

Farm Pond/Water Hydrant System

First In County Installed For Dave Petty Cattle Operation

Dave Petty is a cattle feeder and a conservationist. In the 1996 Farm Bill, he has found a way to promote both of those interests through a pasture management and planned grazing system program. Dave, who lives near Union, has a 150-acre farm at the southeast edge of Eldora that has been enrolled the past 10 years in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

"Since my goal is to run cattle on the property, the time was right to make a change. Running cattle is an effective way to add value to the land. My overall goal is to manage available resources to the fullest. Being environmentally sensitive, I want to leave the resources as I found them. This conservation practice will involve reshaping several waterways, grass seeding to stop erosion and improving fertility and water quality,"

Petty noted. "Because of many changes brought about by the 1996 Farm Bill, Dave had one of only two Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) contracts approved in Hardin county last spring," reports Gary L. Hillmer, District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Dan Cook of New Providence had the other approved contract.

"Whereas before we looked at specific practices, such as waterways and terraces, we now talk about whole farm plans and multiple resources - cropland, pastureland, hayland, wildlife resources (natural areas), water resources, wetland development, etc.," Hillmer continued.

"If a producer asks us to look at his overall farming operation, we'll take it and try to meld their objectives with a cost sharing program."

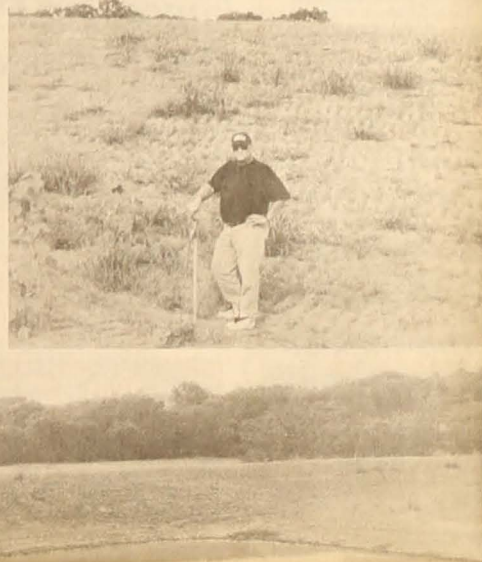
"Dave, a cattle feeder, has a farm along the Iowa River that is not prime cropland. He is wanting to take this ground and maximize the benefits it offers. Grass and cattle, that's a prime use for that piece of property," Hillmer stated.

"His objective qualifies as a 1997 Iowa EQIP practice, specifically Pasture Management and Planned Grazing System."

"His Pasture Management practices will include nutrient management, heavy use and streambank protection and pasture planting. Planned Grazing System practices will include fencing, pond development and sealing, trough or tank installation and critical area planting," Hillmer added.

"Specifically, we can offer Dave incentive dollars to build fences (for rotational grazing) to better manage his forage and maximize its efficiency. Financial help is also available for watering sources - in

Hardin county's first ever farm pond with water hydrant system was installed this spring by Dave Petty on his 150-acre pasture site at the southeast edge of Eldora. Soil Conservation Technician Kent Holmgaard (below) looks over the pond, which will have an ultimate depth of 12-15 feet. Plastic pipe was installed beneath the pond and passes through the embankment on which Holmgaard stands to a nearby hydrant (pictured at right) which will be used in filling watering tanks or troughs for his cattle herd. Petty's overall farm plan qualified for cost sharing benefits as a 1997 EQIP (Environment Quality Incentive Program) practice, specifically Pasture Management and Planned Grazing System.



DAVE PETTY

This case construction of a farm pond and watering system. "For his particular objectives, forage management and sufficient watering sources are most critical," Hillmer noted.

This spring, Petty contracted with Riusus Land Improvement to construct a two-acre lake bed which will have an ultimate depth of 12-15 feet. Plastic pipe was installed beneath the pond allowing the water to pass through an earthen structure to a nearby hydrant, which will be used in filling watering tanks or troughs for his cattle herd.

Transporting the water supply away from the pond, which will be fenced off, will protect the banks of the structure from caving in from the weight of the animals as they approach the water supply, thus assuring better water quality.

This is the first farm pond with water hydrant system installed in Hardin county.

There will be eight different pastures or fenced grazing areas on the 150-acre site, Petty notes. Additional ponds and wells will be installed, plus water will be pulled from streams elsewhere on the pasture site.

"Dividing the pasture into smaller grazing areas will result in a stronger root system, thicker grass and less erosion. We can move the herd from one grazing area to another to increase forage production."

"I'll run soil samples to determine

Key To Conservation Progress Good Land Ethic

BY JOHN GILBERT
Hardin SWCD Commissioner

The big question facing conservation in this country is how to insure future care of the soil and water without incentives or enforcement mechanisms.

In many ways, soil and water conservation faces the same dilemma as parents who've relied on "bribes" to get their toddlers to behave, and now expect proper behavior simply because it is "right". This is not to imply farmers have been bribed to practice soil conservation. It just recognizes the mindset that has developed with some land owners and operators who have followed HEL plans in large part to stay eligible for farm program payments.

Protecting soil and water requires a careful balancing of property rights, the wishes of taxpayers, and society's need to insure future food productivity. This means - contrary to some beliefs - that land ownership is not absolute. In many ways owning farmland is more holding the public's interest in the property "in trust". The accepted standard of property use is an owner or operator is entitled to "use" the resources of the property, but not to "consume" or "use up" the productivity.

Society through a variety of federal and state laws has said everyone has a stake in the wise use of our soil. The taxpayers have put their dollars on the line, paying a significant share of waterway, terrace and other construction costs. Some money will continue to be available for such structural construction. However, the bargain society has made is that the most erodible soils must receive special care - hence the HEL plans. Society will continue to expect farmers to be good stewards of the soil, even after farm payments end. But what incentive will land owners have to continue practices like use of grass buffer strips, limitations on rotations, farming on the contour or no till?

There are only two alternatives - regulations, or following what Aldo Leopold

described as "a land ethic". Such an ethic is like character - it's how we act when no one is watching... it is doing what is right, because it is right. Another approach to ethical land use is to recognize the mutual interests farmers and consumers have in how food is produced. That concern can be defined as a commonwealth (something shared for everyone's benefit), or a common-health. Healthy land produces healthy food for healthy people.

Many of the arguments for a conservation ethic are rooted in religious teaching and values. The Amish, for instance, take quite literally the Biblical admonition to "keep and dress" the land. All Christian faiths recognize natural resources as God-made and God-given, requiring reverence in its use. Often the commandment to have no other God gets confused or lost when economics are at stake.

Which gets to the fly in the ointment - land must be productive enough to permit owners and operators the financial resources to use it properly. Present farming systems put heavy demands on our soils - and our stewardship. The larger the acreage, the more reliance on hired help, the greater the likelihood of misuse. Our land is becoming less productive. An acre, or a section, or a township, is supporting fewer farmers, fewer businesses and communities.

Perhaps the industrial system of maximum commodity production is not the right paradigm. This country was built on a diverse and biologically integrated agriculture. Despite all the propaganda, biological principles and relationships don't change. A stronger agriculture can be rebuilt using cooperation, livestock, diversity, faith in the future - and a strong land ethic. Existing farmers who don't wish to change farming methods should consider giving a beginning farmer interested in diversity an opportunity.

The bottom line is simple: our highly productive soil resource is our lifeline. We must use it responsibly and competently - including finding ways to generate the profits necessary. That includes following a voluntary land ethic which looks at the good of the land, the benefit to the residents of the property, and of neighbors and local communities.

Dependable Service For 37 Years

It was our pleasure to serve as general contractor for this sediment control dike near the upper end of Upper Pine Lake. Some 3,400 ton of rock rip rap across the lake will serve as a water filtering system



Tile - Terraces - Waterways - Dozing - Site Preparation
Rock, Dirt & Fill Sand Delivered



Get The Most For Your Dollars!

With our state-of-the-art equipment and experienced workmen, you can expect a professional job at the lowest possible cost.

We use **Hancor** Products **McDowell & Sons**

• Farm Drainage • General Excavating
All Equipment Laser Controlled

Iowa Falls Larry, Nancy, Steve, Rick & Jim McDowell
Ph. 648-5071

Ackley Ph. 847-3535
Toll Free 800-782-0031



Dave Petty constructed Hardin county's first ever farm pond with water hydrant system on his pasture site at the southeast edge of Eldora.

HCSB has been supporting and serving your agricultural needs for over 125 years with Machinery Loans, Operating Loans, Farm Management Services, Ag Real Estate Loans and AG Leasing. Call or come in to visit with our ag loan officers about your needs.

In the meantime, we say thanks and salute those of you who are keeping Iowa a beautiful place to live!

We salute our customers who practice Soil and Water Conservation!



Ken Cook planted 1/3 acre of windbreak on previous cropland at his farm southeast of New Providence. Included are two rows of Black Hill spruce and a row of shrubs.

Hardin County Savings Bank

Together With You

Eldora • Union • Liscomb • New Providence

E-mail us at: hcsbank@netins.net
Internet: www.hardincsb.com

HCSB

MEMBER FDIC



3,400 Ton Of Rock In Upper PL Sediment Control Dike

In conjunction with dredging of Upper and Lower Pine Lakes, the Department of Natural Resources this summer completed a second lake enhancement project, the above sediment control dike near the upper end of Upper Pine Lake. General contractor McDowell & Sons of Iowa Falls placed 3,400 tons of rock rip

CRP Sign-Up October 14 - November 14

Farmers nationwide will have five weeks beginning in October to receive government payments in return for idling environmentally sensitive land.

Deeds

Linda A. White, Hansi to Stanley F. Hansi, 8-15-97 P. NE1/4 SE1/4 20-20, Verna Kuttman to Iowa State Farms, L.P., 8-18-97 P. NE1/4 SE1/4 24-22, Donald J. Osham and wife to Alfred H. Starns and wife, 8-20-97 Lot 3, Sessie View Add. LP, Eldora New Proj. School Dist. to Clifford B. Daugherty and wife, 8-20-97 Lot 34, O'Brien's Cemetery Add. Eldora, First National Accty. Co. in Pamela A. Paszek, 8-24-97 P. L&K Bk. 24, LP, Paul E. Hammett and wife to Kurt Apley, 8-18-97 P. L&K 3-5, Sunrise Add., Akeley



We've Got The Equipment And Qualified Personnel To Put All Your Land To Work For You

- Tiling • Terraces • Waterways • Septic Systems & Sewer Repair
- City & Rural Water Line Repair and Replacement
- Site Preparation • Ponds • Basements

CALL US FOR A FREE ESTIMATE - 858-3821, 858-5639 or 855-4348

Gehrke, Inc.

Bob Gehrke & Steve Gehrke, 1405 21st Ave., Eldora

Pine Creek Project

Successful 5-Year Effort Ending

Following five years of concentrated efforts, the Pine Creek Water Quality Project is this fall coming to an end. Project Coordinator Jennifer Welch reports the staff is now determining the changes and improvements in the watershed that have occurred since its beginning.

This will include documenting activities, participation, successes, innovative ideas and projects and cooperation of landowners and producers.

This information will be incorporated into a closing publication emphasizing the individual contributions of landowners in the overall project. This publication will be distributed throughout the state and country as an example of a successful conservation effort. Legislators will also receive copies as a way of emphasizing the public benefits of funds being spent for water quality issues.

The publication will document soil savings per field during the life of the project. This equates to the lifespan of Pine Lakes by reducing the amount entering the lakes and filling the lakes and ultimately deteriorating water quality. Welch noted.

It will also document sediment delivery to the amount of sediment actually reaching the target water area (Pine Lakes). The final practices of the project, either in progress or scheduled for fall, are construction of a pond, shallow water impoundment and 2,500 feet of terraces.

Practices in 1997 have included 6,550 feet, or 6.5 acres, of grassed waterways, a sediment and water control basin and two grade stabilization structures.

Welch reports a Pine Creek Water Quality Project brochure, published this

The Impact Downstream

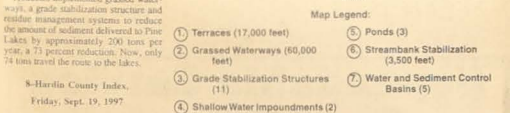
Although erosion is a natural process, growing corn and soybeans accelerate the rate of erosion.

Yet not all eroding soil will make its way into the lakes. Some areas are more critical because they deliver more sediment than others. One area in the watershed targeted by the Pine Creek Water Quality Project was a 240-acre subwatershed in the upper region of the watershed.

Before the project, this subwatershed delivered 777 tons of sediment to the lake every year. This would cover one acre with a one- and one-half inch layer of soil.

Producers implemented grassed waterways, a grade stabilization structure and residue management systems to reduce the amount of sediment delivered to Pine Lakes by approximately 200 tons per year, a 73 percent reduction. Now, only 74 tons travel the route to the lakes.

8-Hardin County Index, Friday, Sept. 19, 1997



Map Legend: 1 Terraces (17,000 feet), 2 Grassed Waterways (60,000 feet), 3 Grade Stabilization Structures (11), 4 Shallow Water Impoundments (2), 5 Ponds (3), 6 Streambank Stabilization (3,500 feet), 7 Water and Sediment Control Basins (5)



Conservation Tillage ...

... begins with proper planning and management of your total crop inputs. Prairie Land Coop's precision farming department is a great tool to help implement that plan. Beginning with grid sampling and variable rate application through seed selection herbicide selection and complete scouting programs, we can tailor your individual programs to complement your customized conservation needs. For your precision farming needs, please call any of our locations or Dennis Gogerty at 515-893-2252.

Fall is a great time to begin next season planning. "Partnering up" with Prairie Land Coop and its trained agronomy staff will be a great beginning to a profitable, conservation minded future.

The Good Earth: Practice Farm Conservation

PRAIRIE LAND COOPERATIVE

LOCATIONS AT: ALDEN, HUBBARD, OWASA, GARDEN CITY, NEW PROVIDENCE, UNION

Need Revitalized Vision To Soil and Water Conservation

By CARROLL J. HOBSON

RANDI SWCD Commissioner

We know from the historical record, recorded by scholars over many generations and by the records left by many civilizations past, that man has done a miserable job of taking care of our top soil resources and our water.

In several cases such a poor job was done that whole civilizations were destroyed for lack of food and drinkable water. Man lives for such a short time he seems to be convinced that it is going to be plenty of food and water while he is here, he need have little or no regard for those coming after him. Sadly enough people spend huge quantities of money, time and effort on gambling, sport, gadgets of all kinds, special entertainment and a thousand luxury items but they feel no remorse when they abuse the soil and water resources.

We need to use our soil and water as precious, priceless assets. We need to visualize where we live without them. Every effort should be made so that we leave the soil and water as good as we found them to that generations to come will have as good an opportunity as our forefathers left us. In this more than ever complex and impersonal world of greed and profit we must fight to keep reality squarely in the foreground of public opinion.

Our federal government set up the Soil Conservation Service in the 1930's under the overall direction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Hugh Hammond Bennett was the first head of the new organization. He was described as fiery, determined and much to tackle any problem including the disastrous dust bowl in our southwest. Bennett wanted upland treatment and cover for blowing top soil, he also wanted a complete assessment of our deteriorating water resources. He wanted all the money he could get for the project. He demanded intense dedication from his employees.

At that time went by, both state and federal governments began to pay top soil, technicians and a great deal of money into conservation work. Today, the state of Iowa is contributing \$12,413,441, plus REAP funds in the amount of \$1,970,000. All these funds are appropriated by the legislature and from the pockets of taxpayers. I don't have the amount of money contributed by the federal government in this public soil conservation program.

Those of us who are dedicated to the land care work have also had the help of the Land Grant Universities, ACP funds and we've had the help of thousands of volunteers who contribute in many small ways. We have to find a way to keep all these people dedicated, interested and knowledgeable in these conservation things.

A few years ago the Soil Conservation Service changed their name to the Natural Resource Conservation Service. In my opinion, it was a serious mistake. They lost name recognition. They lost much of their past record of achievement. They also changed their emphasis to environmental matters and tried to police a much despoiled wetland policy. All these things took some of the luster off past good work.

We need all the support we can get from farmers, land owners, tenants and a highly informed citizenry who take the natural consequences of sound soil and water policy. Hugh Hammond Bennett said early on, "It will be a hard struggle, the need is eternal vigilance and vigilance because the problems are on going and constantly changing." We now drive fast-

than the state appropriation. Every citizen taxpayer should be aware of these considerable funds and how they are used and why. We have wasted, profited and ruined many of our great natural resources.

The Soil Conservation Service along with the Forestry Service has done much to improve that situation. We still have a long way to go to save top soil and water. We are constantly handicapped by politics and special interest groups, not to mention the greed and profit motive of large corporations. The six monster international grain companies make their money on large volumes of grain, they will ALWAYS be aligned with severe soil use and heavy water usage both natural and irrigated. Big mining interests will not leave the land to any better shape than they must by law.

We can all be proud of the good work done by the Soil Conservation Service and the thousands of farmers, land owners and volunteers. In fact, all the people who love the land and water for what they are, "The Life of Our Nation." We in America have not only lost our own people for a fraction for the cost paid in foreign countries, we have also sustained millions of suffering and starving people during war and natural disasters.

Those of us who are dedicated to the land care work have also had the help of the Land Grant Universities, ACP funds and we've had the help of thousands of volunteers who contribute in many small ways. We have to find a way to keep all these people dedicated, interested and knowledgeable in these conservation things.

A few years ago the Soil Conservation Service changed their name to the Natural Resource Conservation Service. In my opinion, it was a serious mistake. They lost name recognition. They lost much of their past record of achievement. They also changed their emphasis to environmental matters and tried to police a much despoiled wetland policy. All these things took some of the luster off past good work.

CALL ME TO HELP SAVE YOUR SOIL

- BASEMENTS • WATER AND SEWER LINES • BACK FILLING • HAULING
- LEVELING • WATERWAYS • TERRACES

You Can Expect Quality Work At Competitive Prices

TAYLOR'S EXCAVATING

Eldora Dave Taylor 515-858-5222

We were proud to serve as general contractor for development of the farm pond/watering system on the Dave Petty farm southeast of Eldora.

★ Over 22 Years Experience

★ Ask about our guaranteed workmanship and free estimates

★ Laser Equipped

★ ★ Very competitive rates ★ ★

★ All Types Backhoe, Dozer, Scraper & Excavator Work ★

Tiling & Tile Repair, Terracing, Land Clearing, Ag Waste Management, Hog Confinements

515-482-3202, 2802 Hart Ave., Melbourne

Ponds, Waterways, Site Prep

Septic Systems, Basements, Rural Water, Demolition, Water Jetting Machine for Cleaning of Tiles, Sewer Lines



1930's CCC Structure "Doing Its Job"

Soil conservation practices are being improved and re-designed each year, but that doesn't mean the old ones are broken down and obsolete. Still effectively "doing its job" is this early 1930's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) installed grade stabilization concrete block drop structure on the Mabe Farms rental property farmed by Dallas and Marvin (pictured) Williams of Williams Farm Partnership five miles southeast of New Providence. Similar present-day structures are normally of aluminum or concrete design.

The only practices eligible for Continuous CRP Sign-up are riparian forest buffers, grass line strips, grassed waterways, field windbreaks, living stone fences, shallow water areas, shelterbelts and contour buffer strips.

The new practices eligible for Continuous CRP Sign-up are riparian forest buffers, grass line strips, grassed waterways, field windbreaks, living stone fences, shallow water areas, shelterbelts and contour buffer strips.

Interested persons should contact their NRCS and FSA offices at any time for more information on how to enroll in the Continuous CRP sign-up.

8-Hardin County Index, Friday, Sept. 19, 1997

Hire Us For:

- Backhoe Work
- Sanitation Leachfield System
- Underground Well Installation Service

We have the equipment and the experienced crew to do the job!

We are also a full-line heating and air conditioning company. Remember us this winter!

Call Us For Your Needs: Terraces, Waterways, Bank Hoe Work, Ponds, Tilling, Building Sites, And Other Land Improvement Projects

We're ready with the latest in field equipment: D8 Dozer, D7 Dozer, Grader, Tile Plow, Paddle Wheel Scraper, Pull Scraper

Call Us For Free Estimates

515-864-2252 • 1-800-288-7516

Plumbing Heating Cooling Electrical

Larsons Hubbard, IA Inc.

515-864-2252 • 1-800-288-7516

CONSERVE YOUR LAND

CHECKLIST TO CONSERVE YOUR LAND

WE MUST ALL DO OUR PART IN

Saving The Soil!

Novartis Seeds

