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MEMBER

FOREWORD

Ted Hall - District Conservationist

We wish to extend our thanks to those who helped promote conservation in Tama County. They include the ASCS Committee and staff, the FHA, the Extension Service, the County Engineer's Office, news media, schools, banks and other civic, professional and private organizations.

Cooperation and interest in our environment is at a new high in Congress, the Governor's Office and the State Legislature. We hope this dedication continues.

The highest note of appreciation should go to the people who actually applied conservation improvements on their land. Let's hope this interest is just the beginning.



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

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER VIEWPOINTS

Elimination of the REAP Program by the Administration has dealt a serious blow to the soil conservation programs of our nation. This program has provided untold benefits to everyone in our society.

Hopefully, a new and greater program will be forthcoming which will provide assistance in conservation work and land use decisions. Until then we must continue on.

The modern farmer of today, should try to minimize any loss of soil and land productivity. Our basic soil resources must be maintained for future generations while supplying our present needs. These goals can be attained easier by the implementation of more soil conservation practices on our area farms.

Your Soil Conservation Service personnel and Soil Commissioners are available to help with any land use problems you might have.

by Robert Fontinel

Since the dawn of history, Conservation has been one of man's greatest needs. But it has seldom been practiced.

Land is permanent. It lasts. But if we don't begin to take care of the land of this earth pretty soon, with much more concern for what we are doing to it, how we are wasting it, it may not be as permanent as we think.

For thousands of years civilizations grew up in fertile, well-watered regions, flourished a while, and then disappeared. War and disease often took their toll of these nations. But the waste of natural resources also sapped their strength. The forests were cut down recklessly, and many areas which were once productive forests are now nearly barren. The farmers used up the soil until it would no longer grow good crops.

With forests and soil exhausted, there was nothing to hold the life-giving water on the land. Where great nations once thrived, today the lonely traveler sees only empty landscape.

by Welby Dixon

Conservation is the name of the game and we are the players. The rules may change as the game goes on and we must continue to participate in it, like it or not. We were sorry to see the dropping of the REAP funding program and still hope to see it re-established in some form. However, if it is not we must look for alternatives. Above all, conservation on the American farm must go on. The problems and needs are still there and will stay until we do something about them.

The farm operator is still the big gainer from most conservation practices. True, the rest of the population has

much at stake in this but those of us who live on the land and make our living from it need to be conservation minded and continue to proceed with the program - with or without a high level of financial aid. A farm and a marriage have much in common. You have to live with each for a while before you know the problems that may be involved. You can't stop working on the problems in either area just because some of the help is gone.

by Kenneth Bruene

With the loss of the federal REAP program it now leaves it up to us as individual land owners and farm operators to do our best to conserve our soil.

The staff of the Soil Conservation Service are still available to help with your conservation problems. Be sure and stop in and ask for help if you need it.

After a year of much rain it will not be hard to find the places in the fields where better conservation practices are needed.

This next crop year may not be as wet as this past year. With the use of proper conservation practices they can help to produce yields like we experienced this year.

by Harry Scurr

REAP funds have been a great financial help in establishing many soil conserving practices, however we feel that those practices should be considered as long term investments and even without federal assistance they will pay dividends.

We still feel that erosion control is to everyones benefit and therefore the costs should be shared by the public.

Perhaps the elimination of some waterways by installing tile outlet terraces we can convert several acres of non-producing land into profitable row crop land. With the present land values at an all time high this would be a justifiable economic expenditure.

Harold Higgins



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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.
JACKIE D. LANGFORD	Civil Engineering Tech.
WILMA D. KIMBALL	Area Clerk



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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1972

July 1, 1971

June 30, 1972

	(UNIT)	(AMOUNT)	(TOTAL ON THE LAND)
New Cooperators	No.	36	904
Basic Conservation Plan	No.	32	602
Revised Conservation Plans	No.	4	
Farms Serviced	No.	432	
Sod Waterways	Ac.	159	5,384
Farm Ponds	No.	7	282
Contour Farming	Ac.	1,107	81,170
Stripcropping	Ac.	487	12,027
Grade Stabilization Struc.	No.	3	191
Diversion Terraces	Lin.Ft.	3,950	109,497
Parallel Terraces	Lin.Ft.	16,831	46,666
Tile Drainage	Lin.Ft.	354,934	3,326,133
Windbreaks	No.	19	89
Tree Planting	Ac.	30	111
Land Adequately Treated	Ac.	6,588	

STATE BUDGET OF THE
TAMA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1M & 1MA BUDGET

Commissioners Mileage	47.73
Office Supplies	281.26
Office Expense	528.94
Materials for Demonstration	39.10
Meeting Expenses	2.94

2M BUDGET

State Clerk and Planner Aid	\$13,335.43
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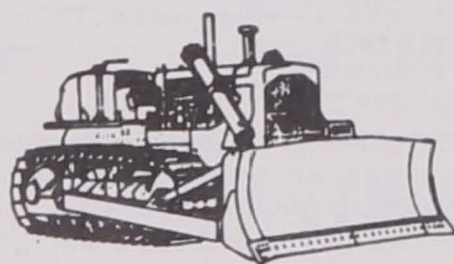
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BETTER PASTURES WITH FERTILIZATION

By G. Gress Rogers

If you need more pasture or want to increase herd size, fertilization can be an economical way to do it.

Legume-grass pastures may not need nitrogen or only small amounts. If the forage stand is 50 percent or more legume, don't apply nitrogen. If the proportion of legume is much below 50 percent, the grass in the mixture is likely to respond to nitrogen.

NITROGEN RATES

Sixty to 120 pounds of N per acre, are considered moderate rates and are best applied as single application. Additional nitrogen--up to double these rates--can be used in a split application. If you need forage, are practicing some type of rotation grazing, and if the moisture supply looks favorable, consider the higher fertilization rates. Applying high annual rates of nitrogen in at least two applications is safer, allows better use of the N and more total yield for the year.

WHEN TO APPLY N

If you choose to use a single nitrogen application of a moderate rate, for example, 80 pounds of N for a bluegrass pasture and 120 pounds for a brome grass pasture, an excellent time to apply it would be early spring before major growth starts. The ground surface may still be frozen, but don't spread fertilizer on snow.

Single applications also can be made in early August or late fall before the ground freezes. The early August application will boost fall growth and some may carry over to spring. Response from the late fall treatment will occur the following spring.

P, K FOR GRASS PASTURES

Don't overlook phosphorus and potassium when fertilizing pastures. Response on grass may not be as spectacular as with nitrogen but you can be sure it's needed if soil levels are low.

A soil test provides the best guide.

Usually 20-50 pounds of P_2O_5 and 20-50 pounds of K_2O will provide the needs on most bluegrass. Rates for the tallgrasses are 10 to 20 pounds per acre higher than bluegrass because the tallgrasses yield more.

You may find phosphorus and potassium levels will increase after a few years of fertilization and the annual rates can then be reduced.

Timing applications of phosphorus and potassium is not critical. Many farmers apply them once each year along with a nitrogen application.

P, K FOR LEGUME-GRASS

Phosphorus rates are the same for legume mixtures as for tallgrasses. But the potassium rates are 10 pounds

BETTER PASTURES WITH FERTILIZATION, cont.

higher at each soil test level for the legume-grasses. Legumes require more potassium than do the grasses.

WHAT ABOUT LIME?

It usually doesn't pay to topdress pastures which have moderate acidity or less. Only if the soil pH is much below 6.0 should you consider topdressing with lime.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Fertilizer will stimulate weed growth as well as grasses and legumes in a pasture. Clip to control weeds or spray grass pastures with 1 to 1 1/2 pounds of 2,4-D per acre. An early June spraying will give best weed kill. Cattle should be off the pasture for 7 days after spraying.

IN CONCLUSION

Fertilization is of prime importance in any efficient highly productive forage program. Years of research and farmer experience have demonstrated large increases in days of grazing and beef production per acre by fertilizing low yielding pastures. On dry matter yields alone, you should expect at least a \$2 return for each \$1 spent for fertilizer. Nevertheless, best returns from pasture fertilization will depend on effective utilization through a well-managed livestock program. You must manage both forage and livestock properly.

PHOTOGRAPHY



KENNETH BRUENE

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Welby Dixon, Commissioner, presenting the 1971 Register & Tribune Award to Mr. & Mrs. Dick Bruene Winners in the new cooperator division.

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Seated: Merle Cavanaugh, Chairman County ASCS Committee; Albert Kaufman, Member County Committee; Lyle Moeller, Member County Committee.

Standing: Betty Thompson, A.C.P. Clerk; Russell Lyon, Office Manager.

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Howard Alcorn	Gladbrook Community School
LeRoy Price	Nancy M. Rice
Paul Hopper	Harold Urhammer
Dennis Parizek	Roger J. Lacina
George J. Knobbe	Omar Lacina
Lester Beichley	Ernest Lau
David McCubbin	Indian Hills Addition
Keith Earley	Virtus Ramudt
Joe Waterbury	Merle Draper
AKR Grazing	Marshall Mussig
Darold L. Morris	Charles Schwickerath
Eleazer F. Stoakes	Central Iowa Bean Mill
Tama County Cons. Board	Wade Mitchell
Wayne Wilcox	Richard Delfs
Gerald Abernathy	

BASIC FARM PLANS

For Fiscal Year of 1972

Al Trebon	Ira Hook
LeRoy Price	Rod Rice
Paul Hopper	Harold Urhammer
Keith Earley	Robert Hempy
AKR Grazing	Elmer Prusha
Albert Kaufman	Indian Hills Addition
George Knobbe	Marshall Mussig
Robert Powell	Central Iowa Bean Mill
Wilson Dinsdale	Charles Schwickerath
Richard Delfs	Ron Plueger
Eleazer Stoakes	Wade Mitchell
Darold Morris	Wayne Wilcox
Gerald Abernathy	Pilgrim Heights
Tom Hanus	Tama County Cons. Board
Rudy & Richard Havran	L.A. Rasmussen
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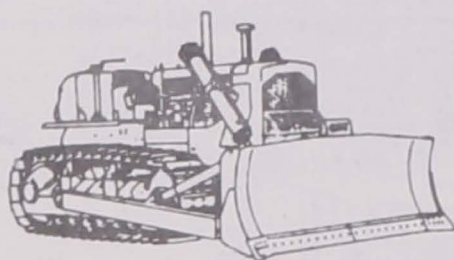
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Awards were presented for Outstanding Conservation Workbooks to the following: back row, Judy McGarvey, Anita Youngblut, Joy Bergmeier, front row, Karleen Ricks, Holly Higgins and Wayne Beck. Teacher Mrs. Maxine Schelp, Geneseo School.

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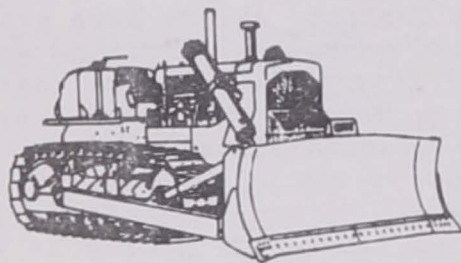
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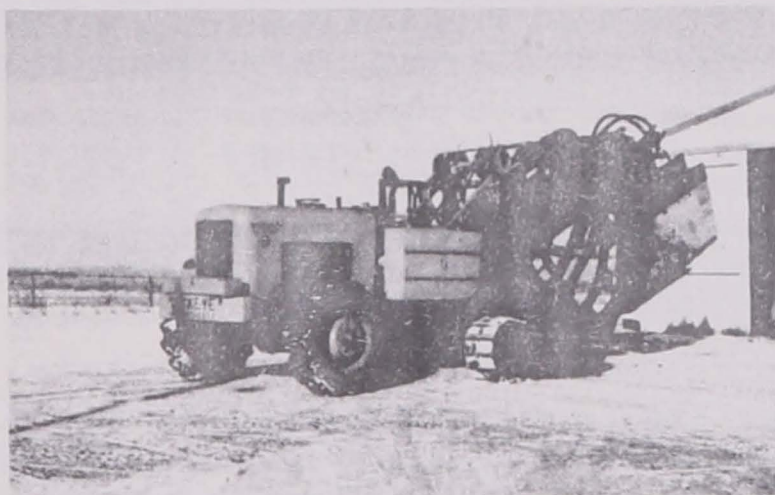
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DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS ACTION FOR 1972

JANUARY

An awards dinner was held at the Double D Restaurant in Tama for the winners in the Register & Tribune Conservation Achievement Contest. Awards were presented to LaVern Eckhart in the new cooperator division and Richard Bruene in the owner-operator division. An award was also presented Mrs. Joyce Meyers in the outstanding teachers category. Commissioners attended Short Course at Ames.

FEBRUARY

Request for plant materials for outdoor classroom approved. District Educational Committee met and discussed plans for coming year. Soil Stewardship material ordered for churches in Tama County.

MARCH

Commissioners election held at which time Robert Fontinel and Harry Scurr were elected to serve the District.

APRIL

The soil conservation district soil loss regulations for the District were adopted. Commissioners and office staff met with Union Grove Lake representatives and discussed work to be done in this area. Soil Stewardship material distributed. Joe Lyon resigns as commissioner.

MAY

Teachers outdoor workshop was held at Stumps Shady Hill Campground with 36 people in attendance. Joe Lyon nominated outstanding Commissioner.

JUNE

The District selected the Ferd Kvidera farm as the Register & Tribune entry. The State Soil Conservation Committee appointed Welby Dixon, commissioner. Workbooks were checked by the Education Committee with prizes awarded to Wayne Beck of the Geneseo School and Judy Sienknecht of the Clutier, School. Final adoption of soil loss limit regulations was approved.

COMMISSIONERS ACTION, cont.**JULY**

Soil Conservation pictures were on display at the Gladbrook Corn Carnival.

AUGUST

A tour of conservation practices was planned by Ted Hall for the ASCS, SCS and Extension Service office personnel.

SEPTEMBER

The commissioners attended the Annual Conference in Des Moines. The annual planning picnic and meeting was held at the Tama Park with Commissioners, past commissioners, Education Committee and Field Office Staff and families in attendance.

OCTOBER

Two teachers attended the conservation workshop at Camp Ewalu. Conservation Week issue in Toledo Chronicle.

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Lester Lenhart, commissioner, presenting the 1971 Register & Tribune Award to Mr. & Mrs. LaVern Eckhart, winners in the new cooperator division.

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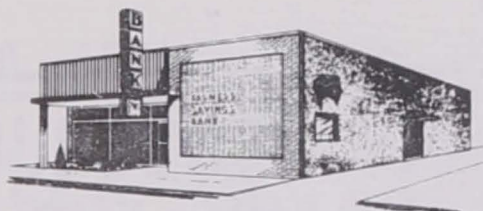
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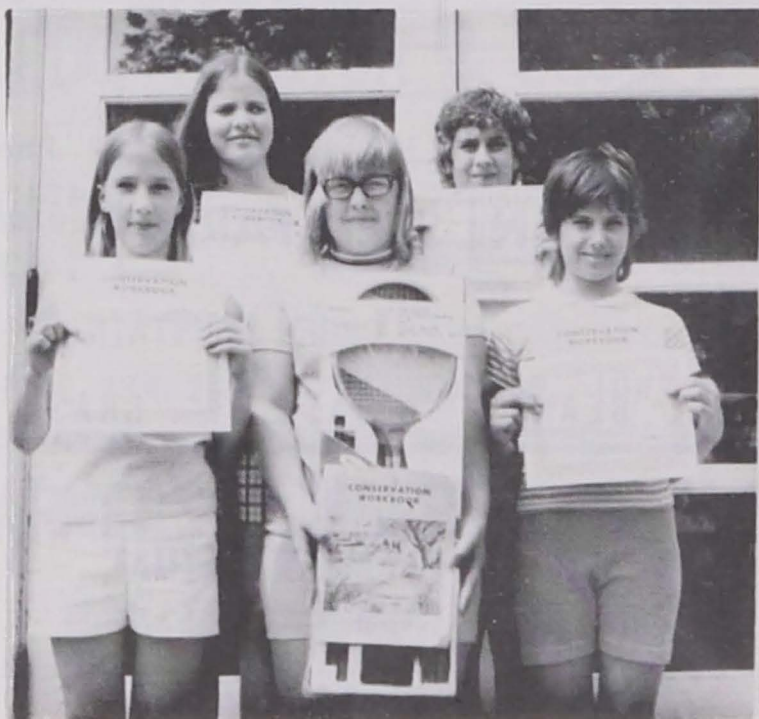
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Awards were presented for Outstanding Conservation Workbooks to the following: back row, Janice Kucera, Laura Fischer, front row, Sandra Pohlman, Judi Sienknecht and Lynn Kubik of the Clutier School.

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IOWA FORESTRY PROGRAM

Roy G. Hatcher, District Forester

In 1972 twelve landowners in Tama County planted 30 acres of trees and wildlife shrubs. These plants were purchased from the State nursery that is operated by the Iowa Conservation Commission at Ames. These plants were planted for erosion control, wildlife cover and reforestation. A variety of trees were planted including several kinds of evergreens and hardwoods. Several wildlife shrubs including autumn olive, honeysuckle and ninebark were planted. Many were sold in a wildlife packet that consists of 250 plants that include the above shrubs and 50 pines.

Each year the State Conservation Nursery sells over 1½ million plants. The nursery stock can be planted only in rural areas and not for windbreak or ornamental purposes. The nursery stock is sold at a non-profit cost, from 2 to 2½ cents apiece, with a minimum order of 500 plants. Orders can be gotten from Conservation Commission personnel as well as Soil Conservation District offices.

Free technical advise is available to the rural landowner on the planting of trees and shrubs. The district forester can advise on the trees and the wildlife biologist can advise on wildlife plantings. The forester can also provide rural timber landowners free management assistance for his timber land that includes marketing information. For those who can use a tree planting machine the forester has one that is available free-of-charge. Additional information is available through the local Soil Conservation District office in Toledo.

More people are becoming aware of the importance in planting trees and wildlife shrubs. Trees not only help beautify an area, such as a farm pond, but can also utilize sub-marginal land by growing a timber product on it. There are a variety of timber products grown in Iowa. One of the fastest growing timber crop is Christmas trees. Christmas trees can be harvested from 6 to 7 years after planting. Today, thousands of Iowa grown Christmas trees are harvested each year. It is a growing timber industry. Lumber is the main product from Iowa trees today. Naturally, the harvest cycle on lumber is considerably longer, 60 to 100 years, depending upon the specie of tree being grown. Most people that plant for a timber crop plants with the idea of establishing a future income for their children or grandchildren. Today, there has been a lot of interest in the planting of black walnut because of its

IOWA FORESTRY PROGRAM, cont.

high value. Even though a landowner may not harvest his own planting, the value of the land on which the walnut is planted increases as the trees continue to grow. Trees are a good investment on the right kind of land. There are certain tax benefits in planting trees on your land. If you have some timber on your farm get some advise from the local forester before you decide to remove it. It may be worth more to you to let it grow a few more years.

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Ted Hall - District Conservationist

Much of the progress made in Tama County Soil Conservation is because of help through the Iowa Legislature. Certain funds are allocated to Soil Conservation Districts by the legislature and are administered through the State Department of Soil Conservation.

These funds are used for district commissioners expenses (mileage and meals) on regular business, to hire clerks for office work and soil conservation aides who assist the district conservationist and soil conservation technician that apply conservation measures to the land.

Soil Conservation Districts are legal entities of the State of Iowa under the supervision of the elected commissioners. The five commissioners serving each district serve without pay much as a school board or a church board because of their interest in conservation.

The local program is also helped by the support of the patrons who buy advertising in this report. We appreciate the legislators and businessmen who help Tama County Conservation.

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