

The Tipton Conservative

AND ADVERTISER

Official Paper for Tipton and the County

Cedar County's Better Advertising Medium

Soil Conservation Issue

January 29, 1986

Soil Conservation Edition

Randy Weaver Wants Farmers To Save Soil

Randy Weaver says he may try some unorthodox methods when he operates his custom earth moving business, but his intent is to make Iowa farmland more productive and to save soil.

The 28-year-old Tipton man and his father, Verlon, have operated separate farm drainage and earth moving businesses for the past 3 years, with Randy specializing in farm terraces and ponds, while Verlon takes care of the drainage and tiling end of things.

Randy says he is a relative newcomer to the earth moving business when he compares his own 10 plus years of work to his father's 36 years of experience.

TRY DIFFERENT THINGS

"I just broke into this with my dad," Randy says. "I had been around the work a lot, but I'm newer at it and I look at things a little differently. I try different things."

So far, Randy says that the new things he and his father have been trying have been working and he says there is no reason to believe that innovation won't continue to produce results for their companies.

Randy says that he, like most people in the business, learned from experience because there haven't been schools that teach earth moving techniques. Today there is one school in Iowa and Randy says it is the only one in the country.

"My dad and I experiment a lot with problems that farmers have and things we have tried have worked. We attend seminars and meetings of the Land Improvement Contractors association. We want to save soil, without crop losses."

TERRACING PAYS OFF

One of Randy's innovations in terracing

has paid off, at least in giving eastern Iowa farmers more for their money.

Several years ago Randy saw an article that described a different approach for sloping edges of roads.

He said that he thought the technique could be adapted to the slopes on terraces and saw a piece of machinery in western Iowa that did what he wanted to do.

Randy's idea was to build a blade for his bulldozer that would smooth terraces and still allow seed to be applied to the slopes.

Putting his idea to the test, Randy constructed a blade on which he cut small half moons that moved dirt for seeding. He used the blade on narrow based terrace projects, but says it can be used on all types of sloping banks.

SPREADS, COVERS

After he has prepared the soil with the special blade, Randy walks along the terrace and spreads seeds with a Cyclone hand crank system.

After that, he comes back across the terrace with a rake that is attached to his bulldozer, covering the seed with a small amount of dirt.

Kurt Hoeft, district conservationist with the Soil Conservation service in Tipton, says that Randy Weaver's system is a "unique method of smoothing terraces" that also allows for seeding to be done by the contractor.

Hoeft says he knows of only 2 other contractors in the state that have blades like Randy's, but they do not have theirs set up to incorporate the seed like his does.

Asked why he put so much emphasis on his seeding system, Randy said that he believes getting proper growth on a narrow based terrace is 1/3 of the job. "Many other contractors don't feel that way," he said, "but I do."



Randy Weaver, Tipton, has been working in the earth moving conservation business for more than 10 years. Three

years ago he and his father set up separate businesses, but they still do a lot of work together in Eastern Iowa.

SPECIAL RAKE

When he was experimenting with ways to do a better job, Randy tried dragging a chain across the terraces, but that took too much of the seed off the terrace and a harrow had too many teeth. So, he used a special rake that stirred up the soil a little and provided the necessary cover of dirt.

Randy said that one problem he has encountered in Cedar county is a large number of absentee farm owners who have tenants that don't want to take the time to do the work needed to properly seed a terrace. He admitted that the seeding and covering take "a ridiculous amount of time."

Randy said he had concerns about terraces he constructed in the past that were not seeded by the landowners. Without proper seeding, the terrace can deteriorate quickly, destroying work that has been done. As someone who takes pride in his work, Randy said he likes to see the terraces last.

Not wanting to stop there, Randy is now working on a system that will also allow him to fertilize the soil too.

He doesn't have it down yet, but he's working with both granular and liquid to see what he can adapt to his system.

BETTER FOR EVERYONE

In the end, Randy says the system he is using will provide a better deal for everyone. He says the seed is spread more uniformly over the soil and the job is done when he leaves.

Randy believes that some of the original terrace work done in the county caused a lot of damage because the contractors did not use the topsoil properly and yields were hurt.

"Early builders hurt terracing in Cedar county," he said. "We are trying to do a better job."

In addition to the terrace work, Randy and his father have completed some projects using gabion structures. The structures are actually wire baskets containing large rocks that serve as dams.

The Weavers have been using some gabion structures instead of concrete dams, at 1/2 to 3/4's the cost.

Use of the structures has not been approved by the SCS for cost share projects, but Randy says work is being done to get that approval.

With nearly 50 years of combined experience in the earth moving and soil conservation business, Randy says he and his father will continue to look for better ways to do their jobs.



Randy Weaver designed this special blade (note half moons on the bottom) to help incorporate seeding with his work on terraces. He says it has been very suc-

cessful, saving farmers time and providing a healthy growth of grass that holds the soil in place.

Special Features Inside

- ★ Bob Niermeyer, No-Tills 125 A.
- ★ Larry Glick, No-Till Farmer Since 1980
- ★ Conservation Reserve Program
- ★ Soil District Annual Reports

1986 Cedar County Conservation publication staff:
Stuart Clark, Joe Giannini, Sally Taylor and Pat Kroemer.

1985 District Activities-Projects

January

District commissioners met for their first organizational meeting of the year Jan. 2. Randall Shaul and Steve Driscoll were sworn in as commissioners. Robert Niermeyer was elected chairman; Randall Shaul, vice-chairman; Ken Muller, secretary and Melanie Schott, treasurer. Assistant commissioners appointed were: Darrell Brown, Richard Kreinbring and William Davidson II. Other members of the board include Joel Brown, Jim Bowie and Steve Driscoll. Iowa 2000 folders were certified for Springfield township.

District Conservationist Hoeft gave a presentation to the Women of Farm Bureau Jan. 2.

The No-Till club met Jan. 7 and elected new officers. A no-till survey was distributed.

On Jan. 21 Commissioner Joel Brown participated on the panel at an Environmental Issues Forum.

Commissioner Randall Shaul and DC Hoeft gave a soil conservation presentation to 4th, 5th and 6th grade students at Lincoln in Mechanicsville Jan. 24.

The Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show was held at the 5-Seasons Center in Cedar Rapids Jan. 29 and 30. Several commissioners volunteered to man the booth and registration desk.

February

The Cedar County No-Till club met Feb. 4.

Crop clinics were held Feb. 12 and 13 in conjunction with the county extension service.

The 5-county Eastern Iowa Hay Producers Association held a Hay and Forage Clinic Feb. 21.

The commissioners met for their regular meeting Feb. 26. Soil Stewardship materials were reviewed.

The No-Till club held their annual poster contest judging Feb. 26.

DC Hoeft met with the supervisors to review the conservation plan developed for the county farm.

The Cedar SCD Newsletter was distributed to all landowners and operators in Cedar county.

March

March 1st multiflora rose control cost-share applications and bills were accepted.

The annual banquet was held. This year's speaker was John Miller, chairman of the State Soil Conservation Committee.

DC Hoeft gave a presentation to the Clarence Lions club March 11.

Several commissioners attended the spring regional meeting March 13 in Iowa City.

An Iowa 2000 folder follow-up day was held for landowners in Fremont Township March 20.

The Cedar County No-Till club met March 25.

The District Commissioners met for their regular meeting March 26. They reviewed their Annual Plan of Work. Commissioner Joel Brown discussed the Iowa-Cedar River Conservancy District proposed plan. The State Association dues were approved for payment.

A soil conservation 50 year display was used by Clarence-Lowden Schools during March. Durant and West Branch schools used the "Slow Down For Nature" slide set.

April

DC Hoeft attended the Tipton F.F.A. Annual Banquet April 1.

A tree planting field day was held April 3 at the Alton Larson farm. Extension and district forester assisted the field day.

Soil stewardship materials were distributed to participating churches in Cedar county.

The district's bi-monthly newsletter was sent out.

Commissioner Steve Driscoll hosted a no-till corn planting demonstration April 22.

Cedar SCD commissioners met for their regular meeting April 23. Over 3,700 trees were sold through the district's tree sales campaign. Commissioner Joel Brown filled out nomination papers for the Outstanding Commissioner Award and Commissioner Robert Niermeyer filled out nomination papers for the Ken Wagner Award.

The Education committee met April 24 and toured Bill Furnish's wildlife area.

Two hundred eighty green ash seedlings were given away by the district to all third graders in Cedar county for the Arbor Day Celebration April 26.

The Annual Report was published as a supplement to The Tipton Conservative.

May

DC Hoeft gave a presentation to Tipton 10th graders on soil conservation.

The regular commissioners meeting was held May 28. The Board toured nominations for soil conservation award contests. Commissioners voted: Owner/Operator Division, Richard & Millie Zenishek; Landlord/Tenant Division, Ruth Cigley and Katherine Johnson & Rick and Pat Christensen; and New Cooperator, Violet Hoy. Elaine Behrens, Durant school, was elected Outstanding Teacher. The National Association of Soil Conservation District dues were paid. Signs were distributed to be placed on no-till fields. Sponsorship was approved for 3 teachers to attend OUTLOOK teachers camp: Janet Greiner, West Branch; Joan Sheriff, West Branch and Sue Swanson, Tipton.

The Eastern Iowa Hay Producers Association in Cedar county held their annual membership meeting at the Tom Spear farm. Wallaces Farmer and KGAN-TV attended the field day.

June

Calvin Moore hosted a multiflora rose control meeting to show foliar application of Banvel June 7.

The bi-monthly newsletter was distributed.

The commissioners held their regular meeting June 25. Multiflora rose control certifications were approved. Northeast Iowa Conservancy District Action Plan was discussed. It was suggested to have a county fair display. Gordon Collier was nominated for an Outstanding Forage Producer. Memorandums of Understanding with USDA Soil Conservation Service and other agencies were reviewed.

July

A no-till and reduced till soybean plot was held July 3 at the Robert Schott farm.

The bi-monthly newsletter was sent out.

The District exhibited a display at the county fair. The county supplied two dump trucks full of topsoil cleaned out for a road ditch. This showed how much soil an unprotected acre of farmland can lose each year along with a note from the supervisors wishing to reduce the \$50,000 ditch cleaning yearly expense.

A terrace and no-till tour was held July 12 and 13 on the C. J. Lynch farm near Mechanicsville. Weaver's Custom Earth Moving sponsored this field day.

Stacy Driscoll, son of Steve and Karen Driscoll, Tipton, attended Youth Leadership camp July 15 to 18. The Cedar S.C.D. and County Conservation board sponsored Stacy. Commissioners met for their regular meeting July 23.

The Annual Plan of Work was reviewed. Commissioners Joel Brown and Randall Shaul reviewed the ACP cost-share meeting they attended July 18. Plant materials were approved for Randall Shaul and Bennett Park.

August

DC Hoeft gave a presentation to the Tipton Lions Aug. 15.

Delivery of Iowa Soil 2000 folders for Springfield township was completed.

The Eastern Iowa Hay Producers Association held their annual meeting Aug. 22.

The district commissioners held their regular meeting Aug. 27. Commissioner Jim Bowie reported on the inter-seeder. Commissioners nominated Donn C. Kleppe for the Isaak Walton League Windbreak award. The 1986 Annual Plan of Work was reviewed.

A No-Till club twilight tour was held Aug. 29 at Robert Wood's no-till fields and Larry Glick's test plots.

September

DC Hoeft participated at a wheat meeting Sept. 3. He talked on how wheat affects soil loss.

The bi-monthly newsletter was distributed.

Commissioner Robert Niermeyer and Assistant Commissioner Darrell Brown attended the Fall Regional meeting at the Amanas Sept. 4.

The district had a booth at the Cedar County Corn Growers field day Sept. 11.

SCS Soil Scientist Mark Minger assisted Bennett Vo-Ag department with soils training Sept. 12.

Soil & Water Conservation Week was observed Sept. 15 to 22.

Commissioners held their regular meeting Sept. 24. The board approved sponsorship of the poster contest.

The Annual Plan of Work was reviewed.

The soil judging contest was held Sept. 26. Bennett, West Branch and Tipton schools participated.

October

A soil stewardship project meeting was held Oct. 19.

Commissioners met for their regular meeting Oct. 22. It was suggested to formulate Iowa 2000 folders for Iowa and Red Oak townships. Commissioners also discussed the Iowa Conservation Commission switchgrass program.

A one-act play was held Oct. 26 in conjunction with the Soil Stewardship Project meeting at Scattergood.

November

DC Hoeft attended a Pilot Absentee Landowners meeting in Des Moines Nov. 6.

The district newsletter was sent out.

The education committee met Nov. 13 and discussed forming a "resource packet."

Commissioners met for their regular meeting Nov. 19. It was announced that the ninth grade vo-ag class in Tipton will assist in making more no-till signs for 1986. Conservation Reserve tentative rules were discussed. Placemats were ordered for local restaurants and civic group suppers.

December

Commissioner Robert Niermeyer and Assistant Commissioner Darrell Brown attended the State Soil Conservation Annual Conference Dec. 2 and 3.

The Conservation Reserve task force met Dec. 5.

Cedar County No-Till club met Dec. 12.

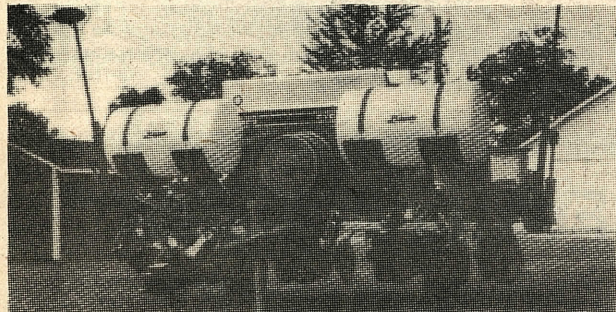
Commissioner Joel Brown attended a meeting in Cedar Rapids on state budget cuts for conservation programs Dec. 17.

The district commissioners also met for their regular meeting the 17th. They agreed to donate \$50 to the Cedar County Sportsmans Club for a wildlife tree give-away project.

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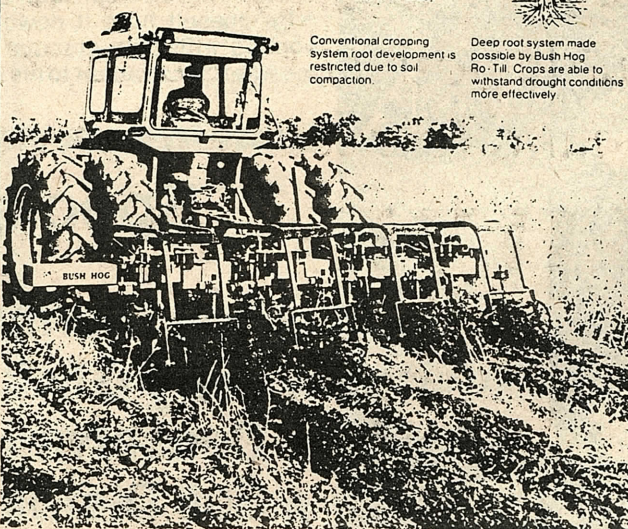


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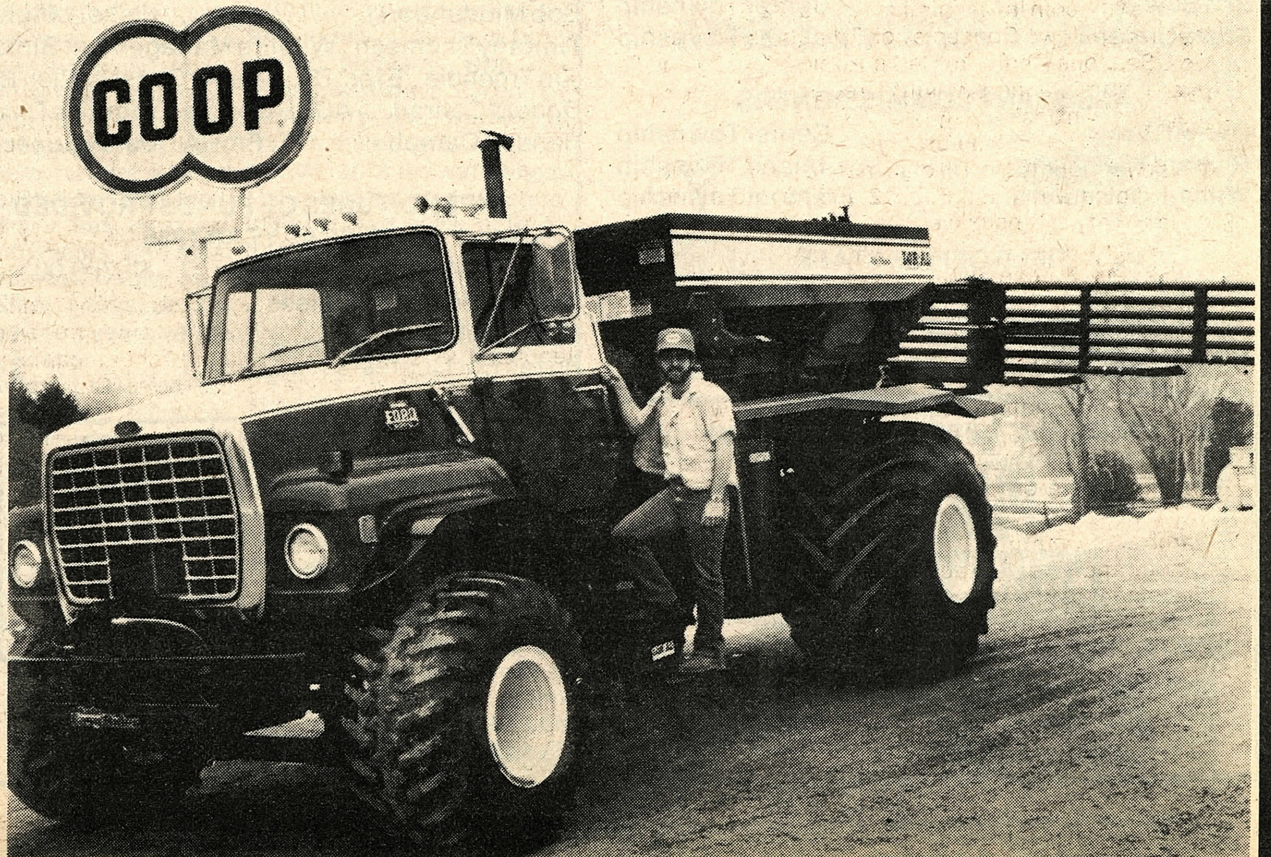
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1985 Annual Report-Conservation Practices

NEW DISTRICT COOPERATORS

Richard A. Anderson, Steven J. Crock, Carl H. Kohrt, Darlene Williams, Larry R. Wendt, Steven J. Wendt, Irene Keller, Gerard Klauer, Charles Von Muenster, Clarence Fay, Richard J. Kreinbring, Harold Harmsen, Robert Yock, Melvin Klein, Joe Smajah, Elmer Maxson, Roland Herring, Melvin Steinhagen, Everett Oetting, Howard Simpson, USDA Farmers Home Administration, Robert M. Coppess, Jr., Roger Schmidt, Sally A. Miller, Ralph Millhone, Belle Hinkhouse.

1985 DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Robert Niermeyer, Chairman... Fairfield Township
Randall Shaul, Vice-Chairman... Red Oak Township
Joel Brown... Pioneer Township
Jim Bowie... Center Township
Steve Driscoll... Cass Township

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Darrell Brown... Center Township
Richard Kreinbring... Inland Township
William Davidson II... Fremont Township

FIELD OFFICE STAFF

Kurtis F. Hoeft... District Conservationist
Judy Eiselstein... Soil Conservation Technician
Melanie B. Schott... District Clerk

SCS AREA PERSONNEL

Lyle W. Asell... Area Conservationist
Dean L. Pettit... Resource Conservationist
Kent Rice... Civil Engineer
Douglas Morningstar... Civil Engineer
Susan M. Long... Civil Engineer
Ronald P. Wilson... Civil Engineering Technician
David R. Kennedy... Civil Engineering Technician
Raymond L. Dake... Civil Engineering Technician
Darlene Lauder... Area Clerk
Suzette Betts... Area Secretary

OTHER AGENCIES

Kenneth D. Muller... County Extension Director
Steve Swinonos... District Forester
George Warford... Assistant District Forester
Bob Middendorf... Fishery Biologist
Timothy Thomsen... Wildlife Management Biologist
Jim Troendle... Exec. Dir., County Conservation Board
Donald Conrad... ASCS County Executive Director
Randall Campbell... FmHA County Supervisor

EXPENDITURES OF FUNDS PROVIDED FISCAL YEAR 1985

1-M Budget Allocation \$1,700.00
Commissioner Expenses... 724.97
Office Supplies... 110.78
Prizes For Contests... 241.55

Office Expenses... 622.70

111-M Budget Allocation \$58,989.00
Amount Spent... \$37,704.61
Amount Obligated... 5,812.00
Released To Dept. 12/31/85... 15,472.39

SOIL DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following indicates the District's accomplishments reported for the 1985 fiscal year ending September 30, 1985:

Tile Outlet Terraces... 16,360 FT.
Sediment & Water Control Basins... 21 NO.
Conservation Tillage & No-Till... 7,175 AC.
Windbreaks... 17 AC.
Pond... 1 NO.
Multiflora Rose Control Assistance... 141 AC.
Contouring... 156 AC.
Pasture & Hayland Planting... 127 AC.
Cropland Benefited... 7,904 AC.
Other Land Benefited... 114 AC.
Individuals & Groups Assisted... 411 NO.
Individuals & Groups Applying Conservation Practices... 159 NO.
Conservation Planning... 2,202 AC.
Conservation Alternatives Given... 796 AC.
New Cooperators... 18 NO. 2,480 AC.
Conservation Folders Delivered... 23,000 AC.

PRACTICE CONSERVATION

RON'S FEED & SUPPLY
RON BRADDOCK, OWNER
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TIPTON, IOWA 52772

CONTOUR MAPS
SCS has 10 foot contour maps available on the same scale (660) as the ASCS aerial photos. Contour farming can reduce soil loss by as much as 50%. Contouring is the least expensive soil conservation practice you can apply by simply farming around the hill instead of over. Stop in the SCS office and receive the contour map for your farm.

PIONEER TOWNSHIP Glenn Kurth - no-till Robert Hass - no-till Robert Broulik - no-till Brown Farms Inc. - pasture & hayland planting Dan Kohl - pasture & hayland planting Keith Conner - terraces Herb Platner - terraces	FREMONT TOWNSHIP Dennis Damer - no-till Piney Knoll - no-till George Driscoll - no-till Buell Jackson & Sons - no-till Leon Havel - windbreak Oldorf Farms - no-till Richard Zenishek - no-till	DAYTON TOWNSHIP Charles Heick - no-till Duane Dierks - no-till Steve Wendt - no-till Robert Yock - no-till Carl Kohrt - no-till Mark Hormann - no-till William Klein - no-till	MASSILLON TOWNSHIP Terry Kroemer - no-till Milton Anderson - no-till David Wiedenhoff - no-till Ken Burmeister - no-till Lanny Kay - no-till Craig Irons - no-till Lawrence Licht - windbreak Sarah Murlagh - terraces Henry Meyer - terraces Roland Fox - pond
LINN TOWNSHIP Laura Bennett - no-till Kenneth Herring - no-till Gary Ciba - no-till	RED OAK TOWNSHIP Gary Eichhorn - no-till Randall Shaul - windbreak Martin Fay - no-till Roland Herring - no-till Milo Agne - no-till Vern Schroeder - no-till Paul Crock - terraces County Farm - terraces	FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP Glen Anderson - no-till Ronald Robinson - no-till Ray Geadelmann - no-till F. Port Stonerook - windbreak	SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP Larry Wendt - no-till William Elijah - no-till Duane Walters - no-till Merlin Conrad - no-till Douglas Badtram - no-till Richard Kreinbring - windbreak
CASS TOWNSHIP Michael Walter - no-till Larry Glick - contouring & no-till Oscar Glick - no-till	CENTER TOWNSHIP Richard Anderson - no-till Henry Harden - no-till Harold Ford - no-till Larry Van Den Bergh - no-till George Hein - no-till Jim Bowie - no-till Robert Schott - no-till Rick Christensen - no-till	INLAND TOWNSHIP Robert Wilkins - no-till Everett Von Muenster - windbreak Julius Timmerman - no-till & critical area planting Wayne Ralls - windbreak	
GOWER TOWNSHIP Harold Tucker - no-till Ron Madsen - no-till Brown Family Ltd. - no-till Wayne Frederick - no-till Mike Kessler - no-till	ROCHESTER TOWNSHIP Steve Scorpil - no-till Donald Rathjen, Jr. - no-till Tom McQuillen - no-till Andre Seligman - no-till Hilbert Maroff - no-till & terraces June Reeve - grade stabilization structure	SUGAR CREEK TOWNSHIP Michael Frymoyer - no-till Herman Baker - terraces George Nopoulos - terraces	FARMINGTON TOWNSHIP Roger Reynolds - windbreak Steve Leazer - no-till & pasture & hayland planting Jerry Mays - windbreak Marvin Steinhagen - no-till Robert Glenney - no-till Kenneth Leach - windbreak Don Schlackohl - terraces Wayne Holst - no-till
SPRINGDALE TOWNSHIP Hillhurst Farms - no-till Randy Pedersen - no-till Anders Mather - no-till Leslie Milder - waste management system T. Robert Sexton - no-till Lynn Burnett - no-till Ken Fawcett - no-till Paul Friis - no-till Herb Espensen - no-till John Black - no-till & windbreak Carl Frederick - no-till	IOWA TOWNSHIP Glenn Pedersen - no-till George Bowie - pasture & hayland planting & no-till K & J Mather Corp. - no-till Dean Wilkerson - no-till Everett Crees - no-till & windbreak Steve Nash - no-till		

Cedar SCD Tree Sales

The Cedar Soil Conservation District is again offering bare-root tree seedlings at minimal prices. Hardwoods include: 18-24" Black Walnut, 18-24" Green Ash, and 6-12" White Oak. Evergreens include: 12-18" White Pine, 12-18" Red Pine, 12-18" Scotch Pine (sold out), 12-18" Norway Spruce, 12-18" Colorado Blue Spruce, 10-18" Arborvitae, and an Evergreen Variety Bundle of five each of the pine and spruce. Shrubs and nut trees include: 2-3' Autumn Olive, 18-24" Common Lilac, 12" + Hazelnut, and a Native Nut Tree Package which has three each of Northern Pecan, Shagbark Hickory, Thomas Walnut, and American Hazelnut *all edible. Trees and shrubs come in bundles of 25 only (except for Native Nut Tree Package - 12). They are obtained thru a local nursery and are of extremely good quality. Trees will be on hand for distribution in mid-April. For more information or description and price list call SCS 886-6214.

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The Principal Financial group, Jim Bechold
Family Foods Super Valu
Davis Farm Equipment
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Frank Gault,
American Mutual Life
State Farm Ins., Gordon Olseen
Fields Lumber Co.

CONSERVATION PAYS

The land is our greatest provider. What we take from it, we must put back with care and cultivation, in order to keep it thriving.

Our efforts in conservation today will enable us to reap the rich rewards of our abundant land for generations to come.

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Commissioner Niermeyer No-Tills 125 Acres of Land

Bob Niermeyer, Clarence, has been one of 5 District Commissioners for the Soil Conservation Service in Cedar county for 5 years. Commissioners are elected in the general election to serve 6 years.

Commissioners review and approve cost sharing applications in the county. In cost sharing the county pays 50% of the project and the farmer the other 50%. They then approve payment after the work is completed to set specifications. Meetings are held monthly and are open to the general public.

The SCS cost shares for grade stabilization,

spillways, terraces and no-till.

"I haven't pushed terracing since many terraces cost as much as the land is worth," commented Niermeyer. "I'd rather promote less costly, but efficient means of soil conservation."

SCS pays farmers \$10 an acre for up to 20 acres for trying no-till. This is a one time payment to promote soil conservation.

The SCS promotes conservation in county tree sales, handing out brochures during soil conservation week and in sponsoring an essay contest for school kids.

At their banquet in March, the SCS names an outstanding owner/operator; landlord/tenant and new operator who have done an outstanding job in soil conservation over the past year. The overall winner is sent to the regional contest. The SCS also names an outstanding teacher in the county who has best promoted soil conservation in the classroom.

"SCS commissioners also have to check out soil loss complaints," commented Niermeyer. "If after a meeting with the individual, they still refuse to comply with appropriate conservation measures, the commissioners can get a court order against the offender."

Niermeyer has used no-till for 7 to 8 years, with most corn into bean and corn stubble. He works up the soil every 3 to 4 years before planting beans.

"Last year I no-tilled 125 acres and project 190 acres this year," commented Niermeyer. "I also implement contour hills and oats and hay on the more sloping ground as conservation measures."

Niermeyer, his wife Jan, and 3 daughters, Erika, 8; Alissa, 7 and Lindsey, 2, farm 410 acres south of Clarence. They raise hogs, some cattle and a few sheep.

Soil District Sportsmen Sponsor Tree Plantings

The Cedar Soil Conservation District and Cedar County Sportsman's club are sponsoring tree planting projects again this year.

These organizations are making available 1,200 bareroot tree seedlings to be used for wildlife purposes only.

They have ordered 400 5-12" White Pine, 400 6-14" Red Pine and 400 5-12" Scotch Pine. These seedlings will be distributed in lots of 50 trees.

Anyone interested in establishing or adding to a wildlife habitat should call the S.C.S. office in Tipton at 886-6214 for more details or to be included in the project.

Conservation-It's A Cooperative Effort

by Judy Eiselstein
Soil Conservation
Technician

Just like tiling sometimes takes cooperation between you and your neighbor, so does terracing. Rarely does it seem like the landowner on the top of the watershed has problems with water or erosion control, but he is the one that has to do the work before anyone else can in terracing.

That is how a group project between the C. J. Lynch Estate and Herbert Platner started. Each of them was having problems with holding waterways. Unfortunately, they were both having problems with different waterways. On one of them Herb was on the top and on the other C. J. Lynch was on top of the watershed. They decided to cooperate together and solve both of their problems.

Both put their set-aside acres in the area where the terraces were built to enable them to do summer construction on this project. Summer construction is the best time for building terraces because dirt moves easier during the drier summer months and less compaction is experienced.

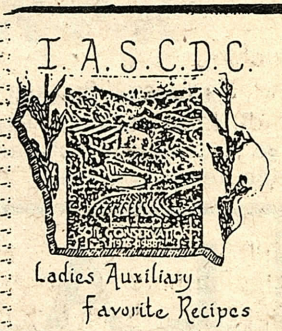
If you and your neighbor

January 29, 1986 Soil Conservation Page 5
are having a problem with a Conservation District office for \$7 each. The cookbooks include excellent recipes from all over the state of Iowa.

Ladies Auxiliary Cookbook Available

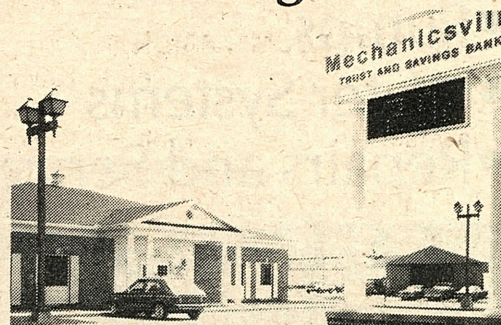
Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners Ladies Auxiliary have cookbooks for sale.

The cookbooks can be purchased at The Cedar Soil



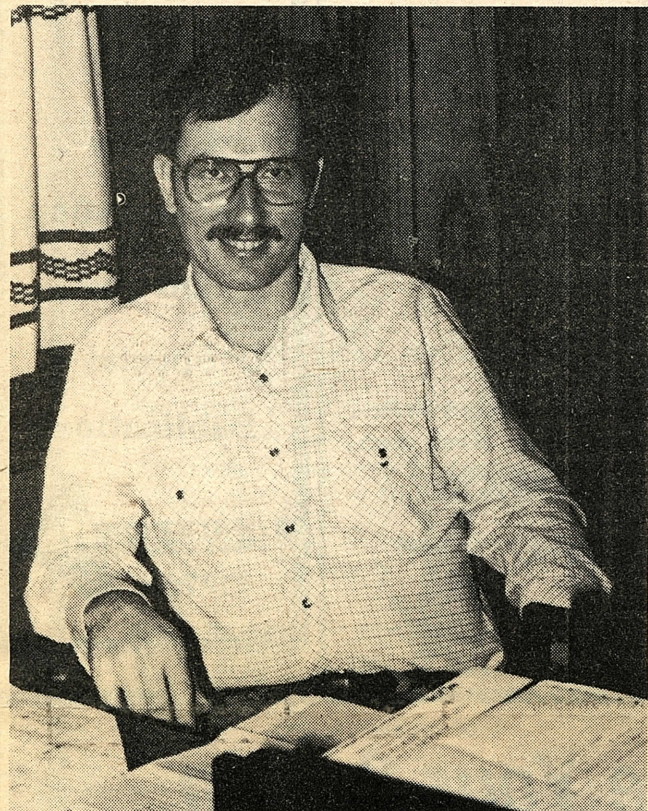
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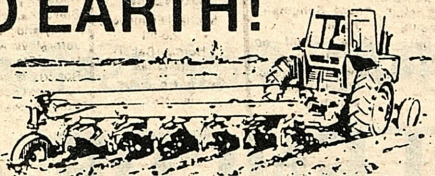


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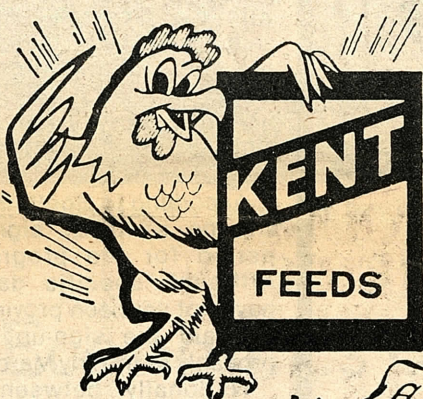
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County Has 60,000 Acres Eligible For Reserve Program

by Jennifer Waddell farm bill, is one of the largest conservation programs ever passed and the recently passed 1985 marks the first time the

issue of conservation has been a major part of the farm bill, according to Kurt Hoeft, district conservationist in Tipton.

Although the rules and regulations remain tentative, the Conservation Reserve will offer the nation's farmers an opportunity to take their highly erodible land out of production. The program, which will begin this spring, will save an estimated 20 tons of topsoil per acre per year and undoubtedly will help the surplus markets, Hoeft said.

Farmers with land that meets the ASCS erodible land criteria are immediately eligible for the program. A 10-year contract will be offered to these farmers to take their land out of production and plant trees and/or grass.

In Cedar county, Hoeft said those farmers receiving a soil loss of 10 tons or greater per acre will probably be eligible for the Conservation Reserve. Of the county's 299,000 acres of farmland, Hoeft said there will be an estimated 60,000 acres eligible for the program.

"Of the 60,000 acres eligible, if we have 20,000 acres enrolled in the program I'd be very happy with the program," Hoeft said. "I can't be certain what percent will get into the program. The farmers will need to weigh what rent they will get for the 10 year program."

According to Hoeft, there will be a 10-day sign-up period for the program. Although specific dates have not yet been provided, he said the sign-up will probably be in early March.

Nationally, between 20 and 25 million acres will be accepted into the Conservation Reserve. Again, similar to the PIK program, Hoeft said farmers with eligible land will bid land into the program and the

ASCs office in Des Moines will select bids starting with lowest ones working their way up until the designated number of acres are selected. According to Hoeft, a maximum payment of \$50,000 per year has been established.

Some of the other provisions Hoeft has been made aware of to date include the following: any land being bid into the program must currently be considered cropland by ASCS; if extensive soil conservation practices are needed the farmer must provide a plan on how the problem is going to be solved and more importantly, there will be no grazing or harvesting of the areas enrolled in the program. "There must be no income from these areas," Hoeft

explained. The ASCS office, Hoeft said, will assist farmers in determining if their land is eligible for the program. An estimated \$11 billion will be spent for the Conservation Reserve Program.

According to Hoeft, the program will aid greatly in the soil erosion problem. "But there's a long way to go to solve the problem," he said. "Of the county's 299,000 acres of cropland, 193,500 acres have soil erosion problems. Seeding down these areas is the best way to solve erosion problems," Hoeft explained. This is the year Hoeft expects to be the year for no-till. In 1985, there were an estimated 19,000 acres of no-till land in Cedar county. This figure again represents an increase, Hoeft said, ad-

ding that no-till is the cheapest method of reducing soil erosion. With the extremely wet harvest season, leading to a lack of fall tillage, plus rising fuel costs, Hoeft said he is confident that there will be no problem in meeting the goal of 25,000 acres of no-till in 1986.

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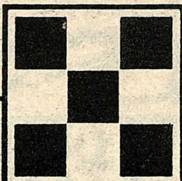
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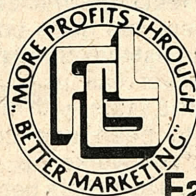
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Larry Glick To Speak At Conservation Tillage Show

One of the speakers at the 7th Annual Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage show in Cedar Rapids Jan. 29 is Larry Glick, a Cedar county farmer. Glick will talk about his 5 years' experience with no-till farming.

Glick, 39, farms with his father west of Cedar Bluff. He began no-till farming in 1980 after visiting a field day near Iowa City and observing no-till farming.

The first year the Glicks adapted their old planter for no-till and they later purchased a White planter.

"I think a lot of our suc-

cess with no-till is due to our use of a crop scouting service from Cedar Rapids," said Glick. "The service checks our crops for 6 to 8 weeks, looking for insects and weeds. If there is a problem we get it taken care of right away."

Glick finds bean stubble the easiest to no-till plant in. Used properly, Glick says chemicals can be applied at the usual rate.

"I don't like to cultivate," said Glick, who plants in the old 30 inch rows. "I don't like to stir up the natural mulch that is between the rows."

The Glicks tried 5 acres of double row beans last year and found the stand was better on the 15 inch rows. Glick feels his fields are mellower after practicing no-till farming.

The Glicks use a split application of nitrogen. The first application is with the planter and the second application is with a high boy just before the corn begins to tassel.

"Research says the corn needs nitrogen at tasseling time," Glick said. "In our case we found the yields comparable, but the test weight was heavier and the moisture was less."

Glick feels there has been an increase in the yields reported in no-till fields because farmers have learned how to use herbicides better. Glick doesn't use herbicides until after the crops are up.

"We had weed problems the first couple of years, but the chemical companies are keying their products to the needs of the no-till farmer," Glick said. "I can't say rootworms or cutworms hit the no-till fields any harder than conventional tilled fields."

The Glicks use a planter set on 30 inch rows, with narrow coulters to split the residue for the seed. This only disturbs about 4 inches of the soil, retaining more moisture, especially in a drought year. They also use a starter fertilizer and have found they can use less P&K this way.

"I think the future of no-till is very promising," he said. "Every area in the county has some no-till so other farmers can watch how well it works. The benefits of less fuel usage and less

machinery depreciation far outweigh any of the yield problems."

"I want to leave my land in good shape for my kids," Glick said. "No-till is an easy way for a farmer to build up his ground."

Glick and his wife, Berrie, have 2 children, Rob, 13 and Carrie, 11. He belongs to the No-Till club, serving as vice-president, and is a member of the Soybean Association and is a 4-H leader.

Last year the Glicks no-tilled 400 acres of corn and 20 acres of beans. Another 220 acres of beans were tilled. The Glicks have not decided about next season, but will no-till all corn into the bean stubble.

Survey Flags Now Available

Survey flags are available thru your local Soil Conservation District office for 5¢ each. The flags consist of a 4"x5" plastic orange flag on a 30" wire staff.

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The Cedar Soil Conservation District's interseeder is being maintained and will be available for use again this spring and summer. A fee of \$15 per day is charged for use. Improve your pasture with Birdsfoot Trefoil, Crown Vetch or Alfalfa. If you are interested in renting the interseeder

January 29, 1986 Soil Conservation Page 7
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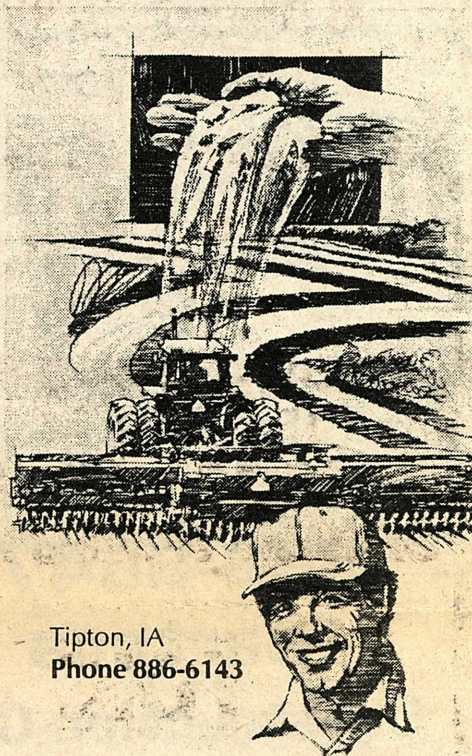
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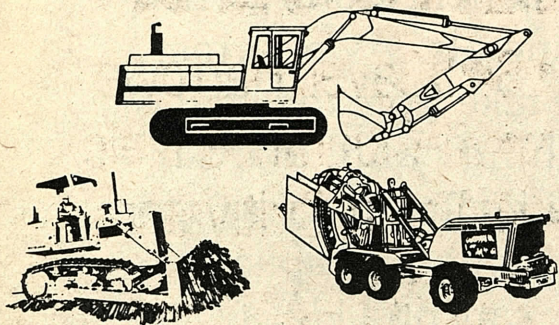


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Education Committee Stays Active In County

The Cedar Soil Conservation district's education committee stayed active in 1985. The members on the Committee include: Darrell Brown, assistant commissioner; Melanie Schott, clerk; Kurt Hoeft, district conservationist; Jim Troendle, executive director Cedar county conservation board; Marie Sides, Tipton; Margaret Sadeghpour, Lincoln; Linda McHard, West Branch; Cynthia Buck, Clarence-Lowden; Marilyn Parchert and Elaine Behrens, Durant and Kathy Rouse, Bennett. Some activities the board performed include: promoting a "conservation" poster contest sponsored by Cedar County No-Till club, participating with the Arbor Day celebration by distributing a green ash tree seedling to each third grader in Cedar county; an outing at the Bill Furnish farm, formulating and distributing a seasonal environmental education newsletter, helping to find interested students to attend Youth Leadership Camp, promoting project "Outlook" by getting teachers interested in attending, and beginning the formulation of a "Resource Packet" to be made available to all schools and civic organizations.

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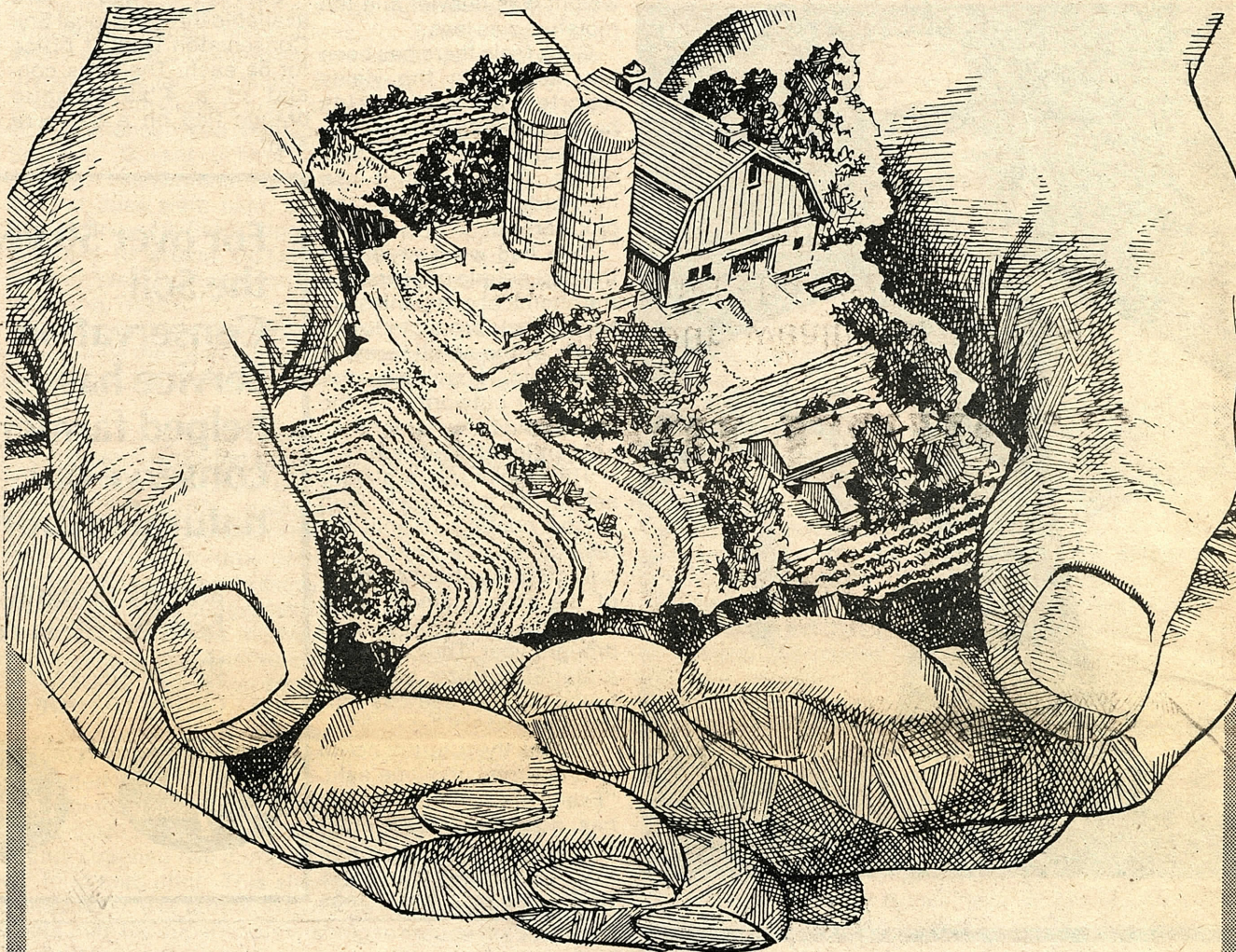
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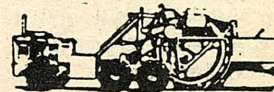
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