

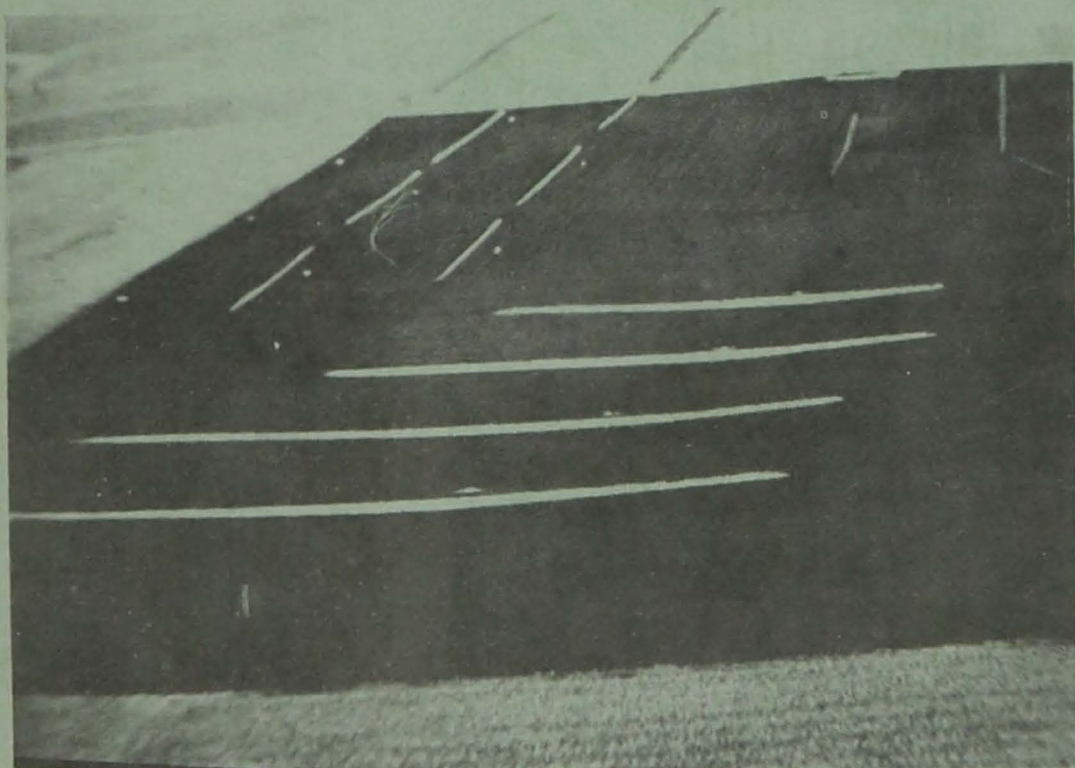
THIRTY-FIRST
Annual Report

1973

TAMA COUNTY SOIL
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TOLEDO, IOWA

PHONE 484-2702



This photo looks east on Rudy Havran's and Willard Hook's farms 4 miles north of Clutier on the paved road. The terraces show as white lines with the pipe intakes as white spots.

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FOREWARD

This report marks 31 years of organized conservation activities in Tama County. We appreciate those who saw the need for conservation in the time when it was less popular than it is today and laid the cornerstone for our program. We hope to carry the story to more in the future.

We appreciate the assistance and cooperation the district received from the ASCS Committee and staff, the Extension Service, Farmer's Home Administration, the State Conservation Commission, the County Engineer's Office, Board of Supervisors, the news media, the schools, banks and others.

We salute our contractors working in the county who make their business of installing our permanent practices. Their interest usually extends well beyond their personal gain and they become one of conservation's best boosters when convinced of conservation's value.



Commissioners; left to right - Harry Scurr, Welby Dixon, Ken Bruene, Harold Higgins, Forrest Hill and Robert Fontinel.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER VIEWPOINTS

It is pleasing to report that many permanent soil and water conservation practices have been added to Tama county farms this past year.

Much of this progress is due to the State cost-share funds that were made available to the districts.

Top priority was given to preserving our crop land in determining which projects would be approved for cost-share funds. Many of these projects have been the tile outlet terrace systems.

It is our goal to reach out to every landowner and farm operator in the county and offer assistance from the district in planning, applying, and maintaining necessary conservation practices. We must protect our most vital asset, Our Land.

Robert Fontinel

1974---The year when the first question asked by many was not "How much does it cost?" but rather "Can you get it for me?" This is a rather drastic change in the way we have to look at our business of farming and living in general. Shortages in fertilizer, gas, chemicals, bail twine, and on and on have begun to be felt on all the farms in the country with no end in sight.

Perhaps all the effects of the shortage situation will not be bad. It has brought into sharp focus the fact that mineral resources, fossil fuels and other needed items are finite things and will not go on indefinitely as we would like to hope. We hope that the problem is now being recognized in time for solutions to be found before a total breakdown occurs. Research, small sacrifices by all, conservation and wise usage of existing supplies will help.

This is part of the message that your Soil Conservation District has been trying to sell since it was established. Conserve what we have, use it wisely, use it for what it is best adapted with thought for the future. We must farm with the profit motive in mind but let's also remember the "good life" both for ourselves and the future generations.

Ken Bruene

Agriculture is being called upon to produce more food to supply world needs and as we produce more we must increase efforts to protect our soil through erosion control.

The potential for the preservation of renewable natural resources, namely soil, is only overshadowed by the energy crisis. This emphasizes the need for an intensified effort to protect this renewable natural resource.

Harold Higgins

Conservation of the Earths resource is everybodys business.

Wherever we live - in the city, on the farm, in the jungles of Africa, or the rice lands of Asia - our very life depends on a thin film of soil and the living things it supports.

Welby Dixon

The year 1974 promises to present many new problems for the farmers of our nation.

With the energy crisis and the rising cost of fuels our methods of crop production and pasture management should be well analyzed.

While planning the crop program for 74 think about using minimum tillage to help conserve fuel and also to help minimize soil loss.

For years the soil loss from rolling land, has posed a problem.

The erosion of the top soil on rolling land is comparable to the consumption of fossil fuels. As with fossil fuels, loss of valuable topsoil is an irreversible process. Through use of minimum tillage, terracing, strip-cropping and contouring, this soil loss can be held to a minimum.

To those who qualify, the State of Iowa offers assistance. The federal government is also working of a financial assistance program.

Though much emphasis has been placed on cropland acres, pasture ground and land not suitable for cropping require good management also. In some cases a pasture renovation may be required, in others the use of commercial fertilizers may increase the carrying capacity of the pasture.

Since fewer acres are available each year for agriculture purposes it is the responsibility of each and every farmer and land owner to get the most from their land.

The help of the office staff is available to those who wish such help. Stop in to inquire about the financial assistance program and also the possibility of having a farm plan drawn up.

Harry Scurr

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1973

July 1, 1972

June 30, 1973

	(UNIT)	(AMOUNT)	(TOTAL ON THE LAND)
District Cooperators	No.	44	916
Conservation Plan	No.	27	622
Plans Revised	No.	13	
Inventory & Evaluations	No.	4	
Inventory & Evaluations Resource Plan	No.	1	
Group Conservation Plan	No.	1	
PRACTICES APPLIED			
Conservation Cropping System	Ac.	5,469	300,285
Contour Farming	Ac.	1,264	82,434
Critical Area Planting	Ac.	17	116
Crop Residue Use	Ac.	2,358	398,870
Diversion	Lin. Ft.	2,250	111,747
Windbreak	No.	8	97
Fishpond Management	No.	7	52
Grade Stabilization Structure	No.	2	193
Minimum Tillage	Ac.	1,395	1,395
Pasture & Hayland Management	Ac.	3,105	8,281
Pasture & Hayland Planting	Ac.	1,546	5,011
Pipeline	Lin. Ft.	5,000	18,771
Spring Development	No.	1	5
Structure for Water Control	No.	133	177
Terrace Parallel	Lin. Ft.	61,415	108,081
Tree Planting	Ac.	3	114
Tile Drain	Ft.	244,149	3,570,282
Land Adequately Treated	Ac.	5,763	187,523
Grassed Waterway	Ac.	64	5,448

STATE BUDGET OF THE TAMA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1M & 1MA BUDGET

Commissioners Mileage	\$153.55
Office Supplies	\$134.45
Materials for Demonstration	\$ 55.20
Office Expense	\$556.78

2M BUDGET

State Clerk and Conservation Aide	\$14,382.00
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Office staff: left to right - Ted Hall, Paul Bruns, Audrey Wheeler and Robert Malin.

OTHER SCS PERSONNEL ASSISTING THE DISTRICT

KEITH GLANDON

Area Conservationist

MARVIN PARMER

Civil Engineer

FRANCIS VOS

Civil Engineering Tech.

WILMA D. KIMBALL

Area Clerk

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Bruce Morrison
Roger Kersey
Dale Jackson
Ernest Pokorny
Russell Squires
Shoupe Farms
Wilson Bros.
Clarence Sears
Brian Squires
Lyle White
Doris Horrigan
Darrell Hunnicutt
Raymond Rinnan
Frankie Nekola
Kenyon Hereford
M.H. Whittington
Marley Bacon
Ruth Koester

Koester Bros.
K.W. Gethmann
Larry Holst
Traer Country Club
Ed Novak
Vernon Wobbeking
George Lamb
Gerald Cooper
Richard Shaw
T & T Country Club
Randy Welton
Don Podhajsky
Vernon Hanus
Dick Frundle
Richard Chizek
Joe Stadler
John Mehlert
Bruce Otta
Nadine Lorenz
Ronald Plueger

BASIC FARM PLANS

For Fiscal Year of 1973

Wilson Bros.
Shoup Farms
Glen Church
Rex Sells
Gary Heineman
Richard Kvidera
Ernest Pokorny
Lyle White
Nadine Lorenz
Roger Kersey
M.H. Whittington
Kenyon Hereford Farms
Russell Squires
Larry Holst

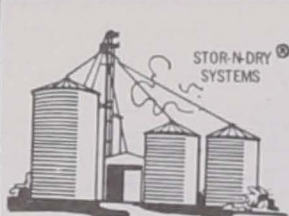
Howard Alcorn
Joe Boriskey
T & T Country Club
Otis Hilmer
Traer Country Club
Randy Welton
Gary Welton
Brian Squires
Bruce Otto
Wilbert Dostal
Clarence Sears
Ronald Plueger
Marshall Mussig

REVISIONS OF BASIC FARM PLANS

For Fiscal Year of 1973

Putney Farms
Welby Dixon
Harold Beichley
Robert Fontinel
Leroy Hoskey
Norman Hoskey
Toby Larson & Son

Robert Huhn
Don Dunham
Stanley Dostal
George Kos
Wilbert Dostal
Duane Theissen



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FARMING--JUST A BUSINESS?

(Dick Pulse, Extension Director)

From time to time economists, management specialists, successful farmers, and various "experts", compare farm operation with other ventures and conclude that "Farming is just like any other business."

Farming, they say, involves the same kinds of decisions--getting control of resources, combining these resources effectively, maintaining volume, controlling costs, making adjustments--as any other business. And profit is the only objective. All fairly easy to define and catagorize.

There is much validity in what they say. These principles really do apply to farming. Much similarity does exist between farming and other business from a management point of view. Few businesses respond as readily or as well as the farm business when good management techniques are applied. And profit must have a high priority.

FARMING--JUST A BUSINESS?, cont.

But---to say that the farm business is "no different" from other business is simply not acceptable from where a lot of us stand! We just don't see it that way and we won't buy it!

Farming certainly involves all the management elements of other business- but it also involves some extras! These extra elements are NOT easy to define--especially in the jargon of economics or management. And they don't always show up on this year's financial statement or income tax return. (They are apt to, over time)

To really see what these extras are and what they mean, you need to drive out to a particular farm, get out of your car, visit with the man in charge, and walk beside him. You should walk with him over his uneroded fields, pastures and lots, down along the fence rows and well maintained waterways, through the shady grove and some islands and corners where wildlife cover has taken over. Maybe you pause beside a farm pond. Fertility and productivity abound!

You don't need to talk much or ask many questions. Just look hard and long at the farm and the farmer. All at once the feeling will come to you--very strongly!

A voice from somewhere will be saying--"This man has some deep convictions--some distinct attitudes--some finely tuned values--some fierce pride--and some artistic skills that set him apart from many other men....He is TRULY Successful and will be remembered!"

If you are like some of us you will shake his hand and drive back to town--or maybe back to your own farm--in a thoughtful and reflective mood--humble, but with a pleasant feeling.

You've just visited a truly successful business man. Maybe you can pass it along to somebody else--or even gain a little yourself.

But how do you explain these "extras" that put the really successful farm manager in a class all by himself?



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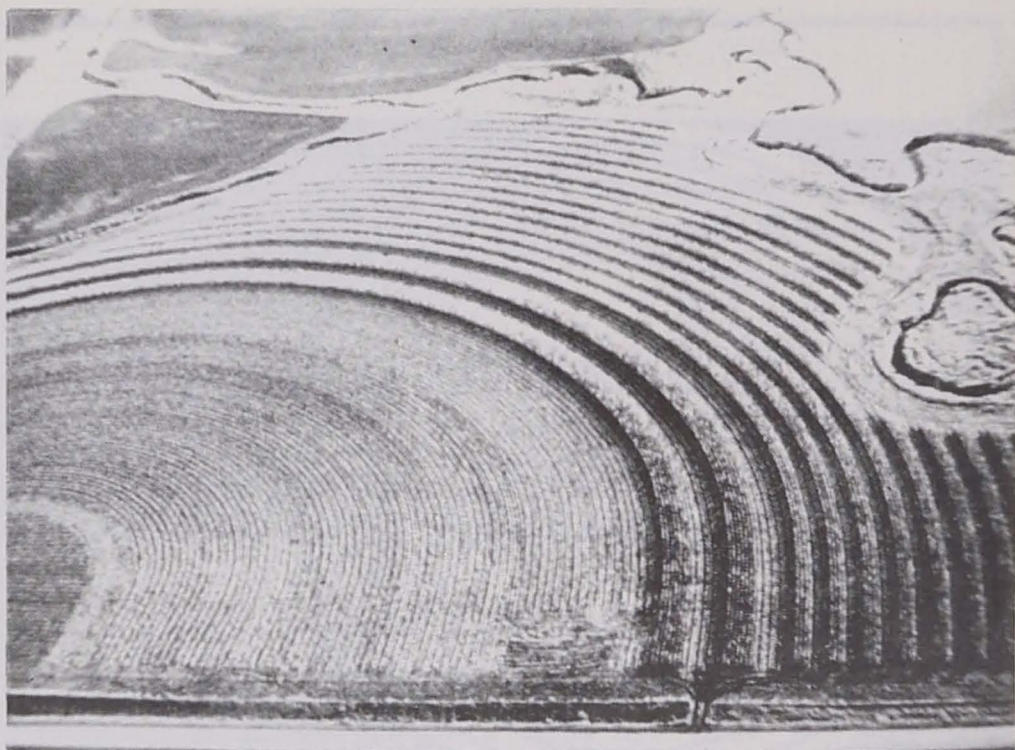
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TAMA COUNTY FORESTRY PROGRAM 1973

*Bob Hibbs, District Forester
Marshalltown, Iowa 50158*

In March of 1973, former District Forester Roy Hatcher assumed the duties of Protection/Utilization Forester for the State of Iowa. This job includes the "Smokey Bear" program, tree insect and disease protection, timber utilization, and it includes the Excess Federal Property Program which makes excess military vehicles available to rural fire departments. Eight such vehicles, including Jeeps and 2½ ton trucks, are presently in Tama County towns.

The spring of 1973 saw 6,500 State Forest Nursery seedlings delivered for planting throughout Tama County. The most frequently planted species were the wildlife shrubs and wildlife packets. The second landowner preference was for evergreens for general aesthetics with a possibility of some Christmas tree harvest. A small amount of black walnut was planted for future lumber or veneer production. Least often planted trees included the native oaks.

Forestry can show strong economic returns. Net return per acre per year for black walnut can exceed \$200 per year, though requiring 50 to 70 years to realize. Planting Christmas trees at a rate of 1200 per acre and harvesting 200 per year at \$5 each will show a gross return of \$1,000 per acre per year. (Harvesting 200 per year would be a 6 year growing cycle with 1200 trees.) Costs to deduct from this gross figure would include planting costs, labor for moving, weeding, spraying, shearing, advertising and labor for the time involved in selling the trees.

Good timber management begins with the exclusion of livestock. Livestock trample seedlings, compact the soil, and destroy tree feeder roots (90% of a tree's feeder roots are located within the top 12" of soil.) Soil compaction and root destruction will reduce tree growth rate by three-fourths, also subjecting the tree to an increase in insect and disease problems. Compaction is evidenced by "mounds" of soil at the base of the tree -- the ground slopes abnormally down and away from the tree. It is also in evidence where you see exposed roots. These exposed roots, primarily at the base of the tree, provide entry points for wood-chewing insects. For this reason, pastured trees are more apt to be hollow than are non-pastured trees.

TAMA COUNTY FORESTRY PROGRAM 1973, cont.

Following livestock exclusion, good timber management includes work on timber stand improvement and harvest. Weed trees, crowded trees and deformed trees should be removed to allow healthier trees to grow. And trees should be harvested when they are mature to make use of a renewable resource.

Assistance in timber management can be obtained by contacting any of your local Government Offices, or by writing direct to the District Forester, Iowa Conservation Commission.

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Office Staff

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OFFICE MGR...Mrs. Joanne Yuska

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Fritz Bearden, C.U. -- Chelsea, Phone 489-2844



Chairman Ken Bruene presented Mr. & Mrs. George Kos the Des Moines Register & Tribune Award for 1973 in the owner-operator category. George was a Commissioner from 1948 to 1956, applied some of the first contour stripcropping in the county and probably was one of the first farmers in the county to get the conservation needs completed on his farm.

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DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS ACTION FOR 1973

The Tama County District Commissioners held 12 regular meetings and 3 special meetings along with the following activities.

JANUARY

An awards dinner was held at the Double D Restaurant in Tama for the winner in the Register & Tribune Conservation Achievement Contest. An award was presented to Mr. Ferd Kvidera in the new cooperator division. The Commissioners attended the Short Course at Ames. Soil Stewardship material was ordered for participating churches in the county.

FEBRUARY

Harold Higgins attended the National Association of Conservation Districts convention held in Las Vegas.

MARCH

The Commissioners attended the regional meeting held at the Amanas. Kenneth Bruene gave a report on the activities and accomplishments in Tama County.

MAY

Kenneth Bruene was nominated outstanding commissioner from Tama County. The Soil Stewardship material was distributed.

JUNE

Doug Dvorak from the Dysart-Geneseo school was the speech contest winner and was presented a \$25 bond from the Commissioners. Prizes were given to Joni Krezek of the Clutier school and Paul Keese of the Geneseo school for outstanding work in the conservation workbook contest. A contribution was given to the Pitt Soil & Water Conservation District. A tour of the George Kos farm was made for entry in the Register & Tribune Award contest.

JULY

The Commissioners attended the Regional Meeting held at the Amanas. The Union Grove Lake Field Day was held on the Harold Beichley farm showing the newly constructed terraces.

AUGUST

Mr. Robert Cline was awarded the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp scholarship of \$105.00. The Tama County SCD displayed pictures of conservation practices at the Gladbrook Corn Carnival.

SEPTEMBER

The Commissioners and clerk attended the Annual Conference of Soil Conservation District Commissioners. Clerk Audrey Wheeler received an award for ten years of service.

OCTOBER

Mrs. Lillian VanDeWalle attended the conservation workshop at Camp Ewalu.

F. J. DVORAK, Pres.

DON J. MUSEL, Sec'y

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Pictured above are:

Miss Joni Krezek daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Duane Krezek attending the Clutier attendance center and Paul Keese son of Mr. & Mrs. Jim Keese attending the Geneseo center were winners in the Conservation Workbook Contest. They were presented transistor radios.



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KENNETH BRUENE

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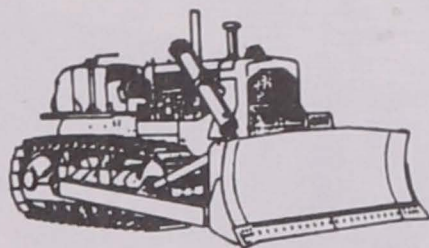
GRINNELL, IOWA



Conservation Education Committee, left to right: Mrs. Shirley Franklin, Mrs. Edythe Hill, Howard Poitevin, Harold Higgins, Robert Kurtt and not pictured Dick McMullin and Bob Mullen.

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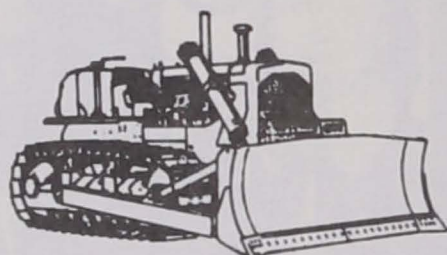


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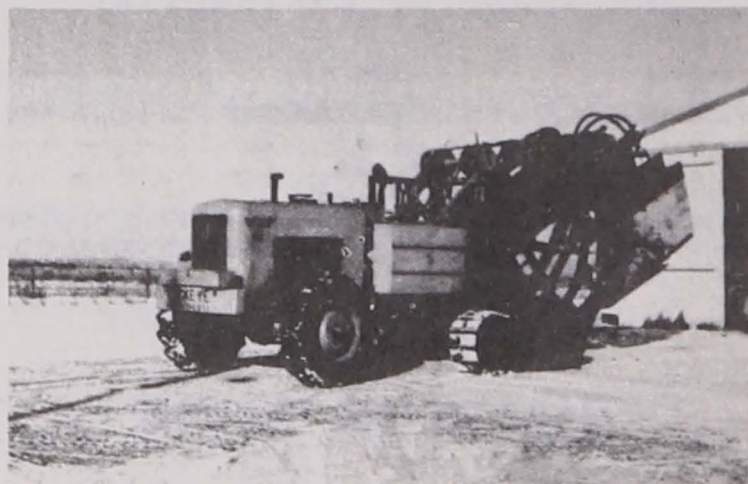
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The tile terrace system at Alva Lynch's was completed in Nov. The job included 4121 feet of tile, 8565 feet of terrace, and 20 pipe intakes benefitting 35 acres of land. The terraces are parallel and spaced to fit the 8 row planter used by Darwin and Mark Lynch. The photo was taken facing northwest with Darwin's farmstead at the top of the picture. The field is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile northwest of Union Grove Lake or $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles southwest of Gladbrook.

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Chairman Bruene presented Harold Carr of Dysart a Certificate of Distinguished Service on recognition of his support of Soil Conservation. Although Mr. & Mrs. Carr own a tiling business, Harold has been one of the best boosters for grassed backslope terraces in the county. This award is the first of its kind given by the Soil Conservation District.

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WILDLIFE IN TAMA COUNTY

Bob Kurtt, Wildlife Biologist

Tama County has been endowed with some fine wildlife areas. In certain areas in the county, especially along the Iowa River, fine timber stands abound with white-tailed deer, furbearers, and upland game. These areas bordering the Iowa River are important to all of us for their wildlife, timber, and scenic values. We should be concerned about maintaining these wild areas and managing them wisely for the benefit of future generations.

At the same time, however, there are many areas in Tama County that are devoid of wildlife habitat, especially in the northern part of the county. These areas have become so intensively farmed that upland game species such as rabbits and pheasants have declined to the point that one can hardly find these wild creatures in some areas.

So what can we do about dwindling wildlife populations? To start with, creating better living conditions for wildlife does not mean doing a lot of extra or peculiar things that will make your farm look different from your neighbor's land across the fence.

Nesting Cover has become more critical in recent years due to the change from oats and hay production to soybeans. This almost total change in certain areas has dealt a devastating blow to pheasants and rabbits. Where these species once nested abundantly in hay fields, they are now faced with finding adequate nesting cover in narrow roadsides or along ditches. This situation will be-

WILDLIFE IN TAMA COUNTY, cont.

come even more critical in 1974 because the "set-aside" program will not be available from the local ASCS office. These "retired" acres have provided nesting cover for the past several years, in certain areas the only nesting cover available, and will be sorely missed by pheasants and other wildlife.

By planting at least a part of his cropland to oats this year, a farmer will be able to offset in part the loss of the "retired" acres and help provide some nesting areas. Even though oats is not as desirable as alfalfa-bromegrass for nesting, it is used by pheasants and can become very important if no other type of nesting cover is available.

Winter cover is also very important in maintaining good wildlife populations. An Iowa blizzard can wipe out a local pheasant population in a few days if adequate cover is not present. Woody cover such as pine trees, shrubs, or hardwood trees are a necessity for bringing pheasants through a bad snowstorm. These areas can be provided by planting trees and shrubs in odd corners, around ponds, along ditchbanks, in farmstead windbreaks, and in other places where it is not economical to farm. These tree and shrub species can be ordered through the local Soil Conservation District office or by writing to me.

In most cases these simple suggestions I have mentioned can be followed on any Iowa farm without interfering with the farming operation. If you have any desire to improve the environment on your farm for wildlife, contact me directly at 203 West High Street, Toledo, Iowa or through the Soil Conservation District office.

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Alva Lynch, (at the right) accepts the cost-sharing check from Everett Pierce (center), erosion control specialist for the State Conservation Commission, for the tile outlet terraces built on his farm $\frac{1}{2}$ mile northwest of Union Grove Lake. Chairman Ken Bruene (left) complimented Alva for his interest in building the system at the age of 81 years young.

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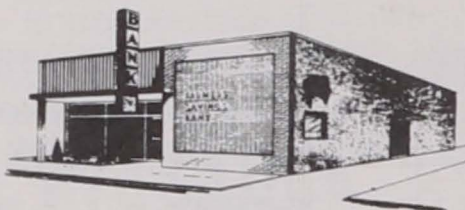
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District Conservationist Ted Hall, Harold Beichley, Everett Pierce and Extension Director Dick Pulse discuss the merits of the terrace system on the Beichley farm 1½ miles north of Union Grove Lake. Harold protected 135 acres with his job that included 8981 feet of tile, 13,750 feet of terrace and 27 intakes.



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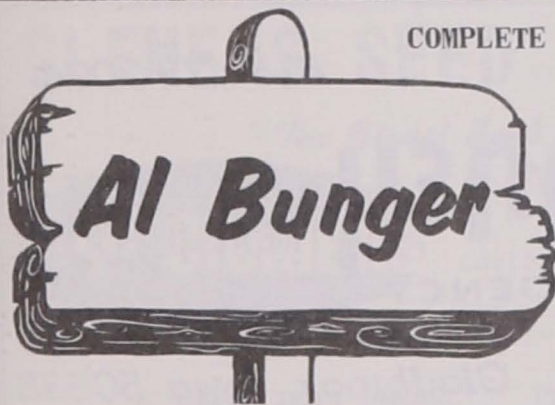
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TILE OUTLET TERRACES

Paul Bruns, Soil Conservation Technician

Tile outlet terraces are an effective soil and water conservation measure for use on intensively cropped corn belt lands. It is possible to use modern equipment and row crop intensively while practicing good soil conservation when the land is protected with tile-outlet terraces. As machinery has become larger, terraces have been designed to fit the larger machines. Many times the new parallel, seeded backslope terraces with tile outlets can be built in such a way that a lot of kinks and curves can be eliminated, thus doing away with many of the point rows that have created farming problems in the past.

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Pictured above is Doug Dvorak, son of Mr. & Mrs. Albin Dvorak, Clutier, winner of the District speech contest. Doug received a \$25 savings bond from the District and attended the Regional Speech Contest held at the Amanas.



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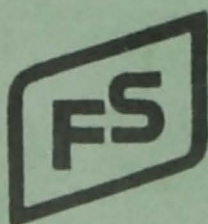
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