

THIRTY-SECOND

Annual Report

1974

TAMA COUNTY SOIL
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TOLEDO, IOWA

PHONE 484-2702



SERVING AGRICULTURE



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DISTRICT COMMISSIONER VIEWPOINTS

Conservation means getting the maximum use of the greatest number of available natural resources that are valuable to the greatest possible number of people for the longest period of time. It does not mean that we are not to use them wisely and not waste them immediately or in a short time. We should consider the welfare of our fellow man at the present time and leave sufficient abundance of resources to those who are to follow us that they, too, may enjoy the natural gifts which we have been blessed, and consider necessary to physical existence and a reasonably happy life.

Welby Dixon

World wide food shortages seem to be a topic discussed by more and more people in all walks of life. Rightfully so, we, as citizens of one of the richest countrys in the world, should think of the problems of our fellow man.

Our government has asked that we increase our grain production to help feed some of the less fortunate nations.

With the demand for more and more food, thoughts of good Soil Stewardship do not get the necessary attention.

The Des Moines Sunday Register, February 9th contained an article written by Wilson Moon, State Conservationist for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. The following facts brought out by Moon, stress the need for soil stewardship. Two bushels of soil lost for every one bushel of corn harvested seven bushels of soil lost for every bushel of soybeans harvested. At this rate in 12 years we will have lost 1 inch of topsoil. Soil erosion in 1974 was the worst seen in the last quarter century.

Normally when more land is called into production it is land not well suited to intensive cultivation thus making soil erosion more critical. If your farming program for 75 calls for increased production, review your soil needs carefully to reduce the soil loss on your land.

The fertilizer shortage in the years ahead will not be as critical if we can keep irreplaceable top soil on the land where it belongs, instead of in our rivers and streams.

If you need assistance in decisions regarding which type of conservation practices to apply to your land, contact the local S.C.S. office.

Harry Scurr

(cont on pg. 2)

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER VIEWPOINTS
(cont from pg. 1)

"Out of the long list of nature's gifts to man, none is perhaps so utterly essential to human life as soil. And topsoil is the most vital part of soil (made up of topsoil plus the layers beneath). Lying at an average depth of about 7 or 8 inches over the face of the land, this upper layer of the soil is the principal feeding zone of the plants, which provide food for human or livestock consumption, fiber for clothing and timber for shelter. Under many conditions, however, it is the most unstable of all major natural resources."

So said Dr. Hugh Bennett, often known as the father of soil conservation in this country. He was one of the first to become fully aware of the value of retaining the soil that we have. The importance of this saving is still of primary concern. The 7 or 8 inches of topsoil is being called on to feed an ever growing population each year.

We feel that this need for conservation can and will be met. With aid in funding from state and federal levels in the past much has been accomplished. We hope that these programs will go on. Also here in Tama County there seems to be an excellent awareness of the problems by most of the people, and a willingness by them to work on a solution.

Kenneth Bruene

With today's energy crisis and economic pressures, it is of utmost importance to our society, and to the world, that everyone in today's agribusiness promote and use good soil management and conservation practices.

About 40% of our county has some form of soil conservation practices in use, which is good, but our goal should be 100%.

It has been difficult, and sometimes impossible to complete some of our projects this past year with shortages of materials, contractors, adverse weather conditions, and high costs. Hopefully, 1975 will see some improvement and more conservation practices put into use.

Rewarding soil conservation practices such as contouring, strip cropping, and grass waterways could be put into use by the landowner or farm operators - this spring - at a very nominal cost. Try to visualize what our county could be like with every farm co-operating in a good soil conservation program. Your SCS office staff is ready to help you with your farm plan.

Robert Fontinel



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Accomplishments For Fiscal Year 1974

July 1, 1973

June 30, 1974

	(UNIT)	(AMOUNT)	(TOTAL ON THE LAND)
District Cooperators	No. 50		961
Conservation Plan	No. 14		633
Plans Revised	No. 8		
Inventory and Evaluations	No. 4		
Inventory and Evaluations			
Resource Plan	No. 2		
Group Conservation Plan	No. 3		

PRACTICES APPLIED

Conservation Cropping System	Ac. 1801		302,086
Contour Farming	Ac. 498		82,932
Critical Area Planting	Ac. 12		128
Crop Residue Use	Ac. 383		399,253
Diversion	Lin. Ft. 1800		129,747
Windbreak	No. 8		97
Fishpond Management	No. 1		53
Grade Stabilization Structure	No. 1		194
Minimum Tillage	Ac. 1410		2,805
Pasture & Hayland Management	Ac. 289		8,570
Pasture & Hayland Planting	Ac. 540		5,551
Pipeline	Lin. Ft. 600		19,371
Spring Development	No. 1		6
Structure for Water Control	No. 49		226
Terrace Parallel	Lin. Ft. 26,265		134,346
Tree Planting	Ac. 1		115
Tile Drain	Ft. 138,778		3,709,060
Land Adequately Treated	Ac. 2,434		189,957
Grassed Waterway	Ac. 34		5,482

State Budget Of The Tama County Soil Conservation District

Commissioners Mileage	\$435.92
Office Supplies	\$114.28
Materials for Demonstration	\$ 2.00
Office Expense	\$619.24
Prizes for Contest	\$ 64.10

(cont. on pg. 5)

STATE BUDGET
(cont. from pg. 4)

2M BUDGET

State Clerk and Conservation Aide	\$15,436.13
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3M BUDGET

Allocation	\$23,000.00
Additional Allocation	8,000.00
	\$31,000.00
44 agreements were approved	30,773.08
Balance	\$ 226.92



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PHOTOGRAPHY



KENNETH BRUENE

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The Register and Tribune Award winner in the owner-operator division was Mr. and Mrs. Harold Beichley of Gladbrook.

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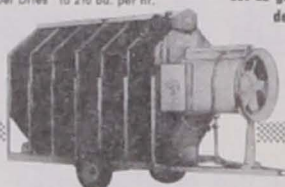
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Ruppert Brubaker
Clara and Edna Bartley
Elwyn Hilmer
Richard Backen
Donald Kokesha
Warren Sealock
Carl Schroeder
William McCurdy
Carroll Fisher
Raymond Hineman
Robert Schwab
Robert Zhorne

Irma Kucera
Lyon Stock Farm
Wm. R. Knaack
Robert J. Albertsen
Charles Johnson
Duane Yung
Robert Dostal
Mildred Hanus
Milo Vavroch
LeRoy Block
Elmer Van Egdom
Murry Moffett
Wayne Baumeier
William Dalziel

(cont. on pg. 9)

NEW COOPERATORS
(cont. from pg. 8)

Kenneth Strohbehn
Paul Suchanek
D & D Greiner
David Vogeler
Larry Lorenzen
Charles Dolezal
Edward Hardon
Phillip Galloway
Glenn Fischer
Robert Kellogg
Eddie McKee

Paulsen Farm
Jim Hanus
Robert Caslavka
Lee Judge
Larry Fowler
Max Welton
R.G. Ketter
Robert Wiese
Farmvest One
H.R. Allaben
Robert Blohm

BASIC FARM PLANS

For the Fiscal Year of 1974

Norman Hoskey
William Dalziel
David Vogeler
Ed Hardon
Zeman Farm
Glenn Fischer
Elwyn Hilmer

William McCurdy
Ed Dewey
George Lamb
Phillip Galloway (2)
Joel DuFour
Larry Lorenzen

REVISIONS OF BASIC FARM PLANS

For the Fiscal Year of 1974

LeRoy Hoskey
Robert Fontinel
Norman Hoskey
Richard Loonan

Ross Sharp
Hubert DeSchamp
Jerry Wolfe
Dr. D.D. Davis



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MORE CONTROLS COMING?

Dick Pulse, Extension Director

Iowa experienced the worst soil erosion in 25 years during the 1974 season. Few counties experienced more severe soil losses than Tama County!

A Soil Conservation Service survey showed that about 4.5 million acres of the states' 20 million plus acres of corn and soybeans suffered more than 10 tons soil loss per acre.

Soil conservation programs as we know them today have been in existence for over 30 years but it appears that not more than 40% of the land is adequately protected.

All of this was once considered a "farm" problem but in recent years public concerns for environmental quality have pointed up other equally important consequences. These include physical and chemical pollution of lakes, ponds and streams, damage to water treatment and handling facilities, increased costs of water treatment for municipal and industrial use, damage to fish and wildlife habitats, degradation of wildlife habitats and recreational facilities, added costs of maintaining roads, streets, navigable channels, harbors, etc., on and on. It is clear that the general public is becoming more concerned as evidenced by land use legislation proposals and enactments, not just in Iowa but in other states.

Educational efforts, incentives to farmers through A.S.C.S. programs, and technical assistance through the Soil Conservation Districts have helped but they have fallen short.

The big question now seems to be whether the general public will continue to permit wasteful use of our soil resources or whether more forced controls will be utilized. "How can private property rights be balanced with public rights in land?" This is already a question being asked more frequently and it will at some point, become one of the most controversial issues ever confronted by Iowa farmers and their friends in town.

In the meantime we would suggest that more farmers cooperate with the soil conservation district, get on the contour where at all practical, use the mechanical practices such as terraces where they fit, and take a close look at the capability of their particular farm. How much "row crop" is really right?

We also suggest some other practices which do not require big changes in investment and might in some cases actually reduce

(cont. on pg. 11)

MORE CONTROLS COMING?

(cont. from pg. 10)

labor, fuel and equipment costs. These practices are:

1. Eliminate fall plowing of bean stubble completely.
2. Substitute the chisel plow for the moldboard plow if fall plowing is necessary, and leave at least part of the trash and crop refuse on the surface.
3. On steeper slopes forget fall tillage and do it in the spring.
4. Make some adjustments in planting and cultivation techniques which will allow some trash to remain on top even after corn or beans are planted.

These practices are working and working well for so many farmers that the excuses for not using them are getting as thin as some of our top soil!



Dick Pulse, Extension Director explaining the insect world to the 5th graders of the county at the Conservation Field Day.



Bob Mullen, conservation officer, demonstrating the proper use of fishing equipment.

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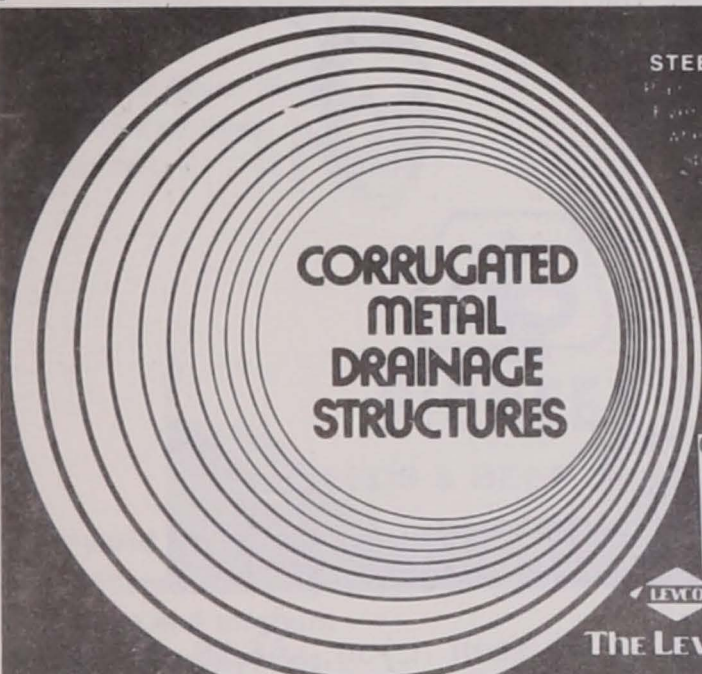
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Pictured at right is Russell Lyon, ASCS executive director, receiving an award from Paul Bruns, SCS Technician for being an outstanding friend of conservation.

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TIMBER AND SOIL EROSION

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Long before Joyce Kilmer wrote his poem eulogizing trees, Man realized the many benefits to be obtained from the forest and forest products. One of the principle benefits is the forest's ability to hold soil in place, reducing erosion by both wind and water.

Rain falling on a forest stand is first filtered by tree leaves and branches. Passing through the canopy, it next strikes understory plants such as gooseberry and woodbine, then onto fallen leaves and twigs called forest litter. From the litter it percolates through a thin layer of fermenting, decaying leaves; only then does it reach mineral soil. Contrasting this procedure with rain striking the exposed soil particles of cultivated land, it is easy to understand why runoff from cultivated soil is approximately 15% while runoff from wooded land is 2%. Pastured land runoff is about 1.4% when compared to similar rainfall, slope and soil conditions.

Decaying stumps and roots also provide channels for water to enter the soil, thus reducing runoff and erosion. The same effect is obtained from earthworm and rodent tunnels found in forest soils, but generally lacking in cultivated soils.

Forests are capable of reducing flooding potential. Spring snow melt under a forest stand is delayed much longer than snow melt in an open field. By spreading the melting over a longer period of time, the forest tends to minimize and regulate peak periods of water flow. A shading effect occurs not only with spring snow melt, but throughout the summer. Forest soil temperature is cooler during the day and warmer during the night than is soil in an open field, reducing water evaporation. Evaporation is also reduced by the reduction in wind velocity.

The relationship between forests and soils is a small but important part of the entire scope of natural resource management: range, water, wildlife, recreation and soil use. One resource does not exist without the other, and none can be altered without have an effect on the others.

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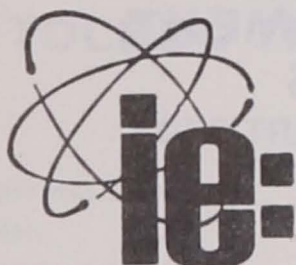
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District Commissioners Action For 1974

The Tama County District Commissioner held 12 regular meetings and 4 special meeting along with the following activities.

The regional meeting, short course and annual conference meetings were attended by Commissioners and office personnel.

An information booth was sponsored jointly with ASCS at the Gladbrook corn carnival.

The Register and Tribune Awards banquet was held in the King Tower dining room honoring Harold Beichley in the owner operator division and Russell Lyon ASCS office manager for being a friend of conservation.

The District Commissioners entertained the Ministers of the county at a luncheon held at the King Tower Restaurant. The Soil Stewardship material was distributed to the ministers at this time.

The Conservation Education Committee held a Field Day at Otter Creek Lake for the 5th grade students from South Tama and the Gladbrook Community schools. People from the various conservation fields such as: forestry, wildlife, fish management, geology and soils presented the program.

Material was ordered from the Soil Conservation Society of America for hand out material at the Gladbrook Corn Carnival.

The Commissioners election was held on January 22 in the Extension office in conjunction with a minimum tillage meeting. Kenneth Bruene of Gladbrook and Welby Dixon of Toledo were re-elected commissioners.

Conservation workbooks were furnished to all 5th and 6th grade classes in the county. Prizes were awarded for the best workbooks. Winners were: Mindy Stump, Tama Intermediate, Debbie Luethje, and Joleen Paustian. Lisa Luethje of the Gladbrook Community School.

Eight local classroom teachers registered for the Teacher Conservation Workshop held at Ewalu and Honey Creek camps. The registration fees were approved by the District Commissioners.

TREES

By Joyce Kilmer

*I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree*

*A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;*

*A tree that looks to God all day
And lifts her leafy arms to pray,*

*A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair,*

*Upon whose bosom snow has lain,
Who intimately lives with rain.*

*Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.*

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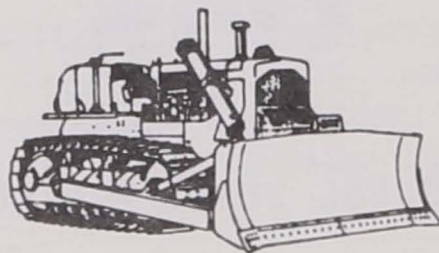
Waterways

Ponds

Landscaping

Tree Removal

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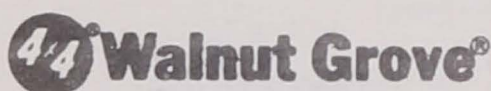
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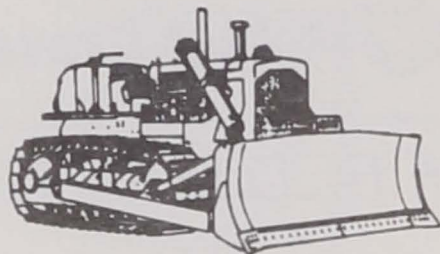
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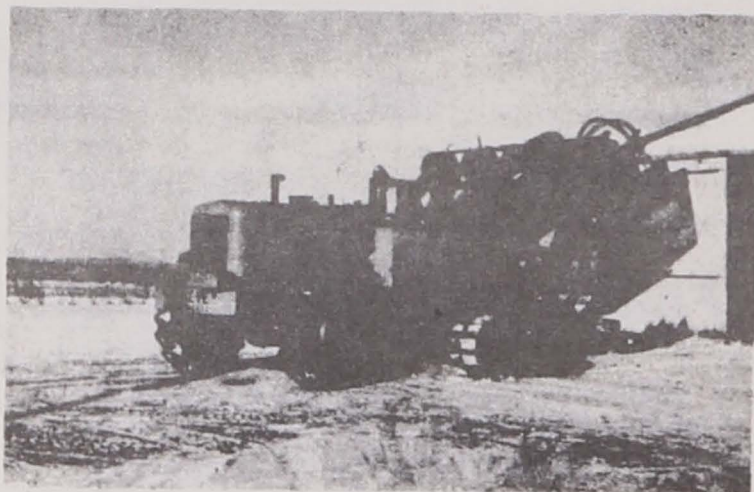


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*Bob Kurtt
Wildlife Management Biologist
Iowa Conservation Commission*

"If you would just stock some pheasants around my place . . .,"
or "If you would just close the pheasant season for a year or two . . ."

These are typical expressions of concerned citizens in many areas when a discussion of declining pheasant populations arises.

Unfortunately these techniques, by themselves, have never resulted in permanent increase in pheasant populations. Artificial stocking programs were used extensively by most game and fish departments 25 to 50 years ago in the hope that man could beat Mother Nature at her own game.

Game farms produced and released thousands of game birds each year, but few of these birds survived long enough to produce offspring of their own. Stocking programs usually failed because the existing remnants of wildlife cover were already saturated with the maximum number of wild birds that the area could support.

Improvement of existing wildlife cover has proven far more productive than the release of additional brood stock.

Most forms of wildlife, including pheasants, are capable of

(cont on pg. 33)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

(cont. from pg. 32)

producing large numbers of offspring every year - providing suitable habitat is available.

Farmers who really want to see more pheasants and other wildlife around their farms must protect existing wildlife cover, modify current farming practices and develop areas specifically for wildlife. More undisturbed nesting cover and winter cover are two important needs of wildlife that should be improved in this area.

Wildlife Biologists assist landowners on planting trees, shrubs and cover crops beneficial to wildlife, and are also involved with research necessary to learn more about the needs of wildlife. We also speak to all types of adult and youth groups, and even help city residents attract birds and wildlife to their backyards.

If you are a landowner interested in obtaining technical assistance for increasing wildlife on your land, or desire information on farm pond stocking, contact me. If you are a teacher or group leader, I will be glad to present programs on a large variety of topics relating to wildlife management, current projects of interest in this area, and opportunities in the field of wildlife conservation. I can also help design plantings for your yard which will benefit wildlife. Do you have another question relating to wildlife in any way? Get in touch with me and I will assist you in the best way I can. You can also reach me through the SCS, ASCS, or county extension office in your area. For free technical assistance, write to me at the U.S.D.A. Building, 203 West High Street, Toledo, Iowa 52342.



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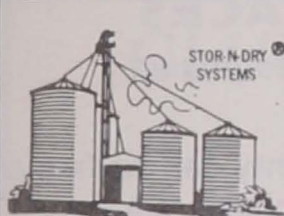


Joleen Paustian



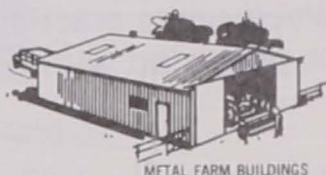
Lisa Luethje

Winners in the Conservation Workbook Contest were: Mindy Stump of the Tama Intermediate, not pictured, Debbie Luethje, Gladbrook Community School, Joleen Paustian, Gladbrook Community School and Lisa Luethje, Gladbrook Community School. They were presented transistor radios.



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Paul Bruns, Soil Conservation Technician

More of the sloping land in Tama County can be farmed with low soil losses efficiently with modern equipment, using the new tile-outlet terrace system that eliminates point rows.

Tile outlet terraces are an effective soil and water conservation measure for use on intensively row cropped lands. It is possible to use modern equipment and row crops intensively while practicing good soil conservation when the land is protected with tile outlet terraces.

Runoff water between terraces ponds in low areas above terraces. The ponded areas are drained by perforated stand-pipes connected to underground drain lines.

Terraces are so spaced that farmed areas between terraces are a multiple of machine widths.

Terraces are constructed from earth pushed up from below the terrace or from adjacent ridges. This decreases the slope between terraces and makes the area more farmable. Some soil may erode between terraces, but it settles out in terrace channels and doesn't leave the field. Even in severe storms, virtually all soil stays in the field.

Terraces are desined to store at least two inches of runoff and to drain in less than two days. Terraces can be constructed on any slopes you ordinarily farm, but they're costly and difficult to build on slopes steeper than 16 percent.

If you already have tile in a waterway, you may be able to connect intakes to them, making costs of the intake system less expensive.

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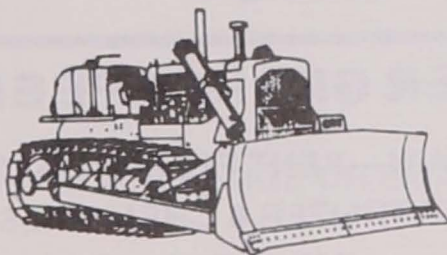
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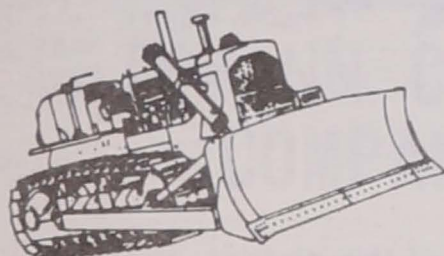
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Kenneth Bruene, chairman of the district, explaining the program of the Tama County Soil Conservation District to the 5th grade students at the Conservation Field Day.

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