

1999
57th ANNUAL REPORT
CASS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ATLANTIC, IA

1999

March
2000

4-H Leader

Page 8



Atlantic Farm Monthly

Serving Cass, Shelby, Guthrie, Audubon and Pottawattamie Counties for over 125 years.

Vol. 40-No. 3

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SOIL CONSERVATION MONTH

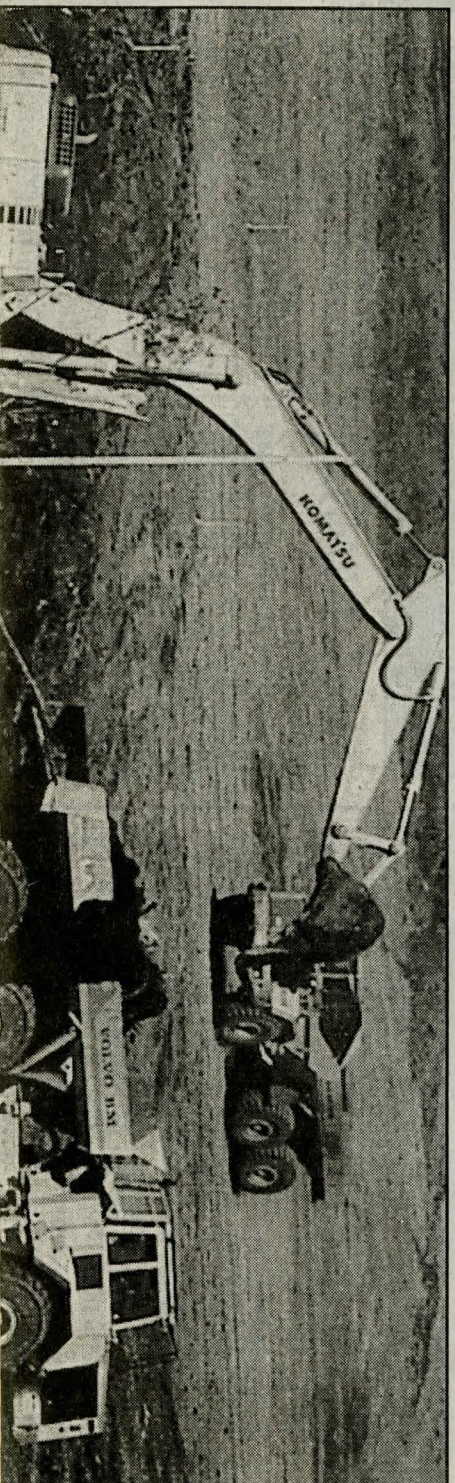
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Wilson
Retires

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Page 8

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SOIL CONSERVATION MONTH

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Cass County NRCS employees work on the construction of the Troublesome Creek Watershed.

Photo contributed

Troublesome Creek Watershed

In the summer and fall of 1999, two watershed dams were built in northern Cass County. Both of these structures were built in the Troublesome Creek Watershed drainage area.

The purpose of the dams is twofold, they provide erosion control to stop gully erosion, and also help with flood prevention.

When the drainage areas above the dams receive a large, intense rainfall, the water builds up behind the dam and is slowly released downstream by means of the principal spillway pipes. By releasing the water slowly, lowland flooding and damage to county roads and bridges are reduced.

The dams were constructed on the Dean Esbeck and the Duane Nelson farms located on the north side of Interstate 80, between the Atlantic and Wiota exits, and can be seen from the Interstate.

At the present time, more structures are being planned for Turkey Creek and Troublesome Creek Watersheds, and as federal funds become available more structures will be built.

Support your local farmer!

Annual Budget Report

EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS

I-M BUDGET

98-99 Allocation	\$3,200.00
Commissioner mileage and expenses	\$1,225.54
Office supplies and expenses	\$781.04
State and national dues	\$650.00
Returned to Div. of Soil Conservation	\$543.42
Total	\$3,200.00

III-M BUDGET

98-99 Allocation	\$81,747.66
Cost-share warrants paid	\$79,312.32
Returned to Div. of Soil Conservation	\$2,435.34
Total	\$81,747.66

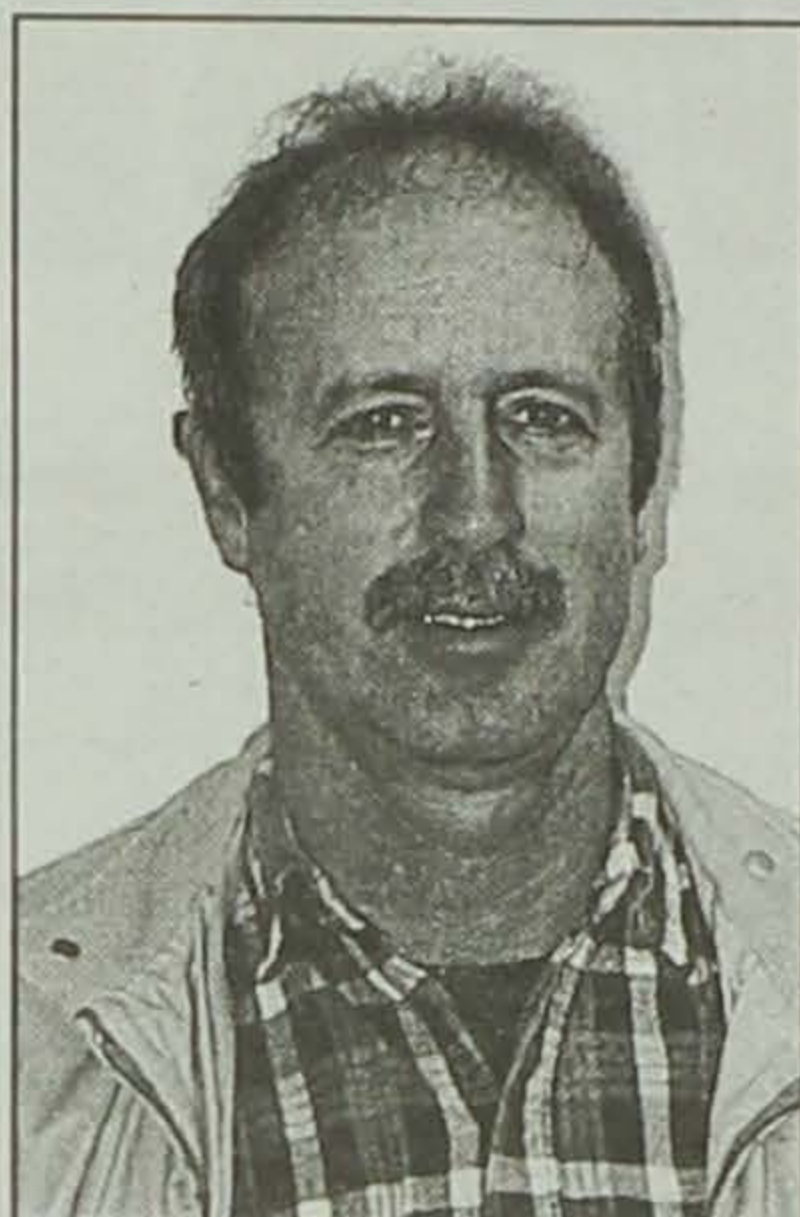
99-00 Allocation	\$59,541.00
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Cost-share warrants paid	\$47,783.56
Obligated funds	\$8,505.00
Unobligated funds	\$3,252.44
Total	\$59,541.00

1999 REAP Practices

Allocation	\$7,026.00
Cost-share warrants paid	\$428.00
Returned to Div. of Soil Conservation	\$6,598.00
Total	\$7,026.00
1999 REAP Forestry/Native Grass	
Allocation	\$1,811.00
Cost-share warrants paid	\$1,019.20
Returned to Div. of Soil Conservation	\$791.80
Total	\$1,811.00

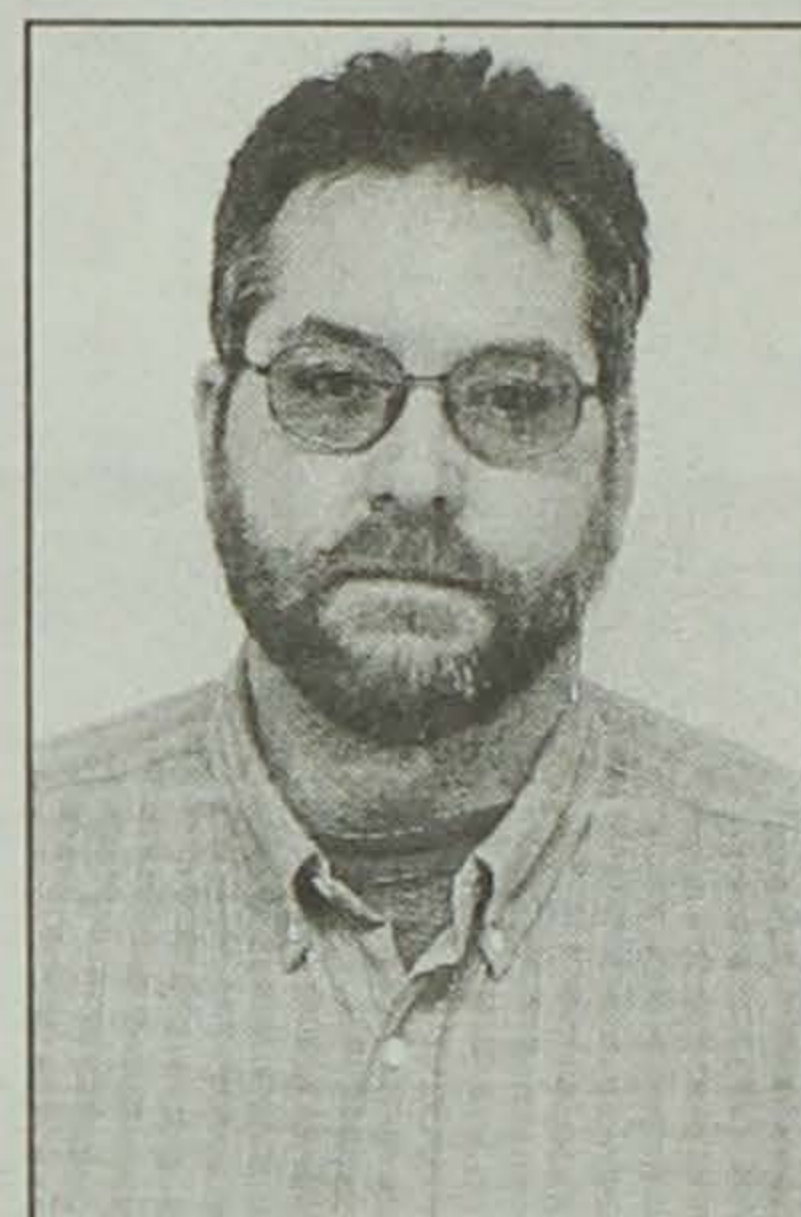
Meet Your Commissioners



Ray Wilson

Assistant commissioner since 1999, farms in southern Cass County. He and his wife, Billie, raise corn, soybeans, and have a cow-calf operation. They are also raising three children, Seth, Sydney and Allyssa.

Photo contributed



James Jordan

Commissioner for 11 years. Farmed since 1976; graduated from Rolfe Community High School; attended the University of Iowa and Iowa State University. Member of the Cass County and Iowa Pork Producers. His wife, Gini, is an Atlantic elementary school teacher.



Greg Zellmer

Elected to the board of commissioners in 1992; serves on the Cass Agriculture and Education Association, Danish Mutual board, Cass County Extension Council, Cass County and Iowa Beef Producers. Greg has three children, Jeremy, Carrie and Tara, and a wife, Donna.

Farm Bill Programs

Conservation Reserve Program

The NRCS plays a very important role in the Conservation Reserve Program. NRCS staff provide technical assistance to landowners interested in enrolling

land in CRP by helping them process bids, develop conservation plans and establish permanent vegetation on environmentally sensitive cropland. In this voluntary program landowners sign 10 to 15 year contracts and receive annual rental payments. Iowa currently has 1.5 million acres enrolled in CRP with 170,000 acres in continuous CRP. Iowa has the most farmers with land in continuous CRP (buffers) across the nation with one in

every five landowners participating.

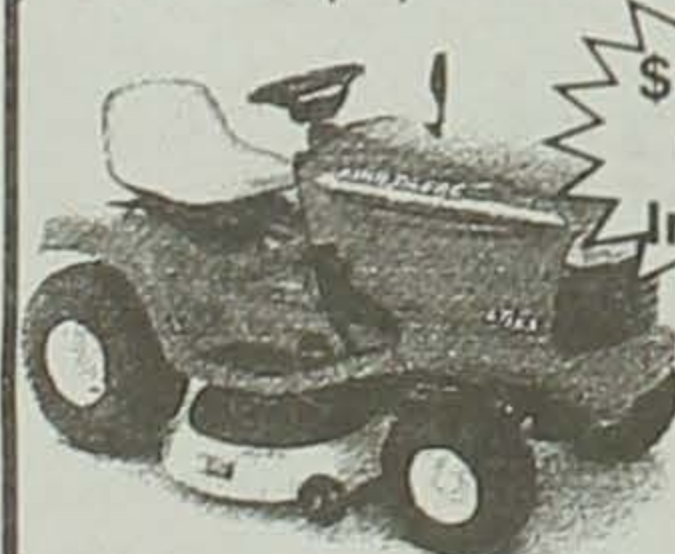
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

This voluntary program helps people develop and improve habitat for fish and wildlife on private lands. WHIP provides both technical assistance and cost share through 10 year contracts.

Think Spring Sale!

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Special Deere Season Financing incentives may also apply, such as 4.9% financing or 90 days no payment, no interest, ask for details. This is a limited time offer. The sale starts Sat., March 25th and the Sale ends Sat., April 15th. We have a large selection, however popular models will go fast. Stop in and see Scott and Steve in Adair or Stan in Avoca, or call 800-443-3242 in Adair or 800-524-9140 in Avoca.



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Recipes

Steak and Stout Pie

Pastry for double crust 9-inch pie
4 slices bacon, coarsely chopped
4 medium onions, coarsely chopped
4 tablespoons flour
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
2 pounds beef stew meat, cut into 1-inch cubes
4 tablespoons vegetable oil
2 tablespoons golden raisins
1 tablespoon light brown sugar
1 12-ounce bottle Guinness Stout
3 tablespoons Tabasco brand Green Pepper Sauce
1/2 cup chopped parsley

Line a 9-inch pie plate with half of prepared pastry. Bake according to package directions. Cool.

Preheat oven to 350F.

Cook bacon and onions in a large, heavy skillet over medium heat for 3 to 4 minutes. Remove from heat and add to Dutch oven or oven-proof casserole.

Combine flour and salt in large bowl. Add meat; toss to coat well. Heat oil in skillet; add beef pieces, a few at a time, and brown on all sides. Remove to Dutch oven.

Place Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add raisins, sugar, stout and Tabasco sauce and bring to boil. Cover and bake in oven for 1 hour and 30 minutes. Stir occasionally and add more stout or water if gravy appears too thick.

Remove beef from oven and increase oven temperature to 425F. Stir parsley into beef mixture; spoon into pastry-lined pie plate. Roll out remaining pastry into circle, forming top crust. Cut slits or shamrock designs to allow steam to escape. Place on pie, flute edges as desired. Place pie on baking sheet and bake until crust is golden, about 14 to 16 minutes. Remove pie from oven and let it sit for 15 minutes before cutting.

Recipes Wanted!

If you would like to share your favorite recipes, send in the recipe along with your name, address and phone number to the Atlantic News-Telegraph, Attn: Farm Monthly, P.O. Box 230, Atlantic, Iowa 50022

Reminder

Remember if your conservation compliance plan calls for corn-beans no-till that means NO tillage.

A reminder from the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District and your local Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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Wilson retires from NRCS



NRCS commissioners present Carolyn Wilson with a plaque for her years of service.

Shown here are (from the left) Mike Hall, Fred Kay, Carolyn Wilson, Ray Wilson, James Jordan, Greg Zellmer and Russell Joyce.

Photo contributed

Secretary Carolyn Wilson retired after devoting 21 years of service to the Division of Soil Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. She is missed immensely by co-workers and producers. "We all knew we could depend on her for answers when we needed them," officials said. Carolyn plans to enjoy working in her flower and vegetable gardens this summer. She will be taking some short camping trips with Morris, her husband, and grandchildren. She enjoyed some time in Arizona right after retiring.

FARMS FOR SALE

- 160 ACRES, M/L: **SOLD** located 10 miles S.E. of Stuart. Highly tillable, partially terraced cropland. \$1250 per acre.
- 370 ACRES, M/L: **SOLD** located 2 miles south of Griswold. Very high quality, almost all second bottom soils, 83.4 CSR. 1 1/2 story home, machine shed & storage. \$2200 per acre.
- 156 ACRES, M/L: **SOLD** located 3 miles west of Atlantic. Gently rolling cropland. Some pasture. \$1825 per acre.
- 80 ACRES, M/L: **SOLD** located approximately 11 miles S.E. of Atlantic or 5-1/2 miles S.W. of Cumberland. Currently about 74% tillable, more could be added. Very high quality, near level silt loam soils, small, older dwelling. \$1450 per acre, cash.
- 140 ACRES, M/L: **SOLD** located 6-1/2 miles south of Cumberland. Mostly Sharpsburg cropland. \$1050 per acre, cash.
- 400 ACRES, M/L: Located 1 mile N.E. of Wiota on paved road. Cropland, pasture, & CRP combination. Cropland has had extensive tile & terrace work. Nice machine shed. \$1288 per acre.
- 84 ACRES, M/L: **SOLD** located on the N.W. edge of Griswold. 96% tillable. All top quality first and second bottom cropland. \$2381 per acre.
- 114 ACRES, M/L: Located 6 miles north of Wiota. Cropland/pasture combination. Ponds & good fences on pasture. \$1185 per acre.
- 170 ACRES, M/L: **SOLD** located 4-1/2 miles S.W. of Elk Horn. Very good soils with high percentage of second bottom & ridge. 1 1/2 story home and machine shed. \$2250 per acre.
- 173 ACRES, M/L: Located 14 miles south of Audubon. Cropland & pasture combination. No buildings. \$975 per acre.

We have had a good run on land sales the past 30 days, and our listing inventory is getting low. Buyer interest can still be strong into late March and April before the new crop gets planted. Last year we sold three farms in late April. Sometimes in late spring, we'll see investors with 1031 exchange funds get aggressive in their acquisition efforts, in order to execute an exchange before the IRS prescribed time expires. If you are still interested in pricing some farmland yet this spring, give us a call for a free, confidential market recommendation.

Glen R. Smith, Broker



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Ford 8670 2 WH 1,800 hrs.	

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KINZE 1040 Grain cart	JD 7000 8-W
KINZE 2000 6-30-11	JD 750 Drill 15 ft. new 1998
KINZE 2200 8-W Flex	GP 15 ft. no till drill
KINZE 2200 -12-30 Flex	Krause 15 ft. no till drill
KINZE 2300 -12-30 Liq. Fert.	Case 950 12-30 Pull Type
KINZE 2500 -8-30-15	Case 5,400 min. till drill



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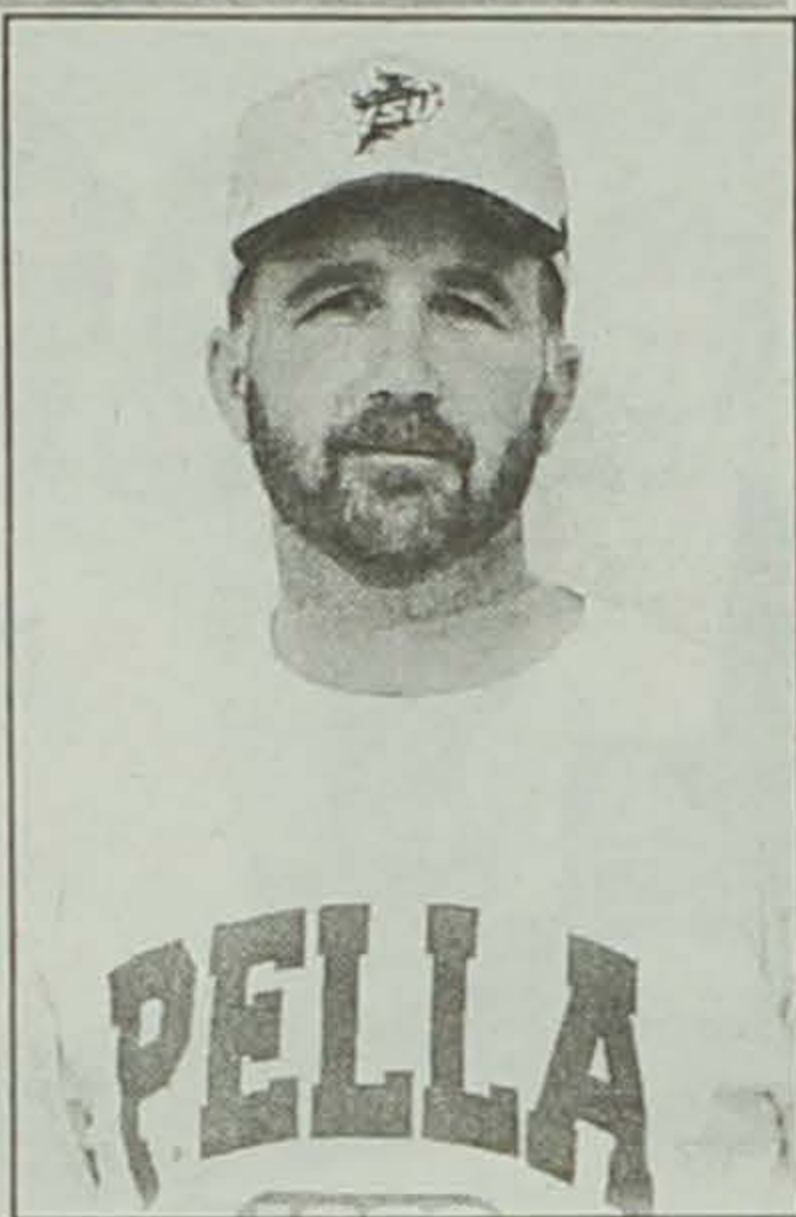


Meet Your Commissioners



Jim Smith

Commissioner since 1994. Has farmed south of Griswold since 1969. He and his wife, Joy, have three children, Brian, Diane and Carol.



Mike Hall

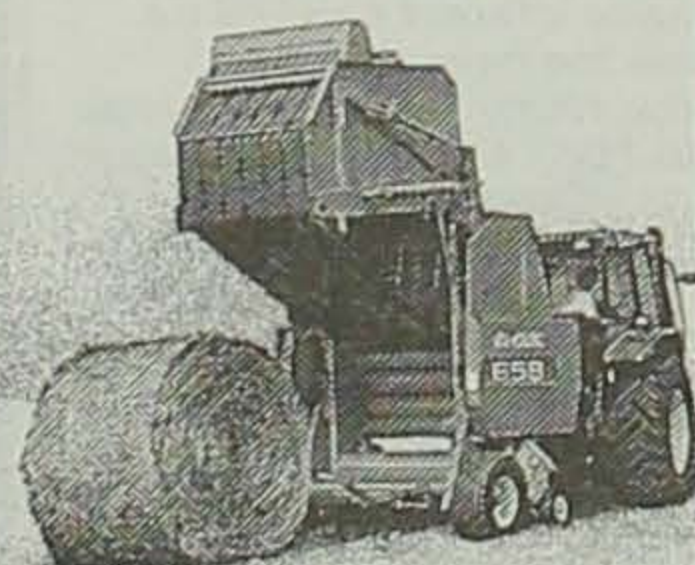
Commissioner since 1994; began farming north of Massena in 1975. He and his wife, Jeanette, have three children, Jeremy, Leah and Cale.

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Poetry Corner

Spring Romance

BY GRACE RASMUSSEN
Manilla

Foolish Iowa
cast lovesick eyes
at Mistress Spring
letting eager crocus
flirt with her.

Jealous March
cast a spell of snow
to fall over all
and swooped
off in a huff.

Farm Bureau

Agriculture: our community!
There are approximately 22 million people who work in agriculture related fields in the United States.

This includes farmers, journalists, nutritionists, economists, teachers, consultants and salespeople.

The Cass County Farm Bureau encourages all of us to come together and celebrate National Ag Day, March 20.



Cass County Farm Bureau
1501 E. 7th • Atlantic
712-243-2263 • 800-427-2262

Family honored for conservation work



Cass County farmers, Mr. and Mrs. Royal Bierbaum, received their Century Conservation Farm Family Award at the 1999 Farm Progress Show. Also pictured is NRCS State Conservationist Leroy Brown (center) and IDALS-Division of Soil Conservation official Ken Tow.

Photo Contributed

The Royal Bierbaum family was selected to represent Cass County as one of Iowa's conservation farm families of the century.

The Bierbaums are one of 78 farm families across the state honored at the 1999 Farm Progress Show in the Amanas on Sept. 29. They were officially recognized in a brief ceremony at the show. They were nominated by the Cass Soil and Water Conservation District for their efforts to protect water, air, and land that will produce our food into the next millennium.

Each conservation family received a limited edition wildlife print by well known Iowa artist Larry Anderson, jackets and certificates signed by Governor Tom Vilsack and other state conservation leaders.

The recognition of Iowa's Conservation farmers caps the year-long Conservation Milestones at the Millennium Campaign that honors the conservation work of Iowa's private landowners and the local, state, and federal conservation agencies and organizations which held them.



Harris receives scholarship

Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District awarded the Muller and Fudge Memorial Scholarship to Caia Harris of Atlantic. Caia is the daughter of Denise O'Brien and Larry Harris. She is attending Cornell College in Mt. Vernon.

Photo contributed

1999 Conservation Award Winners



Jim Jordan (left), commissioner, presents Larry Petersen of Atlantic with the Kenneth Muller Conservation Farmer of the Year Award at the Soil and Water Conservation District's annual education banquet.

Photo contributed



Jim Smith (left), commissioner, presents Steve Erickson of Massena with the Bill Fudge No-Till Award.

Photo contributed

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Esbeck joins SWCD

Connie Esbeck was transferred to Cass County SWCD March 3, 2000, after have worked at the Audubon County SWCD since March 1, 1971. She married to Glenn Esbeck and they live on a farm 1 3/4 miles northwest of Exira. They have three married sons and six grandchildren. Connie's hobbies include cake decorating, camping, deer hunting, and Eastern Star. "I am looking forward to working with staff in the Cass County office, most of whom I have known for several years," she said.



Photo contributed

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Poetry Corner

To My Sons

JEAN STEVENS

Grant

When my time on earth is over, and I'm about to face my God,
I hope that you'll remember, all the paths I've trod.
Learn from my mistakes and walk a straighter trail.
Keep your values true, and the right way will prevail.
Don't let hatred or envy cloud the way you think,
Despair is such an awful thing, and its depths are easy to sink.
Forgiveness is often hard, but it can cleanse the mortal soul,
Along with trust and honor can help to make you whole.
Lying brings the spirit down, addiction ruins it all,
Cheating kills a marriage and guilt makes you feel small.
Having someone to love and to hold you when it's needed,
Gives your life more value, and proves you have succeeded.
Remember that life is more than earthly things, don't let them
cloud your heart,
And know that I have loved you, from the very very start.

Farm Bill Programs

Highly Erodible Land

Conservation Compliance was implemented in the 1985 Farm Bill. Since then, Iowa NRCS staff has assisted USDA Program participants develop conservation compliance plans providing erosion control on 12 million acres (more than 130,000 tracts) of highly erodible land. NRCS also provides assistance to install and maintain acceptable conservation systems on highly erodible land.

Who to Contact

Soil Conservation District Personnel

Connie Esbeck State Secretary
Gary Wolfe State Conservation Technician III

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

Martin E. Seidel District Conservationist
Sindra Jensen Soil Conservationist
Duane Ortgies Soil Conservation Technician
Alyce Lane District Office Assistant

Extension Service

Alan Teel County Extension Education Director
Jill Euken Field Specialist/Families
Julie Hering Youth Program Coordinator
Bev Gunderson Office Assistant
Kay Winston Office Assistant (P/T)

Farm Service Agency

Bill Bartenhagen County Executive Director

Office Staff

Diane Carspecken, Jamie Newbury, Jeanine Christensen, Sharon Crane, Mona Ballinger

FSA County Committee

Lawrence Wohlenhaus, Donna Lowers, and Bill Behnken

AG Credit

Don Obrecht Farm Loan Manager
Todd Wepler Farm Loan Manager
Madonna Nisson Program Technician

Meet Your Commissioners



Fred Kay

Elected to the board of commissioners in 1992. Serves on the Rural Development Action Committee, Iowa Poultry Association, Cass County Pork and Beef Producers, and Cass County and Iowa Corn Growers Associations. He and his wife, Jane, have two children, Scott and Amy, and three grandchildren.

Marshall attends conference



Michael Marshall of Lewis was among many farmers from across the state who attended the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation's (IFBF) state government conference held in Des Moines March 1-2.

More than 40 leaders participated in the conference where they received information about the implementation of the Clean Water Act, Farm Bureau's property tax growth limitation proposed policy and county budget appeals. Participants also learned about the pending EPA efforts to establish total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) in three Iowa watersheds and the potential impact on agriculture. In addition, attendees received legislative updates on state issues and met with state officials. Marshall is pictured here with IFBF Public Affairs Counsel Chris Gruenhagen.

Photo contributed



Russell Joyce

Has served three years as assistant commissioner. Currently serves as vice chairman of the Cass County Board of Supervisors. Also serves on board of directors for CADCO, RDAC, Hungry Canyon, and on the county environmental board. He farms northeast of Atlantic.

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4-H Share the Fun acts compete

Seven acts participated in the 4-H Share the Fun contest on Sunday, Feb. 13. Share the Fun is a state wide program that provides an opportunity for 4-H members to put fun into the 4-H program, expand the image of 4-H and perform before an audience for enjoyment.

Caroline and Christina Nichols of the Washington Winners took first place in this year's Share the Fun contest with their duet, "When you Believe." They received a purple ribbon and will advance to the Iowa State Fair in August. The duet also received

the best overall music performance award, donated by the Tuesday Music Club.

Second place winners were the G&L Clovers with "Who Wants to be a 4-H'er?" They also received a purple award and trip to the Iowa State Fair in August.

The Washington Winners 4-H club, received 3rd place overall with their skit "Twas the Night Before Fair." They will advance to the Iowa State Fair.

Fourth place honors went to Pymosa with their dance "Sold." They received a lavender ribbon. Discovery members of the

Benton Blue Ribbons 4-H Club performed "We're In 4-H and We Like It That Way." They received a lavender ribbon and 5th place over all.

Daniel Perkins of the Washington GEM 4-H Club received a blue ribbon for his solo "Love Devine, All Love's Excelling."

Members of the Washington GEM 4-H Club performed a skit "You Want To?" and received a blue ribbon.

Judges for the contest were Marcia Anderson and Auby Ninemire of Atlantic.



G & L Clovers win at 4-H Share the Fun

Members of the G & L Clovers 4-H Club took second place honors at the 4-H Share the Fun Contest held Sunday, Feb. 13. Their skit "Who Wants to be a 4-H'er?" received a purple ribbon and will advance to the Iowa State Fair in August. Members performing include (front row) Alex Waybright, Kerrie Waybright, Emily Knudsen, Marie Ullerich and Tiffan Zinke, (back row) Krysta Metz, Kyle Metz, Ryan Waybright, Mary Green and Jeff Green.

Photo contributed



Washington Winners advance to State Fair

Holding their purple ribbons are members of the Washington Winners 4-H club. These five girls placed third in the 4-H Share the Fun contest with their poem, "Twas the Night Before Fair." Participants include Kara Dean, Melanie Rush, Tasha Bretey, Kelsey Fairfield and Carolyn Hunt.

Photo contributed

Earth Year 2000 begins in Cass County

The excitement of New Year's Eve 1999 and the birth of a new millennium have come and gone. Now is your chance to begin the millennium with a new and improved commitment to your environment. More than one hundred Iowa organizations and thousands of Iowans are planning to do just that.

It is a movement, Iowa's Earth Year 2000, developed with Iowa residents in mind. Using the 30th anniversary of Earth Day — April 22 — Iowa's Governor Thomas Vilsack is naming the year 2000 as "The Year of the Environment." Most exciting, each of Iowa's 99 counties and most of the more than 900 communities will be involved in a yearlong, statewide celebration of Iowa's natural resources.

Iowa Earth Year 2000 will lead the nation in citizen participation for environmental improvement. Of course, the effort needs your help. County Ambassadors attended an Earth Year 2000 Kick-off Conference in January and are now ready to assist Cass County communities to develop their own Earth Year 2000 environmental activities. These activities can be as small as getting a group of citizens together to plant some trees in the city park or as large as holding an entire festival celebrating the environment. As long as it brings people together for the cause of improving the environment.

The Cass County Earth Year 2000 Committee will meet on March 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Atlantic Public Library's meeting room. We will be discussing activities, sharing ideas, and planning Earth Week events.

"SALUTING THE IOWA FARMERS" "DETERMINED TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE "STEWARDSHIP OF IOWA SOILS." FARMS — FARMLAND — ACREAGES —

- 247 Acres - Tiled, Level Ground. C.S.R. 74.76:201 Cropland Acres. 105.8 Corn Base. 20 - Acres Timber. Cropland - very good 'Bottom Ground'. Montgomery Co. IA.
- 161.2 Acres in Pott. Co.. 153.4 Cropland. Yield 106. Terraced, Tiled. \$1200.00 **SOLD**
- 136 Acres - 71.9 Base. Yield 105. **SOLD** County. \$136,000.00.
- 345 Acres - Approx. 50 Acres 'Bottom Ground', 50 - Acres Pasture w/Pond. Balance of Farmground - Medium - Rolling. **SOLD** Grain Bin w/Dryer. \$785.00 Per Acre. Ringgold County, Iowa.
- 115 Acres - Bare Ground. 100.1 Cropland. C.S. R. 60.42. 12 - Acres. Pasture. Pillot Grove Twp. Montgomery Co. "A nice piece of farmland to Own!"
- 120 Acres - Bare Ground. 65.7 Acres in C.R.P. Balance in Pasture. Has 6.2 Acres Filter Strips. \$850.00 Per Acre. Terms Cash or Contract. **SOLD**
- ACREAGE FOR SALE - Pasture w/Walnut Trees & Shade Trees. Approx. 4/5 - A. 4/5 - Bdr. 2 - Story Home. NEW RENOVATION, REMODELING & DECORATION, on HOME. NEW FURNACE, C.A. DECKS, PORCHES, EXT. PAINT AND MUCH MORE! Deep Well. 2-Car Garage. Great Location for Family Living, '4 - He's's'. and commute to Oakland, Atlantic and the Metro. "Ready-to-move-into".
- 120 Acres - Approx. 110 Acres Cropland. 2 Metal Bldgs. plus several other Bldgs. \$850.00 per Acre. Adams County. **SOLD**
- 145 Acres - 130 - Acres Cropland. C.S.R. 55. - 15 Acres Pasture. Cass Co, Iowa.
- 146.47 Acres. 130 Acres in C.S. R. Some Tiling w/2150 Ft. Terraces. Pilot Grove Twp. Montgomery Co. **SOLD**
- 155 Acres (taxable). 131.8 Cropland Acres. 131.8 Corn Base. Lg. Metal Bldg. Other Ext. Bldgs. Wash. Twp. Mont. co. \$1,100.00. **SOLD**
- 160 Acres - Nice 4 - Bdr. Home. Lg. Metal Bldg. w/Workshop. Barn. Ext. Bldgs. Deep well. Taxable Acres. 153.43. trees and lots of Landscaping. Mont. Co. LOCATION-LOCATION-LOCATION. Paved Highway **SOLD**
- 105 Acres - 95.2 Cropland, C.S. R. 66.5 Yield 128. Corn Base 44.8. Frankfort Twp. # Listed Price \$ 189,000.00. **SOLD**
- 120 Acres - 39.8 Cropland. Corn base 24.6 (Approx.). Yield 91 - Adams County. Poss. March 2000. \$102,000.00. **SOLD**
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West Coast Wayside

We were fortunate enough this winter to have a seaside wayside on the West coast. We had the opportunity to be welcomed aboard the Eagle of the Sea, a massive USS Tarawa LHA-1 vessel recently returned from the Middle East and Africa, a Navy ship that served as a Marine carrier.

It was a towering experience. Terms such as "a complement of 984 enlisted, 63 officers, 2,000 Marines and then... (2) MK 31 Rolling Missile (RAM) launchers, plus close in weapons and a displacement of 40,000 tons" bewildered we land-locked Iowans. We saw that she could

Waysides by Grace Rasmussen

launch Marine Corps AV-8B Harrier attack jets and how a huge Sea Knight helicopter could land on Tarawa.

Underneath the awe that prevailed throughout our tour there was a satisfying feeling of comfort and security to learn of the monumental resources that are available to our servicemen these days and that our little wayside of Iowa was situated far from either

shore or abroad the wide oceans.

We also added another presidential library to our list. The location alone where Reagan's Library is established must be like what Moses saw when he looked over into the promised land. The view is one great panorama across a wide valley. It adds a great deal to the lasting impression of your stay there. A majestic wayside if there ever was one.

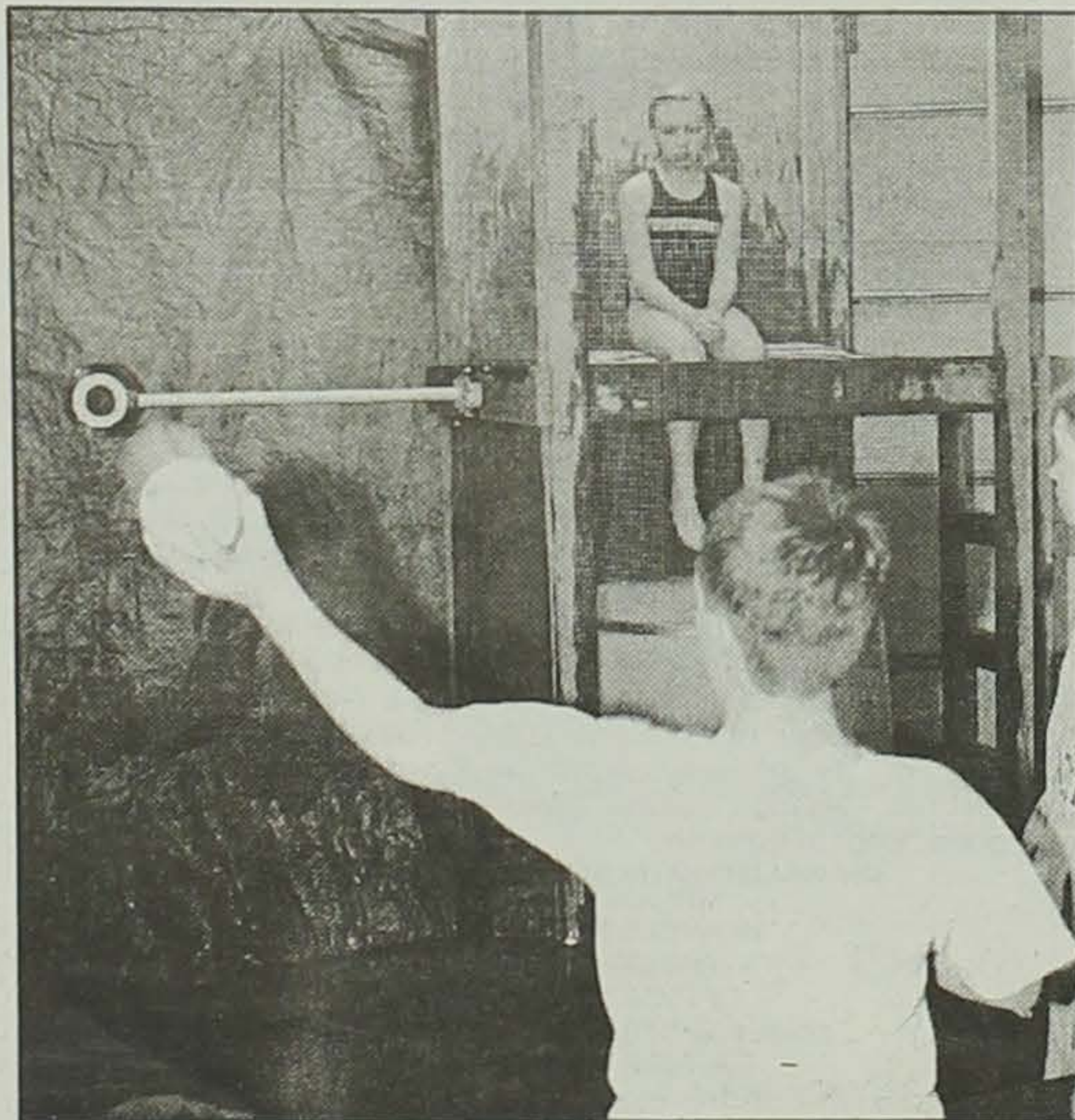
4-H News

Pleasant Noble United

BY JESSICA FORSYTH
AND RACHEL
BIERBAUM

The regular meeting of the Pleasant Noble United 4-H club was held on March 1 at 6:30 p.m., at the Griswold High School. Roll call was "What are your plans for Spring Break?" and answered by 27 members. Travis Tilton led the pledge to the American flag. President Ashley Anderson opened the meeting with the following new business: Sign up sheets for Mardi Gras work schedule was passed around. We decided to order personalized 4-H T-shirts. Giving presentations this month were Ben Rush on How to

polish boots, Nick Seyler on his Fur and Antler Collection, Amanda Seyler on How to care for her bird "Malaki", Jodi Kneisel on How to make T-shirt iron-ons with a computer and Travis Tilton on How to make instant cocoa mix. We discussed the next months meeting date and location, which will be held on April 5, at 6:30 p.m., at the Griswold High School. The hosts will be Alex Sandbothe, Kayleigh Juhl, and Britney Leighton. Member presentations will be Chad Johnson, Curtis Bierbaum, Heath Anderson and Adam Bierbaum. We adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Ashley Anderson led the pledge to the 4-H flag. Brad, Crystal, Nick Rush and Matt and Michelle Pelzer served as host for the evening.



4-H members turned out this month for the annual Mardi Gras celebration at the 4-H Community Center.

Bear Grove Blazers

BY CALEB NELSON

The Bear Grove Blazers 4-H club meeting was held Monday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m. at Washington School. Roll call was, "What is your favorite candy bar?" New business discussed was Mardi Gras and a club lock-in. There were 13 members present at the meeting. After the meeting Scott DeBord gave a presentation about livestock safety. Then the club ate snacks leftover from Ross Warne's farm sale.

Brighton Blue Bells

BY EMILY OLSEN

The meeting of the Brighton Blue Bells was called to order on Feb. 20 by Joni Teague. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chelsea Swanson and roll call was "What's your favorite subject in school?" The treasurer's report was given, minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Old business: members reported on 4-H family volleyball. New business: Mardi Gras was March 12, swine weigh-in is April 1. The 4-H pledge was lead by Emily and Rebecca Frisbie. Presentations were given by Rebecca Frisbie on Chia pets, Emily Frisbie on homemade postcards, Katie Kucera on 4-H photography matting, Chelsea Swanson on strawberry candy dishes, and Laci Swanson on hot pad latch hook.

The next meeting will be on March 13 at the Marne church at 7 p.m.

4-H Junior Leader of the Month

Christina Nichols

Address: 61899 Indian Creek Street

Parents: Cindy and Dick Nichols
Brothers and sisters: Sam, Caroline, William, and James

Years in 4-H: 7

Age: 17

Club: Washington Winners 4-H club



The projects I have carried throughout the years are clothing, food and nutrition, child development, communications, leadership, and home improvement.

I was the president of my club last year and have held the positions of secretary, photographer, historian, and vice-president.

I am in the Cass County Youth Council, I have helped with the discovering workshop, Share the Fun, and other county events.

The highlight of my 4-H career is winning Share the Fun with my duet with my sister.

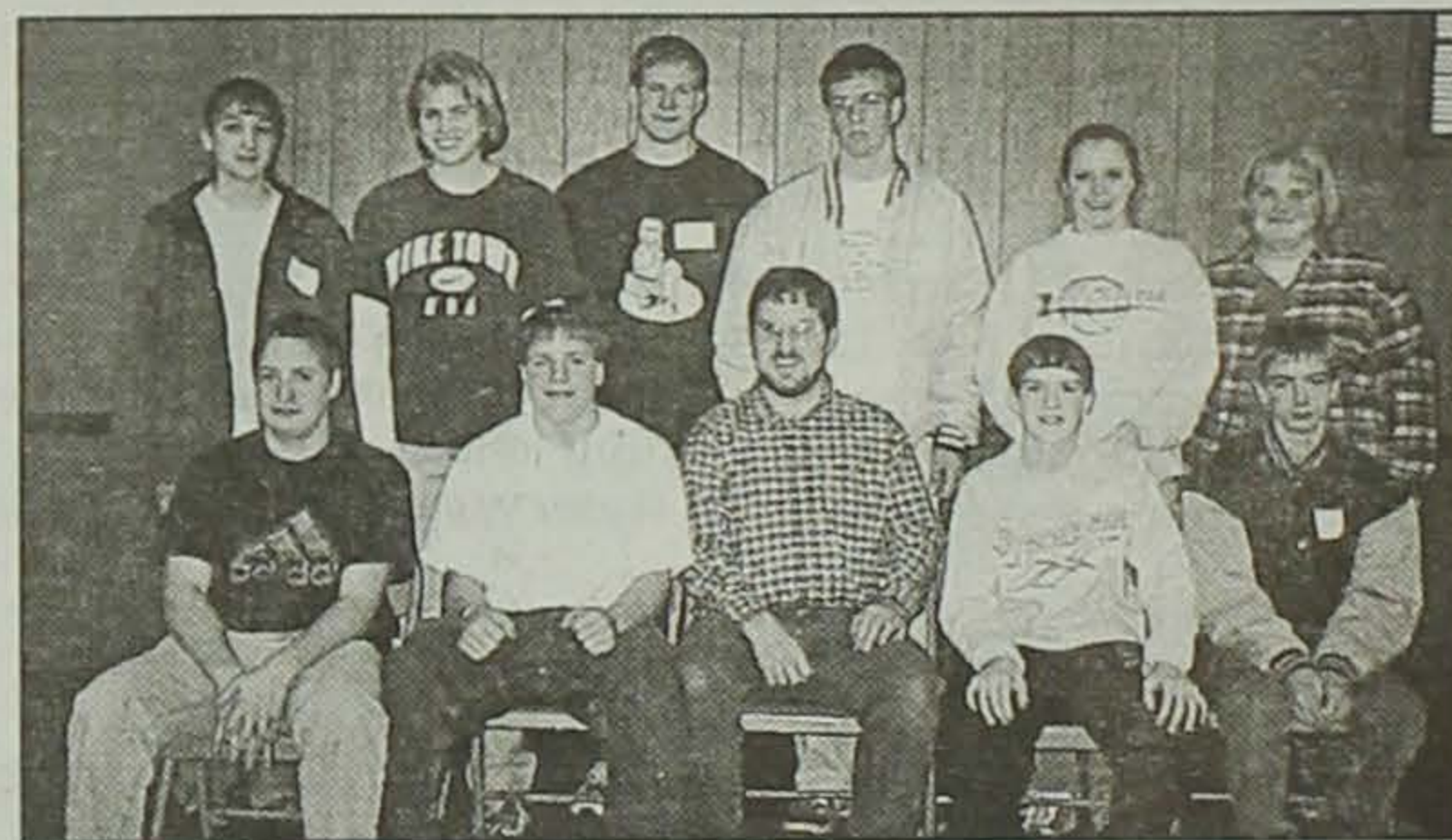
I like being a Junior Leader because of the kids. The discovering workshop was so fun, it made it easy to stay awake after having only 3 hours of sleep the night

before.

4-H is a great experience. It brings you out of your shell and teaches you how to speak up to a group, to have confidence, and how to behave in a meeting situation. It's also great to make great projects for the fair.

My future plans are to go to UNI or Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, get a degree in something, get married, have a family, and live next to my best pals, Melinda, Megan, and Jodi.

Cowpokes elect officers



Over 40 4-H and FFA members enrolled in the horse project recently held their organizational meeting and election of officers. Recently elected officers of the Cowpokes Horse Project club include (back row, from the left) Samantha Holste, vice chair; Liz Hunt, co-chair; Jason Frederiksen, co-chair; Grant Miller, co-treasurer; Josi Waterbury, co-treasurer; and Betsy Larsen, secretary.

Junior officers include (front row) Matt Frederiksen, vice chair; Kyle Frederiksen, secretary; Auby Ninemire, advisor; Tom Waterbury, chairman; and Kelly Miller, treasurer.

These young people are responsible for organizing a variety of horse project workshops throughout the spring and summer. This will include an overnight lock-in on March 24 and 25, the Cass County Invitational Horse show on June 11 as well as many workshops, trailrides and riding review to help them prepare for the Cass County Fair.

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