 feet with 8 foot sides. Adjacent to the road, the pit has easy access for filling and is a time saver in unloading.

This past summer he chopped one-third of his hay crop to pare labor costs also. In the past winter he fed only 1,000 bales of hay, relying instead upon ensilage for cattle, with commercial feed for a balanced ration.

Raise Hogs

Some 800 market hogs are annually produced by Cox by farrowing in six periods. While his farrowing house is furnace-equipped, he believes that sows farrowing on pastures in A-frame huts is also profitable, when weather permits.

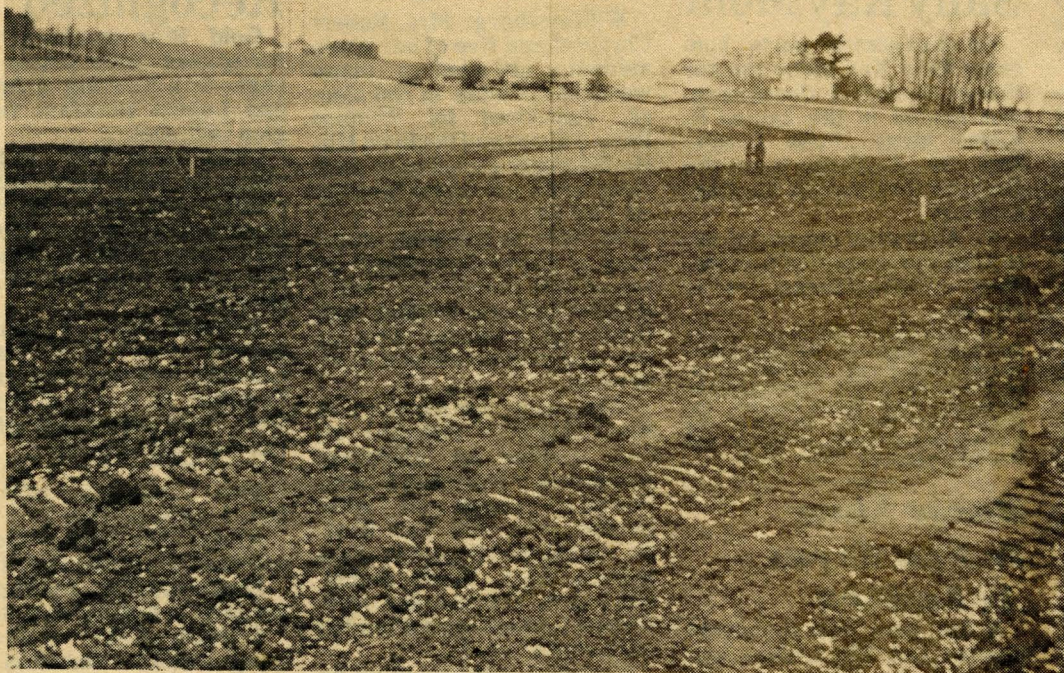
Future plans call for building a 3,000 foot long terrace on an angle, later this year, as a conservation investment. Also he intends to convert an unused hay shed into a hog confinement building.

As for help, Cox relies upon his wife, Barbara, as a tractor hand when he gets busy during planting and harvesting. Their oldest son, Johnny, 10, started his first tractor skills by raking hay and straw and hauling manure this summer. Their children also include: Julie, 13, Jerry, 9, and Jimmy, 8.

The Cox family came here as total strangers, but have since become active in community activities. John serves as vice-president of Christian Farmers, a four-county organization; active in church music, and is Sunday school superintendent of Community Church.

Barbara is serving her third year here as a den mother, is an assistant leader of Three Rivers 4-H club; and is junior department Sunday school leader.

Honor County Farmers For Conservation



WORK ON TERRACES — This work was completed on Russel Kinsinger's farm southeast of Parnell late last fall. Sixty acres have been terraced and there are six acres of grassed waterways.

Iowa county soil conservation district commissioners were honoring conservation contest winners at their banquet Wednesday, Oct. 10, at Middle America.

Top awards go to John Cox, North English, new co-operator division who was also chosen regional winner and

will advance to state competition. Russell Kinsinger, Parnell, long time co-operator, and Mrs. Pamela Wymore, Williamsburg Community school, chosen winner in conservation teacher division.

No winner was named this year in the owner-operator division because of limited number of candidates. Rules say there can be no blood relationship between owner-operator.

Kinsinger, long-time co-operator, division I, has been cited by the district commissioners. Kinsinger farm includes 280 acres of land southeast of Parnell. Farm operator is Dwight Slabaugh, Parnell.

Kinsinger farm includes 261 acres of farmland of which 251

acres is cropland and 10 acres pasture. Of this 165 acres is adequately treated with conservation practices and the balance is under a conservation plan for adequate treatment in future years according to Duane Miller, county conservationist.

Rotation on Kinsingers farm include corn, soybeans and meadow crops. Of acres planted to row crops, 79 acres are farmed on contour and 30 acres are contour strip-cropped. Stripcropping is alternating strips of close grown and row crops.

Sixty acres of cropland have been terraced for more intensified crop production methods. Also included in the cropland are six acres of grassed waterways for safe disposal of excess runoff water without causing ero-

sion. Ten acres of pasture has been renovated for increased production and more effective erosion control, Miller explained.

Kinsinger has been trying to encourage neighbors to install a mutual water impoundment structure for erosion control using the road fill for a dam. He would also like to develop a recreation park for the community.

Honor Conservation Winners

Pioneer-Republican - 10-11-73



DISCUSS OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES — Conservation lessons and activities were highlights for pupils of Mrs. Dick (Pam) Wymore, left, in the Williamsburg Community school district last year. Her efforts won her the county conservation teacher annual award Oct. 10. Kathryn Stewart, kindergarten teacher on same faculty, represented county at recent teachers' workshop at Strawberry Point in Backbone state park.



FARMERS CITED — In recognition of conservation programs, plaques were given to two Iowa county couples at awards banquet, Oct. 10 at Middle America restaurant, Williamsburg. The John Coxes, left, rural North English, earned the new cooperator citation, while the Russell Kinsingers, right, rural Parnell, received the long-time cooperator award.



ASSUMES NEW DUITES — Visiting at the Oct. 10 conservation awards banquet on future projects are Fred White, Parnell, chairman of county Soil Conservation Service board and Duane Miller, Williamsburg, who assumed new duties here Sept. 4, as county conservationist. Miller is formerly of Mason City.

IOWA COUNTY ADVERTISER Williamsburg, Iowa Thursday, October 11, 1973

Steady Progress in Soil & Water Conservation in Iowa

Interest in soil and water conservation in Iowa is as high as it has ever been, according to Wilson T. Moon, State Conservationist for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in Iowa. Moon says conservation progress figures and recent legislative action both support the contention that Iowans, whether they be landowners or concerned citizens, are more interested than ever in conserving soil, water and other natural resources.

An SCS survey shows that conservation tillage, the practice of leaving plant residues on the soil surface for erosion control, increased by 90% from a year ago. One-fourth of the state's corn and soybean land was planted using disks, field cultivators, or some other machine to help protect the soil, Moon reported. Since conservation tillage requires fewer trips across a field, it also conserves energy, he adds.

In 1973, 880 miles of terraces were built in Iowa. If all the terraces built in the state were laid end to end, they would stretch to the west coast and back 18 times. About a thousand acres of trees were planted to help control erosion and give wildlife food and shelter; about 700 ponds were built for the same purpose with added recreational benefits.

Soil survey field work has been completed in 44 Iowa counties, with surveys published in 19 counties. Federal, state and local monies are pooled to make the Iowa soil survey program one of the most successful in the nation.

More than two-thirds of Iowa's landowners are cooperating with Soil Conservation Districts to voluntarily improve rural and urban environments. Most have a conservation plan they use as a guide in establishing conservation measures over the entire farm or tract of land.

"Soil and Water Conservation Week, Oct. 7-14, is a good time to review progress in conservation," Moon says. "I think the record is an enviable one. Yet, there is much to be done - soil and water conservation is a never-ending task. With the current emphasis on food production, conservation measures will be needed more than ever before."

The Iowa Legislature recently provided soil conservation districts 1.5 million dollars annually for the next 2 years to cost-share on permanent soil conservation measures. The cost-share rate is 50% with district cooperators who voluntarily apply soil conservation practices. Cost-sharing will also be available to meet responsibilities under the Soil Conservancy Act, passed by the Legislature in 1971.



PAYS FIRST COST SHARE CHECK — Mrs. D.P. (Mamie) McCune receives a cost share check for diversion terrace construction from Mrs. Verne (Lennis) Doehermann, secretary-treasurer Iowa county soil conservation district.

Share Costs On Conservation

Iowa county soil conservation district paid its first cost-share check to Mrs. Mamie McCune, rural Parnell, for construction of a diversion terrace on her 260-acre farm.

Purpose of a diversion terrace is to protect bottom lands from rapid runoff of steeper uplands. In this case the upland water was diverted into one of Mrs. McCune's four farm ponds.

Iowa county SCD was allotted \$18,000 under the Iowa Soil Conservancy Act. Money was to be utilized for cost-share of permanent conservation practices.

In Iowa county, commissioners accepted applications for permanent conservation

practices and had all allocations committed by Sept. 18. Practices approved for cost-share were parallel terraces, diversion terraces and erosion control structures.

Raymond Folkmann also received cost-share payment on an erosion control structure built with the cooperation of his neighbor Milton Heitshusen.

Iowa county SCD will again receive an \$18,000 allotment July 1, 1974. At this time they will accept applications for permanent conservation practices.

Pioneer-
Republican
12-20-73

Pioneer-Republican - 1-17-74

Natural Resource People Available

An open meeting for persons interested in renewable natural resources will be held in the Williamsburg ASCS office Jan. 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Information will be available from district conservationist - U.S. Soil Conservation Service, the wildlife biologist and the district forester - Iowa Conservation commission.

Printed material and information will be available for any person considering or concerned about planting trees and shrubs for either forestry or wildlife purposes. Tree order forms from State Forest Nursery will be available. Assistance will be given in completing a nursery order form. Price for 1974 nursery stock is \$20 - \$25 per 1,000 plants, plus shipping and tax. For persons desiring larger nursery stock not available from the state nursery, there will be private nursery catalogs available.

There will be slides on display with recommendations for correct soil and species selection, planting methods, layout and technique, weed and grass control recommendations, and suggestions for planting arrangements to benefit wildlife.

Homeowners, farmers, private nursery representatives, other landowners, or other agencies such as city or county government representatives are welcome. Personnel will discuss any aspect of their conservation jobs: soil erosion and water control, wildlife habitat, hunting seasons and limits, city tree replacement, Christmas tree or walnut plantings, walnut value, insect and disease problems, or any other problem which may occur.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Looking around the countryside, it appears that most of the harvest is done for 1973. Most farmers can relax to a certain extent and be thankful for the excellent weather we've had this fall. Some are probably thinking about next years growing season. The Sec. of Agriculture has again requested increased production to take care of increased domestic and foreign demand for agricultural products. The AS CS has not set aside programs for the next growing season.

In this light, it appears that more and more land is being plowed for crop production. Much of this land is not suited for crop production and should never be plowed. Some of it can produce corn and soybeans but only with very intensive conservation management.

Many farmers still remember the problems of the dust bowl days. We do not want this situation to occur again. Farmers must very carefully consider areas to be put into additional production. They must ask themselves, "Is this land suited for production without the addition of soil conserving practice? If not, what practices are needed?" If there is some doubt, he should contact his local Soil Conservation District Office for assistance in conservation planning and application.

In Iowa County, we have much land that is suited to more intensive production with the addition of conservation practices. Contouring is one such practice which costs nothing to apply and can cut soil losses in half. Contour strip cropping is another method of halting soil erosion with very little cost to the landowner. This alternating strips of row crops and meadow crops can decrease soil loss by as much as 75%.

Steep slopes or very intensive row crop production requires more intensive and also more expensive conservation practices. This type of terrace can cut soil losses to less than 1/2 ton per acre per year. At the same time it will decrease flooding and sediment deposition in flatland areas below the terrace system. These terraces will also help to improve the farming topography by having a benching or leveling effect between the terraces.

One alternative erosion control practice which is becoming more and more popular is conservation tillage. In 1972, more than 25% of the corn and soybeans were planted by some type of conservation tillage, sometimes known as minimum or mulch tillage. With the emphasis on production, conservation tillage is becoming more important than ever. This practice is very effective in reducing wind and water erosion. It also has definite benefits of decreased production costs and energy savings which could be very critical in the next few years.

One conservation tillage practice which is very easy to apply is the treatment of soybean ground. Research has proven that there is no advantage to plowing soybean ground. Discing is all that is needed before planting of the next crop. Also consider the use of minimum tillage type planters in the production of corn and soybeans to further reduce soil losses.

Let's not forget the days of the 1930's when wind and water erosion were so severe that it drove many people from the farm. Remember that soil is not a renewable resource. Consider conservation in planning your cropping system for 1974.

1974 Soil Conservation Speech Contest To Be Held

"Land Use Policy - A Pattern for Prosperity" will be the topic for the 1974 Soil Conservation Speech Contest to be sponsored locally by the Iowa County Soil Conservation District. The contest is open to all junior and senior high school students in the county.

This is the first year the contest has utilized the topic "Land Use Policy - A Pattern for Prosperity." Approximately 300 Iowa youths participated in the 1973 state-wide contest, which was won by Dan Pomeroy, Dedham, Iowa.

The regional and state levels of the contest are co-sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company, Grinnell, Iowa.

The local contest will be held the first part of May. First, second, and third place winners of the local contest will each receive a plaque and \$15, \$10 and \$5 respectively. Each additional participant will receive \$2.

The winner of the local contest will advance to the regional competition which will be held in June or July. Regional contest prizes will consist of \$25, \$15, and \$10 for first, second, and third placings respectively.

The state contest will be held in September, 1974, at the Annual Conference for Soil Conservation District Commissioners in Fort Dodge, Iowa. The first place winner in the State Contest will receive a \$250 college scholarship and \$100 cash. The second and third place awards in the state contest will consist of \$75 and \$50 in cash respectively.

Anyone interested in entering the 1974 Soil Conservation Speech Contest may obtain contest information from the Iowa County Soil Conservation District office, or the nearest Vocational Agriculture Department. The sponsors encourage all youths, whether rural or urban, to enter this very educational and rewarding contest.

Land use is theme of soil contest

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Conservation meeting Jan. 29 in Williamsburg

An open meeting for persons interested in our renewable natural resources will be held in the Williamsburg ASC office Tuesday Jan 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Information will be available from the district conservationist-U.S. Soil Conservation Service, the wildlife biologist and the district forester from the Iowa Conservation Commission.

Printed material and information will be available for any person considering or concerned about planting trees and shrubs for either forestry or wildlife purposes. Tree order forms from the state forest nursery will be available. Assistance will be given in completing a nursery order form. Price for 1974 nursery stock is \$20 - \$25 per 1,000 plants, plus shipping and tax. For persons desiring larger nursery stock not available from the State Nursery, there will be private

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USDA To Formulate One-Stop Centers

North English Record 3-14-74

Plans are now being formulated by the heads of USDA agencies for the establishment of one-stop agricultural service centers. Heads of the agencies involved in Iowa, with offices located in Des Moines are Dale Awtry, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), Wilson Moon, Soil Conservation Service (SCS), Robert Pim, Farmers Home Administration (FHA) and Leroy Miller, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC). Whether each county will have a service center, or whether the location of the center will serve a two to four county area has not been determined to date. The service centers are to be located in the central trade area for the region served.

24 Hour Wrecker Service
Williamsburg 668-1431 or 668-1110

A record \$791 million was paid out in social security cash benefits to residents of Iowa in calendar year 1973, according to James Wood, social security district manager. This was an increase of \$143 million over the total paid out in the year before.

Legislation enacted in Dec. provides for all percent increase in monthly benefits in 1974. The Bill allows for 7% effective March and another 4% in June. Benefits also will increase automatically in future years to keep them up-to-date w/increases in the cost of living.

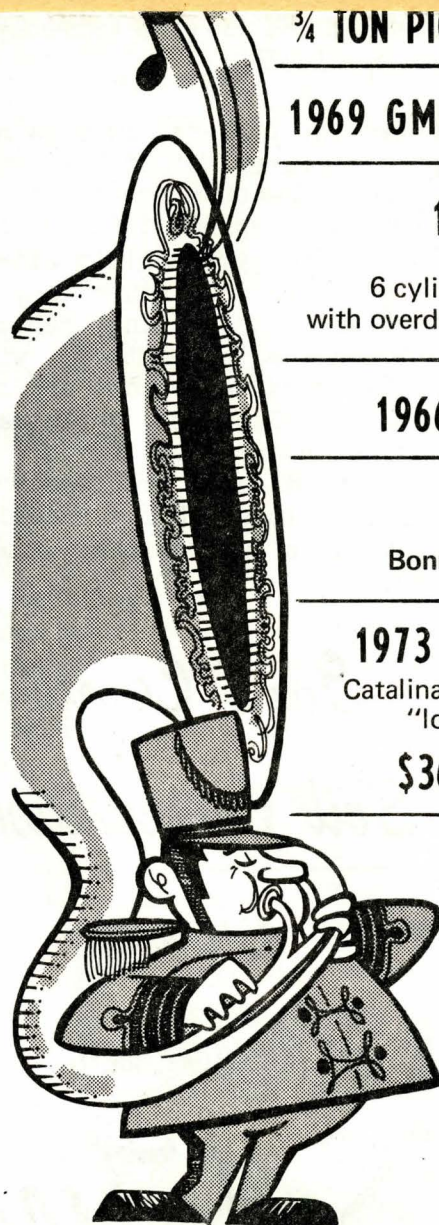
Of the social security benefits paid to beneficiaries in Iowa during 1973, \$547 million went to retired workers and their dependents and \$182 million to the survivors of workers who have died. Another \$61 million was paid to severely disabled workers under 65 and their dependents.

Nationally, social security cash benefit payments in 1973 totaled \$51.4 billion. This was almost \$10 billion higher than in the previous year. An estimated \$56.8 billion in social security benefits is expected to be paid out in cash benefits in 1974, Wood said.

At the end of Dec. 1973, about 29.8 million men, women and children were receiving monthly social security benefits, nearly one out of every 7 Americans. The number of persons on the benefit rolls increased by over a million during the course of the year, Wood said.

Retired workers and their dependents account for about 63% of all those receiving payments. The survivors of workers who have died, including children and their widowed mothers, aged or disabled widows and widowers, and aged dependent parents, make up close to 1/4 of all those receiving social security payments. Another 12% are disabled workers and their dependents.

Although social security is often mistakenly looked upon as a program for the elderly, Wood said, almost 24% of all beneficiaries are under age 60 and 15% are under age 22.



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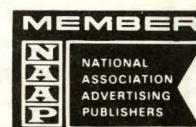
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VOLUME 9 NO. 14

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1974

PUBLISHED BY BULLERS' LITHO



Mamie McCune receives cost-share check from Lennis Doebrmann, Iowa County SCD Secretary-Treasurer, for a diversion terrace.

COMPLETED CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Conservation work has proceeded well in the Iowa County Soil Conservation District. That is, considering there is a shortage of just about everything including drainage tile and conservation contractors.

Several thousand feet of diversion terraces have been installed by the following landowners; Mamie McCune, Lambert Elwood, Allyn Evans, Gene Cronbaugh, and Donald Dietrich.

James McGrory, Raymond Folkmann, and James Cook installed erosion control structures on their own lands. Anton Huedephol, Donohue Bros., and Arnold Stutzman also installed erosion control structures in cooperation with the county road department.

Jack Driscoll and Allyn Evans installed farm ponds for erosion control and livestock water.

Approximately 8000 feet of tile outlet terraces were constructed this fall by Millen Sandersfeld, Ronald Mohr, and Gary Schafbuch. Gary Schafbuch's terraces were built in the Lake Iowa Watershed. Mr. Schafbuch constructed the terraces on his own with no cost-share assistance.

The Iowa County Soil Conservation District wishes to commend these people on completion of their conservation practices.

TREE PLANTING CLINIC

An open meeting for persons interested in our renewable natural resources will be held in the Williamsburg ASCS office on January 29th from 9:00 a. m. to 3:00 p. m. Information will be available from the District Conservationist - U.S. Soil Conservation Service, the Wildlife Biologist and the District Forester - Iowa Conservation Commission.

Printed material and information will be available for any person considering trees and shrubs for either forestry or wildlife purposes. Tree order forms from the State Forest Nursery will be available. Assistance will be given completing a nursery order form. Price for 1974 nursery stock is \$20 - \$25 per 1000 plants, plus shipping and tax. For persons desiring larger nursery stock not available from the State Nursery, there will be private nursery catalogs available.

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John Erb's Farmstead Windbreak. A tree planting clinic will be held January 29, 1974 at the ASCS office.

1974 SPEECH CONTEST

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*Iowa County
Soil Conservation
District
Newsletter*

Consider The Soil First

PRUNING BROADLEAFED TREES

There are different reasons for pruning trees during different months of the year. Maples and birches tend to bleed profusely, so are most frequently pruned in the summer when sap is moving more slowly. Summer pruning may also be popular because it is difficult to visualize pruned form when cutting is done during the leafless winter season. Evergreens should be pruned (sheared) in May and June. August pruning can reduce crown water loss during periods of drought; it can also be used if a "dwarf" tree is desired. Fall pruning is common when trees are transplanted. This is done to equalize the crown area with the root area which was reduced during transplant digging.

Tree leaves produce the food necessary for trunk and stem growth throughout the year. Fall leaf-drop means that the tree must grow, survive, and begin new spring growth by using food produced last year and stored in the stem, trunk and roots. Removal of branches early in the dormant season reduces the amount of stem food storage area. Delaying pruning until late winter or early spring allows the plant to take full advantage of being followed by rapid spring growth which will heal the wound.

There are many reasons to prune. Black walnut should be pruned to alter a limby, low value lumber tree into the high quality, high priced veneer tree. Evergreens are pruned (sheared) for Christmas trees or ornamental plants. Trees are also pruned to

remove insect or disease infested branches, to remove weak limbs or "V" crotches, or for safety reasons. Generally, trees should be pruned to maintain their natural pruning technique which can vary considerably. Contrary to common belief, side pruning will not appreciably increase height growth. When side branches and leaves are needed for active, healthy growth. Unless removing diseased or crooked branches, the side stems should not be removed before they are about 1½ inches in diameter. Removal of limbs over 3 inches in diameter can lead to exceptional slow healing. If small branches are excessively long, crooked, or "out-of-place," it may be better to cut them back without complete removal. Then cut them off when they reach the 1½ inch size.

When cutting, it is important to make cuts flush with the main trunk. Leave no protruding stubs. If cutting one side of a "V" crotch, make your cut at a 45 degree angle. When cutting large limbs, make an initial cut on the under side of the branch, and cut the limb off outside the undercut. This will prevent bark peeling and ripping into the trunk. Finish the cut by removing the stub flush to the trunk.

A pruning cut 1½ inches in diameter or less will seldom need wound dressing (paint). Wounds this small should heal naturally long before wood rot begins. For wounds larger than 1½ inches, treat the wound with any available paint, creosote, or commercial wound dressing. It is true that lead base paints or creosote can be toxic to healing tissues. They may reduce the rate of healing slightly, but will in no way "poison" or kill the tree. The benefits of such a treatment would far exceed the detrimental effects. Wounds should be repainted once a year until completely healed.

North English Record - 3-14-74

Pruning Broadleafed Trees

There are different reasons for pruning trees during different months of the year. Maples and birches tend to bleed profusely, so are most frequently pruned in the summer when sap is moving more slowly. Summer pruning may also be popular because it is difficult to visualize pruned form when cutting is done during the leafless winter season. Evergreens should be pruned (sheared) in May and June. August pruning can reduce crown water loss during periods of drought; it can also be used if a "dwarf" tree is desired. Fall pruning is common when trees are transplanted. This is done to equalize the crown area with the root area which was reduced during transplant digging.

Tree leaves produce the food necessary for trunk and stem growth throughout the year. Fall leaf-drop means that the tree must grow, survive, and begin new spring growth by using food produced last year and stored in the stem, trunk and roots. Removal of branches early in the dormant season reduces the amount of stem food storage area. Delaying pruning until late winter or early spring allows the plant to take full advantage of being followed by rapid spring growth which will heal the wound.

There are many reasons

March 21.

ing will be with Mrs. Joan Bahr by the hostess. Our next meeting will be with Mrs. Joan Bahr. Refreshments were served by the hostess. Our next meeting will be with Mrs. Joan Bahr.

Hostess was presented by Francine Miller. Entertainment was provided by participating as needed. Entertaining Home soon, all members are invited to help entertain at Nure. Not much business. Was decided to help entertain at Nure. Was decided to help entertain at Nure. Was decided to help entertain at Nure.

The B Natural Club met at the home of Mrs. Lois Axmeier February 21 with 17 members, Mrs. Robert Leier joined the club. Roll call was, our most

extravagance; most of the ladies didn't think they had one

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Journal-Tribune 3-14-74

USDA office in doubt for Iowa county?

While both Marengo and Williamsburg have been jockeying for position to obtain the proposed U.S. Department of Agriculture service center, it now appears that the county may not have any such office at all.

"Whether each county will have a service center, or whether the location of the center will serve two to four-county area has not been determined to date," USDA officials said this week. "The service centers are to be located in the central trade area of the region served."

The idea of the USDA service centers is to consolidate all agriculture department agencies under one roof. This will be done for both efficiency and also with an idea of serving the farming community better by making all the USDA's services available at one place.

Currently, the USDA agencies are located in either Marengo or Williamsburg in Iowa county. The Iowa State University extension service, which is funded by the USDA, is in the Marengo post office as is the Farmers Home Administration office. The federal crop insurance corp. is officed in the Iowa County Savings Bank building.

However, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office is in Williamsburg, as is the Soil Conservation Service office and the Iowa county Soil Conservation district office, which works through the Iowa Conservation Commission. The district owns and operates lake Iowa.

There has been considerable jockeying for position on the part

There may be no county ag center

Concluded from Page 1
of both Marengo and Williamsburg civic leaders in pursuing the centralized office. Williamsburgers have argued that the office should be located here because this is more nearly the center of the county. Marengoans have pointed to their status as the county seat and that the federal offices should be located near the courthouse for better effectiveness.

Plans are now being made by the heads of the USDA agencies in the state for the establishment of the one-stop agricultural service centers.

Heads of the agencies involved in Iowa, with offices located in Des Moines are Dale Awtry, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASCS), Wilson Moon, Soil Conservation Service (SCS), Robert Pim, Farmers Home Administration (FHA) and Leroy Miller, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC).

The service centers will house all agencies, have a common entrance and integrated use of office machines and equipment to the extent feasible.

Consider Conservation Practices

Land is Iowa's most precious resource. Most lowland is both accessible and productive. We have about one fourth of the nations prime agricultural land. But we're losing this most valuable resource at an average rate of 13 tons per acre per year. Once that thirteen tons is gone, we'll never see it again. Right along with the soil goes the fertilizer, insecticides, and herbicides which will never benefit the growth of our crops.

In Iowa County we have 295,000 acres of this resource in cropland. About 38 percent is adequately treated with conservation measures. Some of it is not even suited to production

of row crops. In 1974 we have been challenged to produce more to meet increased world demand. It is estimated that an additional 12,000 acres of Iowa soil losses to nearly zero and open the door for more intensive row cropping. Minimum tillage has great potential for controlling erosion and can drastically reduce production costs.

We have the technology to produce more. We also have the knowledge to protect the soil while we're producing. Develop and apply a conservation plan for new acres going into production and for existing cropland needing treatment. The Soil Conservation Service office in Williamsburg is ready and willing to assist in the development and application of conservation plans. Consider the soil first!

Pruning Broadleafed Trees

There are different reasons for pruning trees during different months of the year. Maples and birches tend to bleed profusely, so are most frequently pruned in the summer when sap is moving more slowly. Summer pruning may also be popular because it is difficult to visualize pruned form when cutting is done during the leafless winter season. Evergreens should be pruned (sheared) in May and June. August pruning can reduce crown water loss during periods of drought; it can also be used if a "dwarf" tree is desired. Fall pruning is common when trees are transplanted. This is done to equalize the crown area with the root area which was reduced during transplant digging.

Tree leaves produce the food necessary for trunk and stem growth throughout the year. Fall leaf-drop means that the tree must grow, survive, and begin new spring growth by using food produced last year and stored in the stem, trunk and roots. Removal of branches early in the dormant season reduces the amount of stem food storage area. Delaying pruning until late winter or early spring allows the plant to take full advantage of being followed by rapid spring growth which will heal the wound.

There are many reasons

to prune. Black walnut should be pruned to alter a limby, low value lumber tree into the high quality, high priced veneer tree. Evergreens are pruned (sheared) for Christmas trees or ornamental plants. Trees are also pruned to remove insect or disease infested branches, to remove weak limbs or "V" crotches, or for safety reasons. Generally, trees should be pruned to maintain their natural shape.

Pruning technique can vary considerably. Contrary to common belief, side pruning will not appreciably increase height growth. When side branches are removed too early, stem diameter growth is reduced. The branches and leaves are needed for active, healthy growth. Unless removing diseased or crooked branches, the side stems should not be removed before they are about 1½ inches in diameter. Removal of limbs over three inches in diameter can lead to exceptional slow healing. If small branches are excessively long, crooked, or "out-of-place", it may be better to cut them back without complete removal. Then cut them off when they reach the 1½ inch size.

When cutting, it is important to make cuts flush with the main trunk. Leave no protruding stubs. If cutting one side of a "V" crotch, make your cut at a 45 degree angle. When cutting large limbs, make an initial cut on the under side of the branch, and cut the limb off outside the undercut. This will prevent bark peeling and ripping into the trunk. Finish the cut by removing the stub flush to the trunk.

A pruning cut 1½ inches in diameter or less will seldom need wound dressing (paint). Wounds this small should heal naturally long before wood rot begins. For wounds larger than 1½ inches, treat the wound with any available paint, creosote, or commercial wound dressing. It is true that lead base paints or creosote can be toxic to healing tissues. They may reduce the rate of healing slightly, but will in no way "poison" or kill the tree. The benefits of such a treatment would far exceed the detrimental effects. Wounds should be repainted once a year until completely healed.

Petitions, letters asked to keep county ag-center

Iowa county farmers and citizens are being urged to sign petitions and to write letters to legislators and Congressmen in an effort to keep an agricultural service center in the county.

A meeting was held at the Williamsburg city hall Thursday evening with about 100 farmers from around the county attending. Various civic and business leaders spoke of the urgency of lobbying both state and federal officials on the question of one ag center for each county in Iowa.

The Iowa county ASC committee and the soil conservation commissions are both circulating petitions which can be signed.

These are in Williamsburg and Marengo businesses and also are being circulated door to door.

Serious danger

Lambert Elwood, chairman of the ASC committee, opened the program by reporting that there is a very serious danger that four or more counties may be combined for the U.S. Department of Agriculture service center. He said this might mean Iowa county farmers would have to go to Cedar Rapids to obtain ASC, soil conservation or Farmers Home Administration services.

"The question is not whether we will have an office in Marengo or Williamsburg," Elwood said. "It is whether we will have an office in Iowa county at all.

"The thing we know is that if we ever lose our office, we will never get it back."

The original proposal from the USDA was to combine four agriculture agencies into one office in each county. This is the ASC, the soil conservation, the FHA and the federal CROP insurance office (there is no CROP office in the county now) into one service center with a common telephone, receptionist and executive director.

The services would remain much as they are now.

Combine counties

However, Elwood said that after this original proposal surfaced in November, suddenly USDA bureaucrats were proposing to combine several counties into one office. He said this suggestion originated in Texas, where the agricultural population is much thinner in most counties.

He said he and other USDA committee members attended a meeting in Des Moines on the subject last week, and "we didn't find a person there who was in favor of it. The fact is that no one on the county level had been asked about it."

Fred White, chairman of the Iowa county conservation district, said his agency is in favor of the combined center, but also will insist that there be at least one center per county.

"But we believe that if you have to drive to Cedar Rapids or Iowa City there won't be much soil conservation done in Iowa county," White said. "We know that there is only 35 to 40 percent of the soil conservation work done now that needs to be done."

Both Williamsburg bankers also strongly urged county farmers and other citizens to sign the petitions.

Half a day

Roy Larson, president of the Farmers Trust and Savings bank, said he believes there

should be a requirement in creating the ag centers that a farmer wouldn't have to spend more than half a day total in driving to the center, tending to his business and then driving

Ag center sought for county

Continued from Page 1

home.

Robert J. Coulter, president of the Security Savings bank, said the creators of the multi-county consolidation idea apparently have short memories.

"A year and a half ago corn was \$1.37 and beans were \$3," he noted.

"It is important to have a center in each county," Coulter continued. "We need ASCs. We need SCS and we are tied to FHA."

Elwood said the ASC's petitions can be mailed back to the committee at general delivery in Williamsburg. The soil conservation commissions petitions are in business and will be picked up by the commissioners. The soil conservation petitions are designed mainly to be signed by citizens, while the ASC's are directed mainly at farmers. Farmers can sign both.

Iowa County SCD Speech & Art Contest

Just a reminder of the Iowa County Soil Conservation District Speech and Art Contest.

The Speech Contest will be held May 10, 1974 at 7:30 P.M. in the Williamsburg City Hall. We are requesting that all speech contestants notify the Iowa County Soil Conservation Service office, 409 Court St. phone 668-2359, by Tuesday, April 30, 1974.

The topic for the speech contest will be "Land Use-A Pattern For Prosperity." Information on this topic can be obtained at the local Soil Conservation Service office. The contest is open to all junior high and senior high students in Iowa County. First, second and third place winners of the local contest will each receive a plaque and \$15, \$10, and \$5 respectively. Each additional contestant will receive \$2. The winner of the local contest will advance to regional competition.

In the Art Contest there are two divisions, Elementary, grades K thru 8, and Senior, grades 9 thru 12. Contestants interested in entering should do so thru their local school. Each school will judge the pictures entered from their school and pick the three best pictures in each division. These will then be turned in to the Soil Conservation Service office at 409 Court St., Williamsburg, Iowa by Tuesday, April 30. These pictures will then be judged prior to May 10 to pick the top three pictures from each division. The winning pictures will be displayed May 10 at the Speech Contest. Winners will be notified and asked to be present May 10 to accept their awards.

Awards for the Art Contest will be: Senior Division — Plaque and \$20, first; \$15, second and \$10 third. Elementary Division — Plaque and \$7.50, first, \$5, second and \$3, third.

If there are any questions on either of these contests feel free to contact the Soil Conservation Service office, 409 Court St., Williamsburg, 668-2359.

Journal-Tribune 5-30-74

Soil erosion

It doesn't happen often in Iowa county, but every time there is a heavy down-pour such as occurred two weeks ago, it is emphatically proved how important soil conservation practices are in Iowa county.

Farms on which there were grass waterways, contouring and terracing came through with a minimum of damage.. But it is quite evident to the casual

observer that there has been extensive damage on far too many farms. Precious topsoil has been washed down into low spots.

It is true that soil conservation in Iowa county has been going on for years—and more farms are being added every year. But in the meantime those which are not so protected are suffering irretrievable loss.

Pioneer-Republican 5-23-74

Urges Wise Use Of Resources

Iowa landowners have come a long way in protecting their land in the past 35 years, but there's still a great amount of soil conservation work that needs to be done according to Wilson Moon, state conservationist for USDA Soil Conservation Service.

"More than 100,000 farmers and other landowners are cooperating with their local soil conservation district to protect their land from wind and water erosion," Moon said. "Yet, only about half of our cropland is adequately treated against soil erosion. Soil conservation is a never-ending job."

Moon's comments came as

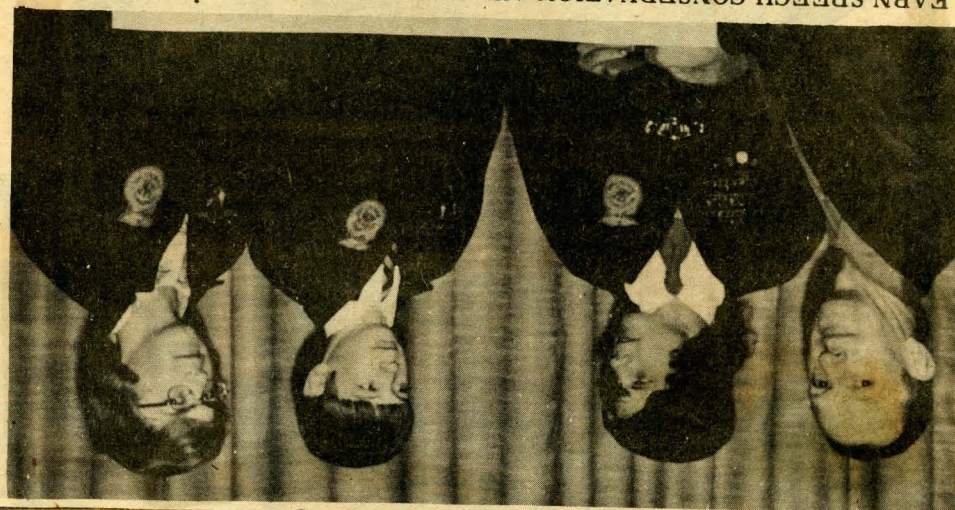
soil conservationists and others across the nation prepared to observe Soil Stewardship week, May 19-26.

"We have more at stake in Iowa than many other states," Moon said. "We have more acres of cropland than 18 other states combined, and our fertile land produces nearly a tenth of the nation's food supply."

Moon is concerned about some steep land plowed up by farmers in their attempt at all-out production. "As we produce more, we also need to protect more," Moon said. "On pastures plowed for rowcrops, soil loss on steeper slopes could be as high as 20 tons per acre this year. Acceptable losses are three to five ton per acre a year."

Moon urged landowners to contact local soil conservation district for technical and financial help in planning and applying soil conservation practices.

EARN SPEECH CONSERVATION AWARDS — Keith Enochson, an Iowa county soil conservation district commissioner, presents check to Dean Dinkel, Marengo, an Iowa Valley FFA student, for his first place award in speech contest held Friday, May 15 in Williamsburg city hall. Second place contestant was Randy Jones, and third place winner was Dwight Maas, both Williamsburg. Trophies, and checks were given by local district. Dinkel will advance to district event this summer.



Pioneer-Republican 5-16-74

2 Most chairs

Occasional chairs
Bell & Howel 8 mm
movie camera and
projector
Hoover vacuum
Luggage; Roaster oven
Glass luncheon set
Pots; pans; toasters
Elec. skillet; Mixers

Some tools and an O gauge Lionel train with track.
101 other items found at a closing out sale

Chairs.

Portable Singer sewing
machine
Adding machine
Typewriter; H.D. vacuum
Anniversary clock
Mirrors; 15 crystal plates
Crystal sherbets & goblets
Elec. coffee pots
Radios; Decoys

Antiques

Walnut furniture
Platform rocker
Small secretary top
6 Maple chairs
Clock shelves
3 Trunks; Pressed glass
Plates; 12 HP plates
Cloisonne vase
Salt & peppers; School
bells; cherry pitter
Rocking horse
Apothecary bottles
Vaseline tumbler
Wash boards; picture
frames
Old books - 1820 on etc.

Corner what-not
Wash stand; pie safe
Mantel clock
Occasional chair
Rockers; wine press
Depression glass
Old silver mugs, pitchers
Kerosine lamps and
night lamps
HP sugar bowl; HP cups
and saucers.
Old & very old fruit jars
Salters; lanterns
Buttons; crocks; stereo-
graph; pictures

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Mrs. Wayne Stake, Executor

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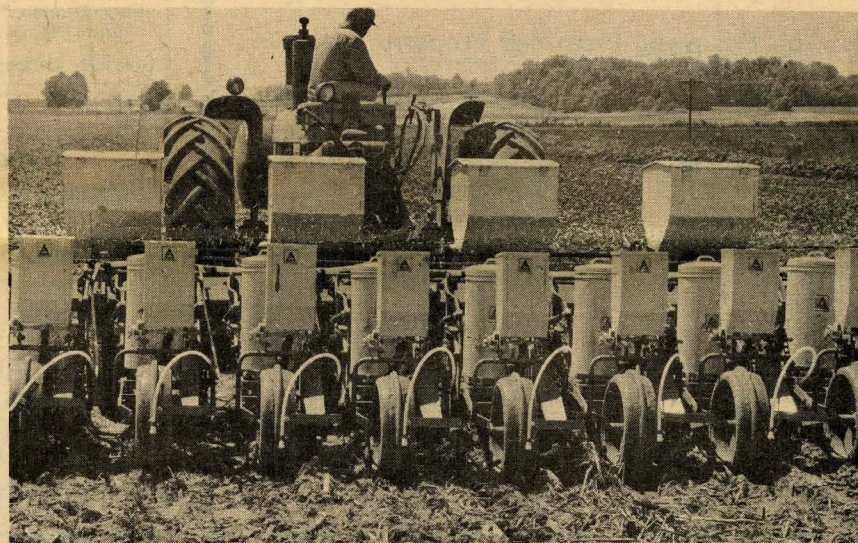
VOLUME 9 NO. 26

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1974

PUBLISHED BY BULLERS' LITHO

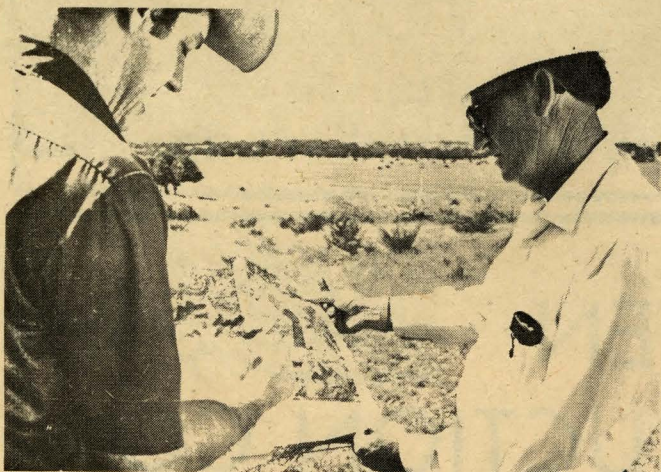


LEFT: Farmers and ranchers throughout the country will decide soon how much more land they will put into crop production. In 1973, corn was the leading crop planted, occupying 75½ million acres.



RIGHT

MINIMUM TILLAGE is rapidly gaining popularity over conventional tillage methods throughout the country. This method of planting reduces soil loss 40 to 90 percent, conserves time and labor, reduces gasoline and diesel fuel bills by 50 percent and more, an important factor during the energy crisis.



FARMERS AND RANCHERS can receive technical help in protecting the land from the Iowa County Soil Conservation District. Conservation plans are based on a scientific soil survey that show the land's drainage patterns, erosion hazards, the suitability of the soils for different crops, and conservation practices necessary to protect the land.



TERRACE CONSTRUCTION is necessary on some farm and ranch land to slow down water runoff and prevent costly soil losses. On the Iowa farm above, there are 14 miles of grass backslope terraces. After an unprecedented 21 inches of rain in a single month, the farmer said soil loss was less than one inch.

Iowa County Soil Conservation District Newsletter

Phone 668-2359
Williamsburg



WINS SOIL CONSERVATION CONTEST — Speech winners in the annual soil conservation regional speech contest July 24 at Seven Villages, Amana, were left to right John Becker, Watkins, Benton county; Jeff Schlichting, Muscatine, second place; and Dean Dickel, Marengo, third place. Becker will advance to state competition in September at Fort Dodge.

Speech Awards Earned By Benton, Iowa FFA Youth

John Becker, 17, Watkins, was named winner of the Region 7 Soil Conservation speech contest July 24 at Holiday Inn, Amana. John represented Benton County Soil Conservation District in the competition and received a certificate and a check for \$25 as first place awards. He is son of the Harold Beckers.

Jeff Schlichting, Muscatine, 16, son of the James Schlichtings, received second place honors, including a \$15 check and a certificate.

Third place honors went to Dean Dickel, Marengo, son of

the Willard Dickels. He was an Iowa county Soil Conservation District representative and received a certificate and a \$10 check.

Becker will advance to state contest at Fort Dodge Sept. 8. State event will be held in conjunction with annual conference for Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners. Top prize will be a \$150 college scholarship and \$100 in cash.

Co-sponsors of speech contest are Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance company, Grinnell, and Ladies Auxiliary of Iowa

Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

Other contestants were Dana Echelbarger, Clinton; Gene Edelen, Grinnell; Linda Jennings, Columbus Junction; Loren Logan, Kalona; Tony McKinley, Walker; and Douglas Mottet, Brighton.

Jim Hawkins, Lee county, was keynote speaker to members of region soil district commissioners. Darrell Brown, West Branch, was named top soil district commissioner from group. Duane Shalla, Washington county, was elected president of the nine county group.

Mrs. Harold Higgins, Tama, president of women's auxiliary, presided

IOWA TEACHERS CONSERVATION CAMP

The Iowa County Soil Conservation District is sponsoring teachers for the 1974 Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp. The district is providing \$100 in scholarships to be divided equally between the teachers attending.

The camp deals with Iowa conservation problems. Teachers will learn about natural resources, conservation and environmental management. They will receive practical field experience and work with local resources. Teachers are encouraged to develop programs in their own schools.

There will be a camp held July 8-26 at Ottumwa. The course gives you three hours of university credit in three weeks. Classes are held from 8:30 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Undergraduate tuition is \$102 and graduate tuition is \$105. Books and supplies may be \$5 to \$20. Living accommodations and meals will be available at reasonable cost for those needing them.

Teachers in Iowa county are eligible for the scholarship and are encouraged to make use of them as soon as possible.

For information and application forms contact the Iowa County Soil Conservation District, P.O. Box 210, 409 Court Street, Williamsburg, Iowa. Phone 668-2359.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION WEEK SEPTEMBER 8 - 15

Governor Ray has declared Sept. 8-15 as Soil and Water Conservation Week in Iowa. This is a time for all of us to reflect on the status of soil and water conservation in Iowa county.

Some would say that we have slipped backwards because of the administration request for all out production. Some fields are being plowed up that should not be plowed. Some areas are being farmed too intensively for the soil conditions. Perhaps we have slipped backwards slightly, but if we have now is the time to take hold and reverse this trend.

This year has taught many of us a lesson that some of our lands cannot be farmed intensively without proper soil and water conservation. Contouring, strip cropping, and terracing are required to farm the sloping land as intensively as we do. In some cases permanent meadow is the only answer to control erosion. Many people complain about "point rows" and "its harder to farm on the contour", and maybe it is but if we want to have good productive soil in the future we must conserve it now. Besides soil and water conservation doesn't cost, it pays through fertilizer, herbicides, and seed savings plus more productive soil.

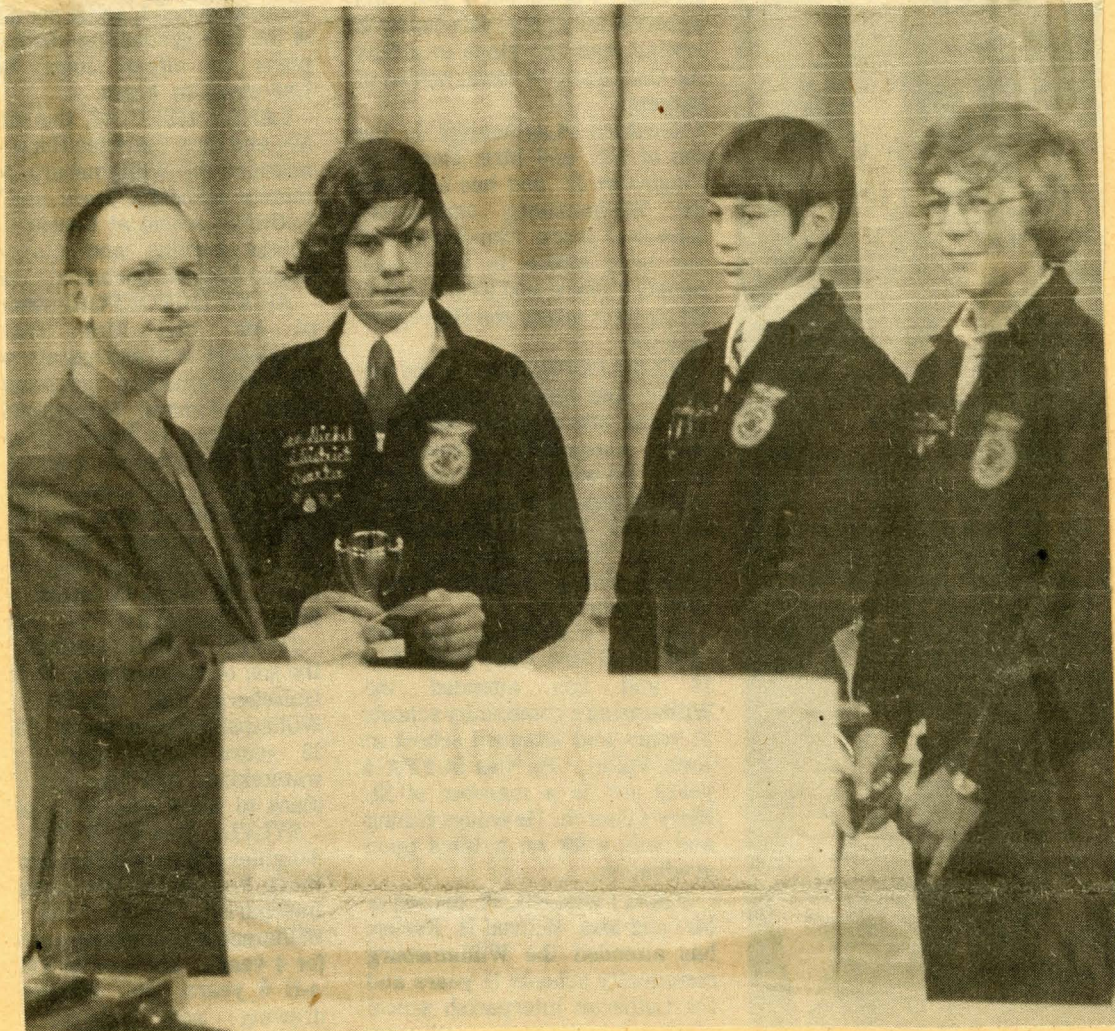
The farmers are not the only ones that need to be concerned. City people have their erosion problems too. Have you ever seen a construction sight where there was not a large area of soil laid bare to erosion. We have city planning problems and waste disposal problems. The list of urban soil and water problems is every bit as long as the rural problems.

The problems belong to all of us. It is up to each one of us as individuals to consider these problems during Soil and Water Conservation Week and to do something about it throughout the year.

For information on Soil and Water Conservation contact the Iowa County Soil Conservation District, 409 Court Street, Williamsburg, Iowa.



Winners were named Friday evening in both the art and speech contests sponsored by the Iowa County Soil Conservation District. Winners in the art contest were, front row, L-R: Darrell Schwarting and Lois Schlesselman, both of the Williamsburg schools, and Becky Witte of Lutheran Interparish School. They were in the elementary division. Winners in the high school division, back row, were Debbie Van Hamme of HLV, Kim Armstrong and Debbie Muhlenbruck, both of Williamsburg. Soil conservation commissioner Keith Enochson presents the first place award to Dean Dickel of Iowa Valley in the speech contest. Second place was Randy Jones, center, and third went to Dwight Maas. Both these boys were from Williamsburg. The contest was co-sponsored by the Patrons Mutual Insurance Assn.



MARY WELSH

Workshop Held Today At Lake Iowa

Wildlife conservation is the topic of a teachers' workshop being held today, Thursday, at Lake Iowa in southern Iowa county.

Mary Welsh, elementary principal of Williamsburg school district, is chairman of afternoon session. Sixth grade teachers from all county school districts have been especially invited. Other teachers may also attend.

Introduced will be a conservation field trip guidebook,

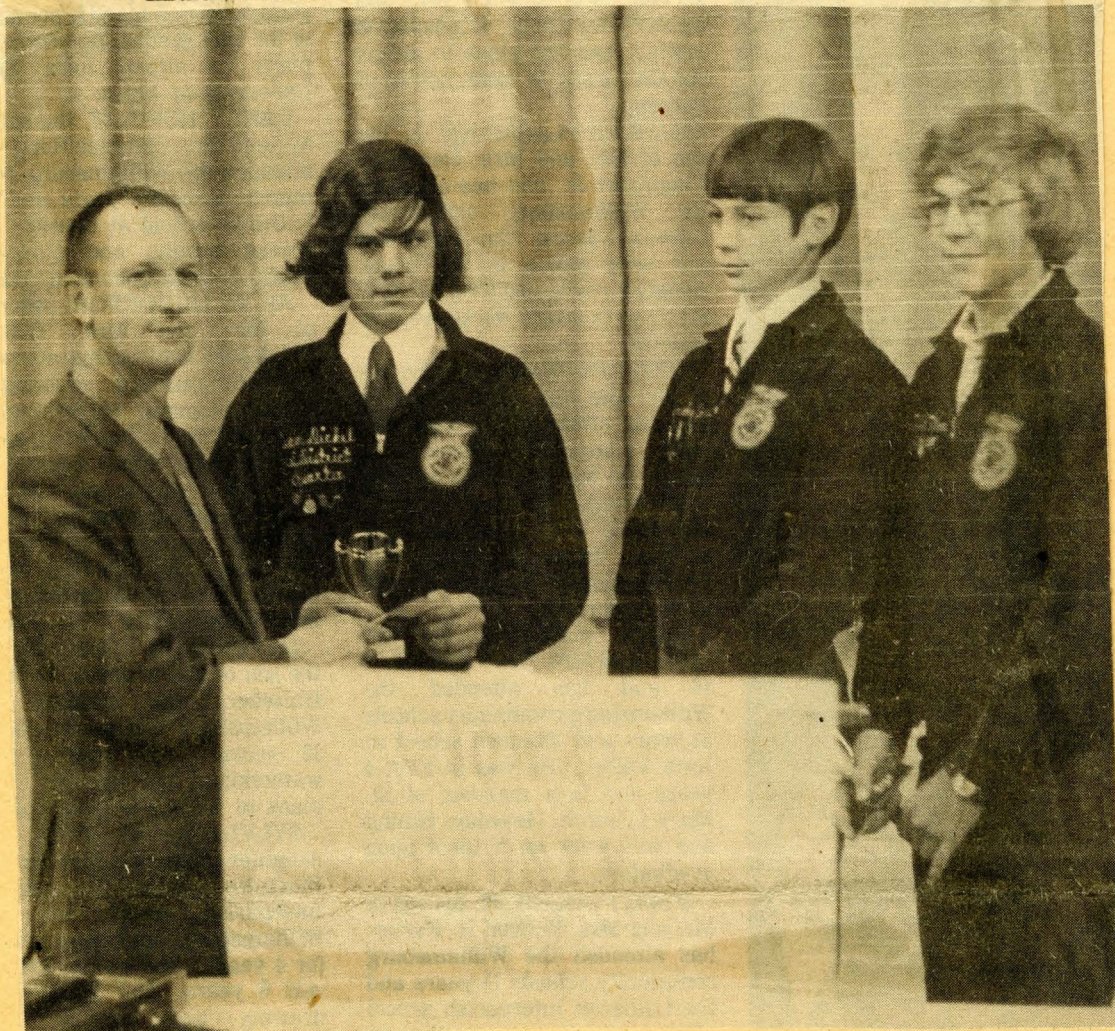
developed by Iowa county soil conservation district education committee. Locations and explanations of sites throughout county depicting soil and water, conservation, wildlife areas, geological sites, water resources and historical sites are included in publication. Miss Welsh was instrumental in having book published.

Registration fee is \$2 and will conclude with an outdoor supper.

Local conservation district in cooperation with Johnson and Washington county districts is sponsoring a soil judging contest Oct. 9 at 1:30 p.m. in Iowa county. Event will be open to all 4-H and vocational agriculture youth.



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Suggest Conservation Measures --

Soil Losses May Run To 100 Tons Per Acre

By Duane Miller
Soil Conservationist

Torrential rains of the last three weeks once again point to need for increased emphasis on soil and water conservation. Many landowners in Iowa county have indicated soil erosion is occurring more rapidly than ever.

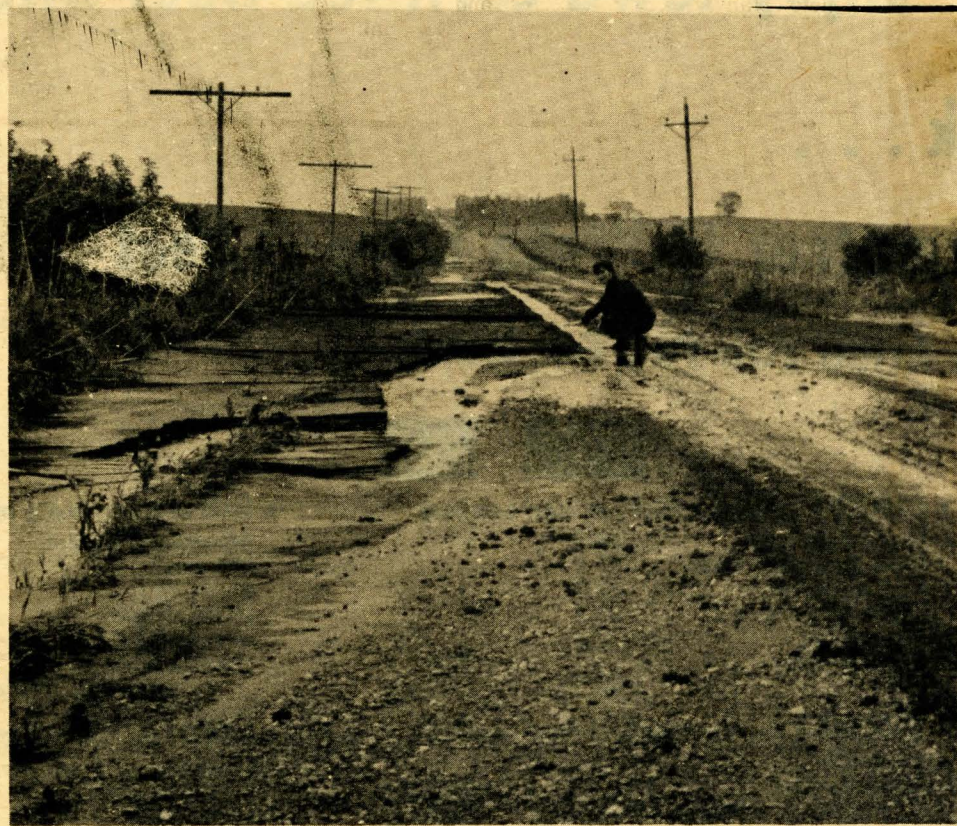
Roads and road ditches are becoming clogged with silt. Some roads in Iowa county are nearly impassable because of silt accumulations. Even further downstream rivers and lakes are being filled with sediment.

Greatest tragedy of soil erosion is losing the best land, land for which up to \$1,000 per acre has been paid. Along with soil and water we are losing herbicides, fertilizer, insecticides and in some cases, seed corn.

Stop Erosion

What can be done to stop excessive erosion? The answer is proper land use and treatment, protecting land while producing more. The first step is to acquire a soil and water conservation plan with assistance of Iowa County Soil Conservation district.

Conservationists will recommend needed land use changes along with soil and water conservation practices needed considering crop rotations. Recommended practices may include erosion control structures, ponds, grassed water-



SOIL EROSION — Recent rains that have hit Iowa county caused numerous erosion problems for area farms. Norm Skadburg, Williamsburg, is shown here indicating the one and one-half foot of top soil that has washed over road in Troy township near the Laurel Weiss farm. —Photo by C. Edward Koch

ways, contouring, strip-cropping or in combination with contouring can effectively control erosion on many soils. Terraces can cut soil loss to less than one ton per acre. Ponds, structures and waterways are

used to control gullies.

These practices help to reduce flooding and clogging of road ditches. They keep sediment and chemicals out of rivers and streams.

Contact Soil Conservation Service, 409 Court St., Williamsburg, phone 668-2359, for assistance on soil erosion problems.

It is estimated soil losses from rains this spring are as high as 100 tons per acre. A permissible soil loss is three to five tons per year.

Erosion complaints to be filed

The county engineer has the permission of the board of supervisors to file erosion complaints against farmers who allowed their topsoil to wash into ditches during recent heavy rains.

The subject came up at the supervisors' meeting Tuesday in part because the county had received a bill from a woman in English township for dirt she removed from the road and brought back to her land.

The supervisors said they not only won't pay the bill, but they may file a complaint against the landowner for allowing the dirt to wash off the fields in the first place in violation of state conservation laws.

County engineer Nord S. Sorensen noted the state law which prohibits a farmer to allow more than 10 tons of topsoil to wash off a field. He said this also applies into road ditches, and added that this happened in a number of places in the county.

The supervisors, with new supervisor Delmar Wetjen in the lead, told Sorensen to file the complaints with the Iowa County Conservation board. By filing this complaint, the farmer automatically receives 75 percent of the money needed for the conservation and erosion control project on his farm. However, the project is mandatory.

Neighbors also can file complaints if the runoff from a field comes onto their land. This is why the county would file complaints about erosion into ditches, since this is county land.

Duane Miller, Iowa county conservationist, had met with the supervisors about a month ago to brief them about the 75 percent program and also about procedures for the county to file complaints.

Sorensen said he has met with Miller several times since to discuss the program.

Iowa County Advertiser 10-10-74

LONG TERM COST SHARING PROGRAM—

Allan and Marcella Doehrmann of Williamsburg were the first landowners in Iowa County to be approved for long term cost-sharing for soil conservation measures.

Long term agreements are part of the 1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program of ASCS. They offer farmers the option of planning and applying conservation practices with cost-sharing over a period of 3-10 years.

A total of four such agreements have been approved in Iowa County. These are on the Gene Stoltzfus farm of North English, Marvin Slaubaugh farm of Parnell, and the Lawrence Quinlan farm south of Marengo. The four agreements cover a total of 1,163 acres.

This type of agreement insures that the landowners will get the cost-share funds needed for conservation whether or not farm programs change in the next few years. The whole farm can be planned for conservation and the owner can plan how he will pay his share of the cost. It also helps contractors scheduling by knowing what jobs need to be done well ahead of construction. The largest agreement covers 639 acres and will cost nearly \$65,000 when completed. That's a lot of money but the owner feels that it's needed and well worth the money. The additional cost-share funds for this agreement was secured by a special effort on the part of ASCS office personnel. This is a new program and if there are any questions contact the ASCS or SCS office in Williamsburg.

C.R. Gazette 10-11-74

Williamsburg Tops Soil Judging Event

WILLIAMSBURG — Williamsburg dominated a three-county soil judging contest here this week. Randy Jones, a Williamsburg student, was high individual in the contest and the school's Future Farmers of America chapter placed first in team competition.

Another Williamsburg student, Dwight Maas, placed second while two Mid-Prairie FFA members, Curtis Stutzman and Bob Stutzman, both of Wellman, captured the other two places in individual competition.

Mid-Prairie placed second and Lone Tree third in team competition. Five schools were represented by the 33 students and eight teams competing.

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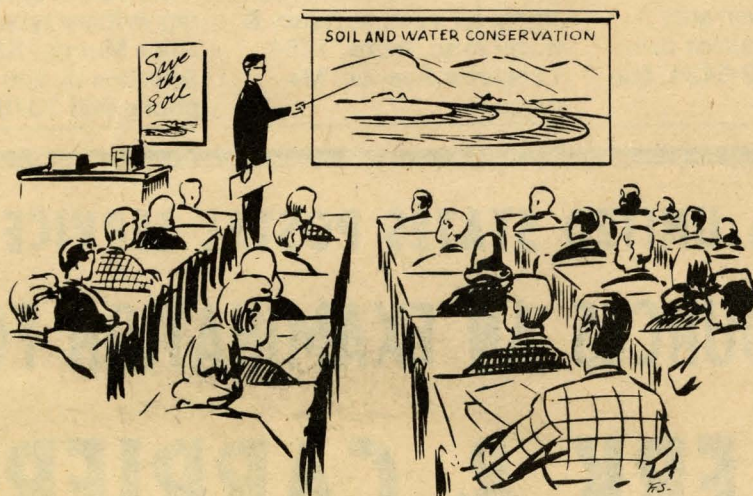
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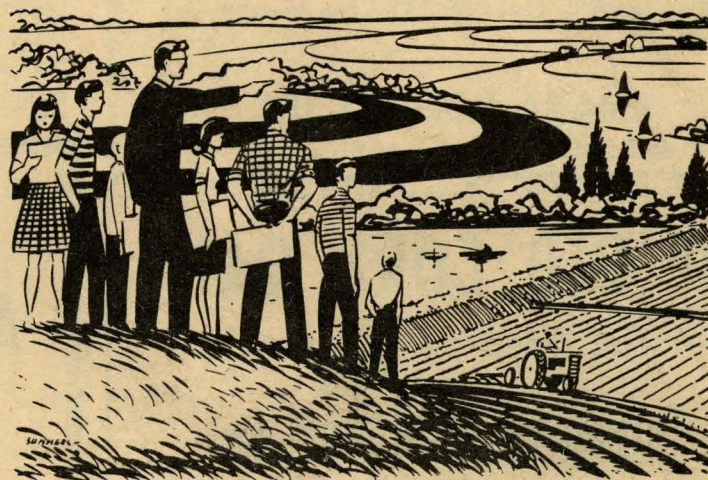
THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1974

PUBLISHED BY BULLERS' LITHO

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

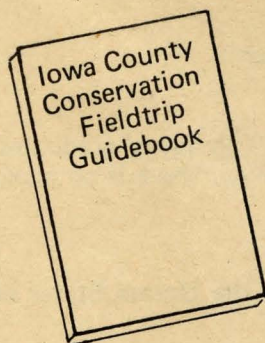


In The Classroom



In The Field

FOR TEACHERS



FIELDTRIP GUIDEBOOK

Developed by the Iowa County Soil Conservation District Education Committee. To be used by teachers and other leaders in developing and conducting tours and fieldtrips.

TEACHER'S WORKSHOP

For all teachers in Iowa County sponsored by the Iowa County Soil Conservation District Education Committee. Will be held at Lake Iowa at 1:30 p.m. on August 22, 1974. Subject covered will be Wildlife Conservation.

FOR STUDENTS



SOIL JUDGING CONTEST

Sponsored by Iowa, Johnson, and Washington Soil Conservation Districts. Open to Vocation Agricultural students and 4-H members. Contest will be held in Iowa County on October 9, 1974.

Iowa County Soil Conservation District Newsletter

Phone 668-2359
Williamsburg

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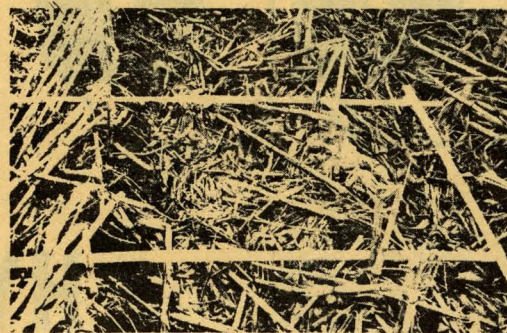
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mulch tillage in modern farming

Severe erosion has occurred on this field where corn was removed for silage. Where the corn was harvested for grain and the corn residue was left on the surface over winter, there is little erosion.



Residue left by the corn picker is normally 6000 — 7000 pounds per acre.



Even distribution of large amounts of residue over the soil surface makes mulch tillage most effective in stopping erosion. Crop residue of 7000 pounds an acre cuts soil loss 80% to 95% of that with residues plowed under.

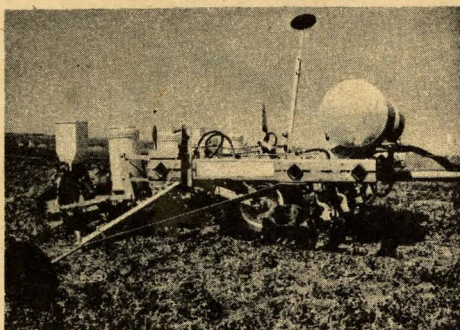
Soil losses on bare unprotected soils in Iowa County can range as high as 80 to 100 tons per acre per year.



Crop residue of 3000 pounds cuts soil loss by 50%.



Soybean residue as left by the combine—2,250 pounds an acre. Soybean residue usually ranges from 1,500 to 2,500 pounds an acre.



No-till planting disturbs only an area 4" wide in the planted row.

Mulch tillage means to leave as much residue as possible on the surface. Each tillage operation covers some residue. For instance, each time you disc you cover approximately 50% of the residue. One chisel plowing will normally cover 20% of the residue. In determining amount of residue you desire, remember that more than 6000 pounds an acre does not greatly increase effectiveness.

Not only does mulch tillage decrease soil loss, but it also decreases production costs and energy uses.

Iowa County Soil Conservation District Newsletter

Phone 668-2359
Williamsburg

SCS cools county plan for erosion

What had been thought to have been a promising plan to minimize erosion and flooding along the English river fizzled Tuesday with the report that it would not be cost effective.

Marvin Parmer of the state Soil Conservation service office in Des Moines told the Iowa county board of supervisors that a federal-financing plan for flood

and erosion control along the Middle English river would not meet the agency's one to one cost-benefit requirements. This means there must be a dollar of benefit for every dollar invested in the program.

"The benefit would be there, but the cost would be too high," Parmer said. "It would not be 1-1."

The supervisors had hoped to be able to take advantage of the program in order to minimize water flow into the Middle English, where major bridge washouts and culvert disruptions occurred last May.

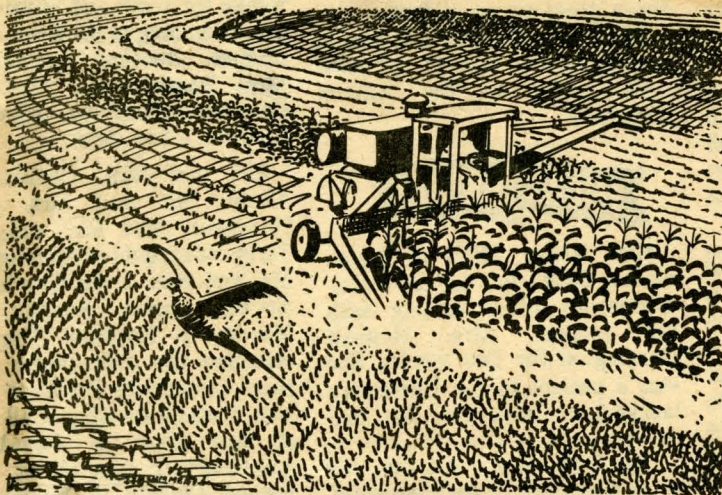
The engineering and the small dams and lakes built under such a program would cut the flow into the English river to that which would be bank-full at the maximum, Parmer said.

County soil conservationist Duane Miller said that although the federal funds will not be available, the benefits of the program might be high enough to warrant using local funds.

Part of the program involves the use of road-dams rather than bridges over creeks and streams. This backs up the water, which then trickles through the spillway rather than flooding on down the stream to further damage crops or wash away top soil.

Parmer said the program involves requiring farmers to contour farm and maintain marginal land for pasture or forest. He said the federal

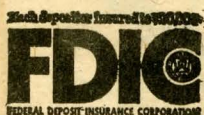
money in approved programs then is used for the dams, which capture the larger runoff.



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION WEEK

September 8-15, 1974

**CONSERVE
YOUR SOIL
GET THE MOST
FROM YOUR
ACREAGE**



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Soil conservation winners announced

Iowa county winners in the annual Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement awards program have been announced by Wilson T. Moon, state conservationist for the U. S. Soil Conservation service.

Winning farms in each soil conservation district were selected in three divisions: Winners in each farmer and teacher division

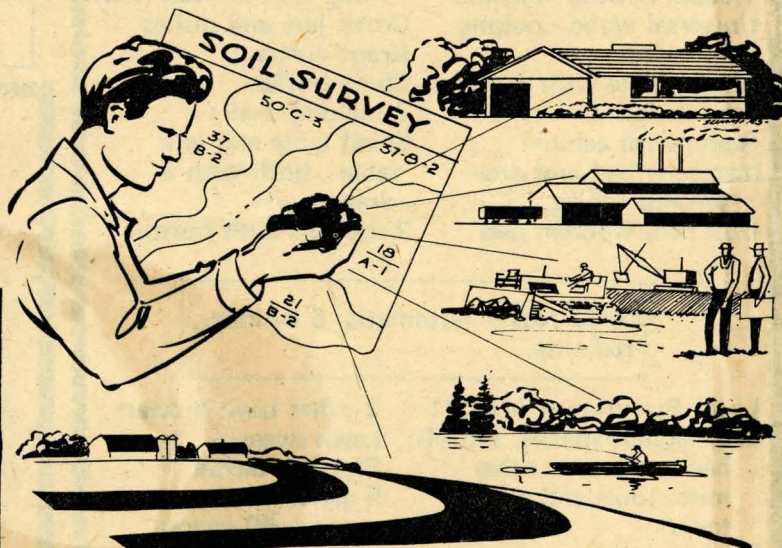
follows:

1. Owner and family operated.
 2. Landlord-tenant operated.
- Winners in each farmer and teacher division follows: 1. Allyn Evans, Williamsburg, owner; Leighton Jones and Richard Schaeffer, Williamsburg, operators. Teacher: K-8, Mrs. Betty Golden, Williamsburg community schools, Conroy.

Soil and Water Conservation Week

September 8 to 15, 1974

Conserve THE SOIL



IT'S UP TO YOU!

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Williamsburg

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C.R. Gazette 10-21-74

Four Williamsburg Farmers Cited for Conservation Work

WILLIAMSBURG — Four Williamsburg farmers were honored at an Iowa county awards banquet last week for their achievements in conservation farming.

Allyn (Chris) Evans was named the top owner-operator, and a landowner, Leo (Curly) Driscoll, was cited in the landlord-tenant division.

Driscoll's farm has been operated by Leighton Jones and Richard Schaefer the past 15 years.

Similar Programs

Evans and Driscoll each have about 25,000 feet of terraces on their farms. Contour farming, crop rotations, and residue management are used for erosion and water control.

Both farms have areas set aside for wildlife, and Evans has a farm pond for wildlife and water supply. The Driscoll farm is 160 acres, and the Evans farm is 240 acres.

Teacher Cited

A sixth grade instructor at Williamsburg, Mrs. Robert Golden, was cited as the county's outstanding conservation teacher.

Her class earned \$185 from sponsoring concession stands at school events to purchase trees and plantings at two school centers.



Chris
Evans



Leighton
Jones



Leo
Driscoll



Mrs. Robert
Golden

Teachers Preview Outdoor Courses At Lake Iowa

By Doris McCartney

Lake Iowa was the outdoor classroom for nearly 24 Iowa county teachers Thursday afternoon where they previewed the new Conservation Field Trip Guidebook and a wildlife management course to be taught to their pupils this year.

Duane Miller, county's conservationist with Soil Conservation Service, says he realized a long time goal in directing the program. SCS commissioners have also sponsored speech and art contests to encourage elementary and high school students in all phases of conservation projects.

The new guidebook, published especially for upper elementary grades is the joint effort of a teacher committee, who began meeting nearly a year ago in one-hour sessions, each month. Some 350 copies were published by Joint County school system, Cedar Rapids, for study in Iowa county schools.

Field Hike

Studies Thursday took the teachers from the redwood all-weather shelter above west side of lake, where sessions were held, on a brief jaunt. Conservation officers, Ralph Leigh, Marengo, who serves Iowa and Benton counties, and Bob Kurt, Toledo, assigned to Poweshiek and Tama counties, led field trip. Kurt, a wildlife biologist, is articulate, and

spoke for more than one and one-half hours without notes.

The song of a cardinal floated from a tree limb at edge of a clearing when teachers paused to study a young ash tree. Advantages of the natural trees and abundance of honeysuckle found over the 492 acres at Lake Iowa were mentioned by Kurt.

Both conservation officers questioned the practice of extensive and regular mowing around the new pond in park. They suggested that if mowing were only done once in four years, the area would shelter more wildlife, especially pheasant and quail, now seen in fewer numbers here.

Questioned on rapid loss of elm trees, Kurt said every nature problem seems to have a silver lining.

"Take for instance the increase of red-winged blackbirds and the pileated woodpecker. The red-headed woodpecker feeds on insects found on dead elm trees, and this bird has found a haven in the death loss of these trees," he pointed out.

Increasing numbers are noted too of the pileated woodpecker, a bird the size of a crow, all black with a red crest and white spot on wing. Swooping low, the pileated woodpecker appears all black in movement.

A population explosion has been noted in numbers of rac-

coons, which were up 43 percent in past year. Raccoons prefer to lodge in elm trees.

After a lemonade break for the hiking teachers, Kurt resumed his slide presentation on wildlife management.

Managing Wildlife

"Only in the past 30-40 years has modern science actually been practicing wildlife management," Kurt said. "Keeping game had once been controlled by the wealthy in the days of kings."

"Some 3,000 deer are annually killed in Iowa. However, a lot of deer are also wasted by poor hunters, killed by dogs or on highways. In southern part of the state, conservation officers have on occasion found 15 dogs kept on farmsteads, which on the prowl, kill deer and are a menace to all wildlife," he said.

In a study of the white-tailed deer, conservation commission personnel using corn as bait, have trapped deer in boxes in wooded areas to attach radio collars to log habits and routes of Iowa's big game. Deer are tracked by plane in a 25-30 mile range in order to carry out the ground study.

Kurt noted native ruff grouse is an illusive bird and is subject to ten year highs and lows in population. The hen is the size of a pheasant, is a woodland game bird, common to northeast part of state and Minnesota. Restricted hunt-

ing of the bird is maintained. Broods have been transplanted to new areas of state through trapping, however. In 1971, an experimental release of 43 birds was done in southeastern part of the state.

Wild Turkeys

A milestone in wildlife management program was the January release of wild turkeys in the Amana timber Kurt observes. After the first hunt of the birds, in other areas turkeys become hunter-wise however.

"A wild turkey is quite a trophy," Kurt exclaims. "Some 100 years ago, pioneers supplied their families with wild turkey meat, but as forests were logged off by 1900, the wild turkey was nearly at point of extinction. Now the bird is protected."

"The eastern wild turkey, the type brought to Amana, is a powerful bird. Turn them loose in a thick timber, where even a sparrow cannot penetrate and a wild turkey will bulldoze through and be out of sight soon," Kurt explains.

Stocking new areas with wild turkeys is started with 15 hens and three gobblers, enough to begin a new population. Here, again, conservationists mark birds for research.

"Iowa conservationists are staking their game hopes on the eastern wild turkey because two other strain introduced into the state earlier, did not pan out," he continued.

Kurt notes a perfectly rounded tail fan indicates the adult bird. Even in 19-below temperatures, the turkey is doing well in the county. A typical bird has a seven-inch long beard and weight is approximately 22 pounds.

Pheasants

Iowa, as the title-holder to best pheasant country because of its high population count both in state and county, has taken a set back this year, according to surveys. "Perhaps two-thirds fewer birds will be available to hunters this fall," Kurt says.

Since 1960 pheasant population has increased in this area, as birds migrate in southern direction in state. A switch in habitat has been caused among pheasants because farmers further north are removing fence rows and losing wildlife shelters.

"Pheasants can only move to



PLANNED OUTDOOR SESSION — Heading the planning committee during past year, in preparation for Iowa county teacher's outdoor education workshop held last week, were Mary Welsh, Williamsburg, elementary principal; Duane Miller, Soil Conservation Service; Gary Drefke, Lutheran Inter-Parish school, and Mrs. Roger Tandy, Deep River-Millersburg elementary school principal, all Williamsburg. - Photo by Doris McCartney.

roadside ditches, but they cannot survive long there.

"Farmers who postpone haying until July or later, allow their pheasants to get their broods off to a good start. A plum thicket offers pheasants protection when haying begins. A pheasant needs protection in driving snow and sub-zero weather," Kurt adds.

"Honeysuckle on the west side of a shelter belt of fir, and scotch or red pine is an excellent way for farm owners to induce pheasants to survive winter."

Regular pheasant counts are taken by conservationists over a prescribed route of 30 miles each year. Every two miles, men stop to listen for pheasant crow to record the hunting prospects.

During a 15-year project, the conservation commission, in cooperating with federal wildlife and game commission, has banded 3,000 morning dove to gain information on the bird.

Prairie Grasses

In preserving heritage areas, the conservation commission has been planting prairie grasses in the state for feeding wildlife, for shelter, to prevent soil erosion and as a Canada thistle control effort. Every five years, the grasses are burned off.

Big and little bluestem, Indian grass, switch grass and oats grama mix are seeds purchased from a Nebraska firm. Grass is more expensive and a Nesbit drill is used.

Heritage grasses have been thriving in Iowa county along interstate 80 and are found most of the distance from Grinnell to Williamsburg he added.

Feed Fish

Leigh told teachers of the portable fisheries established in lakes to attain rate of gain in fish. Some 800-1,000 catfish in 3 by 4 by 6-foot cages are crowded, but catfish determine their territory and will fight to protect their area when released.

Fish are fed high protein fish food and after 120 days, cages are retrieved, fish are weighed, measured and released. Rate of gain is one and one-fourth pound of food to one pound of fish weight.

Lake Iowa channel catfish were four inches long and were 33 to the pound this year as fingerlings. Cage success rate has been 95 percent survival. Leigh calls this a good program for providing better fishing for local residents.

Bird Wings

Displaying wild waterfowl wings, Leigh noted hunting is by a point system. Identification should be a necessary

study for the hunter before going out Leigh mentioned. Blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, widgeon, buffalo head, golden head, gray coot and American gray coot, gadwall, bald pate all were described with slides.

He cited waterfowl slides and bird wings as helpful in determining sex and age of ducks. He noted too wood duck seeks dead elm for nesting in long hollow logs. As soon as young are hatched, they never return.

Guidebook

Concluding talks by conservationists, teachers examined supplies given to them for instruction.

The guidebook introduces pupils also to conservation practices, geology, history and water resources in county.

Some 21 farms are listed in publication as examples of various soils, methods of conservation and water management, in addition to farms where wildlife habitats are managed.

Iowa county lake and associated watershed was established to provide recreation facilities for fishing, boating, camping and picnicking. SCS has been helpful in application of conservation practices in the area because of a special project under ASCS committee in forming a watershed. Farmers within watershed were offered 80 percent federal cost-share for conservation practices under Agricultural Conservation and Rural Environmental assistance programs.

A section of the guidebook refers to several ethnic groups, which in the past somewhat isolated within their respective areas. Amana Society, founded in Europe by German Inspirationists as a purely communistic society, began a new colony in Iowa early in 1854 in founding seven villages. Until 1932, members lived under a religious form of communism. That year, a corporation was formed and gradually the Society has prospered in a competitive world.

Languages and customs of those in Menfonite faith, Greene township, are noted in the book and Church of the New Jerusalem. Notations are included of the eight towns within the county also.

Credits

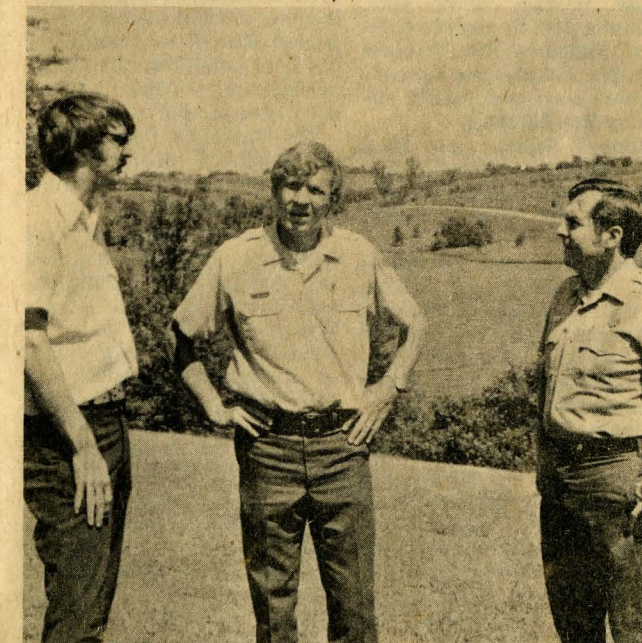
Mary Welsh, Williamsburg elementary school principal, and member of soil conservation education committee, was instrumental in compiling book. Material was also supplied by Gary Drefke, Lutheran Interparish school, book chairman; Mrs. Roger (Corrine) Tandy, Williamsburg, Deep River-Millersburg elementary school principal; and Dwight Dial, formerly with Iowa Valley school district.

Book credits also include this list. Leigh, Miller, Ted Ressler, an Iowa county historian, Williamsburg; George Hallberg, Marengo, Iowa Geological survey; Richard Wardenburg, Williamsburg, city manager; and Otto Maas, Marengo, mayor.

Teachers were released from their respective school district workshops to attend the outdoor course.



PAUSE ON STUDY HIKE — Bob Kurt, Toledo, wildlife biologist, paused to comment on a young ash tree at Lake Iowa during last week's outdoor education for Iowa county teachers and to urge teachers to identify bird song. - Photo by Doris McCartney.



CONSERVATION IS MUTUAL INTEREST — During a break at Aug. 22 Iowa county outdoor education training session for teachers, Duane Miller, county conservationist, Williamsburg; Bob Kurt, Toledo, wildlife biologist, and Ralph Leigh, conservation officer for Iowa and Benton counties, Marengo, conferred on subject. - Photo by Doris McCartney.

Tree, Wildlife Information Meeting Set

An open meeting for persons interested in renewable natural resources will be held in the Williamsburg ASCS office Jan. 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Information will be available from Duane Miller, district conservationist - U.S. Soil Conservation Service, Bob Kurtz, wildlife biologist, and Bob Hibbs, district forester - Iowa Conservation Commission.

Printed material and

information will be available for any person considering or concerned about planting trees and shrubs for either forestry or wildlife purposes. Tree order forms from the state forest nursery will be available. Assistance will be given in filling out order form. Price for 1975 nursery stock is \$20 to \$25 per 1,000 plants, plus shipping and tax. For persons desiring larger nursery stock not available from the state nursery, there will be private nursery catalogs available.

There will be slides on display with recommendations for correct soil and species selection, planting methods, layout and technique, weed

and grass control recommendations, and suggestions for planting arrangement to benefit wildlife.

Homeowners, farmers, private nursery representatives, other landowners, or other agencies as city or county government representatives are welcome. Personnel attending will discuss any aspect of their conservation jobs: soil erosion and water control, wildlife habitat, hunting seasons, and limits, city tree replacement, Christmas tree or walnut plantings, walnut value, insect and disease problems, or any other problem which may occur.

Pioneer-Republican 1-23-75

Select Subject For Soil Conservation Speech Contest

Land Use Policy - Insurance for Mankind will be the topic for the 1975 soil conservation speech contest sponsored by

the Iowa County Soil Conservation district and Patrons Mutual Insurance company. Contest is open to all junior high and senior high school students in the county.

Trophies and prizes of \$15, \$10 and \$5 will be awarded for first, second and third places respectively in the local contest. Each participant not placing will receive \$2.

Winner in the local contest will advance to the regional competition in June or July. Regional contest prizes will consist of \$30, \$20 and \$15 for first, second and third places.

A new regional award of \$10 has been added this year - the merit award. One merit award recipient per region may be selected at the discretion of judges. An eligible recipient is limited to an outstanding contestant who has not entered the tenth grade by the time of regional contest.

State contest will be held in September at the annual conference for Soil Conservation district commissioners in Des Moines. First place winner in state contest will receive a \$300 college scholarship and \$110 in cash. Second and third place awards in the state contest will consist of \$85 and \$60 respectively.

Regional and state levels of the contest are co-sponsored by ladies auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation district commissioners and the Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance company, Grinnell.

Any interested in entering the 1975 Soil Conservation speech contest should contact the Iowa County Soil Conservation district, box 210, Williamsburg, phone 668-2359 before Apr. 30. Contest rules and information on topic are also available at office. All youth are encouraged to enter.

SPEECH CONTEST

Land Use Policy - Insurance for Mankind will be the topic for the 1975 Soil Conservation Speech Contest to be sponsored by the Iowa County Soil Conservation District and Patrons Mutual Insurance Company. The contest is open to all junior high and senior high school students in the county. Trophies and prizes of \$15, \$10, and \$5 will be awarded for first, second, and third places respectively in the local contest. Each participant not placing will receive \$2. The winner in the local contest will advance to the regional competition which will be held in June or July. Regional contest prizes will consist of \$30, \$20, and \$15 for first, second, and third places. A new regional award of \$10 has been added this year - The Merit Award. One Merit Award recipient per region may be selected at the discretion of the judges. An eligible recipient is limited to an outstanding contestant who has not entered the tenth grade by the time of the regional contest. The state contest will be held in September 1975 at the Annual Conference for Soil Conservation District Commissioners in Des Moines, Iowa. The first place winner in the state contest will receive a \$300 college scholarship and \$110 in cash. The second and third place awards in the state contest will consist of \$85 and \$60 respectively. The regional and state levels of the contest are co-sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company, Grinnell, Iowa. Any interested in entering the 1975 Soil Conservation Speech Contest should contact the Iowa County Soil Conservation District, Box 210, Williamsburg, Iowa (phone 668-2359) before April 30, 1975. Contest rules and information on the topic is also available at that office. All youth are encouraged to enter.

Iowa County Advertiser 1-30-75

FORESTRY AND TREE PLANTING CLINIC

The annual Iowa County Forestry and Tree Planting Clinic was attended by twenty Iowa County landowners and operators. Interest was high on wildlife plantings. Questions were answered on various planting and disease problems by Robert Kurtz, Area Wildlife Biologist and Robert Hibbs, District Forester. Both are with the Iowa State Conservation Commission.

The specialists present assisted landowners in completing order forms for seedling trees from the state nursery. Many of the trees and shrubs will be planted around farm ponds constructed in the past year with the assistance of the Soil Conservation Service and ASCS. Also discussed was stocking of these ponds by the State Conservation Commission.

Of the tree and shrubs offered, the pines and oaks were most popular trees and honeysuckle and autumn olive were popular shrubs. All make excellent wildlife plantings.

The Amana Society also buys a large number of trees yearly for forestry production. Walnut seedlings are usually chosen.

Landowners are encouraged to use this course of inexpensive trees for wildlife and woodland plantings. Those interested should contact local ASCS or Soil Conservation Service offices.

Pioneer-Republican 1-30-75



TWENTY ATTEND CLINIC - Iowa county forestry and tree planting clinic held Thursday was "well attended" according to Duane Miller, district conservationist. About twenty people discussed planting and disease problems with Robert Kurtz, area wildlife biologist, and Robert Hibbs, district forester. Specialists assisted landowners in completing forms for seedling trees and shrubs from state nursery. Miller

noted pines and oaks were most popular trees ordered, while honeysuckle and autumn olive were most requested shrubs. Miller noted anyone interested in procuring trees and shrubs for wildlife plantings should contact local ASCS or Soil Conservation service offices. Pictured left to right are Kurtz, Miller, and Hibbs. - Photo by lkh

SCS Will Move Offices In Williamsburg

As of Mar. 1, the Iowa county soil conservation district and the soil conservation service will move to 600 Court street, Williamsburg.

Office is now located at 409 Court street, Williamsburg. New location is one block south of present location and across street west of post office.

Soil conservation district invites people to stop and see new facilities.

Iowa County Advertiser 3-20-75

The Iowa County Soil Conservation District is celebrating its thirtieth anniversary this year. We believe that this District has accomplished some very worthwhile and lasting things for our community. You and hundreds of others have been helped with soil conservation work and in the past few years with programs for total resource development.

You have elected us to manage the Iowa County Soil Conservation District. This is a big job. It takes a great deal of time and energy to attend all of the necessary board meetings and to do the many jobs listed in our plan of work. We are happy to do this, because we can see that the conservation of our natural resources is making our community a better place in which to live and work.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts have no taxing or bonding authority, which creates a problem. We are sure you are aware that the work of the commissioners is all volunteer. We need money for publicity materials, office supplies, speech, art, and soil judging awards, scholarships to conservation workshops and classes, educational booklets, soil stewardship week, and many others.

In the past the commissioners have visited the various businesses in each area of the county and sold advertising for the Annual Report in order to raise the money necessary to meet our expenses. This year we have decided to ask you and others to help with defraying the cost of running your Soil and Water Conservation District by making a contribution.

Many of you landowners and operators and businessmen will be receiving letters in the mail this week requesting donations to the Iowa county Soil Conservation District. We urge you to read these letters and carefully consider what the Iowa County Soil Conservation District has done for you and Iowa County. If you feel that the district has been of value to you in any way, whatever amount you can give will be more than welcome. Make your check payable to the Iowa County Soil Conservation District, P.O. Box 210, Williamsburg, Iowa 52361, or bring it into the office at 600 Court Street.

May we be thankful for the good soil we have in Iowa County which is so basic for our food and fiber and for the good life we all enjoy. Your contribution and support of this program will be sincerely appreciated. All contributions are tax deductible.

As of March 1 — The Iowa County Soil Conservation District and the Soil Conservation Service will have a new home

The office is now located at — —
409 Court Street, Williamsburg.

The new location will be — — —
600 Court Street, Williamsburg.

This is one block south of the present location and across the street west of the Post Office.

The Iowa County Soil Conservation District cordially invites you to stop in and see our new facilities.

1974 Loss Highest In 25 Years--

Soil Erosion Potential Is High With Planting Indications

Farmer intentions for planting a record acreage of corn and soybeans this year has brought warnings from soil conservationists that increased acreage makes another potentially dangerous year for soil erosion says Duane Miller, district soil conservationist.

Erosion in Iowa county was

the worst in 25 years with soil losses reaching as high as 200 tons per acre Miller continues. Potential is there this year unless necessary precautions are taken he points out.

Trend to intensive row crop has steadily increased erosion possibilities in recent years. In Iowa corn and soybean acreage planting intentions for this year are 20.4 million acres, a

1.4 percent increase over last year. It's a 33 percent increase in these row crops from ten years ago Miller points out.

Last year's wet spring and drought in summer caused a shortage of forage, and many took corn stalks off their fields for winter feed. This opens up even more chance for severe wind and water erosion on these fields.

Most conservation practices, terraces, ponds, windbreaks and others, take time to become established. One practice, conservation tillage, takes effect immediately and can be practiced this spring. Leaving the plow in storage and using a disc, chisel or other machine to prepare land for planting is the first step.

These operations help to leave crop residue on the ground to protect against erosion. They also give immediate soil protection and give landowner time to plan and install needed permanent terraces, ponds, etc. for adequate erosion control.

Land owners are cautioned that even these limited field operations can be overdone. Too many trips with a chisel or disc can cover residue, and that defeats their purpose. True test is whether enough residue is left on the soil surface. Generally, 3,000 to 4,000 pounds of residue per acre left on top of the soil reduces erosion by half Miller pointed out.

Recommendations on how to produce more on intensive row crop while protecting soil may be obtained from Soil Conservation district office at 600 Court street, Williamsburg.

Journal-Tribune 5-15-75

Conservation Camp Teachers Scholarships Are Available

Iowa county soil conservation district will again be providing scholarships to Iowa teachers conservation camps.

First camp will be held in Cedar Rapids June 16-July 3. Second will be July 7-25 at Fort Dodge. Camps are for elementary and secondary teachers, are three weeks long, and the participant earns three hours credit.

First week will cover ecological principles, natural history of local plants, birds and mammals, mineral and soil resources, and man's dependence on his environment.

Second week will cover environmental management including biological and physical resources, outdoor laboratories and nature trails, teaching on the school grounds, and socio-economic factors of resources management.

Third week will discuss rural and urban land use, political

and legal aspects of environmental quality, environmental education curricula, and developing projects and programs for participants school.

Scholarship provided by Iowa county soil conservation district will consist of \$100 to be divided equally among teachers attending from Iowa county. A maximum of \$50 per

Pioneer-Republican 5-15-75



DISPLAY WINNING POSTERS — Barbara Ballard, left, and Becky Witte, right, competed in elementary division of Iowa county soil conservation service art contest, Friday evening in Williamsburg city hall, and won second and third place. First place winner, not pictured, was Denise Joseph. Photo: LH

June 13 Is Last Day For Sign-up

June 13 is last day for landowners to sign up for long term conservation cost-sharing program.

A long term agreement is a contract between landowner and government. In this contract, landowner agrees to adequately treat his whole farm with needed conservation practices according to his particular farming program.

Government in turn guarantees 50 per cent cost-sharing for permanent practices for life of contract.

This arrangement not only guarantees funds but also helps landowner in planning his long-range conservation program.

Those interested in Iowa county program should sign up at ASCS office in Williamsburg by June 13.

For further information on program contact ASCS office or Soil Conservation Service office.



NAMED JUNIOR HIGH ARTISTS — Winners in Iowa County soil conservation service art contest, Friday evening, were this trio of Williamsburg artists. Darrell Schwarting, first; Sherry Becker, second;

and Ellen Evans, third. Artists depicted phases of soil stewardship. Speech contest, in conjunction with event, was cancelled when contestants failed to appear. Artists received trophies. Photo: LH



TOP ARTISTS CITED — Art work by Connie Driscoll, left, and Kim Armstrong, right, Williamsburg, earned first and third place respectively, in annual Iowa county soil conservation service art contest Friday evening in Williamsburg city hall. Miss Driscoll's entry depicts soil stewardship, old buildings and preservation of wildlife. Miss Armstrong's exhibit is of wildlife on a waterway. Trophies were presented by Keith Enochson, county SCS board. Photo: LH

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For further information on program contact ASCS office or Soil Conservation Service office.

Pioneer-Republican 5-29-75



DISCUSS CONSERVATION — Fred White, Parnell, chairman of Iowa county soil conservation service, back to camera, and Cris Evans, Williamsburg, discuss conservation following judging of art entries in contest sponsored by SCS. Sherry Becker, Williamsburg, studies winning paintings. Photo by DMC

tion following judging of art entries in contest sponsored by SCS. Sherry Becker, Williamsburg, studies winning paintings. Photo by DMC

Journal-Tribune 6-19-75

Miller Leaving Local SCS Office June 23

Duane Miller, who has been district conservation officer for this area for two years, will assume duties of agricultural economist with state conservation commission June 23.

Miller, whose office will be in Des Moines, will cover entire state working on watershed

planning and on resource conservation and development.

New conservation officer for this district will be Harry Bryant. He has been district conservation officer in Wapello and will take over in Williamsburg July 21.

Miller and his family will be moving June 23.

Pioneer-Republican 7-31-75

Bryant Named District Conservationist

Harry Bryant has been named district conservationist for Iowa county by Keith Glandon, area conservationist, for the Soil Conservation Service. Bryant replaces Duane Miller who accepted an appointment in Des Moines last month.

soil conservation technician in Burlington from 1966 to 1971.

While at Burlington he picked up additional college credit from Western Illinois university and received a B. S. degree in agronomy from there in 1971.

Bryant has always been active in farming, having owned and operated farms in Wright, Wayne, Des Moines, and Louisa counties.

Mrs. Bryant is a home economist and has taught in Corydon, Danville, and Morning Sun schools. Because of Mr. Bryant's transfer she is now unemployed.

The Bryants have five children. Dean is enrolled at Western Illinois university, Bruce is enrolled at Iowa State university, Beth will be a senior, Blair a sophomore, and Steve a freshman in high school.

The Bryants will be moving to Williamsburg area as soon as suitable housing can be found.



Bryant has been district conservationist at Wapello since 1971. He started working for Soil Conservation Service in 1962 at Corydon and was a

Iowa County Advertiser 8-14-75

IOWA COUNTY ADVERTISER Williamsburg, Iowa Thursday, 14, 1975

An outdoor teacher's conservation workshop on appreciating our environment will be held Wednesday, August 20, 1975 at Lake Iowa. All teachers in Iowa County are invited to attend. Fourth, fifth, sixth and special education teachers are especially urged to attend.

Sylvan Runkel will instruct the workshop on native plants and how they effect our environment. Mr. Runkel is currently composing a book on native plants and flowers using colored pictures and making interesting comments about each plant.

Any teacher interested in attending the workshop should contact their principal or superintendent, so reservations can be made by August 15.

The workshop is sponsored by the Iowa County Soil Conservation District Education Council.

THE IOWA COUNTY Advertiser

303 Highland (Hiway 149) Williamsburg, Iowa 52361 Phone (319) 668-1030

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VOLUME 10 NO 26

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1975

PUBLISHED BY BULLERS' LITHO

1974 Iowa County Soil Conservation Annual Report

On behalf of all the soil commissioners of Iowa County I thank each and every cooperator and business that has contributed to our budget.

Now we can carry out our plan of soil and water Conservation education to the people of Iowa County for another year.

Fred White, Chairman



ART CONTEST

The annual Soil Conservation Art Contest was judged in May. Winners in the Elementary Division, front row, were left to right: Darrell Schwarting, Williamsburg Elementary and Lois Schlesselman and Becky Witte of Lutheran Interparish School. Winners in the high school division: back row, were: Debbie Van Hamme, HLV; Kim Armstrong and Debbie Muhlenbruck, both of Williamsburg.

shop. It is planned that the workshop will be held each year

The education committee completed field work and published the Iowa County Field Trip Guidebook in August. The purpose of the book is to serve as a guide for teachers and other leaders in conducting tours and field trips.



SPEECH CONTEST

Dean Dickel of Iowa Valley receives first place in the District Speech Contest from Keith Enochson. Second place went to Randy Jones, center, and third went to Dwight Maas.



IOWA COUNTY SCD COMMISSIONERS

Seated left to right: Keith Enochson, Fred White, Chairman, and Vernon Sandersfeld. Standing left to right: Larry Beyer, Dick Mouchka, and David McCartney.



REGISTER & TRI- BUNE CONTEST

Four farmers were honored at the annual district awards banquet. Mr. & Mrs. Cris (Allyn) Evans, left, were named as top in the owner-operator division. • Leo (Curly) Driscoll was sighted in the landlord-tenant division. The farm is operated by Leighton Jones shown with his wife and Richard Schaeffer (not pictured). Sixth grade teacher at Williamsburg, Mrs. Robert Golden, was cited as Iowa County's outstanding conservation teacher.



OFFICE STAFF

Seated left to right: Millen Sandersfeld, Conservation Aid, Clem McBride, Technician, and Duane Miller, District Conservationist. Standing is Lennis Doehrmann, Clerk.

SOIL JUDGING CONTEST

For the first time, the Iowa County Soil Conservation District along with Johnson and Washington Counties sponsored a soil judging contest. A total of eight three man teams participated in the contest. Williamsburg took top honors with Mid Prairie taking second and Lone Tree was third as a team.

The contest required the students to judge three soil pits for such characteristics as slope, soil texture, soil depth, soil capability classification, soil limitations, and suitability for row crops.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The first annual Iowa County Teachers Conservation Workshop was attended by 24 Iowa County teachers. The purpose of the workshop is to give teachers a yearly refresher on our natural resources and their conservation. Wildlife biology was the topic of this years work-

1974 DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

JANUARY

- * Larry Beyer, Fred White, and Duane Miller attended the Short Course held in Ames, January 15 & 16.
- * Soil Stewardship material was ordered.
- * The first letter of complaint was received by the district.
- * The commissioners held their regular meeting January 26.

FEBRUARY

- * State Dues were paid.
- * The commissioners held their regular meeting February 26.

MARCH

- * Regional Meeting was held March 15 at Middle America Restaurant.
- * The annual Contractor's Meeting was held March 1 in the ASCS office.
- * Annual Reports were mailed.
- * The commissioners held their regular meeting March 19.

- APRIL** * The commissioners held their regular meeting April 17.
- MAY** * The annual Soil Conservation Speech and Art Contest was held May 10 in the Williamsburg City Hall. Winners in the Speech Contest were Dean Dickel, first, Randy Jones, second, Dwight Maas, third. Winners in the Art Contest were; Senior Division - Debbie Van Hamme, first; Kim Armstrong, second; Debbie Muhlenbruck, third. Elementary Division - Darrell Schwarting, first; Lois Schlesselman, second; Becky Witte, third.
- JUNE** * The commissioners held their regular meeting May 21.
* The Des Moines Register and Tribune Contest tour was held June 18 with the monthly meeting following supper at the Landmark Restaurant.
* The Annual Plan of Work for the fiscal year 1975 was approved.
- JULY** * The annual picnic and monthly meeting was held at Lake Iowa July 16 for the commissioners and their families.
* The Iowa County Field Trip Guidebook was completed.
* The Regional Meeting and Speech Contest was held July 24 at the Seven Villages Restaurant.
- AUGUST** * The first annual Iowa County Teachers Conservation Workshop was held at Lake Iowa August 22.
* David McCartney was re-appointed as assistant commissioner.
* The commissioners held their regular meeting August 27.
- SEPTEMBER** * The PL-566 Watershed Tour was held September 4 at 1:00 p.m.
* Lennis Doehrmann attended the Annual Commissioners and Clerks Conference held in Fort Dodge September 8, 9, and 10.
* Two letters of complaint were received by the district.
* The commissioners held their regular meeting September 17.
- OCTOBER** * The first annual Soils Judging Contest was held October 9 at the Swift Research Farm. Five schools were represented from Iowa, Johnson, and Washington counties. Randy Jones, Williamsburg was high individual in the contest and the Future Farmers of America chapter from Williamsburg placed first in team competition.
* The annual Awards Banquet was held October 16 at the Middle America Restaurant. Winners were: Owner-Operator Division, Allyn Evans, Landlord-Tenant Division, Leo Driscoll, owner and Leighton Jones-Dick Schaeffer, operators, and Teacher Division, Mrs. Betty Golden, Williamsburg.
- NOVEMBER** * The commissioners held their regular meeting October 15.
* The commissioners held their regular meeting November 19.
* The Regional Banquet for the Des Moines Register & Tribune Contest was held November 21 at the Captain's Table in Washington, Iowa
- DECEMBER** * Plans for the 1974 Annual Report were started.
* Mr. & Mrs. Fred White, Mr. & Mrs. Duane Miller, and Mr. & Mrs. Clem McBride attended a farewell party held at the Middle America Restaurant for Lambert Elwood, ASCS Committeeman.
* The commissioners held their regular meeting December 11.
* The annual Christmas Party was held December 12 at the Carnsforth Inn.

Basic Conservation Plans for 1974

August Steffen	Adolph Zuber	Lester Fetzner
George Hansen	Marvin Meyer	Walter Nodean
*Marvin Slaubaugh	Larry Yoder	Floyd Groff
Larry Wetjen	Patrick Hazell	Edwin Koehn
James McGrory	Norman Axmear	Erwin Vogt
James Cook	Gary Greiner	Tom Slaymaker
Collin-Finnegan	*Gene Stoltzfus	*Allan Doehrmann
Lambert Elwood	Mamie McCune	*Larry Quinlan
Lowell Luhman	Mrs. Ira Smith	

TOTAL ACRES: 6,152 Acres

* Long Term Agreement

Basic Conservation Plans Revised for 1974

Ila Morse	Marian Marine	John Maxey
Dan Miller	Carl Schumacher	

TOTAL ACRES: 1,508 Acres

New District Cooperators for 1974

Lester Fetzner	Larry Wetjen	Richard Wells
Floyd Groff	Leo Heller	Wiese Misbach
George J. Hanson	Gary Greiner	Collins-Finnegan
Larry Yoder	Merlin Rieck	Lyle Olson
Orlen Fisher	August Steffen	Orville Bauer
John Cunningham	Dick Williams, Jr.	Marcus Yoder
Mrs. Ira Smith	Dean Wade	Raymond Ballard
Robert Jacobs	Ralph Huedepohl	Bessie Healey
Lyle Root	Richard Cochran	Eugene Kinzenbaw
Robert Crane	Elwood Shrock	M.G. Heitman
Keith Young	Wayne Meade	Benny Vercande
Glenn Knipfer	John Kupka	Russell Gorsh
Lucille Randolph	Eldon Doehrmann	James Reitzler
Gene Stoltzfus	Allan Doehrmann	Joseph Halsch
Jerald McCaw	Russell Newton	Erwin Vogt
G & M Land	Albert Mews	Marian Marine
V.R. Points	Lawrence Bine	

TOTAL Acres: 9,983

I-M Budget

Commissioners Expenses	\$ 288.63
Office Supplies	467.79
Printing	70.00
Prizes for Contests	145.80
Office Expense	479.10
Meeting Expense	22.97
TOTAL EXPENDED 12-31-74	\$1,474.29

II-M Budget

Clerical	\$6,632.52
Travel	87.81
Technical	804.15
TOTAL EXPENDED 12-31-74	\$7,524.48

III-M Budget

	1973-74	1974-75
Requested for Terraces	\$ 7,328.00	\$11,289.60
Requested for Diversions	150.00	2,237.50
Requested for Structures	3,701.25	4,125.75
Requested for Waterways	\$ 2,618.75	300.00
TOTAL REQUESTED 12-31-74	\$13,798.00	\$17,952.85
Paid on Completed Terraces	\$4,489.91	\$ 0
Paid on Completed Diversions	0	743.10
Paid on Completed Structures	\$2,451.25	1,247.05
Paid on Completed Waterways	626.25	0
TOTAL EXPENDED 12-31-74	\$7,567.41	\$ 1,990.15

District Accomplishments

Major Practices	Unit	1974
Conservation Cropping-System	Acre	3,240
Contour Farming	Acre	1,550
Diversion Terrace	Feet	16,910
Ponds	Number	16
Erosions Control Structures	Number	14
Grassed Waterways	Acre	109.1
Pasture & Hayland Management	Acre	2,126
Pipeline	Feet	3,005
Stripcropping	Acre	242
All Other Types of Terraces	Feet	28,950
Tile	Feet	431,828

Other Services

Referrals Serviced	Number	141
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Planning Practices

New District Cooperators	Number	50
Basic Conservation Plans	Number	27
Revised Conservation Plans	Number	5
Group Plans	Number	4
Group Inventories & Evaluations	Number	4

Treasure Hunts In Woodlands And Prairie Preserves

A nature's treasure hunt was the theme of a slide lecture delivered by Sylvan Runkle, Des Moines, a retired biologist-botanist and conservationist for Iowa, at Lake Iowa, Wednesday afternoon for 25 Iowa county teachers.

Program was planned in cooperation with Iowa county soil conservation service by Harry Bryant, county conservationist, and Mary Welsh, Williamsburg elementary school principal.

While a thunder and lightning rainstorm dumped more than two inches of rain into park during an hour, delaying start of program, Runkle suggested to teachers to appreciate the environment in which they live.

The botanist, bearded and dressed in mountain hiking apparel worn while exploring recently over 137,000 acres on a boy scout ranch in New Mexico, challenged the instructors to combine learning with fun in taking their pupils outdoors to look for the plants featured in his lecture.

Solomon's seal, which Runkle exhibited, flourishes, but after frost dies back to stalk which bears scars. According to a legend, Old King Solomon is said to have mailed his letters with seals procured from sap of stalks. Sap was also used for medicinal purposes on wounds; and was

served as food, since berries are edible, Runkle said. He cautioned teachers not to eat too many because side effects may be suffered.

Covered State

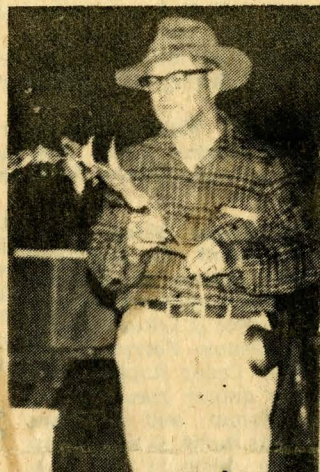
In the 150 slides shown to teachers, Runkle said he had covered the state in his photography explorations to western Iowa hills, Ledges state park, Fort Dodge areas and Williams park, east of county line.

He cited poison hemlock, found in recent years on a 20 acre site near Iowa City, as a plant which is also often tended by flower growers.

"Its beauty is deceptive. Ancient Greeks made a tea from the seeds of poison hemlock," he said, "to brew for their political prisoners. The brew quickly kills, damaging the respiratory system, by causing paralysis. It is a weed which grows in a moist damp soil," he explained.

Bladder's star is another plant he has observed on five acres at Williams prairie. Presently, four or five varieties of the plant are blooming. Indians believed seeds of the plant, if eaten, would give them endurance and so convinced of its value, they also fed their horses its seeds.

Prairie turnips, similar to alfalfa, once were traded by Indians with pioneer families traveling their area for trink-



EXHIBITS SOLOMON'S SEAL — Iowa county teachers were introduced to state's woodlands and prairie plants and weeds during an afternoon outdoor education workshop at Lake Iowa, Aug. 20. Solomon's Seal was described by Sylvan Runkle, a retired biologist and botanist.

ets. Since pioneers were concerned when food stores were low, they welcomed opportunity to secure the turnip bulbs. But the Indians were shrewd, never revealing the travelers were moving over the plants and could have dug their own turnip bulbs.

Squaws dug the bulbs also for grinding pulp, then into making cakes which were roasted in fires.

Lewis and Clark expedition also secured prairie turnips for their vegetable supply.

Indian Lore

Rattlesnake master or ground plum is found in short grass on dry ridges or on old pastures. Indians found this plant was quite nourishing Runkle says.

Ground nut was introduced to the Pilgrim fathers by the Indians. Runkle continued, "If the potato had not been found and developed, ground nut might have become America's staple food. The plant thrives near Des Moines."

Skunk cabbage found near the Cedar river in Cedar Rapids area, grows in wet woods. While blood root, which is a

spring flower, is poisonous, it may be used as a drug like morphine. Indians called this plant "pain ease". They knew how to prepare its roots for medicine.

Plants in state abound with historical significance Runkle admits. He mentions yucca, a soap weed, used by the pioneers for making soap. The plant was valuable also to the Indians, who gathered yucca for its heavy sword leaves, utilizing rough fibrous leaves to weave mats, clothing and rope.

Dogwood is both beautiful and nutritious for pheasants which feast on this plant the botanist says. Five varieties are found in Iowa. Silky dogwood is said to have been chewed by Civil war soldiers stricken with malaria, after being bitten by mosquitoes, for relief from pain.

Livestock Poison

"White snake root, blooming late this month, has a poisonous sap," he mentions. "If a cow eats this plant, it can be poisoned. Pioneer families sometimes suffered from milk sickness caused by cows grazing the weed. Effects of plant are harmful to the cow, and it is absorbed in their milk."

"Abe Lincoln's mother is said to have died as the result of their cows eating from this plant," he said.

Wood entwined with poison ivy should not be brought in the house for burning in fireplaces he cautioned. An oil fume, which causes a deathly respiratory affliction, drifts from the flames of this fallen wood.

Jewel wood or "touch-me-not" is a neutralizing effect for poison ivy. If one washes with this plant within 30 minutes after encountering poison ivy, this treatment is effective, Runkle continued. The plant is processed and bottled for sale in the eastern states.

He noted also, one may not be affected for years by poison ivy but then suffer a severe attack after walking through the weed.

Wild quine is a medicinal plant, while water hemlock which looks like small parsnips is poisonous. When plant seeds are the size of pea, it can kill a person and at the size of a walnut will kill a cow. Beavers

often die from feasting on this plant he explained.

Pioneers were once guided on the trail by observing stems of compass point, which point north and south. The weed has also been called a poor boy's chewing gum, since its sap is sticky.

Poisonous plants, if consumed are Dutchmen's Britches and Jerusalem cherries and a swamp milk weed.

Crazy Weed

In western part of state and around Lake Okoboji, Runkle has discovered Lambert crazy weed, which is purple, but is harmful to horses and cattle. "Actually, livestock can get hooked on this plant," Runkle declares. "Animals may have their judgment impaired when eating the weed."

"Farmers should remove livestock where the plant is found and wait until the weed dies before pasturing area," he suggests.

In contrast, prickly pear cactus is good to eat if one can pluck the fruit. Along sandy ridge tops of western part of state, the plant is found. Pioneers once gathered crinkle root or rosy twisting stalk in northern Iowa for a condiment.

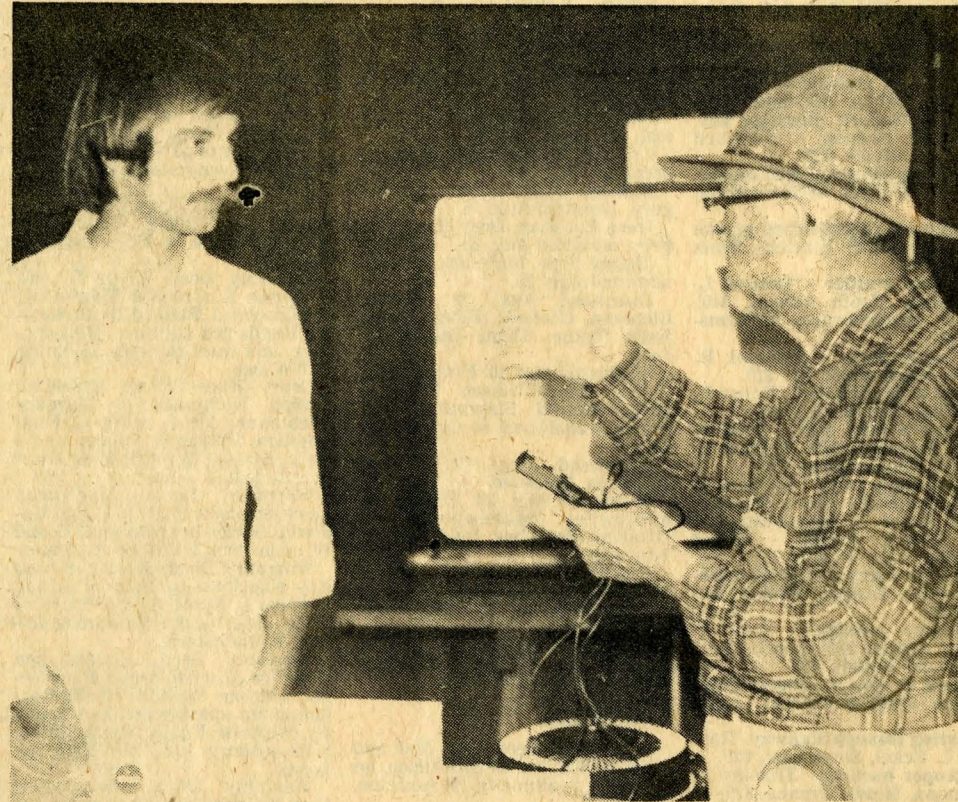
Wild black cherry or choke cherry is both edible and poisonous, since the berries can be preserved but leaves of the plant are deadly to humans and livestock he cautioned.

"The woodlands' best friends are the squirrels," Runkle contends. "Squirrels keep changing the woods and should be protected and not killed. Deers are woods browsers, preferring to eat leaves and twigs."

With a twinkle, Runkle relates the time he prepared a dish for a potluck supper where he was a guest speaker for a women's club. Runkle collected broadleaf milk weed, which may be harvested from one to 18 inches in height. Cooked until tender, the plant tastes like asparagus and is nutritious when mixed with a cream sauce.

When he revealed ingredients had been collected while on a field trip, the dinner guests reacted with dismay.

"There is a lot of enjoyment in eating unusual foods found in the outdoors, but be sure you have studied and chosen correct plants," Runkle concluded.



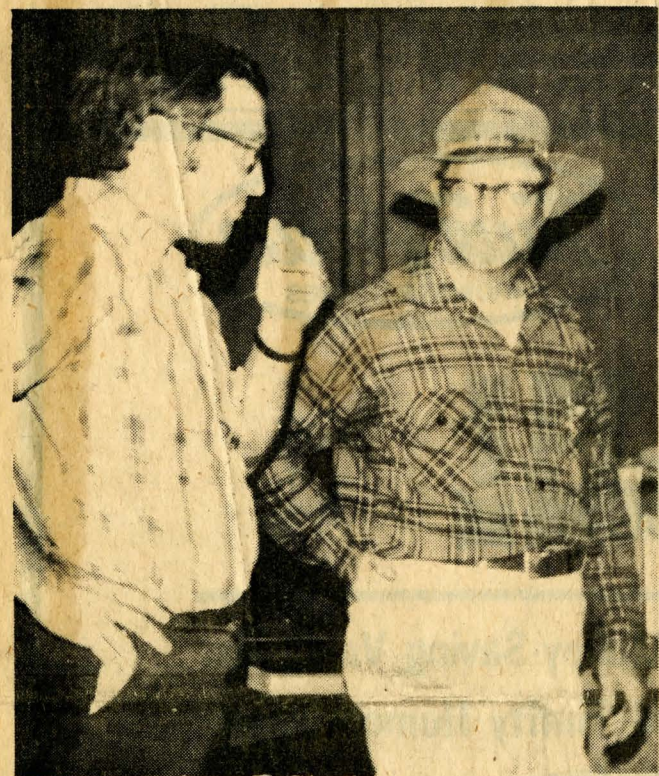
DISCOVERS WILDLIFE — Sylvan Runkle, a retired biologist and botanist, who once served as a conservationist for Iowa, told Chuck Krueger, Amana high school teacher, where some unusual woods and prairie specimens are found when county teachers

met with the speaker for an outdoor education workshop Wednesday, Aug. 20 at Lake Iowa. Runkle, an outdoors enthusiast, appeared in hiking garb and wore his camping bowl-cup hooked to his belt.



FOCUS ON OUTDOORS — A trio of Williamsburg teachers discussed plans for trip for their pupils after hearing Sylvan Runkle, a retired biologist and botanist speak on "Nature's Treasure Hunt", Wednesday, Aug. 20, at Lake Iowa. Group includes Betty Golden, Marcia Wehner and Barbara Reynold, elementary teachers. Far right, back to camera, is Laurine Hammes, English Valley's instructor.

nesday, Aug. 20, at Lake Iowa. Group includes Betty Golden, Marcia Wehner and Barbara Reynold, elementary teachers. Far right, back to camera, is Laurine Hammes, English Valley's instructor.

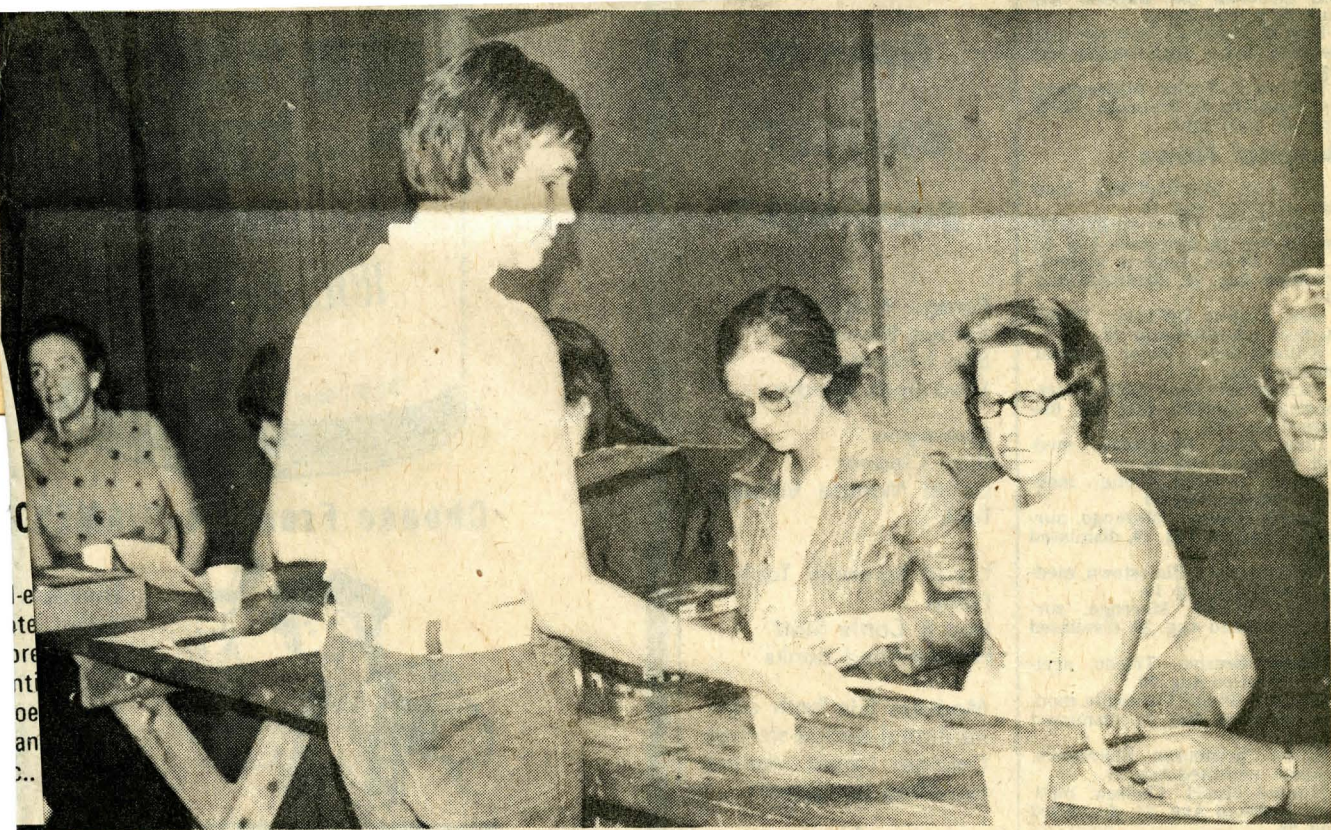


CONFER ON PLANTS — Harry Bryant, Williamsburg, Iowa county conservationist for the soil conservation service and Sylvan Runkle, a retired biologist and botanist for state SCS, conferred on woodland plants during session attended by 25 county teachers Aug. 20 at Lake Iowa.

Photo-Feature

By

Doris McCartney



MINE MATERIAL — Mrs. Vern (Lennis) Doehrmann, Williamsburg, distributed materials to Iowa county teachers attended outdoor education workshop at Lake Iowa, Wednesday afternoon. Pictured, left to right, are Barbara Rey-

nolds and Rhonda Hall (hidden); Marcia Wehner, partially hidden, all fifth grade; Debbie Bott and Betty Golden, both sixth grade, and Mary Welsh, principal, all Williamsburg.

Plan Workshops For Conservation Education

Iowa teachers interested in natural resources will receive training in conservation and environmental education in a series of October workshops.

About 400 teachers are expected at three workshops, reports Duane Toomsen, Des Moines, chairman of the Iowa conservation education council, prime sponsor

First workshop will be held at Camp EWALU Strawberry Point, Oct. 3-4 primarily for teachers in northeast Iowa. Teachers in central Iowa will attend the workshop at the state 4-H camp near Luther, Oct. 10-11.

Both elementary and secondary teachers will participate in environmental education discussions and field trips as part of the program said Toomsen, who also is environmental education consultant for the Iowa department of public instruction.

Nearly two-thirds of the Iowa counties have organized conservation education committees. County conservation boards have established outdoor classroom facilities. Many schools are organizing outdoor laboratories on school grounds to make daily teaching of conservation possible.

Iowa teachers conservation camp held each summer by the University of Northern Iowa is another activity,

Conservation Week Set For September

Soil and water conservation week in Iowa will be Sept. 7-13, according to Min Amemiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State University.

He suggests orderly development and wise use of land and water resources. "They are essential to maintain and enhance rural and urban standards of living and to maintain an adequate food supply," he said.

During the last two years Iowa has experienced its greatest soil erosion in 25 years, Amemiya said. Soil and weather conditions were ideal for this to happen. He said more people are now aware of damages resulting from improper land use practices.

Soil erosion prevention continues to be an important task of farm operators and Amemiya encourages farmers to select land use practices that reduce soil and water movement. On row crop land he advocates such practices as contour farming, strip cropping, grassed waterways, diversions, terraces, and con-

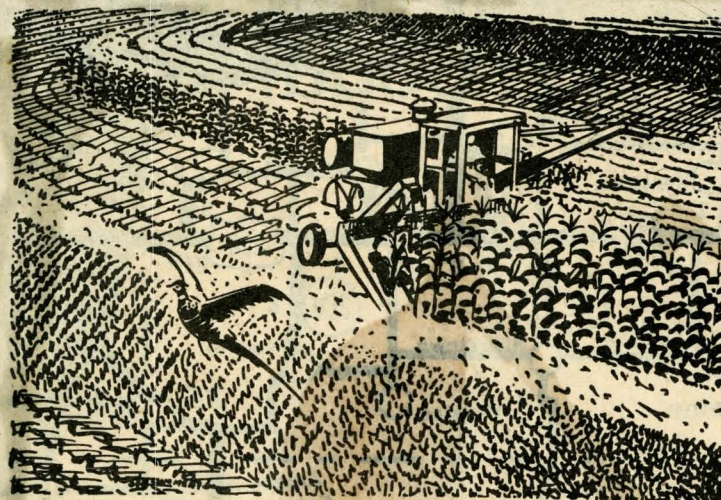
servation tillage systems that leave soil surfaces rough and protected with plant residues.

On sloping land considered too steep for continuous row crops, the agronomist encourages crop rotations or conversion to permanent grass or grass-legume cover.

Soil movement by wind also can be a problem, especially on flat land. Amemiya suggests cropping and tillage systems that leave the surface rough and protected with a mulch of plant residue to reduce soil movement by wind.

Soil erosion by water and wind can also occur on land disturbed for non-agricultural uses. The same principles for controlling erosion on farmland also apply in such instances.

"If Iowa is to maintain its agricultural heritage and leadership, it can do so only by protecting its most valuable resource, the soil, from unnecessary degradation and loss. It is obvious that more emphasis must be devoted to this endeavor," Amemiya said.



Soil & Water Conservation WEEK

September

7-13, 1975



**CONSERVE
YOUR SOIL
GET THE MOST
FROM YOUR
ACREAGE**

SAVING OUR SOIL Editorial by Fred White, Iowa SCD Chairman

No one will argue the fact that we need to do more to save our high-producing Iowa soil. Being against soil conservation is being against clean water, plentiful food supplies, a beautiful countryside, and other benefits of keeping soil in place.

But there's a difference between agreeing that we need to save our soil and taking steps to make sure that we actually do. The record in Iowa (Soil Conservation Service figures) shows we have a corps of conservation landowners who have made significant gains in protecting their land, but it also shows we've a long way to go.

On the average, Iowa farmers are losing 2 bushels of topsoil on unprotected sloping land for every bushel corn they produce. That's 230 bushels of soil per acre each year, or about 1/12 inch of topsoil. We have about 6-8 inches left from an original 12-14 inches of topsoil on these sloping lands. At present rates, then, in 100 years the topsoil could be gone.

With increases in row crop averages, progress has been slow in protecting our land against erosion. Only a little more than a third of Iowa's land has been protected in the 40 years since the soil conservation movement began after dust storms in the mid-1930's.

The point is, we need to get conservation practices on the land at a much faster pace than we have in the past. We need that extra nudge to turn the "talkers" into the "doers".

The "doers" should be each of us, for we all have a stake in keeping our land productive and in keeping sediment out of our streams and lakes. Conservation practices help the landowner, but they also benefit every one of us that depend on the land. We should all expect to pay our fair share.



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Have Made Substantial Progress —

Saving Iowa Soil Is Less Than Half Done

Numerous terraces, ponds, and protective grass waterways have been built in Iowa along with millions of acres of cropland protected against soil erosion with crop residues. Yet the job of saving Iowa's soil is less than half done.

"More than 100,000 Iowa landowners are cooperating with local soil conservation districts to protect soil on their farms," says William Brune, state conservationist for U. S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS). They've made substantial progress, but job of soil conservation is so vast bulk of work is ahead."

Iowa county district soil conservationist Harry Bryant said 1,075 Iowa county farmers are co-operating with soil conservation district. He added there are about 1,400 farmers in county.

"One fact that makes progress look slow in Iowa is increase in row crop acreage. Land that was adequately protected with rotations 10 or 15 years ago is subject to severe erosion when it's continually cropped," Brune said.

SCS figures show that since 1960 more than four and one-half million acres of land have been treated for erosion. But in same time row cropping increased by over five million acres.

"There will be continued demand for crop production,

and that will put more stress on land," adds Brune. "One of biggest challenges will be to protect cropland."

Brune and Bryant see conservation tillage, practice of leaving last year's crop residues on soil surface, as a major soil saving method. This method alone could control soil losses on 40 percent of Iowa's cropland.

More land could be protected by using conservation tillage and terraces together, says Brune.

His estimates on some major conservation practices needed in Iowa are:

Terraces - 368,000 miles needed; 60,000 miles built.

Waterways - 349,000 acres needed; 200,000 acres built.

Ponds - 92,000 needed; 37,000 built.

Drainage - 360,000 miles needed; 260,000 miles built.

Grade stabilization structures - 47,000 needed; 18,000 built.

Conservation tillage is practiced on a fourth of Iowa's cropland. There is state-wide potential for more conservation tillage, he said.

"We had some serious erosion in state this year," says Brune. Average soil loss each year on unprotected sloping land is about 13 tons per acre. That is about 230 bushels of soil per acre."

Bryant said Iowa county's

erosion rate is averaging about 10 ton of top soil per acre.

Those losses are higher than limits set by soil conservation districts as part of Iowa soil conservancy act. Legislation provides offenders could be held in contempt of court if average annual soil losses are over 3 to 5 tons per acre, and sediment produced harms another landowner.

Landowners can receive 75 percent cost-sharing to solve soil erosion problems with conservation measures, he noted.

Brune praises those who voluntarily practice soil conservation. They have been foresighted enough to know everyone must look at long-term effects of using land, he added.

Landowners and operations who plan conservation practices have financial assistance programs available to them.

These programs are state soil conservation cost share program and federal agricultural conservation program (ACP), according to William Greiner, director of Iowa department of soil conservation.

Eligible recipients are assisted on a local basis through soil conservation districts.

Amount of state cost-share assistance can be up to 50 per-

cent of actual cost of conservation practice. However, when an individual must build a conservation structure to control sediment under mandate by law, the amount of assistance can be up to 75 percent of the cost.

Only permanent soil conservation practices are eligible for cost-share assistance under Iowa program, explains Greiner.

Permanent practices include terraces, erosion control structures, grassed waterways and outlets, critical area planting, diversions, diversion dams, field windbreaks and tree planting.

However, some conservation districts are limiting number of practices for which assistance will be provided.

Also, state funds are not available to landowners or operators unless they are co-operators with soil conservation district and have signed an agreement to this effect.

Several soil conservation districts and county ASCS committees are reporting a heavy sign-up for cost-sharing assistance, according to Greiner.

Landowners and operators who contemplate building conservation structures this year should contact their local soil conservation district or county committee to determine



SANDERSFELDS USE POND FOR CONSERVATION — Millan Sandersfeld, Williamsburg, has added a pond to his system of terraces to aid in soil conservation. According to Louis

Sandersfeld, who farms the land, between 60 to 65 acres are drained into pond.

availability of funds and practices for cost-share program.

Harry Bryant, Iowa county district soil conservationist, notes many county farmers have made applications for funds to implement soil conservation practices; however, he said demand "far exceeds" money available.

He said county has received \$26,000 from state and \$54,000 from federal government for conservation work. Bryant added "when building a pond costs from \$4,000 to \$5,000 and terracing runs about \$100 acre funds allocated don't go very far."

Bryant said many farmers are doing conservation work themselves without help from assistance programs because "it pays off in the long run."

Technical assistance for design and layout of conservation practices is available through local soil conservation districts. Personnel are provided by Soil Conservation Service and state of Iowa.

For landowners and operators who need assistance to finance their share of cost of soil conservation practices, Greiner suggests that they contact Farmers Home Administration or local banks.



DIRECTED TOWARD CREEK — Water gathered by erosion control dam on Allan Doehrmann's farm is channeled toward Old Man's creek by pipe extending through dam. Doehrmann is one of five farmers in county who have signed long-term contracts with federal government for conservation work. They have agreed to do all

necessary conservation work on their farms in a period up to 10 years. Limit government will pay is \$2,500 a year. Others with long-term contracts are Lawrence Quinlan, Marengo; Helen Donohoe, Williamsburg; and Marvin Slaubaugh and Gene Stoltzfus, Wellman.



DOEHRMANN BUILDS EROSION CONTROL DAM — Allan Doehrmann, Williamsburg, has built an erosion control dam and a grass waterway on his farm north of Williamsburg. He said he was losing too much subsoil through erosion and noted

when soil is gone there is none to replace it. Previously, he built a pond which is located 80 rods north of control dam. Doehrmann said watershed area which runs into waterway encompasses 170 acres.



RECEIVE AWARDS — Iowa county soil conservation service Wednesday evening, Oct. 29, cited five for participating in farm improvements and conservation education at an annual recognition dinner. Lanny Hartgrave and Mrs. Helen Donohoe, both Williamsburg, seated front left to right, were given the tenant-landowner citation; while the Clifford Heitshusens, South

Amana, won the long-time cooperators award. Standing are the James McGrorys, Ladora, who received the new cooperators award. Far right is Dan Becker, Williamsburg, who was given teacher citation. His wife, also a teacher, stands beside him. - Photo: Doris McCartney.

Recognition Goes To Five -

Conservation Awards Given

Soil conservation citations were conferred on five Iowa county residents at an annual recognition dinner Wednesday evening, Oct. 29 in Middle America restaurant, near Williamsburg.

Sponsored by the county soil conservation service, awards were given by the Iowa county Farm Bureau. Larry Beyer, Marengo, chaired the ceremonies.

The Clifford Heitshusens, South Amana, received the long time cooperators award for the most complete conservation program established this year.

The Heitshusens own and operate 200 acres in Iowa township. They have 170 acres in crops and 20 acres in pasture. About 150 acres of the crop land

has been adequately treated for erosion control.

Strip cropping has been established on 100 acres and 4.3 acres are in grassed waterways. Crop residue is used to protect the soil in winter.

Cited for the owner-tenant program were Mrs. Helen Donahoe and Lanny Hartgrave, both Williamsburg. Hartgrave operates the 282 acre farm owned by Mrs. Donahoe, which has been signed into a long term agreement with both SCS and the Agricultural Soil Conservation Service for conservation improvements.

Some 20 acres of cropland has been terraced, 1,500 feet of diversion terraces have been built, an erosion control structure has been completed and 20

acres of pastured have been renovated.

Hartgrave farms a total 760 acres and has had 2,000 feet of ditch filling completed. He raises 50 head of cattle, 700 to 800 hogs, and produced corn on 186 acres and soybeans on 160 acres this year. His hay and pasture program is on 130 acres.

The James McGrorys, Ladora, won the new cooperators award for making soil conservation improvements in the past two years. Their 430 acre farm is in Hartford township, where they have 400 acres in crops and 20 acres in pasture.

Some 300 acres of cropland has been treated for erosion control, while 11.5 acres are established in waterways. While 20 acres of cropland has been

terraced, they still need another 44 acres in terraces. One erosion control structure has been built.

Assisting with awards presentations were Vernon Sandersfeld, Fred White and Richard Mouchka, members of county SCS.

Dan Becker, Williamsburg sixth grade teacher, won the teacher conservation award, for his class projects. Becker and his wife, Ruth, have attended two consecutive state conservation workshops.

Ralph Leigh, Marengo, game conservationist, presented a slide program, "Upper Iowa River Canoe Trip".

A number of local banks participated in recognition program.



TEAM PARTICIPATED — Those from Iowa Valley taking part in the soil judging contest Oct. 8 at the Patterson farm south of Kalona were front row left to right Randy

Larson, Joan Dickel, Scott Stanerson, Bryan Keegan; back row: Robert Taylor, instructor; Robert Fritz, Arlin Karsten, Lamar Shima.

Burg And IV Vo-Ag Teams Judge Soil Near Kalona

Soil judging teams from Williamsburg and Iowa Valley vocational agriculture classes participated along with four other teams in a soil judging contest south of Kalona Oct. 8.

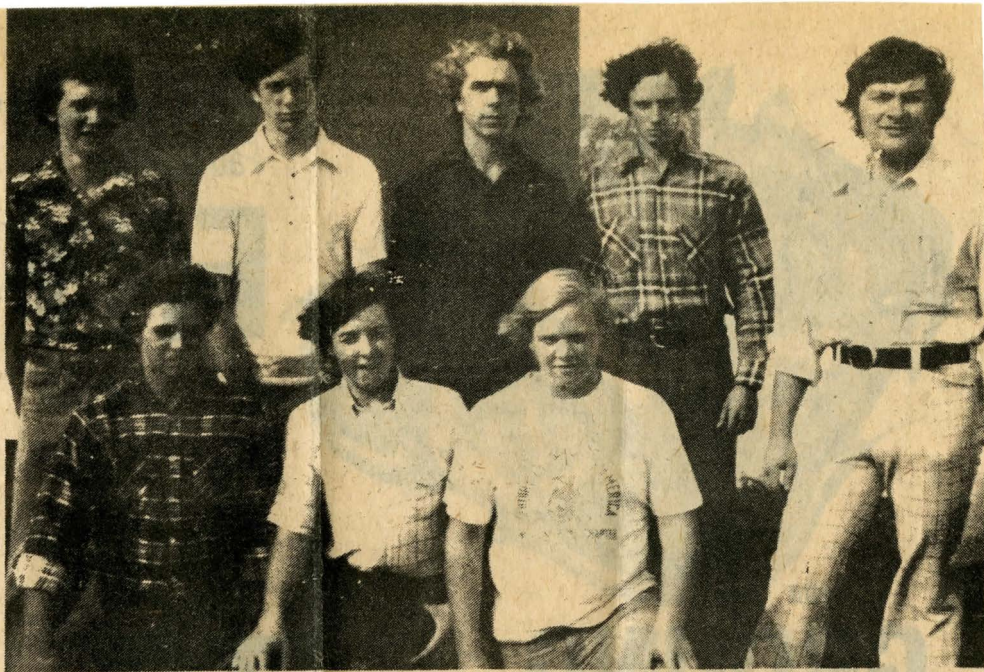
Contest was held on the Patterson Seed farm and was sponsored by Iowa, Johnson, and Washington counties' soil conservation service.

Mid-Prairie won three high individual honors, as well as placing first and third in team scoring. Keota was second in team scoring.

Contestants were asked to judge surface features of the land including position and slope along with soil features. Soil features judged included thickness of surface, texture of surface and subsoil, soil depth, and native vegetation.

Contestants were also asked to judge soil problems, land capability, and possible uses of land, both agricultural and non-agricultural.

Teams from Washington and Benton Community also took part in contest.



PARTICIPATE IN JUDGING — Members of Williamsburg's soil judging team competed in a contest south of Kalona Oct. 8. Included, first row, left to right, were Dennis Wichmann, Glen Schlesselman, and

Helmuth Iburg. Second row: Richard Dermody, Randy Jones, Blake Hagen, Dan Williams, and vo-ag instructor Rick Cooper.

THE IOWA COUNTY
Advertiser

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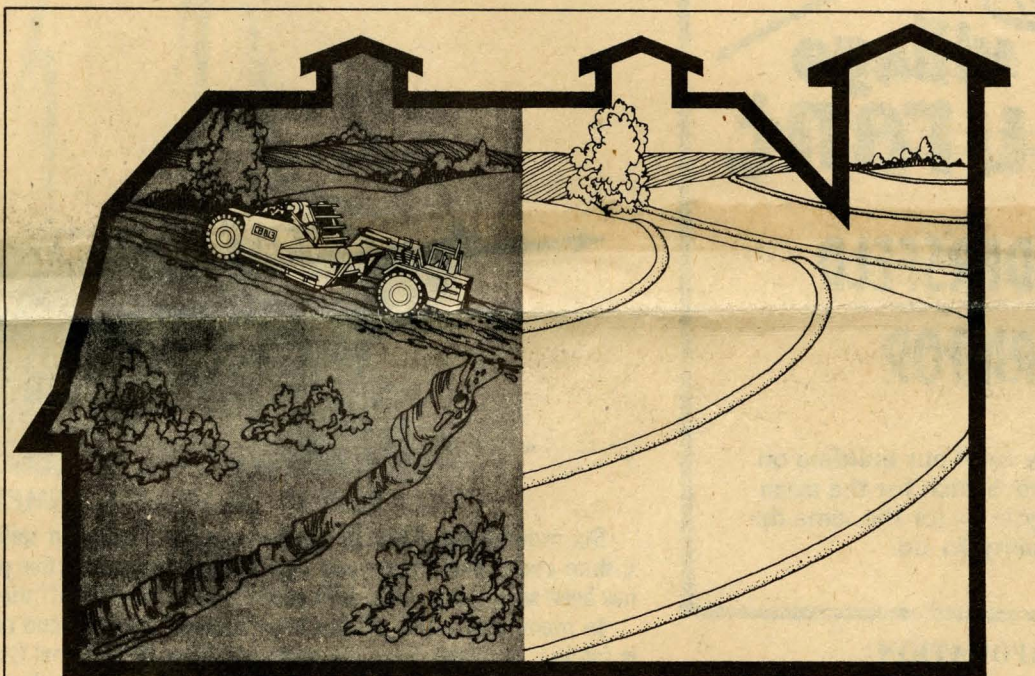
VOLUME 11 No. 12

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1976

PUBLISHED BY BULLERS' LITHO

ATTENTION FARMERS!

**Give your land the shape
you'll love to farm...**



and boost your profits!

Information Meeting on Conservation Work for 1976 and how to qualify for cost-sharing. Attendance at this meeting could qualify you for priority in construction and cost-sharing. SCS Technicians, ASCS Personnel and Contractors will be available to answer questions.

**MEETING WILL BE IN THE WILLIAMSBURG HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH ROOM ON
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8 AT 7:30 P.M.**



IOWA COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

MEETING SPONSORED BY





It's Up to Each of Us to Preserve the Good Earth!

We tend to look upon the land as an endless spring of resources. But it's not! Our most valued natural assets are becoming less abundant. It's time to realize that we get from the land only what we put into it!

We must treat it with care in order to properly utilize nature's resources, rather than drain them . . . preserve our countrysides and waters, rather than destroy them. And it's never too late to start doing something about it!

What we take away from the land, we can replace. How? By curbing the wasteful use of our energy sources. Recycling. Replanting. Revaluating our needs. And most important, working together, to preserve a clean, healthy, and thriving environment. Let's start now.

If interested in Soil Conservation for this year, contact Soil Conservation Service AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. . .

This Ad Contributed

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GAHRING CONST. INC.

Soil Conservation Contractor & Land Improvement Contractor
Office: 668-2565 If No Answer 668-1878 or 668-2420
•R.R. 2, Box 106 A •Williamsburg



THE BUFFALO SYSTEM

of CONSERVATION TILLAGE

REDUCES SOIL LOSS

CONSERVES MOISTURE

SAVES TIME AND FUEL

INFORMATIONAL PROGRAM

FRIDAY, FEB. 6, 1:30 P.M.

FARM BUREAU BUILDING

North Side of Square — Williamsburg, Ia.

SLIDES & COMMENTARY -- ERNEST BEHN

Bud Fleischer and Pat Heiken from the factory, and other Conservationists, will be there to answer your questions:

Coffee & Donuts

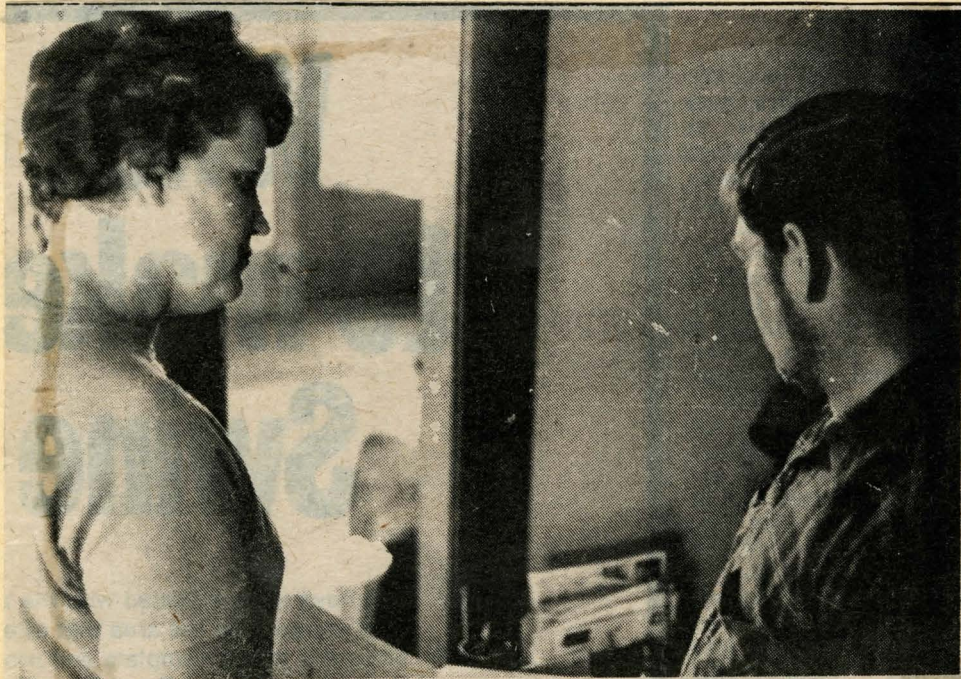
**BUFFALO BY FLEISCHER
MAXEY SERVICE**

R.R. 2 Williamsburg Phone 668-1314

Iowa County Advertiser 2-19-76

An Iowa County Advisory Board meeting for the Iowa-Cedar Rivers Conservancy District will be held at the Williamsburg City Hall at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 19, 1976. The public is invited to participate in this meeting which is concerned with the future of the natural resources in the Iowa and Cedar River Basins.

Topics to be discussed will be the progress to date of the conservancy plans, possible financing, sub-areas within the Iowa and Cedar Rivers and any other topic that anyone wishes to bring up.



LOOK OVER RECORDS — The Allan Doehrmanns, who farm north of Williamsburg, look over some of the records of their farming operations. Mrs. Doehrmann noted they have used

the same system of record keeping for a number of years. In addition to records detailing everyday operation they also keep records on soil conservation work done on their farm.

Corn Growers Expand Subjects For Annual Convention

The 1976 Iowa Corn Growers' association (ICGA) convention will be held on Mar. 1, 2 at the Merle Hay Howard Johnson's motel, Des Moines, according to Thurman Gaskill, president.

Francis Bjestrom, rural Whittemore, secretary and convention chairman, says the expansion to a two-day convention will provide additional time for programs, providing pertinent information to growers prior to planting. Addition of a trade show will expose producers to a variety of products. A women's program has been added, also.

Conservation -

(Continued from page 3)

kind to be held in the United States.

Look At Soil Problems

He added Bob Williams, National Association of Conservation Districts, selected Iowa county as one of three counties in each of six states to visit in relation to current problems with soil conservations work.

Williams also looked at the progress in Iowa county, according to Bryant, to ascertain what type of things should be promoted in Congress.

Bryant noted one of the things necessary is getting more people trained in soil

conservation work. He said perhaps this could be accomplished through community colleges. Since the soil conservation service has discontinued training programs.

Feb. 9-10, Bryant said there will be training schools for land contractors at Kirkwood community college, Cedar Rapids. Purpose is to alert contractors to soil conservation service criteria and promote better understanding between the SCS and land contractors, according to Bryant.

Training sessions at Kirkwood will encompass the six soil conservation districts in the Kirkwood area.



Limits Set On Soil Lost By Erosion

Since 1973 Iowa county has received \$82,650 from the state for cost sharing at a 50 percent rate for those farmers doing permanent soil conservation work.

Iowa has had a soil conservancy policy since July 1, 1971 although final adoption of the policy did not go into effect until Aug. 3, 1972 at the close of hearings on regulations.

The policy is "to preserve and protect the public interest in the soil and water resources of this state for future generations". Not only can the policy encourage, promote and facilitate work, where public interest requires it can mandate conservation and proper control and use of Iowa soil and water resources according to Harry Bryant, Iowa county district soil conservationist.

Measures include but are not limited to control of floods, control of erosion by water or wind, preservation of quantity or the quality of water for optimum use for agricultural, irrigation, recreational, industrial and domestic purposes.

Limit Soil Erosion

The conservancy district law charges commissioners of the 100 Iowa soil conservation districts with establishing and administering regulations limiting rates of soil erosion on land in the district.

Iowa county commissioners established soil loss limits of from four to five tons on farm land in this county. The rate is that recommended for maximum soil losses of agricultural and horticultural lands by the state.

Soil erosion is declared a nuisance if it results in or contributes to damage by siltation to any internal improvement of a conservancy district or damage by siltation to property other than that of the own-

er or occupant of the land which such erosion is occurring.

Commissioners of a soil conservation district within which the erosion occurs, owners of any property so damaged or the board of the conservancy district whose improvement is damaged may require abatement of the nuisance.

Soil commissioners have the authority to classify land in the district on the basis of topography, soil characteristics, current use, other factors affecting erosion. They also have authority to establish different soil loss limits for different classes of land in the district.

Hearings on the proposal were held Aug. 3, 1972 in the district.

Complaints that damages by sediment resulting from excessive erosion on land of another must be filed in writing with the soil conservation district. They investigate complaints. Voluntary compliance is sought after notification to owner.

When an administrative order is necessary, it is issued by district commissioners to those found in violation. Landowners have six months to start, 12 months from date of order to complete needed erosion control practices. Construction site erosion control must begin within five days, be completed within 30 days of date of order.

Cost Sharing

Cost sharing is available on projects which commissioners determine. For permanent conservation work—planting of perennial grasses, legumes, shrubs or trees, establishment of grassed waterways, construction of terraces, etc.—75 percent of installation cost is available.

An amount set annually by the state soil conservation committee for tempor-

ary soil and water conservation work is available too. Temporary measures could include planting annual or biennial cover crops, strip-cropping, contour planting, minimum or mulch tillage, etc.

Failure to comply with administrative orders in specified time can result in district court orders, with burden of proof on commissioners.

In addition to the county soil conservation districts there are six conservancy districts within the state. Iowa county is in the Iowa-Cedar Rivers one extending north to the Minnesota borders in Worth and Mitchell counties, south to where the Iowa and Cedar Rivers empty into the Mississippi at the east edge of the state in Louisa and Des Moines counties.

TREE AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION MEETING

People interested in planting trees or developing wildlife areas are invited to come to the Williamsburg ASCS Office Friday, February 13 between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Information will be available from Bob Kurtz, Wildlife Biologist, Bob Hibbs, District Forester of the Iowa Conservation Commission and Harry Bryant, District Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service.

Printed material will be available for anyone interested in trees or wildlife. Order forms will be available for those wishing to make orders for trees or shrubs for reforestation or wildlife. Assistance will be given in the filling out of the order forms and determining the kinds and amount of trees and shrubs to order.

Prices for 1976 nursery stock is \$20 to \$25 per thousand plus tax and shipping.

Homeowners, farmers or anyone who has an interest in tree planting, wildlife or conservation of natural resources are welcome. Any aspect of conservation will be discussed from soil conservation, water control, wildlife habitat, hunting, any type tree planting, tree management and marketing.

Look For Lasting Projects -

Set Priorities For Conservation Measures

Objectives of the agricultural conservation programs are to cost share with public funds enduring soil and water conservation measures on farmland which the farmer would not do without cost sharing explains Carl Lantz, director of the agricultural stabilization conservation service.

Program development for year is planned by a group composed of representatives of state and federal agricultural agencies heads and board members. The policy group met in Iowa county Thursday, Jan. 22, after agency heads had attended district meetings in Fairfield to learn fund availability earlier in the week.

Practices, according to the local group, which will have priority are those considered permanent or of an enduring type practice.

Selected for priority were:

Water containment reservoirs;

Waterways;
Terraces;
Diversion Terraces;
Permanent seeding;
Strip cropping.

For water containment structures and waterways conservation, measures in the drainage area will need to have been taken by the farmer prior to the approval of the installation of the particular practice Lantz explained.

Farmers will be encouraged to plant temporary cover such as oats in the area in which the work is to be done so the work will be spread over a longer period. While farmers want to do conservation work before and after regular cropping season, it makes too short a season to get con-

servation work completed they continue.

Forestry

The forestry practices for 1976 will be the same as for 1975 and include tree and wildlife plantings. Bob Hibbs, district forester, will be in the ASCS office in Williamsburg Friday, Feb. 13, to meet with those farmers interested in tree or wildlife plantings.

Because of limited funds for cost sharing conservation work, those farmers who have not received cost sharing during the past year or more from either ASCS or soil conservation service will be given a higher priority for cost sharing funds the group said.

A listing of conservation practices and explanation of the program will be mailed to all farmers when approval of the county program is received from the state office.

Iowa County Advertiser 3-11-76

PROTECT YOUR TIMER, Bob Hibs, District Forester

"Iowa Forest Facts", distributed by the Forestry Section of the Iowa Conservation Commission, credits Iowa County with 30,000 acres of forest land (8% of the total County area). State of Iowa totals for all counties show 2.6 million acres of forest land, or 7.3% of all Iowa land area. This data was obtained as a result of U.S. Forest Service inventory in 1954.

In 1975, preliminary data was released from survey work concluded in 1974. The new survey shows a 39% decrease in Iowa County forest land in the last twenty years. Acreage totals have decreased from 30,000 acres to slightly over 18,000 acres, or a loss of 590 timbered acres per year. Statewide the loss of woodlands has been even greater. From 2.6 million acres two decades ago, Iowa has declined in woodland resource to only 1.4 million acres, a decrease of 46%.

What is the reason for such a decrease? Are commercial loggers that destructive? Have we lost trees to fire, insects, and disease? The answer is not surprising to anyone familiar with Iowa's number one industry: food production.

Iowa timberland has been cleared for crop production since the early 19th century. At the time of settlement, Iowa had between five and seven million acres of woodland. Clearing land was a part of the pioneer ethic, and remains so even today. Increased grain prices allow and encourage more intensive use of the most marginal land. Yes, trees such as elm have been lost to disease. Insects and fire have not been problems, but could be at any time. Loggers are a problem only in that they may make land-clearing more profitable. Were it not for loggers, cleared trees would be piled and burned, wasting the renewable wood resource.

Cropland clearing is by no means the only threat to timber, and may not be the largest threat. Only 5,014 acres of Iowa County forest land is in the Forest Reserve (protected from grazing). I have estimated that 80% of all Iowa woodlands are pastured. This practice by itself constitutes clearing of the land. No tree can withstand year after year of soil compaction, erosion, root destruction, and bark damage. Sooner or later, all pastured trees will die of livestock destruction. Older timber being grazed cannot adequately reseed itself, since livestock will trample and eat young seedlings (except the thorny weed species).

If you own a timber tract and are concerned about the loss of a natural resource, consider the advantages of maintaining the area. You'll be providing wildlife habitat. You can profitably harvest trees occasionally; you can reduce your taxes to about fifty cents per acre, while still realizing the increase in land value. You can enjoy the aesthetic benefits, and be proud that you are preserving a part of the Iowa heritage. Additionally, there are Federal funds available through your local ASCS office for fencing and improving your timber stand. Take a good, hard look before you clear land; the cost of clearing may cost more than the purchase price of open ground.

Pioneer Republican

4-15-76

2 The Newspapers of Iowa County

Thurs., Apr. 15, 1976

SCS Commissioner Will Be Elected In November

One soil conservation district commissioner will be elected in the general election in Iowa county this fall.

This is the first time that the elections will be held with the general election; always before a special election was held said Harry Bryant, district conservationist. Commissioners will be elected on a non-political basis.

The term is for six years starting Jan. 3, 1977. R.J. (Dick) Mouchka, Marengo, is presently serving

on the board and his term will expire as of Jan. 3, 1977.

Qualifications and responsibilities of the position are available at the district office in Williamsburg, 600 Court street.

Nomination petitions can be obtained either at the county auditor's office or the district office. The petition shall be signed by at least 25 eligible electors of the district and returned to the county auditor on or before Aug. 28, to be included on the ballot.

Use Has Begun In County-

Minimum Tillage Is Hailed As Method Of The Future

One out of every ten acres planted to corn, soybeans or sorghum is worked by minimum tillage according to the Iowa county soil conservation service.

Minimum tillage has been hailed by some farmers as saving them time and labor. It also is said to reduce soil erosion, conserve moisture and provide cover during the winter.

After the harvest, in the minimum tillage method, the crop residue is chopped or shredded, and a chisel loosens and opens the subsoil to create a series of rough ridges that help water soak in and to prevent soil blowing.

Crop residue which remains on the top of the soil, protects the soil from wind and water erosion during non-growing seasons.

In the spring, the farmer uses no-till equipment to apply fertilizer, herbicides and seed in one operation. The soil is disturbed as little as possible; sometimes it is opened to a width of only two or three inches.

Much of the residue from

the previous crop remains on the soil as cover.

Saves Fuel

Minimum tillage is reputed to save fuel costs for the farmer since he does not have to plow or disc the fields and can apply agricultural chemicals in one operation. He can also do more of the work without the aid of additional help.

According to figures compiled by Purdue university, farmers rated the labor saving aspects of minimum tillage the highest with moisture control second.

Wind and water erosion are lessened with the use of minimum tillage some experts say. They note the cover left on the ground provides barriers to the loss of topsoil.

They note also leaving residue on the fields provides cover for wildlife throughout the non-growing season.

Pasturing cattle on the residue from last year's crop is also a benefit one receives from using a minimum tillage type of operation.

Ernest Behn, Boone farmer who is an advocate of the minimum tillage principle, noted if ridges are used over the fields and put in place during the fall the top of the ridge will warm up in the spring faster than the rest of the soil, allowing quicker germination of seed.

One of the drawbacks of minimum tillage is slow germination because residue covered soil does not warm up as quickly as that which has been plowed. Behn noted ridging in the fall for spring will take care of that problem.

He added the farmer can then "just knock the crust" off the ridge and plant earlier in the spring than he was able to before.

Weed Control

Weed control is also an advantage to minimum tillage according to some farmers. Opening just a small area and spraying the rest with a herbicide will eliminate many of the problems with weeds between rows that farmers experience.

The United States Department of Agriculture notes no piece of equipment is best suited for all conditions in minimum tillage operations.

A farmer should evaluate all the minimum tillage equipment available for use in producing his crop. Factors to be considered include climate, soil and his available labor power.

Whether land is rough, irregular or terraced also should be considered in purchasing equipment.

Larry Beyer, Iowa county farmer who lives west of Marengo, said he began working with minimum tillage in 1968. He added the big advantage in using minimum tillage is erosion control.

Beyer noted it cuts down both wind and water erosion on land. Cutting of wind erosion has been particularly significant this winter with the lack of snow to cover the land.

According to Beyer, using minimum tillage does

save time and labor, especially on contour land.

Beyer said he is "pretty much satisfied" with his use of minimum tillage. At present he is farming about 300 acres using the method.

Beyer uses a chisel plow

with twisted shanks. He incorporates broadcast herbicide and liquid nitrogen with a disc before planting.

Some experts believe by the year 2000 45 to 50 percent of the nation's planted cropland will be planted using minimum tillage methods.

John Maxey, who farms southeast of Williamsburg, has used both no till and minimum tillage in his operation for three years. Maxey said he is satisfied with the practice, noting it cuts cost of operation and cuts to "almost zero" erosion on his land which is hilly.

Maxey said using the

minimum tillage method allows him to get his crops planted on time during the wet years when he otherwise would be unable to get in the field as soon.

This year, Maxey added, he plans to use the method on 520 acres of ground.

Maxey said he uses no till on grassland being converted to crop land. When corn follows corn, he ridges the fields in the fall and plants on the ridges in the spring.

The same equipment can be used with some modification both in the grass no till and ridging, according to Maxey.



MAKES A POINT — Ernest Behn, Boone, was among the speakers at the no till meeting in Williamsburg Feb. 6. Behn advocates ridging the soil in the fall so that it will be ready for planting

in the spring. Behn said ridging the soil enables the soil in the top of the ridge to warm quickly in the spring and makes for quicker germination of seed.



ADDRESSES CROWD — Jerry Passer, WMT farm department, acted as master of ceremonies at an informational meeting on minimum and no till methods of farming Feb. 6. Meeting was held at the Iowa County Farm Bureau building, Williamsburg. A number of area farmers turned out to hear several speakers on the subject.

THE IOWA COUNTY Advertiser

303 Highland (Hiway 149) Williamsburg, Iowa 52361 Phone 319-668-1030

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VOLUME 11 NO. 22

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1976

PUBLISHED BY BULLERS' LITHO

CONSERVE THE SOIL! 30th ANNUAL REPORT - 1975

IOWA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WILLIAMSBURG, IOWA

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Robert W. Long, in a speech before the 30th Annual Meeting of NACD really put it to the commissioners to encourage non-cooperators to implement soil and water conservation plans on their farms voluntarily now. For if they don't, conservation by compulsion - by force with some faraway bureaucrat setting up standardized rules and calling the shots - is just around the corner if we fail to get the job done voluntarily.

Fred White, Chairman
Iowa County SCD Commissioners

IOWA COUNTY SCD COMMISSIONERS

Seated Left to right:
Keith Enochson, Fred
White, Chairman and
Vernon Sandersfeld.
Standing left to right:
Larry Beyer, Dick
Mouchka and David
McCarney.



NEW DISTRICT COOPERATORS FOR 1975

Dean Hollopeter	Duane Schaefer
Eugene Hanson	Ed O'Brien
Merwyn Betz	Glen White
Thomas Kinsey	Eugene Teggatz
James Reynolds	Dennis Sandersfeld
Wayne Formanek	Edwin Watkins
Hazel Shinn	Don O'Brien
Harvey Von Ashen	Ed & Don O'Brien
Duane Bloome	Wilfrid Lillis
JayDee & Kent Coffland	Marvin Slaubaugh
Reed Bros.	Harold Iburg
George Heller	Russell Schaffner
Darrell Zuber	Frank Naughton
Larry Beyer	Otis Lindhart
Aric Graf & Don Engstrom	James Possehl
Ursel & Orlen Riess	Rollie Yoder
Menzo Davis	First Presbyterian Church
Richard Kaestner	Mt. Vernon
John Rush	William Roemig

TOTAL ACRES: 6,765 Acres

BASIC CONSERVATION PLANS FOR 1975

Larry Miller	Merlin Rieck
Duane Snyder	Joseph Halsch
Knoll Ridge Country Club	Lucile Randolph
Duane Bloome	Kenneth Grimm
George Heller	Richard Kaestner
Coffland Brothers	Harold McLennon
Iowa County Land Fill	Elwood Schrock
Tom Kinsey	Clement Dermody
Harvey Von Ashen	John Kupka
Douglas Tvedt	Raymond Grimm
Owen Jones	DeRycke Brothers
Russell Gorsh	Leonard Hartgrave
Jean Riepe-Marilyn Wisby	Raymond Ballard
Dean Wade	Jerry Purdin

TOTAL ACRES: 5,629 Acres

BASIC CONSERVATION PLANS REVISED FOR 1975

Edward Shima	GBG Cattle Company
Clifford Heitshusen	Weise Misbach
Merwyn Betz	F.W. Tomasek
John Maxey	Vic Points
J.J. Kelly	Helen Donahoe
Dick Wetjen	L.W. Martin

Ray M. Yoder



IOWA COUNTY OFFICE STAFF

Seated left to right:
Harry Bryant & Lennis
Doehrmann. Standing
left to right: Clem Mc
Bride and Millen San-
dersfeld.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Major Practices	Unit	1975
Conservation Cropping System	Acre	3,719
Contour Farming	Acre	1,574
Diversion Terrace	Feet	35,765
Ponds	Number	12
Erosion Control Structures	Number	24
Grassed Waterways	Acre	88.4
Terraces	Feet	108,478
Tile	Feet	572,860
Other Services		
Referrals Serviced	Number	371
Planning Practices		
New District Cooperators	Number	37
Basic Conservation Plans	Number	28
Revised Conservation Plans	Number	13
Group Plans	Number	10
Group Inventories & Evaluations	Number	13
Farms Assisted	Number	256
Farms Applying Practices	Number	184

IM- BUDGET

Commissioners Expenses	\$ 245.75
Office Supplies	\$ 319.54
Printing	\$ 58.30
Prizes for Contests	\$ 47.48
Meeting Expense	\$ 15.47
Office Expense	\$ 329.89
TOTAL EXPENDED 12-31-75	\$ 1,016.43

II-M BUDGET

Clerical	\$ 7,511.38
Travel	\$ 91.58
Technical	\$ 360.55
Equipment	\$ 415.36
TOTAL EXPENDED 12-31-75	\$ 8,378.87

III-M BUDGET 1973-74

Approved for Terraces	\$ 16,136.72
Approved for Diversions	\$ 1,575.00
Approved for Structures	\$ 6,113.00
Approved for Waterways	\$ 1,707.50
TOTAL APPROVED 12-31-75	\$ 25,532.22

Paid on Completed Terraces	\$ 13,443.73
Paid on Completed Diversions	\$ 1,478.16
Paid on Completed Structures	\$ 6,093.00
Paid on Completed Waterways	\$ 1,101.41
TOTAL EXPENDED 12-31-75	\$ 22,116.30

Approved for Terraces	\$ 19,776.90
Approved for Diversions	\$ 2,262.50
Approved for Structures	\$ 5,250.75
Approved for Waterways	\$ 550.00
TOTAL APPROVED 12-31-75	\$ 27,840.15

III-M BUDGET 1974-75

Paid on Completed Terraces	\$ 17,522.93
Paid on Completed Diversions	\$ 1,868.72
Paid on Completed Structures	\$ 3,871.09
Paid on Completed Waterways	\$ 396.29
TOTAL EXPENDED 12-31-75	\$ 23,659.03

III-M BUDGET 1975-76

Approved for Terraces	\$ 19,878.31
Approved for Diversions	\$ 8,533.19
Approved for Structures	\$ 3,900.00
TOTAL APPROVED 12-31-75	\$ 32,311.50

Paid on Completed Terraces	\$ 9,484.96
Paid on Completed Diversions	\$ 4,584.47
Paid on Completed Structures	\$ 3,749.97
TOTAL EXPENDED 12-31-75	\$ 17,819.40

1975

DISTRICT

ACTIVITIES

1975

- JANUARY**
- * The Iowa County Soil Conservation District Education Committee met January 10.
 - * Commissioners regular meeting was held Jan. 14.
 - * Iowa County Tree Planting Meeting held January 23 at ASCS Office.
- FEBRUARY**
- * Commissioners regular meeting was held February 19.
 - * Iowa County Soil Conservation District and Soil Conservation Service personnel moved to their new office at 600 Court St. on Feb. 24.
- MARCH**
- * Iowa County Contractor's meeting held March 6.
 - * Commissioners regular meeting was held March 18.
 - * Regional Commissioners meeting was held March 19.
- APRIL**
- * Annual Report was printed in the April 10 edition of the Iowa County Advertiser.
 - * Commissioners regular meeting was held April 15 in Iowa City.
 - * Conservancy District meeting was held April 17 in Iowa City.
- MAY**
- * Annual Art Contest was held May 9. Winners in the Senior High Division were: 1st. - Connie Driscoll, 2nd. - Kevin Doehrmann, 3rd. - Kim Armstrong; Junior High Division: 1st. - Darrell Schwarting, 2nd. - Sherri Becker, 3rd. - Ellen Evans; Elementary Division: 1st. - Denise Joseph, 2nd. - Barb Ballard, 3rd. - Becky Witte.
 - * Commissioners regular meeting was held May 13.
 - * Commissioners took the ASCS Committee and Staff on a tour of the county May 29 to see some of the conservation practices installed and visit the 1974 LTA farms.
- JUNE**
- * Commissioners regular meeting was held June 17.
 - * Duane Miller, District Conservationist for Iowa County the past two years was transferred to the State Office.
- JULY**
- * Regional Commissioners meeting was held July 8.
 - * Commissioners regular meeting was held July 15.

AUGUST

- * Harry Bryant, District Conservationist assumed his duties as district conservationist for Iowa County July 21.

- * Commissioners held their annual picnic at the home of Commissioner Dick Mouchka on August 8.
- * Iowa County Teachers Conservation Workshop was held August 20 at Lake Iowa.
- * Commissioners regular meeting was held August 26.

SEPTEMBER

- * Annual Commissioners and Clerks Conference was held September 7, 8 and 9. Attending from Iowa County were District Conservationist Harry Bryant and Clerk Lennis Doehrmann.
- * Commissioners regular meeting was held September 16.
- * Region X Commissioners meeting was held September 16 at Kirkwood College, Cedar Rapids.

OCTOBER

- * Fall Teachers Workshop at Strawberry Point was held October 3 and 4.
- * Soil Judging Contest was held October 8 south of Kalona. Contest was sponsored by Iowa, Johnson and Washington Counties. Soil Conservation Districts, Williamsburg & Iowa Valley Vo-ag classes and four other teams participated. Mid-Prairie won 3 high individual honors and 1st and 3rd place team honors. Keota placed second in team scoring.
- * Commissioners regular meeting was held October 28.
- * Annual Conservation Awards Banquet was held October 29 at Middle America. Winners were: Clifford Heitshusen, Long Time Cooperator; James McGrory, New Cooperator, and Mrs. Helen Donahoe-Leonard Hartgrave, Jr., Landlord-Tenant.

NOVEMBER

- * Special commissioners meeting was held Nov. 4.
- * Commissioners met for their regular meeting Nov. 18. There was not a quorum present.
- * Commissioners regular meeting was held November 20.

DECEMBER

- * Annual Christmas Party was held December 7 at the Ironmen Inn, Iowa City.
- * Commissioners regular meeting was held December 16.

Cedar Rapids Gazette 5-23-76

Soil Cost-Sharing Flare-Up Seen

By Al Sweigle

Three members of the state soil conservation commission received nearly \$10,000 in state soil cost-sharing funds in the past three years at a time when federal soil cost-sharing funds were severely cut back.

This revelation is expected to add fuel to the already-heated debate over whether soil conservation policymakers should be allowed to receive governmental assistance in making soil conservation improvements.

(First of Two Stories.)

Critics question the propriety of policymakers receiving money from the program they are charged with administering, particularly since the money is an outright gift rather than a loan. Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz frequently refers to conservation cost-sharing as the "rural congressman's porkbarrel."

Soil cost-sharing money is given free to farmers who agree to match the funds dollar-for-dollar on soil construction projects. The government's invest-

ment in individual farmer's projects is justified on the basis that society benefits from the project as much as the farmer.

Critics note that a related federal agency, the Farmers Home Administration, prohibits employees and board members from receiving FHA loans. A similar rule governing soil programs is needed, critics say, since farmers receiving cost-sharing money are not required to refund the money.

A Gazette investigation showed that three of the eight members of the state soil conservation committee received \$9,986.18 in state soil cost-sharing funds the past three years.

State law does not prevent the practice, and local officials contacted by The Gazette said the state committeemen exerted "no pressure" in securing the funds.

\$17,766.55 Federal Funds

In addition to the state money, one of the commissioners, Thomas Kenny of Akron, received some \$5,766.55 in federal cost-sharing funds in annual appropriations, and another, Carroll Hobson of Eldora, received a \$12,000 federal

grant to do conservation work over a nine-year period.

The third member of the committee, Donald Johnson of Fairfield, applied for federal soil conservation cost-sharing funds during that period but was turned down.

State records show that Johnson received \$5,374 in state funds in 1975-76. Kenny received \$1,548.94 in state funds in 1973-74, and Hobson received \$3,063.24 in the 1974-75 program year.

The three state commissioners received state aid during the time when federal soil cost-sharing funds were in short supply. Federal funds for 1973 were not released until 1974, and the 1974 federal appropriation was cut in half.

The three members of the state soil committee were all appointed by Gov. Robert Ray.

'Conflict of Interest'

The chief critic of the practice, Neel Hill of Webster City, questions why the money was given to key soil workers when other farmers' applications were

Please Turn to Page 20

turned down. Hill would prohibit soil officials from receiving cost-sharing funds.

"This practice of soil officials receiving soil money leaves them wide open to charges of conflict of interest," Hill contends. "Some of my closest friends have engaged in this practice, but it's still questionable."

Hobson, one of the state commissioners receiving cost-sharing funds, defends the practice.

"I knew when I applied for cost-sharing funds that this information was public record," Hobson said. "I don't mind people knowing that I support this program."

"That's how this program got started. Three men in Hardin county got together in 1945 to put on soil demonstration plots to show how it works. We run into more criticism from some who say that soil commissioners don't do enough conservation."

"If we who are commissioners don't apply for these funds, people won't believe in the program."

Popular Program

Other soil officials in Hardin county indicate that the program there is popular already, so popular that there aren't enough funds to go around. The Hardin director of the federal soil program, Gaylord Thayer, said the county received only a third of the funds needed to fill requests for soil conservation assistance last year.

Hardin county received an allocation of \$57,000 in soil funds last year and had applications for \$180,000 in appropriations, Thayer said.

Hobson received no preferential treatment in the federal long-term soil contract as only two applications were turned into the Hardin county ASCS office that year (1974-75), Thayer said. Both were approved, and "both were good ones," Thayer added.

Hobson's farm is located in the southeast one-third of the county where "the sloping land needs to be conserved," Thayer said. "It's a high priority area."

Hobson also chairs the Hardin county soil conservation district commissioners, the body which approves the allocation of state cost-sharing funds.

"We have five independent-minded commissioners, and I'm sure that if any

of them thought there was anything wrong with my application for state funds, they wouldn't have approved it," Hobson said.

"My thought was not to do anything illegal. I waited until the second year of the state program to apply for funds."

Others Defend Method

Other conservationists contacted by The Gazette last week defended the practice, although some acknowledged that such cost-sharing grants should not be made if soil officials are paid for the performance of their duties.

William Greiner, executive director of the Iowa department of soil conservation, said it "would be difficult to recruit highly qualified soil commissioners if commissioners were barred from participating in state or federal soil cost-sharing programs."

"Commissioners aren't paid for the great amount of time which they put into their work, and we just could not get the high quality commissioners if they were not permitted to receive cost-sharing funds."

"I could see where such a restriction could be placed on commissioners if they were paid for their time spent in meetings, but that would be extremely expensive."

Greiner said county soil commissioners should be paid a minimum of \$30 a day plus mileage before he would support any move to bar commissioners from receiving cost-sharing funds. This is the standard fee given county committeemen who supervise the federal soil program administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

Some conservationists have advocated pay for county soil commissioners for some time because of the great amount of time they devote to their duties. The issue of whether commissioners should receive soil funds could spur moves to provide some compensation for their work.

The issue could also clarify a sensitive policy matter that could get stickier as the three-year-old state soil cost-sharing program advances in age.

Monday: What happened to the man who blew the whistle?

ACP Encourages Soil, Water Conservation

U.S. Department of Agriculture announced an \$85 million 1976 agricultural conservation program (ACP) designed to encourage the application of enduring soil and water conservation practices on the nation's farms.

The objective is to obtain needed conservation on farmland beyond that which the farmer would accomplish with his own resources.

The 1976 program will be administered by the agricultural stabilization and conservation service through its farmer-elected committee system. It will share with farmers approximately 50 percent of the cost of carrying out approved soil, water and woodland conservation practices.

Authority to develop practices needed to solve conservation problems is delegated to each of USDA's farmer-elected county ASC committees. All approved practices in effect under the 1970 national ACP are eligible.

State and county ASC committees are responsible for identifying critical farm conservation problems in their respective areas and developing and approving practices for cost-sharing on a priority basis.

Soil conservation service will provide planning and technical assistance. Contracts involving woodlands also will get technical aid from the forest service. The extension service will assist with educational support.

Program details will be available from county ASC offices.



AWARDED FIRST PRIZES — Trophies were collected by three county youth for conservation posters submitted in the annual contest sponsored by the Iowa County Soil Conservation District. Awards were given Friday, May 7 in Williamsburg elementary school. Top artists were Darrell Schwarting, first, senior division, Williamsburg high school; Becky Witte, first, junior high division, Lutheran Interparish; and Mary Wetjen, first in elementary, Williamsburg. Posters were judged by wives of district commissioners May 4.



WIN ART PRIZES — Winners of poster contest, sponsored by Iowa County Soil Conservation District were announced Friday evening, May 7 in Williamsburg elementary school by Fred White, Parnell, chairman of commissioners. Cited were, left to right, Paul Werner, Lutheran Interparish, second, elementary division; Mary Wetjen, Williamsburg school, first, elementary; Doug Tegatz, Lutheran Interparish, second in junior high;

Warren Jordan, Deep River-Millersburg, third, elementary. Back row, Brenda Arp, third, junior high, Williamsburg; Darrell Schwarting, Williamsburg high school, first in senior division; and Becky Witte, Lutheran Interparish, first in junior high. Not present were Kevin Doehrmann, second place, senior division, Williamsburg; and Gregg Gaines, third place, senior division, HLV.

THE IOWA COUNTY

Advertiser

303 Highland (Hiway 149) Williamsburg, Iowa 52361 Phone 319-668-1030

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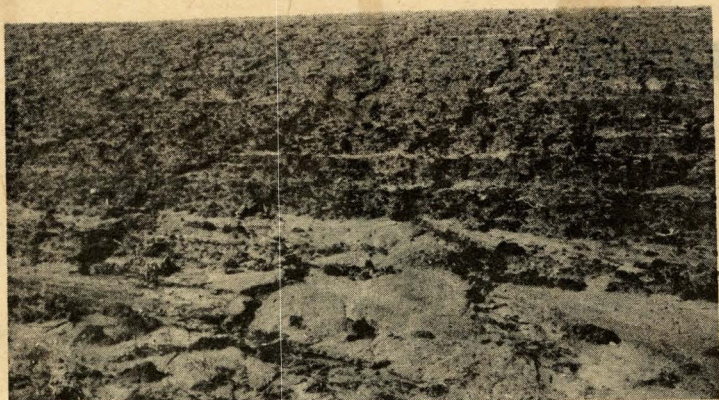
1776  1976

VOLUME 11 NO. 31

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1976

PUBLISHED BY BULLERS' LITHO

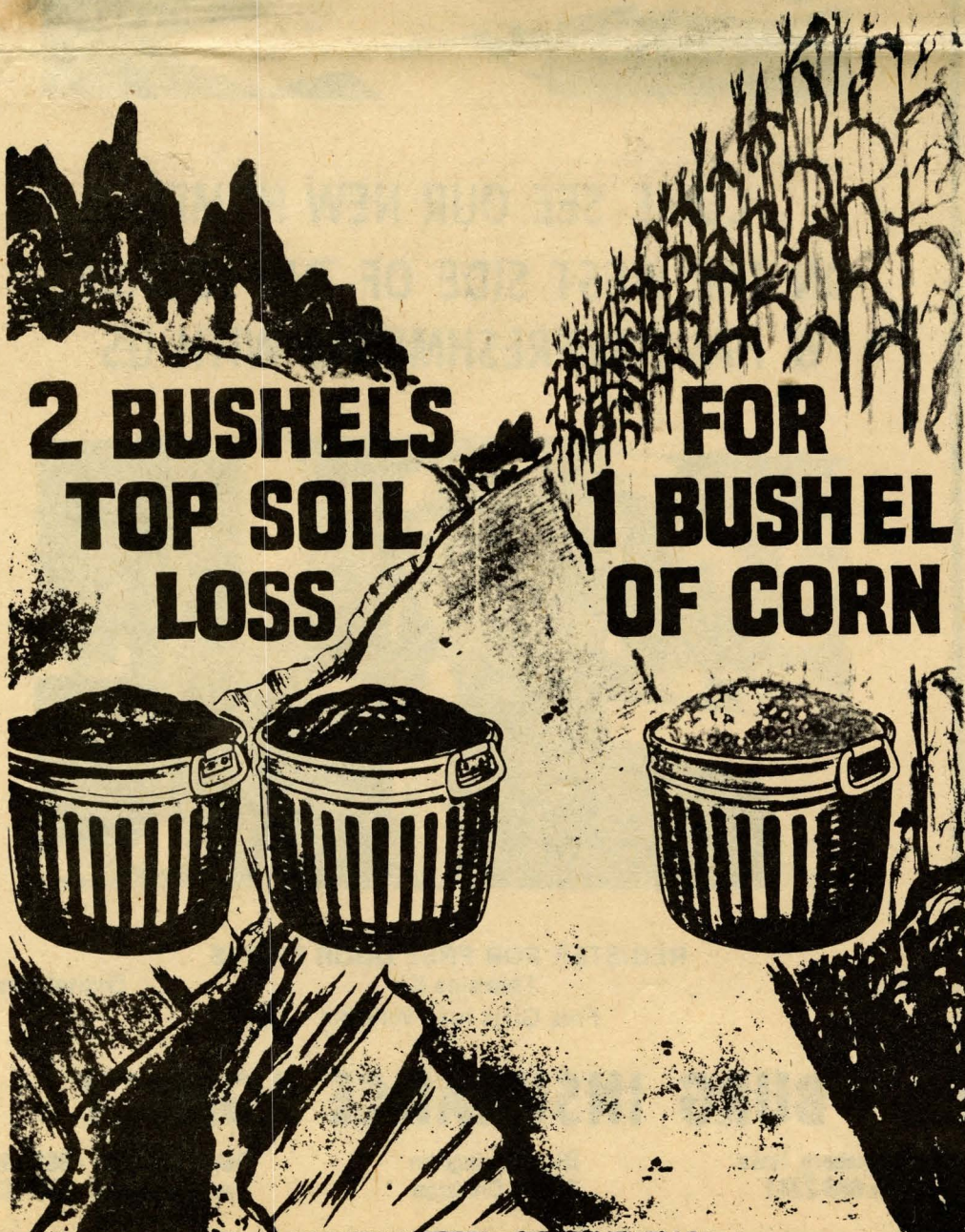
CAN WE AFFORD THIS?



Soil loss from this fall plowed field in Iowa County is estimated at 50 tons per acre, after just one rain in late April. This is an 8% slope, 200 ft. long.



An estimated 950 tons of soil was lost from this water course in Iowa County after the late April rains. This loss occurred because of uncontrolled water flow and no grass waterways. This water ran for 2600 ft. across this unprotected field.



THAT'S RIGHT!

We're losing an average of 230 bushels of topsoil on each acre of unprotected sloping land in Iowa each year. That's twice as much soil loss as average corn production on those soils.

The loss is also an inch every 12 years. At that rate, our topsoil could be gone in 100 years.

For help with your soil and water conservation, contact the Soil Conservation Service Assisting the Iowa County Soil Conservation District.

Burg Sixth Graders Take Field Trip

Sixth grade students from Parnell used the money they earned selling refreshments at the junior high basketball games to finance a conservation field trip to Iowa county lake May 20.

Eighty-four students were divided into seven groups of 12. Each group accompanied by a leader hiked around the lake, stopping at each of the six stations set up at intervals.

The leaders included Mary Warner, Gail Stratton, Mrs. George Smith, Mrs. Susan Stochl, Mrs. James Turner, Mrs. Vernon Schmidt, and Mrs. David Jennings. Mrs. Lennis Doehrmann of the Soil Conservation office was a guest.

The six stations included Sylvan Runkle, Des Moines, a naturalist, who led each group on a nature hike at his site. Bob Kurtt, wildlife management biologist with Iowa Conservation commission discussed wildlife found in the area.

David Shaull of the U. S. Geological Survey demonstrated how to

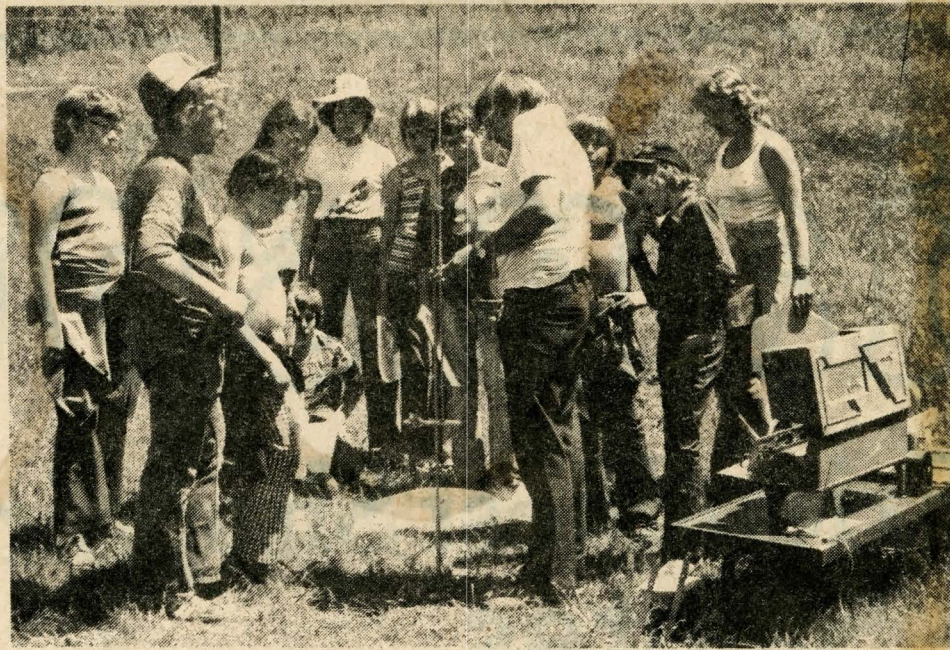
measure water flow in streams and showed equipment which is used in his department.

Harry Bryant of the Soil Conservation Service showed different soil samples, discussed them, and pointed out the three found at Lake Iowa.

Dan Becker, teacher at Parnell, led an activity designed to show the relationship of animals and plants in a grassland habitat. Carl Selby, teacher at Parnell, led each group on a nature hike in his area.

Deborah Bott and Betty Golden, Parnell teachers, organized and distributed the makings of a picnic lunch at every station. When noon came, the students, group leaders, and teachers at each site prepared their lunch of hot dogs, potato chips, celery, lemonade and brownies.

The students took notes during their hike on their observations on plant and animal life which were discussed in the classroom the next day. This is an annual event for sixth grade students of the Williamsburg community school.



MEASURE WATER — Dave Shaull, Williamsburg, who is a member of the United States geological survey, discussed water problems with the sixth graders and showed them some of his

measurement equipment. There were several other stations at which students stopped on their hike around the lake. Sixth grade teachers were aided by parents in the excursion.



EXPLAIN PLANT LIFE — Sylvan Runkle, a retired biologist from Des Moines, was one of the resource people who spoke to Williamsburg sixth grade students at their field day at the county lake Thursday. Runkle

worked for the conservation service for 41 years. He told the students some of the plants growing at the lake are becoming increasingly rare.

THE IOWA COUNTY Advertiser

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VOLUME 12 NO. 19

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1977

PUBLISHED BY BULLERS' LITHO

31st ANNUAL REPORT - 1976

IOWA SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WILLIAMSBURG, IOWA

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Major Practice	Unit	1976
Contour Farming	Acre	1,054
Diversion Terraces	Feet	13,400
Ponds	Number	11
Erosion Control Structures	Number	8
Grassed Waterways	Acre	29.4
Terraces	Feet	140,770
Tile	Feet	339,591

Other Services

Individuals & Groups Assisted	Number	329
Individuals & Groups Applying Practices	Number	169
Referrals Serviced	Number	111

Planning Practices

New District Cooperators	Number	59
Basic Conservation Plans	Number	37
Basic Conservation Plans Revised	Number	10

FIELD OFFICE PERSONNEL

Harry Bryant, District Conservationist
Clem McBride, Conservation Technician
Lennis Doebrmann, State Clerk
Millen Sandersfeld, Conservation Aide

AREA OFFICE PERSONNEL

Keith Glandon, Area Conservationist
Marvin Parmer, Civil Engineer
Francis Vos, Civil Engineer Technician
Wilma Kimball, Area Clerk
Lorne Nestrude, Soil Scientist

WILDLIFE AND BIOLOGY SPECIALISTS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Larry Beyer, Chairman
Greg Misbach, Vice-Chairman
Keith Enochson
Vernon Sandersfeld
Fred White

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

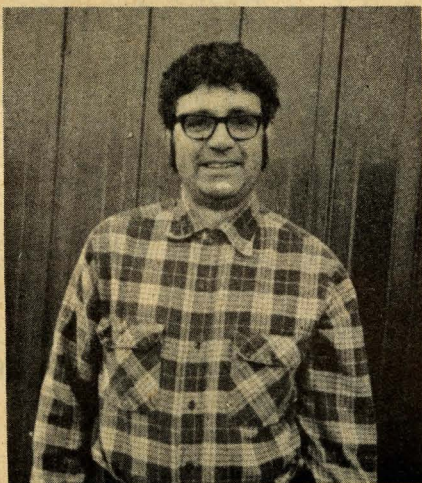
David McCartney
Mary Welsh

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Gary Drefke, Lutheran Interparish
Mary Welsh, Williamsburg Community
Corrine Tandy, Deep River-Millersburg
Pauline Reed, English Valley
Mildred Kinzenbaw, HLV Community
Andy Rowe, Iowa Valley
Norbert Wenzel, St. John's Lutheran
Robert Van Cleave, Amana Community



LARRY BEYER
Commissioner



GREG MISBACH
Commissioner



KEITH ENOCHSON
Commissioner

NEW DISTRICT COOPERATORS FOR 1976

Leroy Bral
Iva Lillie
Hugh O'Meara
Ron Gahring
Dean Border
Harold McClenathan
Dean Eggert
Joe Wolfer
Dick Mouchka
Leo McKenna
Charles A. Lortz
Larry Schafbuch
Martha Story
Michael & Dick Elwood
Bernard Himmelsbach
Gordon McCaw
Stuart Blythe
Daryl Wagner
William Lewis
Myron Rathjen
Mrs. Eugene Peak
John DeSmet
Dean Schropp
Robert Walker
Dwight Gildemeister
Dean Wyant
Gerald & John Greene
Wayne Schafbuch
Robert Fant
Bill Zimpleman
Orlo Collingwood
Mildred Koehn
Kenneth Davis
Ben Vercande
William Wyant
Orrin Ward
Estella Brimmer
Ann Miller
Thomas McKenna
Louis Kaplan
Monte Root
R.W. Richardson
William Blythe
Norman Axmear
Raymond Heitman
Ronald Mohr
Richard Wagner
Dave Fetzer
Don Gingerich
Truman Schmidt
Richard Meyer
Gerald Carlson
Ken Boeke
John Hacker
John O'Brien
Leo Haack
C & M Farms, Inc.
Ed Konicek

Harold Bender

BASIC CONSERVATION PLANS FOR 1976

Dennis Sandersfeld
Eugene Teggatz
Glenn White
Hugh O'Meara
Wilfrid Lillis
Harold Iburg
John Rush
Iva Lillie
R. W. Richardson
Don & Ed O'Brien
Jerald McCaw
M. G. Heitman
Alma Heitman
Mildred Koehn
William Roemig
Milton Maack
Thomas McKenna
Paul Rudin
Don O'Brien
David Horras
Lyle Root
Raymond Heitman
Robert Iburg
Estella Brimmer
Charles A. Lortz
Leo McKenna
Truman Schmidt
James Baldwin
Kenneth Davis
Dick Mouchka
Leonard Collins
Wayne Meade
Orrin Ward
Ronald Mohr
Dave Fetzer
C & M Farms, Inc.
First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Vernon

BASIC CONSERVATION PLANS REVISED FOR 1976

Dan Miller, Jr.
Russell Pence
Dwight Slaubaugh
Garland Haselhuhn
Howard Webb
E. J. Schmucker
Dairyl Grimm
Lowell Luhman
Mary Slaubaugh
William Blythe

FINANCIAL REPORT

I-M Budget

Allocation	Receipts
Commissioners Expenses	\$ 1,475.00
Office Supplies	
Printing	
Prizes for Contests	
Office Expense	
Meeting Expense	
Total Expended	
Released	

II-M Budget

Allocation	Receipts
Clerical and Technical	\$ 9,250.00
Travel	
Equipment	
Total Expended	
Released	

Disbursements

\$ 382.30
457.11
253.20
136.98
206.35
29.50
\$ 1,465.44
9.56
\$ 1,475.00

\$ 8,537.02
101.08
447.76
\$ 9,085.86
164.14
\$ 9,250.00

III-M Budget (1975-76)

Allocation	\$28,000.00
Additional Allocation	4,173.38
Disbursed to Farmers	\$32,173.38

III-M Budget (1976-77)

Allocation	\$41,000.00
Additional Allocation	\$18,800.00
Disbursed to Farmers	\$48,295.66
Obligated Funds	2,900.00
Unobligated Funds	8,604.34
	\$59,800.00

Revolving Fund

Balance on Hand 1 - 01 - 76	\$ 412.92
Receipts - Contributions	1,590.28
Receipts - Reimbursements	1,236.03
Disbursements	\$ 2,952.38
Balance on Hand 12 - 31 - 76	287.85

We wish to thank the following people and businesses for their contributions to the financial support of the Iowa Soil Conservation District.

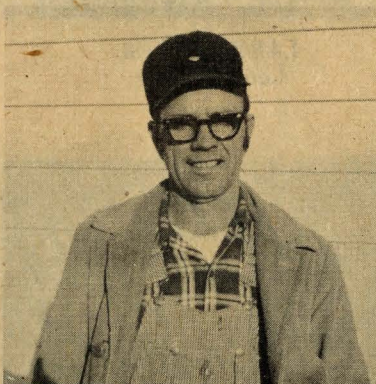
Cedar Valley Distributing Co.; Patron's Mutual Ins.; T.I.P. Rural Electric Helen Donahoe; Chris Swartzendruber; Harold Sherman; Dick Mouchka; Ron Ahrens; Raymond Murphy; Ches Freshour; Rudolph Hagen & Son; Dan E. Miller, Jr.; Ronald Mohr; Edwin Yoder; Levine Co., Inc.; Duane Schwarting; Duane Bloome; Marengo Elevator; Millen Sandersfeld; Elwood Bros.; Delmar & Larry Wetjen; Leo Kelly Co.; Rick Gates; Donald Baker; Richard Wetjen; Gahring Construction; Iowa County Farm Service; Beyer Farms; Harold Koehn; David Horras; V.R. Points; Roy L. Yoder; Swartzendruber Lumber; Leonard Thys; Rhinehart's; David Mc Cartney; Dietrich Construction; Pauline Lillie; Ralph Leigh; John Maxey; Amana Society; Lloyd Rank; Funk Seeds International; Citizens State Bank; Farmers Trust & Savings Bank; Security Savings Bank; Iowa County Savings Bank; Wellman Savings Bank; Farmers Savings Bank, Victor; Farmers Savings Bank, North English & First Trust & Savings Bank.



Seated L to R: Harry Bryant, District Conservationist and Lennis Doebrmann, District Clerk. Back Row L to R: Clem McBride, Technician and Millen Sandersfeld, Conservation Aide.



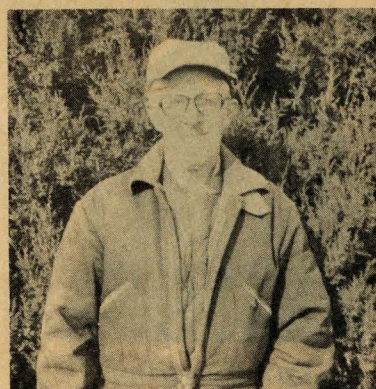
FRED WHITE
Commissioner



VERNON SANDERFELD
Commissioner



MARY WELSH
Assistant Commissioner



DAVID McCARTNEY
Assistant Commissioner

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Gaines; Junior Division: 1st. - Becky Witte, 2nd. - Doug Teggatz, 3rd - Brenda Arp; Elementary Division: 1st. - Mary Wetjen, 2nd. - Paul Werner, 3rd. - Warren Jordon.

* District Newsletter published May 13 edition of the Iowa County Advertiser.

* Commissioners Meeting held May 18.

* Mary Welsh was appointed as Assistant Commissioner.

* A conservation tour of completed projects in the county was held for the commissioners and their wives with supper following at the Landmark Restaurant on June 2.

* Commissioners Meeting held June 15.

* Special Commissioners Meeting held July 7 following annual picnic at Lake Iowa.

* Warm Season Grass Tour to Creston, Ia. was held July 15.

* The district sponsored an air tour July 18.

* Commissioners Meeting held July 21.

* Commissioners Meeting held August 17.

* Iowa County Teachers Conservation Workshop was held August 25 at Lake Iowa.

* Conservation Tour for ASCS Committee and Office Personnel was held August 26.

* Training Session held at the Ironmen Inn was held on September 8. Attending were District Conservationist Harry Bryant, Technician Clem McBride and District Clerk. Lennis Doebrmann.

* Commissioners Meeting held September 21 with election of officers being held. Elected were: Chairman, Fred White; Vice-Chairman, Keith Enochson; Secretary-Treasurer, Lennis Doebrmann.

* Fall Teachers Workshop at Camp Ewalu was held October 3 & 4. Attending from Iowa County was Kathy Stewart, Williamsburg Elementary School.

* District Speech and Essay Contest was held October 6. Winners were: Speech Contest, 1st. - Lamar Shima, 2nd - Arlin Karsten, 3rd. Kenneth Ward; Essay Contest: 1st. - Angela Bendorf, 2nd. - Twinkle Dawson & 3rd. - Brenda Arp.

* Soil Judging Contest was held October 12 in Johnson County. Contest was sponsored by Iowa, Johnson & Washington Soil Conservation Districts.

* Commissioners Meeting held October 19.

* Annual Conservation Awards Banquet was held October 20 at Middle America Restaurant. Winners were: New Cooperator Division, Kenneth Davis; Owner-Operator Division, Russell Pence; Owner-Tenant Division, F.W. Tomasek-Richard Bean and K-8 Teacher Division, Laurena Hammes.

* Regional Commissioners Meeting & Speech Contest was held at the Highlander Inn, Iowa City November 8. Lamar Shima placed second in the regional speech contest.

* Special Commissioners Meeting held Nov. 7.

* Annual Commissioners & Clerk Conference was held November 29, 30 & December 1.

* Commissioners Meeting and Christmas Party was held December 16 at the Highlander Inn Iowa City.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

JANUARY

- * Contractor-Farmer Meeting held January 8.
- * Commissioners Meeting held January 13.
- * Commissioners Short Course at Ames held on January 20 and 21.

FEBRUARY

- * Tree & Wildlife Information Meeting held February 13.
- * Commissioners Meeting held February 17.
- * Iowa Soil Conservation Resource Coordinating Committee Meeting held February 19.

MARCH

- * Contribution Letter Mailed.
- * Annual Report published March 11 edition of the Iowa County Advertiser.
- * Commissioners Meeting held March 16.
- * Education Committee met March 22.
- * Regional Commissioners Meeting held at the Highlander Inn, Iowa City on March 24. Commissioners Dick Mouchka and Fred White, District Clerk Lennis Doebrmann and District Conservationist Harry Bryant attended.

APRIL

- * Commissioners Meeting held April 20.
- * Tour to pick winners for the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program was held April 21.

MAY

- * Annual Art Contest was held May 7. Winners were: Senior Division; 1st. - Darrell Schwarting, 2nd. - Kevin Doebrmann, 3rd. - Greg

Pasture Trials Will Be Inspected--

Cattlemen Plan Warm Season Grass Tour

Plans are complete for a one day bus tour of pasture trials of warm season grasses in Union and Ringgold counties Thursday, July 15, Lowell McKean, county extension director said.

The tour is sponsored by the Iowa County Cattlemen's association with stops planned in cooperation with the soil conservation and extension services. Richard Mouchka, Marengo cattleman, is chairman of the tour committee.

The tour will leave Landmark truck stop at 6:30 a.m. July 15. The group will meet the Union County Cattlemen and tour guides at the Creston community college to view the grass plots on their 240 acre farm.

Other stops will include

pasture trials conducted by the Union County Grazing association, a cattle ranching operation using warm season grasses, and the Iowa State university Beaconsfield experimental farm where latest in warm season grass research is conducted. Time permitting, a stop at the Creston bull test station will be made.

An evening meal will be served by the Union Cattlemen's group and program complete by 8 p.m. to return to Iowa county.

Mouchka, Cattlemen's board director and soil conservation district commissioner, said this is a good opportunity to see firsthand actual trials and latest research in this field. Many have asked about some of these warm season

grasses such as blue stem, gamma grasses and other native grasses that are being reseeded.

To reserve a place on this tour, contact one of these Iowa County Cattlemen's board members for tickets on the bus at \$10 each: Vergil Newkirk, Homestead; Eugene Jacobs, or Mouchka, Marengo; Keith Erb, Wellman; Norman Jordan, Deep River; Mervin Jack, Victor; Milford Heitman, or Richard Wetjen, Williamsburg; Wayne DeMeulenaere, Hartwick.

"There are a limited number of places available, so contact them early," Mouchka said. "I need reservations by Friday, July 2, so we can plan additional transportation if necessary."

Pioneer-Republican 8-5-76

Conservation Week Will Stress Land Resources

The wise use of land and water resources will be emphasized during soil and water conservation week in Iowa Sept. 12-18.

"These resources are essential to maintain and enhance rural and urban standards of living and to maintain an adequate food supply," said Min

Amemiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State university.

Soil erosion has been a big problem the past few years, Amemiya said, adding that soil erosion prevention continues to be an important task of farm operators.

Amemiya said on row crop land he advocates such practices as contour farming, strip cropping, grassed waterways, diversions, terraces and conservation tillage systems.

On sloping land too steep for continuous row crops, he encourages crop rotations or conversion to permanent grass or grass-legume cover.

Soil movement by wind also can be a problem, Amemiya said, and suggests cropping and tillage systems that leave the surface rough and protected.

The Cedar Rapids Gazette

Editorial Page

Tuesday, June 1, 1976

Soil-aid image soiled

State soil conservation officials yielded a bumper crop of excuses when this newspaper began probing reports of favoritism in the channeling of government soil aid matching funds to Iowans.

Why do administrators not find it disturbing that nearly 10 percent of the federal longterm soil conservation funds allocated in Iowa last year went to those associated with the programs as employees or county committeemen? For one thing, the practice is "perfectly legal"; for another, such funds are not gobbled up at the expense of low-income farmers; marginal operators do not ordinarily apply for soil aid.

If taxpayers deemed those answers acceptable, it is doubtful that the next round of soil-aid queries and responses will evoke similar satisfaction. The main question today — following Farm

into more criticism from some who say that soil commissioners don't do enough conservation. If we who are commissioners don't apply for these funds, people won't believe in the program."

The situation, as explained there, is a classic Hobson's choice: Though at liberty to join or not to join government-backed soil conservation efforts, the commissioner has felt compelled to use his own property to demonstrate his support of the program.

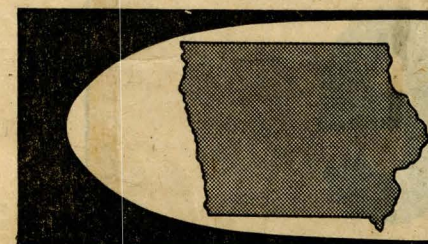
The fact remains, however, that Hobson and fellow state commissioners Thomas Kenny of Akron and Donald Johnson of Fairfield received state aid during a period when federal soil cost-sharing funds were scarce. Indeed, the state program was innovated because of interruptions in federal participation.

As stressed in this space May 9, soil conservation officials should be concerned with how things look as well as with legality and handbook procedures. How the federal and state soil cost-sharing setup appears under the commissioner-eligible format is startlingly wide-open to favoritism.

The thing has a seedy political complexion, too. The three state soil conservation commission members who received state aid all were appointed by Governor Ray, a Republican. Democrat Neel Hill of Webster City, the soil conservation supervisor who first complained of apparent favoritism, has seen his region of responsibility shrink from 11 counties to four (a move his superiors say is coincidental).

Criticism of soil-aid distribution procedures seem certain to increase apace with publicity given them. Imagine, for example, the reaction of Winneshiek county farmers to The Gazette's revelation that of the \$60,000 allocated for longterm soil conservation in the last two years, not a penny went to a fulltime farmer. A teacher, a banker, a county official and a lawyer's wife were the beneficiaries there.

How to insure against possible misuse of soil conservation grants? Fear of dropouts among able commissioners notwithstanding, funds ought not be made available to those connected with allocations. Pay them a fee, plus mileage, for services and restore the program's look of propriety.



Editor Swegle's two-part look into state-financed soil cost-sharing — is: Should members of the state conservation commission be eligible for dollar-for-dollar matching soil conservation funds?

Here again, explanations are plentiful. Take the \$3,063 grant received in 1974-75 by Carroll Hobson, state commissioner and chairman of the Hardin county soil conservation district commission. (In the last three years, two other state commissioners have received grants totaling nearly \$7,000.) By Hobson's reckoning, any of the five "independent-minded" county commissioners would have rejected his application for state funds had they seen anything wrong with it.

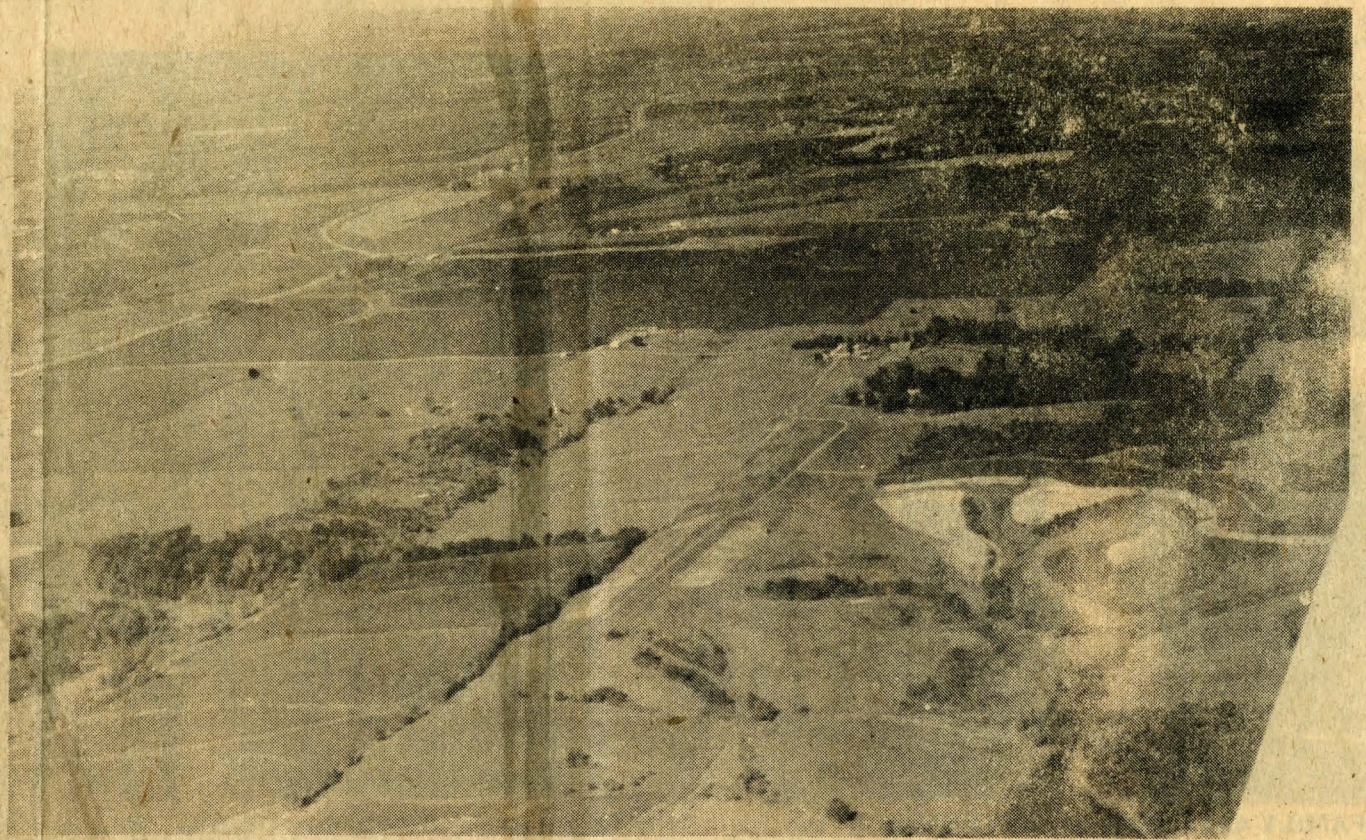
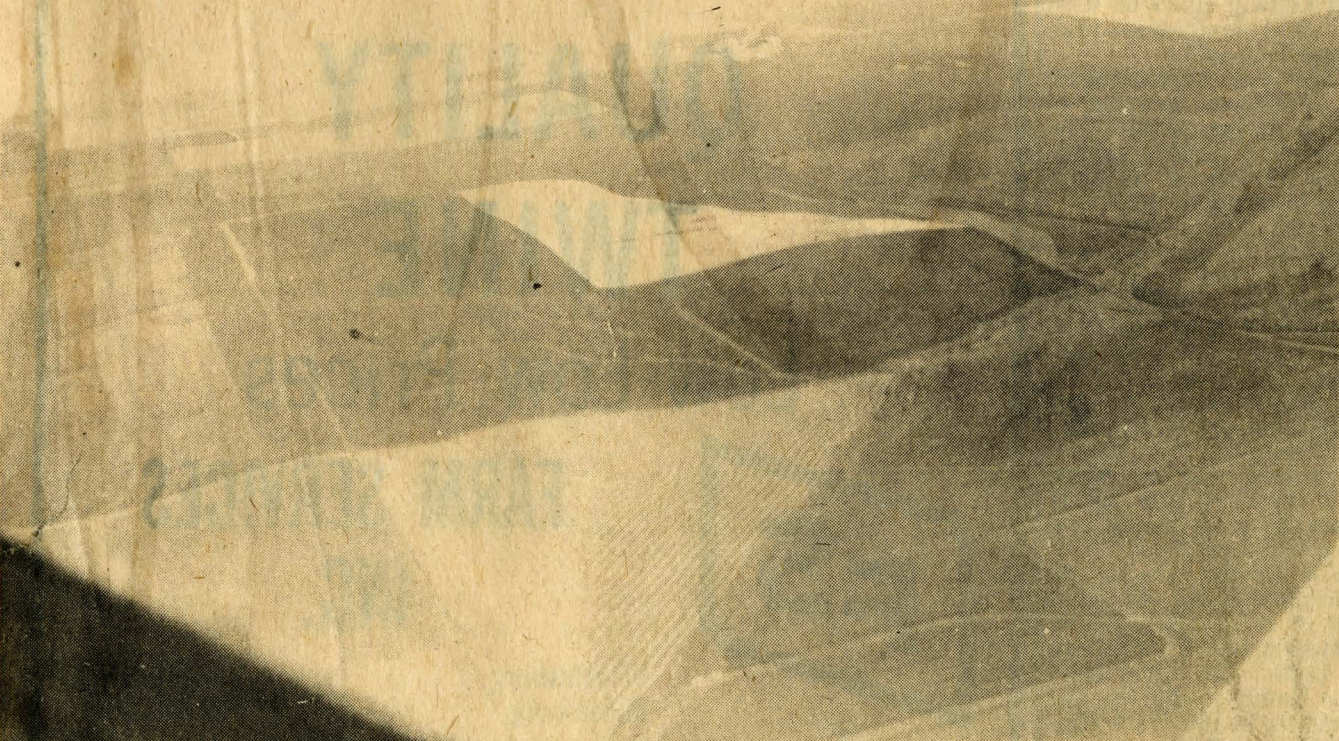
Backing Hobson is Gaylord Thayer, Hardin county director of the federal soil program, who said Hobson's sloping land is a "high priority" area for conservation. William Greiner, Iowa soil conservation executive director, chips in with this support: It "would be difficult to recruit highly qualified soil commissioners if commissioners were barred from participating in state or federal soil cost-sharing programs."

Now back to Hobson for further enlightenment: "... We run

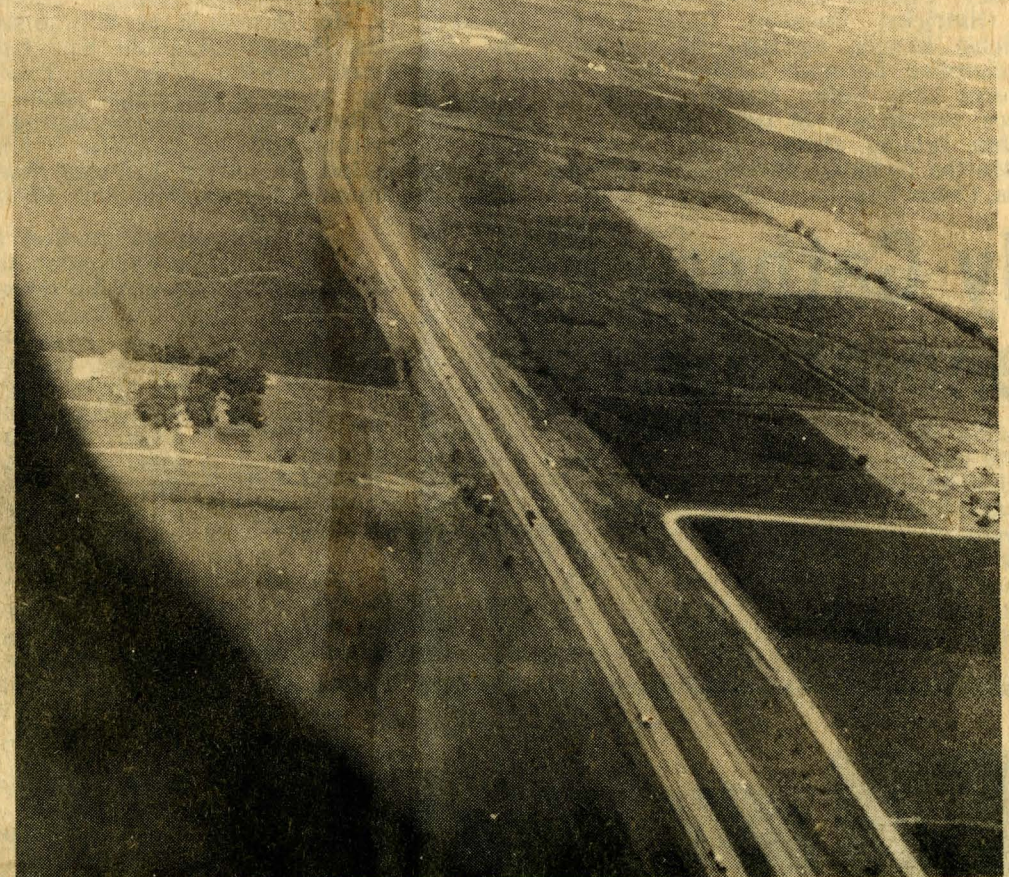
Soil Conservation Service
P.O. Box 210
Williamsburg, Ia. 52361



IS WEST VIEW — Contour fields and woodlands mark this view of southwestern part of Iowa county along the route of the Black Diamond trail, west of Millersburg.



PRACTICE CONSERVATION — An air tour Sunday of Iowa county was evidence of soil conservation projects spread out throughout the county. Streams, creeks, terraces and contour farming in addition to woodlands form colorful patterns during mid summer. View is route from Marengo to Millersburg.



DIVIDES COUNTY — Interstate 80 bird's eye view of conservation programs in area.

The NEWSpapers of Iowa County

The Journal-Tribune

The Pioneer-Republican

Williamsburg

Marengo

Section B

Thursday, July 22, 1976

1B

FORM LAND PATTERNS — A flight conservation tour Sunday, July 18, taken by 94 Iowa county residents was sponsored by Soil Conservation service for inspection of soil erosion efforts established by land owners. Land patterns during oat harvest season offered a picturesque view. Trips were 20 minutes with schedule 9 a.m. through 4:30.

Warm Season Grasses Produces Quality Forage

A group of 30 Iowa county cattlemen, agri-business and conservation officials toured Union and Ringgold counties warm season grass plots and pastures Thursday, July 15.

The group left the Landmark bus stop at 6:30 a.m. and arrived in Creston at 10:30 a.m. to begin tour planned by Union county extension service and soil conservation service.

Robert Loudon, SCS, explained there is over 2,000 acres of warm season grass pastures being utilized by cow-calf or yearling operations in southern Iowa.

Warm season grasses have a potential of filling the grazing gap in the July-August period and produc-

ing quality forage from early May until late fall or early winter, according to farmers who have success with programs. Farmers have been able to do this by using a combination of cool-season and warm season grasses.

Grass species on trial here are switchgrass, Indian grass and big bluestem. Of these the one showing most promise is switchgrass which is most tolerant in chemical weed control using Atrazine and 2-4-D.

Stops were made at farms with established pastures since 1972, with various chemical controls and a new seeding being established.

A stop at the bull test station was of interest to cow-calf producers where weaned calves were pre-conditioned for feeder buyers.

Weight gains during the thirty day period ranged from 2.2 to 2.8 pounds per day while the calves were being processed and started on feed.

Bulls will be coming in on test this fall and from many areas of the country.

Last pasture stop was at the Iowa State University Beaconsfield experimental farm where the group viewed pasture trials of trefoil, creeping alfalfa, and other legumes. Also trials with use of sudan and reed canary grass were discussed.

In the evening the Union County Cattlemen and district commissioners hosted the group to a hamburger fry at the Afton Country club.

Prizes Are Cash - -

Set Conservation Theme Speech, Essay Contests

"Soil Conservation - Life-line to Continued Prosperity" will be the topic for the 1976 soil conservation speech contest to be sponsored by the Iowa county soil conservation district.

The contest is open to all senior high school students as well as 1976 high school graduates that reside in Iowa county. Contest will be held Oct. 6. County prizes are \$15, \$10, and \$5 for first, second and third placings.

An essay contest on the same topic has been added this year on the county level for junior high students who reside in the county. Each school will be limited to three essays to be entered in county competition. Each entrant will read their essay the night of the contest. Prizes for this contest will be \$10, \$7.50 and \$5 for first, second and third placings.

The winner of the local speech contest will ad-

vance to the regional competition which will be held in November. Regional contest prizes will consist of \$30, \$20 and \$15 for first, second and third placings respectively. One \$10 merit award recipient per region may be selected at the discretion of the judges. An eligible recipient is limited to an outstanding contestant who has not entered the tenth grade by the time of the regional contest.

The regional and state levels of the contest are co-sponsored by the ladies auxiliary of the Iowa association of soil conservation district commissioners and the Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance company, Grinnell.

The state contest will be held on Nov. 29, at the annual conference for soil conservation district commissioners in Des Moines.

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Anyone interested in entering the speech contest may obtain contest information from the Iowa county soil conservation district office or the nearest vocational agricultural department.

Iowa County Farmer 9-16-76

Give Advantages Of Conservation Tillage

Conservation tillage is especially important because of increasing acres being row cropped. During past 35 years, row cropping has increased at expense of small grains, hay and pasture crops.

Erosion hazard is increasing because land not suited to intensive row cropping is being put to such use, according to Min Amemiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State University.

Lack of snow cover last winter plus heavy spring rains caused excessive runoff and soil erosion on many 1976 corn and soybean fields. This summer, drouth was a problem in many parts of the state.

Weather extremes point to need for effective soil and water conservation. One way of minimizing excess runoff and erosion is to adjust tillage practices.

On level to gently sloping land proper choice of tillage sequences and implements can control soil erosion. On steeply sloping land, conservation tillage enhances effectiveness of other soil conservation practices such as contouring, terracing, grass waterways and diversions necessary to control

erosion under intensive row cropping.

Crop residue left on the soil surface helps control erosion. Amount of crop residue remaining depends on type of tool used, explains Amemiya. Residue may be completely buried by moldboard plowing or partially incorporated with a chisel, disk, field cultivator, rotary tiller, or till planter. Soil may be left intact with slot planting technique.

A rough, mulch-covered soil surface reduces runoff and soil erosion. Rough soil surface traps water in small depressions. Mulch intercepts raindrops and slows water runoff. There is less runoff, more water intake and less soil loss.

On level land subject to wind erosion, Amemiya says a rough mulch-covered soil surface reduces soil losses by protecting the surface from wind action and altering wind velocity as it blows over the surface.

Some form of conservation tillage should be a part of most Iowa farms, says Amemiya. Conservation tillage will maintain productivity of Iowa soil to meet demands for crop production, and help keep sed-

Bill Failor, Ankeny, has a tomato bed that is four feet wide and 50 feet long and has already yielded 1,200 pounds of Big Boy tomatoes, with another 800 pounds expected. The secret is in the way he plants them, in 5-foot high by about 14" diameter large-gauge wire racks anchored to steel posts. Each rack has four tomato seedlings planted within it. -- Ankeny Press-Citizen.

Funds Are Limited - - Agencies Agree Conservation Practices Should Be Implemented

By Loretta Hanson

Soil conservation measures have been in use for unnumbered years to aid in preserving the valuable and unreplaceable top soil. In the United States soil conservation has not been widely practiced in some areas — more land was always available elsewhere.

Now with most of the arable land under tillage, farmers have begun an attempt to save their most valuable commodity — the land. They are hampered by the cost of implementing adequate procedures by the cost and the lack of government funds with which to do the work according to Carl Lantz and Harry Bryant, both county conservation officials.

According to Iowa county soil conservationist Harry Bryant there are 373,760 acres of land in the county. Of this number 79 percent is crop land; 5 percent is urban, 6 percent is pasture and 2 percent is given over the river and creek beds, roads, etc.

Over 200,000 of those acres need treatment to preserve the soil, according to Bryant. Only 10 percent of land in the county has "no real soil erosion problem," he said, while 15 percent of it is being used to grow crops when it is best suited to permanent cover.

In between 12 percent of the soil in the county is sub-

ject to moderate erosion; 20 percent has a wetness hazard, for example river bottom land; 36 percent is subject to severe erosion and 7 percent has the hazard of very severe erosion.

The cost, Bryant said, to implement adequate soil conservation measures per acre is about \$200; that figure includes just cropland, not pastureland or land slated for urban development.

This year \$41,000 has been allocated through the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) to 20 Iowa county farmers to undertake soil conservation projects. The volume of soil conservation work is above average in the county, Bryant thinks, but noted the funds available are not sufficient to take care of the total problem.

Office In County

The SCS office in Williamsburg is a state unit designed to aid state and federal agencies with soil conservation. The office, which includes Lennis Doehrmann, office assistant, and Clement McBride, technician, in addition to Bryant, also does survey design and certification for both the soil conservation service and the agricultural stabilization and conservation committee office which is also located in Williamsburg.

Although the SCS is a state unit, Bryant and McBride are paid by the United States department of agriculture; while Mrs. Doehrmann is paid by the state department of soil conservation.

The soil commissioners in the county set the priorities for conservation work to be done in the county. Right now, Bryant remarked, the emphasis is on terraces, control dams, windbreaks, grassed waterways and critical area seedings.

The SCS, he noted, provide funds only for permanent erosion control devices.

Bryant remarked, the SCS is "interested in getting adequate treatment on the ground."

The emphasis on what method of soil conservation is used changed about five or six years ago, he added. Previous to that time rotation of crops was a primary form of erosion control. Now farmers have begun to farm fence row to fence row, and the SCS has changed

ed their emphasis to terracing and other permanent devices.

Maintain Projects

The SCS program is primarily a cost sharing. SCS can fund up to 50 percent of project although with the demand for the funds this is not always the case. An agreement between the farmer and the SCS stays with the farm even though the farmer might be sold. The farmer also agrees to maintain the control devices for 10 years. Bryant said he does check to make sure

SCS funded project are being maintained.

Bryant said additional funds and additional employees are needed in the office if more soil conservation work is going to be done. Without more of both, he added the work-load cannot be increased.

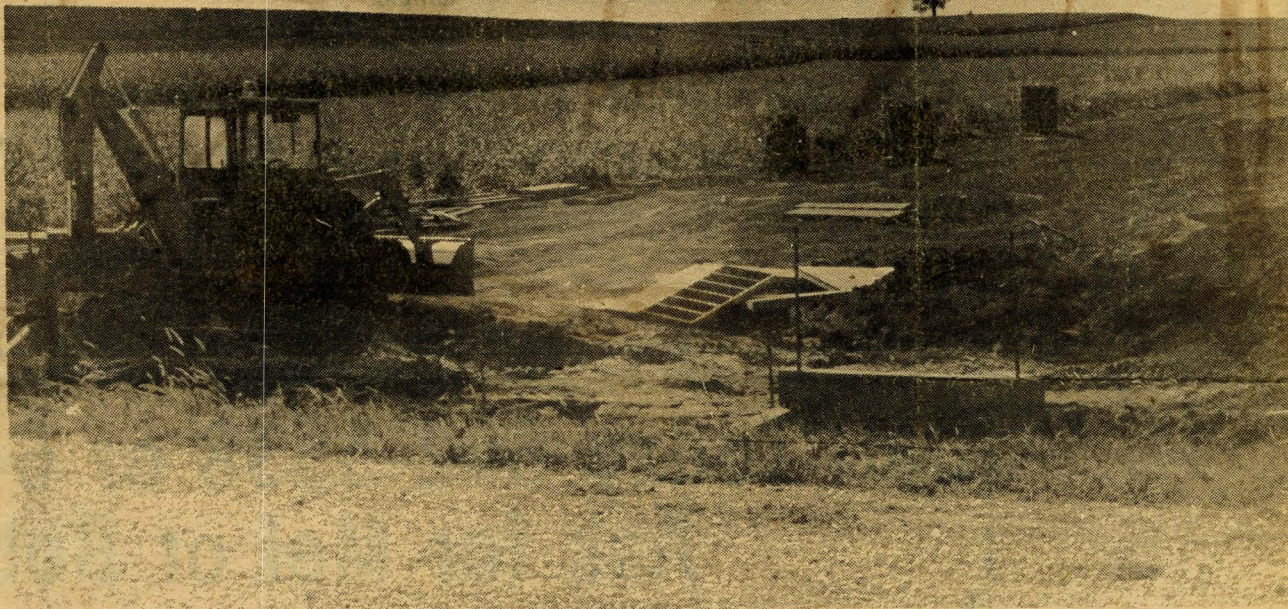
He is not optimistic about the chances of getting any more of either.

Iowa-Cedar Basin

The Iowa-Cedar river basin plan may also make a difference in the county's soil conservation practices. The plan has as its goal water that is unpolluted by 1984.

"We'll never make it", Bryant commented, "but some progress will be made."

Informational meeting about the pollution problems in the county will be held this winter, Bryant said. In Iowa county one of the major problems is sedimentation. (Continued on page 18)



WORK CONTINUES — Work continues on the Alma Heitman farm in Sumner township where nine area farmers working together are undertaking a large soil con-

servation project involving a large concrete structure to slow soil erosion.



LANTZ IS ASC DIRECTOR — Carl Lantz is the director of the Iowa county agricultural stabilization and conservation office in Williamsburg. In addition to the office's work with soil conservation they also administer disaster relief, work with the civil defense department and act to provide information to soil conservation service and Farmers Home administration.

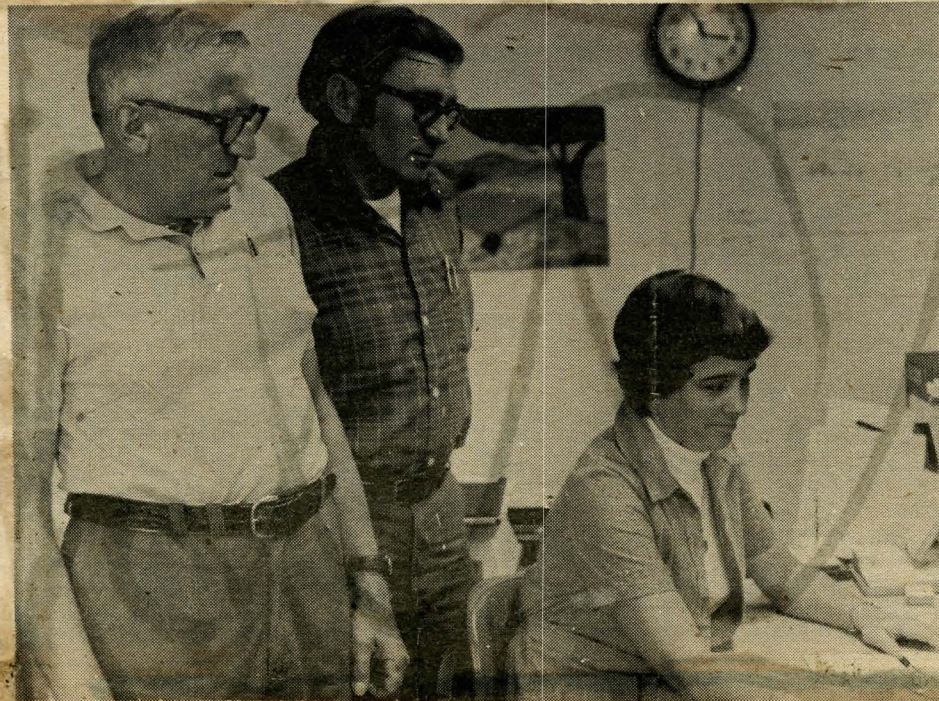
Thursday, Sept. 16, 1976

This year for the first time the election for soil commissioner will be on the ballot in November. Richard Mouchka who has been serving has elected not to run for another term.

According to the county auditor's office Greg Mischbach, rural Marengo, has filed his nomination papers for the position. The filing deadline was Sept. 8.

Fred White, Parnell, is the county soil commissioners chairman. Others are Keith Enochson, Vernon Sandersfeld, Larry Beyer and David McCartney.

9-16-76



Agencies- -

(Continued from page 12)

ment, which is created by soil erosion, according to Bryant.

What is to be done about it will be decided by county residents. The river basin plan calls for local people to decide what the problems are and how they should be solved.

The SCS, function, at first, Bryant remarked, will be to educate people to the problems.

WORK AT SCS OFFICE — Clement McBride, Harry Bryant and Lennis Doehrmann are employed at the SCS office in Williamsburg. Bryant is the soil conservationist and McBride a technician. Mrs. Doehrmann is the office secretary.

Fall Harvest! Soil Conservation



As we move into the harvest season, it's time not only to think of this year's crop, but also of ways to improve your farm and productivity. One way is through planned and wise conservation practices. Improving your land adds value to the land and increases your productivity.

Another way is through an Iowa County Savings Bank FARM LOAN. We've been making them for many years. We've progressed with agricultural technology and helped make farming in Iowa County what it is today. And we will continue to provide service to this vital industry. Stop in and visit with us soon.

Iowa County Savings Bank

"Helping Build A Better County"

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Marengo

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Approve Patrol Not Originally Bid - -

Board Okays Amana Streets, Considers Space, Budget

After two motions that failed to get seconds, the county board of supervisors decided Tuesday to buy a motor patrol the use of which will cost \$27,370 for five years.

The machine is a Champion 740 and will be bought from Graham Equipment Company, Des Moines.

The two motions that failed to get seconds concerned buying another machine, the Champion 720 and calling for re-bids for the motor patrol.

Supervisor Bernie Elwood made the motion calling for re-bids. He was concerned that if the supervisors accepted the Graham bid, it could be considered unfair.

Supervisors originally had called for bids for a smaller machine and engine than that of the 740. The bids were read Aug. 12.

County Engineer Nord Sorensen said he looked into the possibility of buying the 740 after he determined that the price to buy the larger machine would not be much more than prices quoted in the bids.

At the Tuesday meeting, Sorensen said he would recommend the Champion

740 because of its bigger engine and heavier transmission.

"The 740 is the best value we could get, even though the bid was turned in after all bidding was done," Sorensen said.

The 740 would cost \$4,235 more than the Champion 720 for five years and \$1,522 less than an articulated machine, according to Sorensen.

Elwood then said he thought the board should call for bids again, because the specifications were changed.

"We aren't playing the game fair-calling for bids and then later telling them (the equipment dealers) they're bidding on the wrong stuff," he said.

Chairman Ed Shima agreed saying, "We're changing the rules, but if we did call for bids again, they'd bid on the same machine and the figures would be about \$5,000 more (than the 740)."

Supervisor Dale Mayberry said "They're (the bidders) going to holler 'foul ball' either way, if they were going to holler, which they won't do."

He added if bids were called again and the speci-

cations were changed to suit the 740, Champion could raise the price because no one else would bid.

"I don't think we'd be cheating anybody," Sorensen said. "I feel it's a fairly decent quotation."

The motion was made by Shima to buy the Champion 740 and it passed two to one. Elwood voted no.

In other action, the board voted to approve a revised 1976 secondary road budget presented by Sorensen.

Revise Budget

His department needed to revise the budget, Sorensen said, because \$100,000 was added to the budget from revenue sharing.

Estimated total receipts are \$2,174,530. This is up from 1975 estimated receipts of \$1,999,302.42.

Estimated expenditures for the year must equal the total receipts.

Proposed expenditures for 1976 include \$76,000 for administrative, up from \$49,990; \$90,000 for engineering, up from \$89,766; \$581,000 for adjusted construction program, up from \$370,488; \$650,000 for maintenance down from \$683,308; \$56,000 for traffic services and traffic control, up from \$54,214; \$246,700 for new equipment, up from \$242,067; \$279,000 for equipment operation, down from \$303,326; \$187,000 for tool, material and supply, up from \$84,554; \$4,000 for property and assessments, down from \$17,054.

Amana Streets

The board drafted a letter to the Amana road committee saying Sorensen plans to oil 1,700 feet of Lakeside street, 625 feet of Colonial street and 750 feet of Manor street in Middle with bituminous seal coat and chips. The approximate cost is \$3,500.

The letter was in response to a meeting two weeks ago with members of the Amana street committee - Don Shoup, Ivan Reihmann and Alex Meyer - in which the committee asked that streets scarified earlier this summer be oiled.

Sorensen told the board, "I very definitely feel this is not right."

The supervisors also sent a letter to Carl Oehl, who had asked the county to repair holes in the loop around the post office in South Amana, noting the loop was not part of the county road system.

The board said the county is responsible for two lanes into the loop, but not the loop itself.

*The supervisors met with Harry Bryant, county soil

conservationist, about possible uses for funds earmarked by the federal government for fighting non-point pollution.

The funds are available under federal law 208 which includes the Iowa-Cedar River basin plan.

Bryant said the guidelines on use of the funds are not yet firm and the exact amount which will be available is not yet known; however, he added, it can be used for seeding road ditches and in county-owned recreation areas for seeding. It can't be used on private property.

The board instructed Sorensen to work with Bryant in submitting possible projects for use of the funds.

The monies will come through the soil conservation service and are for 100 percent of the total project.

Consider Space

The supervisors looked over the upstairs of the Gode building in Marengo, Tuesday afternoon as a possible site for the county engineer's office. They have noted the office needs approximately 2,000 square feet to house all members of the staff.

Sorensen was instructed to begin checking on what work would have to be done at the Gode building if it were to be the site of the engineer's office. The board noted no decision has been made on where the engineer's office will be moved.

The board also decided to ask the Marengo city council for eight reserved parking spaces near the Gode building for engineering staff and county residents wishing to speak with the engineer, should the building eventually be rented by the county.

Conroy Paving

The second Conroy paving project would cost about \$64,000 which includes grading and surfacing, Sorensen said. He noted he has met with residents in Conroy in the proposed assessment district for the paving.

They apparently wish to go ahead with a paving project, paying about 75 percent of the cost of the surfacing.

According to Sorensen, the first Conroy assessment district paid 85 percent of the surfacing cost and 56 percent of the total project cost; the total cost includes grading.

He told the board the second assessment district is included in the budget they approved during the morning session.

(Please turn to page 12)

THE IOWA COUNTY Advertiser

303 Highland (Hiway 149) Williamsburg, Iowa 52361 Phone 319-668-1030

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AMANA OKTOBERFEST
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
OCTOBER 1 & 2



VOLUME 11 NO. 50

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1976

PUBLISHED BY BULLERS' LITHO

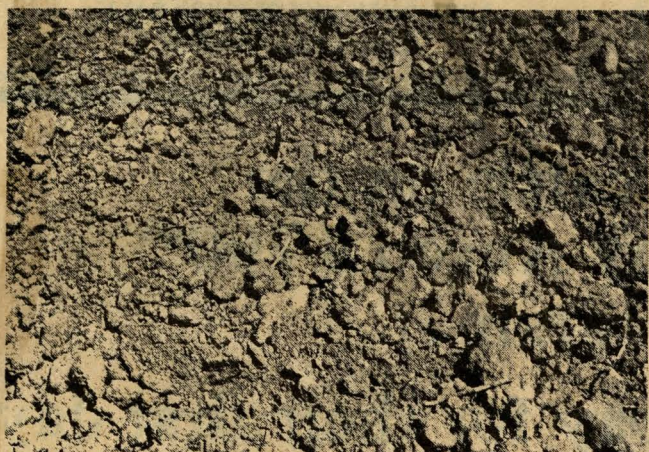
LEAVE IT ON TOP! CROP RESIDUE SAVES SOIL

Here's how much it takes to protect against erosion

Raindrops from a one-inch rain on one acre of bare soil produce energy to $\frac{1}{2}$ ton of TNT! Cornstalks or crop residue on top the ground soften the blow, saving soil.

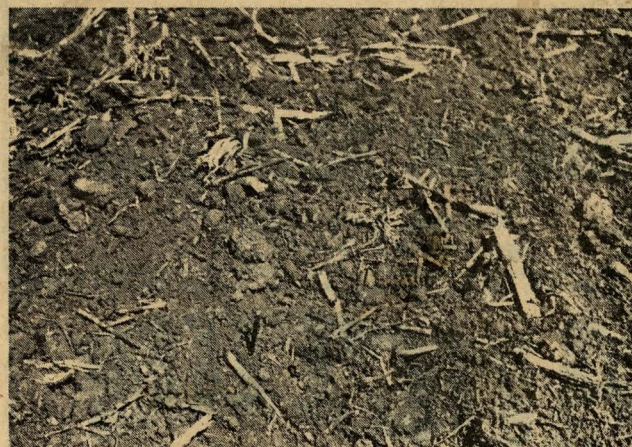
For a good job of erosion control, from both wind and water, you need at least 3000 lb. of residue per acre. That's about the amount shown at the right. It cuts soil losses in half, and works even better with contouring and terracing.

The photos below will give you an idea of what the various amounts of residue look like. More specific information on conservation tillage in Iowa County, is available at your local Iowa County Soil Conservation District office in Williamsburg, Iowa.



No residue

Conventional plowing leaves little or no residue on the soil surface.



1500 pounds per acre

At least this much residue must be left to save soil with conservation tillage.



3000 pounds per acre

This amount of residue cuts soil loss to $\frac{1}{2}$ that from conventional forms of tillage.



5000 pounds per acre

On longer and steeper slopes, more residue is needed to control erosion.



IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

WILLIAMSBURG, IOWA

IOWA COUNTY ADVERTISER Williamsburg, Iowa Thursday, Sept. 30 Soil Conservation Speech & Essay Contest To Be Held

"Soil Conservation -- Lifeline to Continued Prosperity" will be the topic for the 1976 Soil Conservation Speech Contest to be sponsored by the Iowa County Soil Conservation District. The contest is open to all senior high school students as well as 1976 high school graduates that reside in Iowa County. The contest will be held Oct. 6, 1976. County prizes are \$15, \$10 & \$5 for first, second and third placings.

An essay contest on the same topic has been added this year on the county level for junior high students who reside in the county. Each school will be limited to 3 essays to be entered in county competition. Each entrant will read their essay the night of the contest. Prizes for this contest will be \$10, \$7.50 and \$5 for first, second and third placings.

The regional and state levels of the contest are co-sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company, Grinnell, Iowa.

The winner of the local speech contest will advance to the regional competition which will be held in November. Regional contest prizes will consist of \$30, \$20 and \$15 for first, second, and third placings respectively. One \$10 Merit Award recipient per region may be selected at the discretion of the judges. An eligible recipient is limited to an outstanding contestant who has not entered the tenth grade by the time of the regional contest.

The state contest will be held on Nov. 29, 1976, at the Annual Conference for Soil Conservation District Commissioners in Des Moines, Iowa. The first place winner in the state contest will receive a \$300 college scholarship and \$110 in cash. The second and third place awards in the state contest will consist of \$85 and \$60 in cash respectively.

Anyone interested in entering the 1976 Soil Conservation Speech Contest may obtain contest information from the Iowa County Soil Conservation District office or the nearest Vocational Agriculture Department. The sponsors encourage all youths, whether rural or urban, to enter this very educational and rewarding contest.

Lamar Shima Wins Iowa County Speech Contest

WILLIAMSBURG — Lamar Shima of Marengo won the Iowa soil conservation district speech contest held at Williamsburg Wednesday.

Arlin Karsten of Marengo won second and Kenneth Ward of Marengo placed third.

All three boys attend the Iowa Valley Community high school and were coached by Andy Rowe, their vocational agricultural instructor.

Joan Welsh and Kathy Davis, both of Williamsburg, received fourth and fifth places respectively. Shima will represent Iowa county at the regional speech contest to be held in November. The winner in the regional contest will advance to the state

contest to be held November 30 in Des Moines. The topic of the speech is "Soil Conservation, Lifeline to Continued Prosperity".

Trophies were provided to the top three winners and the Iowa soil conservation district gave cash prizes of \$20, \$15 and \$10 for the three top places.

The regional and state contest is sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Assn. of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company. Cash prizes in the regional and state contest total \$1,230.

A new contest was tried this year for junior high level

students. Nine junior high students from Amana Community, Deep River-Millersburg and Williamsburg Community schools participated in this contest.

This contest was an essay written on the same subject as the speech contest by the student and read to the judges. Each school was limited to three entries.

Angela Bendorf, Amana Community, was awarded first place. Twinkle Dawson and Brenda Arp, Williamsburg Community, received second and third places respectively.

Other contestants were Julie Ohler and Lori Hahn, Amana Community, Joe Welsh, Williamsburg Community, Charlene Collingwood, Carol Lacina and Warren Jordon of Deep River-Millersburg.

Prizes of \$10, \$7.50 and \$5 were given to the top three places by the Iowa soil conservation district.

Judges for the contest were Sam Buck, Farmers Trust & Savings bank, Corrine Tandy, elementary principal of Deep River-Millersburg school, and Lowell McKean, Iowa county extension director.

The timer was Betty Mouchka of Marengo. Prizes were presented by Keith Enchson, Iowa county soil commissioner.

Pioneer-Republican 9-16-76

Editorials

Soil Saving Is Tremendous Responsibility

Soil conservationists have talked for years about the fact that soil erosion hurts everyone from the landowner down to the child in the supermarket who depends on the farmer for food.

On that same basis soil conservation helps everyone in the present and in the future.

It follows then, that everyone should do his or her share to save Iowa's most valuable commodity - the land. Conservationists have repeatedly said everyone benefits, and everyone should pay their share for keeping the soil productive.

Iowa is unique in being the only state to provide state tax money for cost-sharing on soil conservation, but the tax money alone isn't enough to protect all the land needing care to prevent erosion. Some of it has to come out of the farmer's pocket.

The state legislature appropriated \$4,000,000 to be spent this year on 50 percent cost-share basis with landowners. On a \$3,000 terrace job, for instance, the farmer would pay \$1,500 and the state would pay an equal amount.

Since the state cost-share program was initiated in 1973, \$10,500,000 has been appropriated by the Iowa general assembly for use in conjunction with the program.

Funds are allocated to individual soil conservation districts on a conservation needs basis. The Iowa county soil conservation district has received \$173,682 from the program.

These funds are in addition to federal monies already coming into Iowa through the agriculture conservation program administered by county committees of the agriculture stabilization and conservation service.

These incentives for soil conservation are actually a way of having society pay for its share of the cost of saving the soil. It is a "pay now or pay later" situation, and if a "pay later" situation occurs, the cost may be tremendous.

Can you imagine what it would be like with no topsoil? That would mean no good lakes - all would

be filled with sediment; poor water quality - sediment is the county's number one pollutant; a scarcity of food; poverty - farmers depend on good soil for a living; and an economic slump - agriculture is our leading export business.

We so often take our soil for granted; but we shouldn't. We have lost half the topsoil in Iowa on unprotected sloping land. We have only six to eight inches of topsoil left on those lands, and we are losing another inch every 12 years.

In another generation of farming our topsoil could be gone from unprotected sloping land.

The county has experienced severe erosion in the last several years. We would encourage landowners to take advantage of state and federal programs to save the soil and encourage the program to continue at a faster pace than in the past.

State and federal incentive programs, however, are not going to provide the entire solution to the soil erosion problem. Those farming the land have to have enough pride in their farm to institute adequate soil conservation practices with or without doses of federal or state aid.

What does a farmer have to leave the next generation of his family if the soil on the family farm is gone? There are a number of farms in the county which were honored this year as having been in the same family for over 100 years. Will they endure another 100 years?

No, not with a topsoil loss of an inch every twelve years. Practicing soil conservation, although it costs money that might well be spent somewhere else, shows pride in the land and faith in the future.

Our topsoil is a legacy which can only be preserved with the institution of good soil conservation procedures. It is an irreplaceable legacy and each farm owner and/or operator should, with a sense of pride, do what he has to do to preserve his most valuable asset.



— Gazette photo by Al Swegle

Four high school students judged soils at the Johnson county fairground in Iowa City as a soil conservation official, Bill Mulder of Iowa City, second from right, supervised. The students are, left to right, John Ivory, 16, of Washington, Polly Autrey, 17, of Tiffin, Andy Stimmel, 17, of Tiffin, and Duane Hammen, 14, of Washington. The judging took place as part of the annual three-county contest sponsored by soil districts in Iowa, Johnson, and Washington counties.

Mid-Prairie Again Tops Soil Judging Event

IOWA CITY — Two Future Farmers of America (FFA) teams from Mid-Prairie high school at Wellman again dominated the tricounty soil judging contest held at the Johnson county fairground here Tuesday afternoon.

Mid-Prairie teams won both the junior and senior divisions of the contest, repeating the school's win of a year ago when there was only one division in the contest.

A junior division was added to the contest this year to attract novice entries, but ironically a first-time competitor, Duane Hammen of Washington, scored higher in the junior division than the senior winner, Keith Hotz of Lone Tree.

Hammen scored 269 points while Hotz scored 242 points.

Some 79 members of eight FFA chapters from Iowa, Johnson and Washington counties competed in the contest. Competitors were asked to rate soils at three sites and to complete a written examination. Each section of the contest took ten minutes to complete.

Members of the first-place senior team from the Mid-Prairie FFA chapter included: Tim Krabill, Ed Chabal and John Gent. The second-place senior team from the Keota FFA chapter included: Nick Weber, Mark Hahn and Kenny Gretter.

Members of the first-place junior team from Mid-Prairie included: Lyle Stutzman, Joe Griffith and Errol Bontrager. The second-place team from Washington included: Hammen, Ron Fee and Joe Rosien.

Entries in the contest doubled over last year. A total of 26 teams competed in this year's contest compared with 12 teams a year ago.

Eight of the 10 schools invited to compete in the contest sent representatives. Schools represented in the contest included: Clear Creek at Tiffin, Benton Community at Van Horne, Iowa Valley at Marengo, Mid-Prairie at Wellman, Solon, Keota, Washington and Lone Tree.

The contest is sponsored by the Iowa, Johnson and Washington county soil conservation districts.

Newspapers of Iowa County
10-14-76

Nine Compete In Soil Judging Contest

Nine Iowa Valley vocational agriculture students took part in the Iowa, Johnson and Washington counties soil conservation judging contest at the Johnson county fairgrounds Tuesday.

Taking part were Kenneth Ward, Joel Smith, Arlin Karsten, Lamar Shima, Scott Stanerson, all juniors; Jerry McKusker, Tom Peska, Todd Rathjen, and Reo Straw, sophomores.

Other activities this week included the library staff district convention Tuesday, junior high football at Clear Creek on Wednesday; varsity football against English Valleys there Friday night, district boys cross country Saturday.

Next Monday, Oct. 18, junior varsity football will meet EV there, while there will be an invitation cross country track meet here Oct. 19. Junior high footballers will meet Williamsburg there Oct. 20.

Miller

Mrs. Ellis

The Daive Matthew and Hollywood, Cal ing relatives the Hugh M Lawrence Ber until Oct. 10. D ciated with the sen Co. whose ters are in Clin spending part there.

Mrs. Carro E her sister, M Mumm, Will spent last week Iowa, with t Edwards'.

The William T Mary were in burg Saturday WINNERS — I ing in the Ralph ck row, was na home. county soil

Mrs. Clarence TEST WAS NEW — Junior high Mrs. Dean C...ht, was sec aunts competed in an Iowa county soil conservation speech contest Oct. 6. Left to right are front row Angela Bendorf, first; Warren Jordan, Carol



Lacina, Charlene Collingwood, Brenda Arp, third; back row Lori Hahn, Julie Oehler, Joe Welsh and Twinkle Dawson, second.

Thurs., Oct. 14, 1976

The Newspapers of Iowa County 11B

Lamar Shima Wins Soils Speech Contest

Lamar Shima, winner in Iowa county, Oct. 6, will advance to the regional Iowa soil conservation speech contest in November. Shima, an Iowa Valley high school junior, is the son of the Edward Shimas.

Arlin Karsten won second and Kenneth Ward placed third; they are also IV juniors. Andy Rowe, IV vocational agricultural instructor, was their coach.

Joan Welsh and Kathy Davis received fourth and fifth places respectively. They attend Williamsburg Community high school.

The winner in the regional contest will advance to the state contest Nov. 30 in Des Moines. The topic of the speech is "soil conservation lifeline to continued prosperity".

Patrons Mutual, Williamsburg, provided trophies to the top three winners and the Iowa soil conservation district gave cash prizes of \$20, \$15 and \$10 for the three top places.

The regional and state contest is sponsored by the ladies auxiliary of the Iowa association of soil conservation district commis-

sioners and Grinnell Mutual reinsurance company. Cash prizes in the regional and state contest total \$1,230.

A new contest was held for junior high students. Nine junior high students from Amana community, Deep River-Millersburg, and Williamsburg community schools participated. This contest was an essay written on the same subject as the speech contest by the student and read to the judges. Each school was limited to three entries.

Angela Bendorf, Amana community, was awarded first place. Twinkle Dawson and Brenda Arp, Williamsburg community, received second and third places respectively. Other contestants were Julie Oehler and Lori Hahn, Amana community; Joe Welsh, Williamsburg community; Charlene Collingwood, Carol Lacina, and Warren Jordan, Deep River-Millersburg.

Prizes of \$10, \$7.50 and \$5 were given to the top three places by the Iowa soil conservation district.

Judges for the contest were Sam Buck, Farmers Trust and Savings bank; Corrine Tandy, elementary principal of DR-M school, and Lowell McKean, Iowa county extension director. Timer was Betty Mouchka, Marengo. Prizes were presented by Keith Enochson, Iowa SCD commissioner.

Newspapers of Iowa County 10-28-76

Avoid Erosion Problems - -

Give Tips For Fall Tillage

An earlier-than-usual harvest this year means farmers have more time for working their land this fall. But, Lowell McKean, Iowa county extension director warns, fall plowing or disking encourages soil erosion.

Min Amemiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State university, has suggestions for avoiding potential serious erosion problems that can occur between harvest and the time next year's crop covers the ground:

Following soybeans: Don't use a moldboard plow or disk. Fall disking after soybeans can cause erosion as severe as that following fall moldboard plowing.

If fall tillage is necessary, use a chisel plow. Leave the soil as rough and with as much residue on the surface as possible.

Chisel sloping fields along the contour of the land - a chisel operated up-and-down hill will invite severe water erosion because the furrows left by the chisel provide channels for water flow.

If a chisel-type tool is not available, delay all tillage until spring. Untilled soybean stubble can control soil movement. "There is little to gain by fall tillage of soybean ground, but much to lose through soil

erosion," Amemiya said.

Following corn: Operate a chisel or disk so that the soil is left as rough and with as much residue on the surface as possible. Work sloping land on the contour.

A disk is not as effective as a chisel for erosion control because it buries more residue. Disking is better than complete incorporation of residue as with a moldboard plow.

A chisel plow with straight shanks can leave as much as 75 percent of the crop residue on the soil surface. With curved shovels, about 50 to 60 percent of the residue will remain on the surface.

A disk will leave 25 to 50 percent of the residue on the surface. All of the residue can be incorporated with a moldboard plow.

In general: Limit fall moldboard plowing to fields that have little erosion hazard. Plow the land rough, leaving some residue sticking out. Make no further smoothing operations.

Plow gently sloping land on the contour. Do not moldboard plow slopes greater than 5 percent.

When moldboard plowing level to nearly level land subject to wind erosion, leave unplowed strips about 25 feet wide for every 100 to 125 feet of plowed ground. The unplowed strips will serve as windbreaks.

Don't moldboard plow soils low in organic matter or soils with a high silt content. These soils tend to run together and will require spring tillage anyway.

Leave sandy soils untilled in the fall. They are subject to severe wind erosion if fall tilled.

Spreads Work Load

The agronomist says that fall tillage spreads a farmer's work load and permits early spring planting. Without some fall tillage, all field work must be done in the spring. With some implements and on some soils,

fall tillage can open up the soil and make it more receptive to fall and winter rains to build up soil moisture reserves.

On heavy-textured and poorly drained soils, it may be nearly impossible to delay all tillage until spring and still get the soil in proper condition for timely planting. Some fall tillage is beneficial under those conditions.

Amemiya reminds farmers of the hazards of unnecessarily exposing soil over winter to possible water and wind erosion. Last season is a good example. Lack of snow cover and high winds caused much wind erosion early in 1976.

Most of the blowing soil came from fields that had been disked or moldboard plowed the previous fall, especially on land that had been in soybeans. Following that, heavy spring rains caused water runoff and soil erosion.



WERE WINNERS — Awards were made last week to those carrying out soil conservation practices on their farms. Left to right are Kenny Davis, Ladora, new co-operator; Richard Bean, Parnell, tenant, and F.W. Tomasek, Grinnell, owner in the owner-tenant divi-

sion; and Russell Pence, Keota, overall conservation winner. Group was cited for the practices on their farms including contour farming, grassed waterways, terraces, ponds and other erosion control devices.

Farm Bureau Spokesman 11-6-76

County FB awards plaque at county conservation banquet

Iowa County Farm Bureau awarded a plaque to Kenneth Davis, Ladora, for his conservation practices on his farm in Pilot township. This award, presented by Larry Beyer, Farm Bureau president, was given Mr. Davis at the annual conservation awards banquet on Wednesday evening, Oct. 20th. The banquet was held at the Middle America Restaurant at Williamsburg.

Kenneth Davis farms 185 acres just north of Lake, Iowa. He has a grain and livestock operation. Kenneth was the winner of the new cooperator award. He won this award by maintenance of 3.5 acres of grassed waterways and farming on the contour.

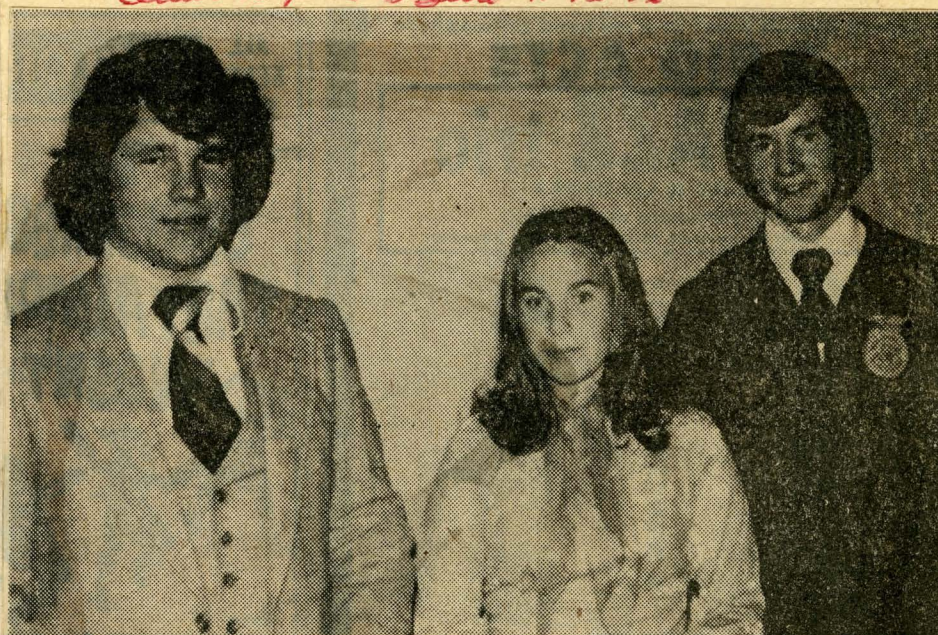
Some 2,650 feet of tile outlet terraces were constructed this year. Another 1,050 feet of tile was added to serve as terrace outlets. To be eligible for this award, a farm contestant must be a cooperator in the district for less than 2 years.

Other awards presented during the program were: Overall conservation winner went to Russell Pence, Leota. Owner-tenant division winners were F. W. Tomasek, Grinnell, and Richard Bean, Parnell. Classroom teaching award went to Mrs. Don Hammes, Sigourney, who teaches in the English Valley School in North English.



Award winners at the Iowa County Soil Conservation awards banquet held on Wednesday, Oct. 20th, shown here are left to right: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Davis, Richard Bean, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Tomasek and Russell Pence.

Cedar Rapids Gazette 11-12-76



— Photo by Doris McCartney, North English

Speech Winners

Winners in the east central Iowa regional soil conservation speech contest Monday night at the Highlander in Iowa City included this trio of high school teenagers. They are, left to right: Lamar Shima of Marengo, second place; Renie Baker, Muscatine, third place; and Curtis Stutzman, Wellman, first place. Shima is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Shima, Miss Baker is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Baker, and Stutzman is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Stutzman. Other speech contestants and the counties they represented included: Kevin Thompson, Benton county; Tom Pearce, Cedar county; Cindi DeCoster, Poweshiek; Mary Ford, Scott; and Tim Krabill, Washington.



— Gazette photo by Al Swegle

Terrace construction totals literally went off the chart compiled by the Iowa county soil conservation district office last year, but Iowa county farmers are half way to last year's totals in construction that has taken place since Oct. 1. Here Harry Bryant, right, county soil conservationist, shows the chart to a soil construction worker, Jim Jones, left, of Williamsburg.

Farm News

Iowa County Farmers Put In 12 Miles of Terraces

WILLIAMSBURG — Iowa county farmers have built 12 miles of tile-outlet terraces the past two months, and soil officials expect the county will run out of state cost-sharing money by the end of December.

"We've probably put in more terraces than that," the district soil conservationist, Harry Bryant of Williamsburg, added, "but we haven't had a chance to check other projects out yet."

Bryant is concerned that the county will spend \$59,000 in state cost-sharing funds in only six months. The state funds were allocated in July.

"We've turned down a lot of applications, including three farmers who were in just before you came," Bryant told The Gazette this week.

"I don't know how much money we could spend in the county on erosion control if we had it."

Bryant told of one Millersburg farmer who built 1,300 feet of tile-outlet terraces this year. State funds were available to match the money spent by the farmer on the project.

"He wanted to do more, so he's going ahead on his own," Bryant said. "He's building the terraces with his own tractor and scraper using our Soil Conservation Service design work."

Soil conservation activity picked up in Iowa county on Oct. 1, as farmers completed their harvesting activity. The federal government is also beginning its fiscal year Oct. 1.

During the past fiscal year, Iowa county farmers built some 105,000 feet of terraces. Since farmers there have already built 60,000 feet of terraces, Bryant expects to top the 100,000 feet mark by the end of December.

Iowa county farmers have built eight ponds since Oct. 1.

Although Bryant would like to have more state money available for soil conservation work, federal funds will be released about the first of January, so the soil conservation program in Iowa county probably will continue to set records next year.

Soil Project Handles 900 Acres

MARENGO — Raymond Heitman, 44, and his brother, Wayne, 27, can't use a ditch as a dividing line for farming one of the fields owned by their mother, Alma.

The ditch was closed up as part of a \$90,000 soil conservation project being conducted jointly by seven farmers nine miles south of Marengo.

At one time the ditch was the marshy area of the field, but now the ditch has been replaced by two lines of 12-inch tile. The tile on the Heitman place will be connected with tile lines on the Gordon McCaw, Ronald Mohr, Leroy Bral, Iva Lillie, and Milton Heitman places.

Eight Miles of Tiles

When completed a year or two from now, the project will drain a 900-acre watershed and will involve over six miles of terraces and over eight miles of tile lines.

The project is the largest to date in Iowa county.

Harry Bryant, Iowa county soil district conservationist, said the project has aroused the interest of other farmers downstream.

"They're talking about closing up the watershed over a three- or four-mile area towards the county home," Bryant explained. "This may be eight to ten years away, but it could make the total project one of the largest in the state."

The two Heitman brothers are sold on the benefits of the project, although they admitted the conservation work cost somewhat more than they first expected.

Drained a Trouble Spot

Raymond Heitman pointed to a third of an acre area on his farm which he said "hasn't been farmed since I bought the place in 1970." Heitman recalled getting a tractor and disk stuck in the area, "and I didn't think I could ever get it out."

Most hillsides in the watershed area will be protected by tile-outlet terraces, which funnel excessive runoff from the terraces underground through tile lines.

This eliminates the problem of ridging which occurred in grassed waterways from old-style terraces.

"The grassed waterway was established to replace a ditch, but, unfortunately, the grass would grow too thick in the center of the waterway, and the runoff would create two ditches down the side," Bryant explained.

"The farmer would end up with two ditches in place of one."

Commissioners Cited

The Heitmans said they became interested in the conservation project through the contact work done by two Iowa county soil commissioners, Fred White and Dick Mouchka.

The farmers held meetings last winter, and the soil commissioners helped arrange for state and federal financing of the project.

"Technically, the project is being financed on a 50-50 basis with farmers assuming half of the cost and the federal and state funds taking care of the other half," Bryant said.

"In actuality, the cooperating farmers will be assuming something like 65 to 70 percent of the cost, because most farmers want more conservation work done on their farms than just the group project."

Reason for Doing Project

One farmer downstream from the Heitman group project does his own conservation work. The farmer follows Soil Conservation Service guidelines, but he pays for the work done himself with no cost-sharing assistance.

Wayne Heitman had a simple answer to the question of why participate in such a large group project. Standing on top of the gravel road in front of the large 25-foot concrete structure that handles the runoff of all the drainage area, Heitman looked at the level ground put back in production by the conservation effort.

"That looks beautiful," Wayne said, "but just look on the other side of the road where no conservation work has been done. That's how our farm looked before the conservation work was started."



The dramatic effects of a soil conservation project can be shown in two farm scenes photographed across the road from each other. The two Heitman brothers — Wayne, right, and Raymond — stand in front of a new soil erosion control structure that replaced a ditch on their farm south of Marengo. In photo at right, the two brothers stand in a ditch across a gravel road where erosion has not been controlled.



