

The Annual Report of the Cedar County Soil Conservation Service

A Supplement To The Tipton Conservative and Advertiser • February 17, 1993

Sander Wins IWL Award For Outstanding Windbreak

by Pat Kroemer

Some rewards take a long time to come. When a windbreak was planted on the Herb Sander farm in 1981, he never dreamed he'd be named recipient of the 1992 Izaak Walton League award for outstanding windbreak.

Sander and his wife, Bertha, are retired, but still live on the family farm south of Lowden. Their son, Fred, operates the farm and dairy herd and was primarily responsible for planting the windbreak in April 1981.

With suggestions from the Soil Conservation Service staff, Fred looked at numerous windbreaks in the area for



Herb Sander

examples of what he would like to plant. He planted the back row in Honeysuckle, the middle row in Arborvitae and the row near the buildings in Douglas Fir.

Seedlings were purchased from and planted by Scotch Grove Nursery. The cost of the windbreak was \$1,006 with SCS cost sharing \$837.

"We got all the trees started well," Fred said. "It was so dry the trees had to be watered twice a week that summer and the following summer too. We put a plastic tank and hose on a hay rack. While Dad filled 5 gallon buckets, 3 or us ran around watering the seedlings."

When the windbreak was a couple years old someone driving by the farmstead stopped to tell Fred the Honeysuckle had Witches-broom. Fred had no idea what that was or how to treat it, but soon found out it was an abnormal brush-like growth of weak, closely clustered shoots or branches on a woody plant caused by fungi or viruses. The clumps that form on the branches give the look of brooms. Fred trimmed all the clumps off and sprayed the bushes. He did this for 2 seasons and has had no problem with the disease returning.

"At first I thought I'd have to tear out all the Honeysuckle," Fred said. "But it's been worth the trimming and spraying. Now we enjoy the small blue flowers that bloom on it every spring."

The Sanders started the windbreak on the north and west side of their farmstead in what was once a heifer pasture.

"I like to see a farmstead with a windbreak around it," Fred said. "That's the main reason I wanted to plant it."



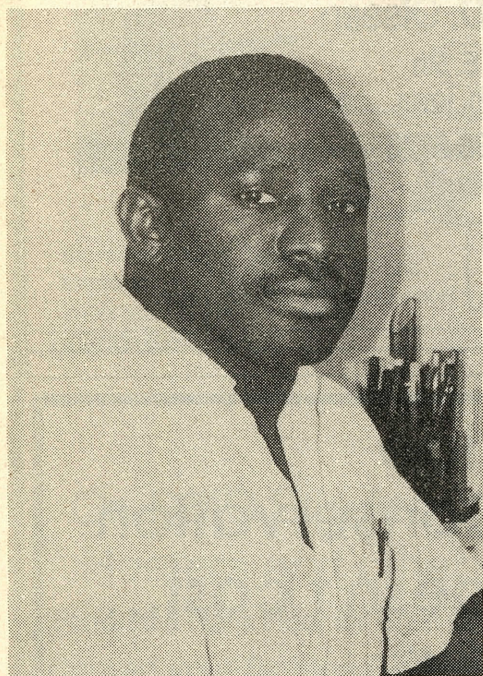
Fred Sander stands near the windbreak he planted in 1981 on the family farm south of Lowden.

Besides stopping the north winds, the windbreak also catches snow. The Sanders enjoy watching the rabbits and other wildlife that hide there.

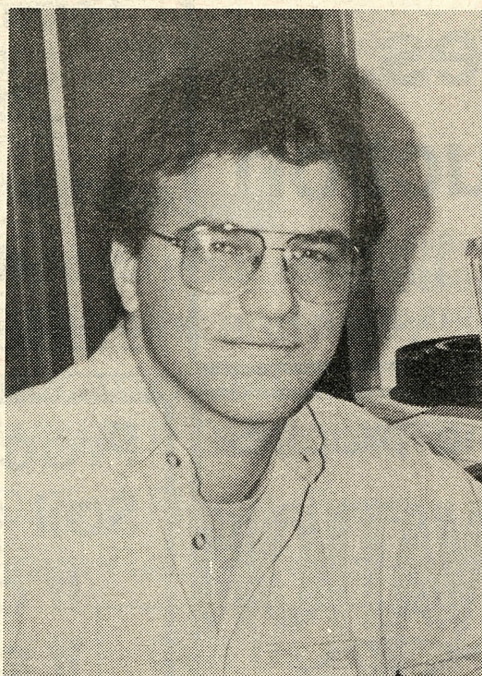
"We took only a small portion of farm ground out of production for the windbreak," Fred explained. "But we'll benefit

in the long run." The windbreak is approximately 1000 ft. long on the north and 600 feet long on the west.

"I'd like to extend the windbreak," Fred said, "but that's something that hasn't been done yet."



Clarence Bunch



Doug Ensminger

Bunch, Ensminger Join Cedar SCS Staff in '92

by Pat Kroemer

There are two new faces at the Cedar County Soil Conservation Service offices in Tipton. Clarence Bunch, 25, joined the SCS in February 1992 as a soil conservationist. Doug Ensminger, 27, joined the SCS in December 1992. He is also a soil conservationist.

Bunch is originally from Louisiana. He attended colleges in Oklahoma and Mississippi, graduating in 1991 from Langston University, Langston, Okla., with a degree in Ag Economics.

His first job was with an SCS office in Oklahoma, where he was a technician and worked with computers.

Bunch didn't grow up on a farm, but

he did earn spending money hoeing cotton in the summer, a job similar to Iowa young people detasseling corn.

Bunch's job includes discussing future conservation plans with area farmers. He has been working with highly erodible land. After talking to the farmer he discusses the problems and possible solutions with Kurt Hoeft, Cedar county district conservationist. Final decisions are always made by the farmer. Bunch will also begin working on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres this year.

Ensminger says the farmer can do most anything unless he is destroying wetlands. That's when the DNR steps in.

Cont. on page 8

Banner Conservation Year In Cedar County

by Kurt Hoeft

District Conservationist

1992 was a banner year for soil and water conservation in Cedar county. Soil Conservation practices were applied to the land last year at rates significantly higher than average amounts applied traditionally.

Grassed waterway acreage increased 800%; contour farming 400%; acres planted with at least 30% residue cover increased 200%; and acres of no-till increased by 300%.

The large increase in no-till was partly due to the success of no-till drilled soybeans. Most operators in Cedar county had good results with no-till soybeans and are planning on increasing their acres in 1993.

I am pleased with the progress made in soil conservation in Cedar county. The improvements are visible (contouring, grassed waterways, conservation tillage, field borders) and the payoffs will be long term.

The interest in conservation is due in large part to the landowners fulfilling their requirements of the 1985 and 1990 Farm Bills. This legislation required farmers to protect highly erodible land from serious erosion in exchange for USDA program benefits.

Cont. on page 5



Chairman Robert Niermeyer, right, accepts the 1991 Goodyear Conservation Honor Award at the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District annual conference in Des Moines Dec. 1. The Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District has been selected as an Honor District the past 3 years.

1992 DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

JANUARY

Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners met for their organizational meeting Jan. 14. Officers elected were Robert Niermeyer, chairman; Millicent Zenishek, vice-chairman; Kenneth Muller, secretary and Melanie Schott, treasurer. Assistant Commissioners appointed were Steve Leazer, Richard Zenishek and Joel Brown. Other commissioners on the board include: Mike Walter, Richard Kreinbring and Randall Shaul.

District Conservationist Kurt Hoeft and Soil Conservation Technician Judy Hagan attended Residue Management Training Jan. 8.

DC Hoeft gave a presentation to Lowden Lions Club Jan. 14.

SCT Hagan attended Technicians meeting on the 15th.

Cont. on page 2

1992 District Activities

Cont. from page 1

DC Hoeft attended Economics Training in Des Moines Jan. 23 and 24.

The Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show was held at the Five Seasons Center in Cedar Rapids Jan. 28 and 29. Commissioners Mike Walter, Richard Kreinbring and Millie and Richard Zenishek assisted at the registration booth on the 29th.

The District sponsored a tri-county contractors meeting in conjunction with Muscatine and Scott SWCD's Jan. 22.

Extension Crop Clinic was held Jan. 23 in West Branch.

Cedar SWCD donated funds in support of the recently organized Limestone Bluffs Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Area.

District approved office participation with the JTPA summer youth program.

Commissioners agreed to cooperate in a Federal Grant to get database information entered in the computer.

Cedar SWCD newsletter was published in mid-January.

The Tipton Conservative published the District's Annual Report with their regular weekly newspaper Jan. 22.

Commissioner Mike Walter and DC Hoeft attended Limestone Bluffs RC&D meeting Jan. 27.

FEBRUARY

SWCD and SCS staff attended an all employee meeting in Iowa City Feb. 5 and 6.

District completed the Goodyear Evaluation and submitted it for competition.

The regular commissioners meeting was held Feb. 11. Commissioners reviewed their Annual Plan of Work. Six scholarship applications were reviewed and candidates were selected for interviews.

The Cedar Environmental Education Committee met Feb. 19.

District held their Annual Awards Banquet in conjunction with the Corn and Soybean Growers Association Banquet Feb. 15. Chairman Niermeyer presented awards.

Soil Conservationist Clarence Bunch began his tour of duty in the Tipton field office Feb. 24.

DC Hoeft attended an RC&D meeting Feb. 24.

Area Resource Conservationist Dean Pettit assisted with training at Tipton field office.

Commissioners reviewed Iowa Financial Incentive Program and REAP budgets, set local priorities and policies and approved no-till, tree planting and wind-break application.

Assistant Commissioner Joel Brown represented the District at the Regional REAP assembly.

MARCH

District tree sales campaign ended March 1. Approximately 1,900 trees were sold.

Commissioner Millie Zenishek and DC Hoeft attended the Spring Regional meeting in Cedar Rapids March 11.

Resource Tillage Specialist Ed Andrews held an Economics of Reduced Tillage meeting March 17.

Merlin Gadelmann used the District's farm display March 15-26 at local banks in observance of AG Week.

SC Bunch gave a presentation to 6th grade students at Lincoln school.

Commissioner Mike Walter and DC Hoeft attended RC&D meeting in Maquoketa.

District Secretary Melanie Schott attended Jones County Education Committee Science Fair in Monticello March 21.

The regular commissioner meeting was held March 18. Scholarship candidates were interviewed. Commissioners selected Brad Chapman of Tipton and Jeffrey Hennings of Bennett as winners of \$200 scholarships each to continue their education in environmental or agricultural areas.

Residue kits were distributed to local agri-businesses.

Cedar County Fair Board and RC&D officials met March 23.

Soil Scientist Lonnie Miller assisted the Tipton field office.

APRIL

Cedar Environmental Education Committee met April 8 and completed judging for the annual poster contest.

District held a tillage demonstration and contour layout April 9.

DC Hoeft and SC Bunch attended a meeting in Iowa City April 15.

A forestry field day was held at the Kelly Tree Farm April 11.

The regular commissioner meeting was held April

14. The board reviewed the 1992 APW. District discussed working with the local Bar Association to update a lease contract to include items regarding conservation compliance.

Limestone Bluffs RC&D made plans for a project with the Cedar County Fair Board.

Commissioner Mike Walter and DC Hoeft attended RC&D meeting April 13.

District trees were distributed April 16.

Cedar SWCD provided a red oak tree seedling to all 3rd grade students in Cedar county in observance of Arbor Day.

District sponsored a female landowner newsletter and promoted a tour.

DC Hoeft attended a meeting in Des Moines on hazardous waste.

Assistant Commissioner Steve Leazer visited Washington D.C. with the Farm Bureau and met with legislators.

MAY

The regular commissioner meeting was held May 12. Assistant Commissioner Joel Brown reported on REAP funding and indicated REAP congress is to be held in July.

DC Hoeft attended wetland training May 12 and 13.

DC Hoeft met with the county engineer May 15.

District newsletter was printed and distributed in conjunction with ASCS newsletter.

Eastern Iowa Hay Producers Association Board met in DeWitt May 18.

DC Hoeft met representatives to discuss the possibility of a watershed project to control flooding problems in West Branch.

SWCD and SCS staff attended JTPA orientation for summer youth help.

District sponsored a meeting with county bankers to discuss FSA requirements May 19.

Becky Furnish assisted the district in selecting soil stewardship materials in observance of Soil Stewardship Week. Materials were distributed to all local churches in Cedar county.

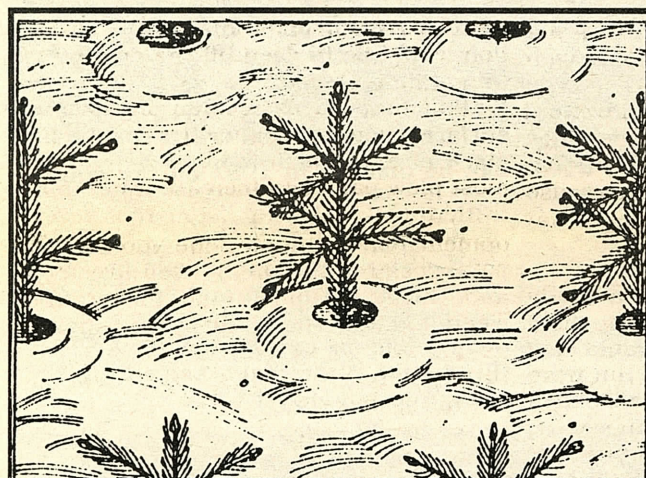
SCS staff conducted random field checks.

JUNE

The district sponsored a tillage plot tour at the Ken Beuthien farm June 2 and the Clarence Crew and Robert Regennitter farms June 3.

A Wetland Reserve program meeting was held June 5 to explain rules and perpetual easement.

Cont. on page 3



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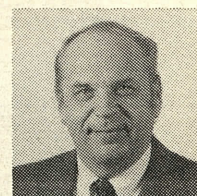
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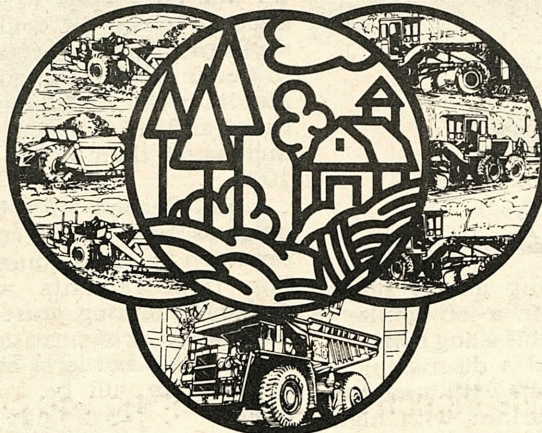
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1992 District Activities

Cont. from page 2

The SCS staff attended residue management training at the Crawfordsville ISU Research Farm June 8.

District Commissioners held their regular meeting June 9. District approved payment no-till and REAP cost-share projects. Commissioners hired Ed Crock and Mike Moes Jr. to fly them over soil conservation award nomination sites.

DC Hoeft attended a sub-area meeting June 10. District sponsored a special women landowner/operator meeting and tour June 10.

Commissioner Shaull and Assistant Commissioner Steve Leazer met with ASCS County Committee to discuss ACP cost-share and other programs.

JTPA employee Trisha Chapman began summer employment with SWCD June 15.

WRP sign up held June 1-26. Three bids were received.

CRP sign up held June 15-26. Fifty bids were received.

Tillage survey was conducted in June.

DC Hoeft attended RC&D meeting June 24.

District Secretary had performance appraisal with Division of Soil Conservation field representative June 29.

JULY

Wildlife Management Biologist Tim Thompson assisted the Tipton field office July 1.

DC Hoeft attended tour to Kinsella farm in Illinois July 7.

Eastern Iowa Hay Producers association met July 13 in DeWitt.

District Commissioners met for their regular meeting July 14 in conjunction with No-Till Neighbors Tour sponsored by Dupont at the George Driscoll farm. DSC Field Rep. Paul Valin also attended meeting and field day.

MAX Program meeting was held July 16.

DC Hoeft attended a plant materials tour at Elsberry, Mo. July 21.

Assistant Commissioner Steve Leazer and Mark Mays assisted with Practical Farmers of Iowa tour July 22.

Field office toured cost-share projects and practices around county on July 28.

DC Hoeft attended RC&D meeting July 28.

AUGUST

Regular commissioner meeting was held Aug. 19. Commissioners reviewed APW. District also discussed Senate File 200 regarding soil damage complaints on public property. Commissioners approved addendum to the Supplemental Memorandum of Understanding between SCS and SWCD. Other memorandum of understandings were also reviewed.

Soil Scientist Lonnie Miller assisted Cedar County Conservation Board with environmental education field day Aug. 5 at Cedar Valley Park.

SC Bunch attended training in Springbrook Aug. 10-14.

Area Conservationist Kathy Pielsticker met with DC Hoeft Aug. 27.

Cedar County Soil and Water Resource plan was recorded with Cedar County Recorder.

District newsletter was published and distributed.

SEPTEMBER

RC&D meeting was held Sept. 1.

Cedar County Corn and Soybean field day was held Sept. 2. Cedar SWCD had a booth at the field day.

The regular commissioner meeting was held Sept. 8. District reviewed and approved memorandum of understanding between SWCD and ASCS. Annual Conference resolutions were reviewed. Limestone Bluff's RC&D Application for Program Assistance was reviewed and approved.

Fall Regional meeting was held Sept. 9.

DC Hoeft attended EICTS Tillage Show Steering committee meeting in Marion.

DC Hoeft met with West Branch Lions Club.

A tillage plot tour evaluation was held Sept. 16 at the Ken Beuthien farm.

District and ASCS CCRG met Sept. 17.

Retired soil conservation technician Clarence Beyer assisted the District with Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award judging Sept. 18.

DC Hoeft attended EIHPA meeting in Lost Nation.

State office personnel visited the Tipton Field office for a quality review.

Melanie Schott provided training to Scott SWCD

Secretary Barb Ryder on Sept. 22.

OCTOBER

A sub-area meeting for District Conservationists and District Secretaries was held Oct. 13 in Davenport.

The regular commissioners meeting was held Oct. 13. TRS Ed Andrews requested funds to develop a no-till video to include local farmer input. District developed 1993 Annual Plan of Work. A soil loss complaint was discussed. The Board decided to obtain materials to complete large signs to place around the county to promote grassed waterways, field borders and contours.

NOVEMBER

Rita Mays and Randy Mather were elected to 6 year District Commissioner terms in the general election.

Conservation Aid Carmen Fields and SC Bunch attended a field day demonstration on soil and water conservation practices construction Nov. 10.

District Commissioners met for their regular meeting Nov. 14.

Commissioner Mike Walter and DC Hoeft attended RC&D meeting in Maquoketa Nov. 9.

District newsletter was sent and included District 1993 tree sales campaign information.

DC Hoeft attended area meeting in Washington Nov. 23.

Commissioner Robert Niermeyer attended the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Conference in Des Moines Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. Cedar SWCD received the Goodyear Conservation Honor Award for 1991. Margaret Sadeghpour, Lincoln Community school, received K-8 State Teacher Award.

DECEMBER

The regular commissioner meeting was held Dec. 8. The Annual Plan of Work and SWCD activities calendar was reviewed. Commissioners discussed plans for upcoming Annual Report.

DC Hoeft attended the Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show executive meeting Dec. 10.

Soil Conservationist Doug Ensminger began work in the Tipton field office Dec. 14.

DC Hoeft attended a statewide District Conservationist meeting in Des Moines Dec. 12-17.

Do Your Homework Now To Prepare For 1995 Compliance

Doug Ensminger Soil Conservationist

Do you know what tillage system you will be using in 1995? Depending on your farm plan and the rotations you use, it could range from a fall plow to no-till. Rotations and the slope they are placed upon can make a big difference on the tillage needed for compliance. Oats and hay in a rotation can assist an operator in maintaining a relatively intensive tillage system even on steep ground, but that type of rotation is not for everyone. Markets for hay and straw are out there but may be hard to find and corn bases possibly hard to maintain.

If you are in this situation, high residue tillage may be the system for you.

Since the beginning of the planning process in the late 80's tillage equipment has been developed to leave 40% residue and more on the soil surface. Many operators have studied their plans and have discussed options with the Soil Conservation Service. These options have led to tillage systems with large amounts of residue left on the soil surface while still allowing some tillage. Others have gone to no-till or in-row tillage only which also leaves high residues.

If you haven't found the system that will work for you, then you will need to do some homework soon. There are 62,000 acres of conservation tillage scheduled to be applied in 1993 and 1994. That means you will need to look

at the previous year's crop and till according. You might want to talk to your neighbors who have already adopted a conservation system or keep an eye out for trade shows and county meetings that address different tillage options. The Soil Conservation Service may also give you some options on tillage that may work into your operation.

Some of these systems may actually require some preparation in the field before you begin. An example would be if your plans call for no-till and you have been running livestock on the field or have consistently disked year after year. These situations often end in a yield decrease due to compaction. No-till is a good system if the field conditions are

right. A recommendation for this situation would be to deep till the area prior to no-tilling. Preferably a deep tillage operation that leaves residue on the soil surface such as a subsoiler or similar piece of equipment. This will fracture most plow pans and increase water infiltration while allowing better root development. Once this is done you should pay special attention to keep livestock and tillage equipment off the ground when it is wet. The no-till system should do the rest by developing macro-pores through crop root deterioration and allowing earthworms to re-establish themselves in the soil. This process will take a few years but by subsoiling prior to no-till you will help decrease the risk

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Think Conservation!



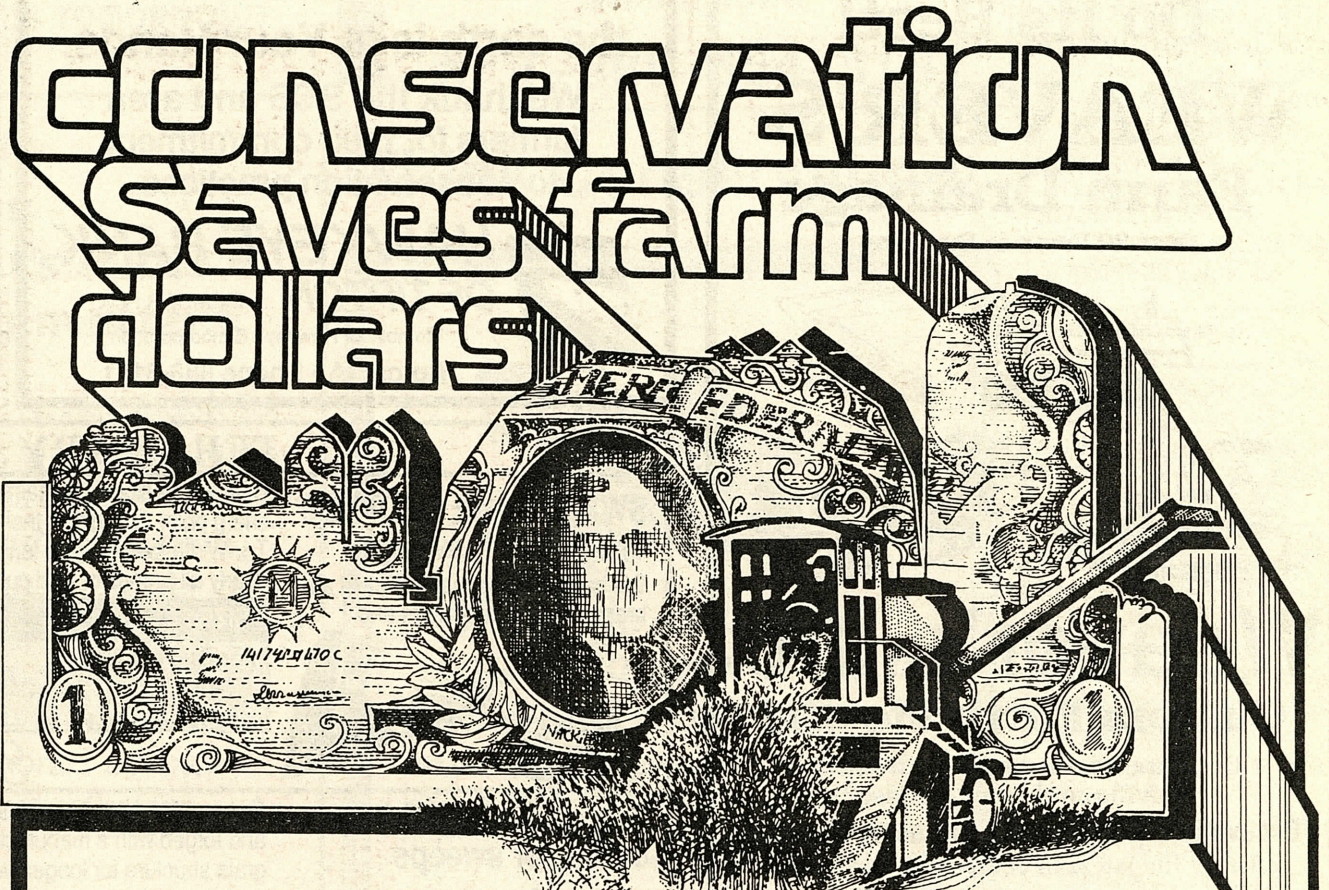
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1992 Annual Conservation Report

1992 ANNUAL CONSERVATION REPORT		
1M BUDGET FISCAL YEAR '92		
1992 Allocation		\$1,629.14
Office Supplies & Expenses	\$1,133.24	
Commissioner Expenses	495.90	

IOWA FINANCIAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM BUDGET		
FISCAL YEAR '92		
1992 Allocation		\$38,456.00
Amount Spent	\$15,319.00	
Amount Obligated (unspent)	16,380.00	
Unspent (released to DSC 12/31)	6,757.00	

1992 DISTRICT COOPERATORS
 Donald L. Meier, Roy A. Miller, Edward Poduska, Robert Farley, Jay A. Davidson, David A. Licht, Gerald Timm, Randy Mather, Hazel Jipp, James S. Smith, Keith Whitlatch, C. W. Norton, Ronnie J. Kress, Ronald W. Robinson, Dale Reed, Lee Kurtenbach, Clara Schroeder, Jim Pelzer, David Owens, Philip Carls, Barnell Rowald, Donald Kallenberger, Richard Palmer, Mike Walter, Grace Falkers, David Licht, Alan Weets, Raymond Conrad, Harvey Jensen, Patrick Kistler, Ernest Von Behren, Dennis Oldorf, Boyd Swarts, Jeffrey Graves, Brian Thomas, Mildred Abrego, John Sander, Horace Tigrett, Mark Patton, Nicholas Daedlow, Harold Ovesen, R. J & D Broulik.

FISCAL YEAR '92 SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS		
New District Cooperators	42 no.	
Land Users Assisted	1,239 no.	
Land Users Applying A Conservation Practice	455 no.	
FSA Plans Revised	34,032 acres	
Cropland Erosion Reduced	26,426 acres	
Pasture Protected (CRP)	1,126 acres	
Conservation Tillage	18,208 acres	
Contour Farming	7,062 acres	
Grade Stabilization Structures	4 no.	
Terraces	3,403 feet	
Windbreaks	6 acres	
Ponds	1 no.	
Grassed Waterways	72 acres	
Tons Soil Saved	183,358 tons	
COOPERATING AGENCIES		
Kenneth Muller	ISU Extension	
Steve Swinonos	District Forester	
Bob Middendorf	Fishery Biologist	
Tim Thompson	Wildlife Management Biologist	
Al Schmidt	ASCS County Executive Director	
Michael Graham	FmHA County Supervisor	
Rick Rouse	County Conservation Board	
Edwin C. Andrews	SCS Resource Tillage Specialist	
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE		
Margaret Sadeghpour	Lincoln	
Cindy Buck	Clarence-Lowden	

Rick Rouse	County Conservation Board
Kelvin Kelfer	County Conservation Board
Vicky Gosnell	County Conservation Board
Mike Schultz	Bennett
Kurt Hoeft	Soil Conservation Service
Clarence Bunch	Soil Conservation Service
Melanie Schott	Cedar S.W.D.C.
Ken Muller	Cedar County Extension
FIELD OFFICE STAFF	
Kurtis F. Hoeft	District Conservationist
W. Doug Ensminger	Soil Conservationist
Clarence Bunch	Soil Conservationist
Judy A. Hagan	Soil Conservation Technician
Melanie B. Schott	District Secretary
Carmen A. Fields	Soil Conservation Aid
Thomas O. Spear	Soil Conservation Aid (CRP)
1992 DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS	
Robert Niermeyer, Chairman	Fairfield Township
Millicent Zenishek, Vice-Chairman	Fremont Township
Randall Shaull	Red Oak Township
Richard Kreinbring	Springfield Township
Michael Walter	Cass Township
1992 ASSISTANT DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS	
Rita Mays	Farmington Township
Randy Mather	Gower Township
Richard Zenishek	Fremont Township
Steve Leazer	Farmington Township
Joel Brown	Pioneer Township

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The future of the land is in our hands. What we take from it we must replace, in order to preserve and protect our rich, fertile soil for future generations. Conservation is vital if we hope to continue to enjoy the fruits of our good earth.



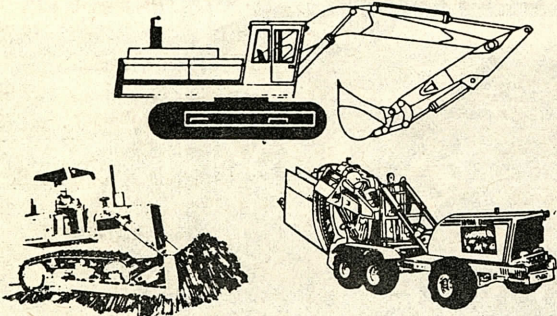
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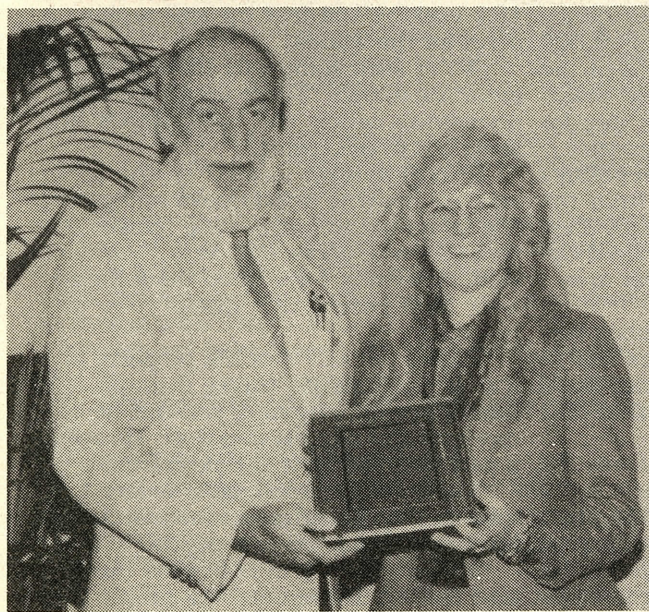
SIZE	SHANK DEGREES	NUMBER	REG.	NOW
7 inch	43	N130166	\$3.42	\$2.90
9 inch	43	N130167	\$3.88	\$3.29
7 inch	47	N188992	\$3.76	\$3.19
9 inch	47	N188993	\$3.88	\$3.29

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Sadeghpour, Chapman Win Teacher Awards



Margaret Sadeghpour won the Iowa Soil Conservation Teacher award in Division I for kindergarten through 8th grade. She has been teaching 4th, 5th and 6th grade science at Lincoln Elementary for 12 years. She teaches her students that "Environmental awareness is a state of mind, a way of thinking, a way of life." Sadeghpour expands their environmental awareness through a variety of hands-on experiences including a school based recycling program for paper, tin cans and milk jugs, pollution prevention efforts, the Adopt-a-Highway program, tree and native vegetation plantings on the school grounds and numerous field trips.



Terry "Bubba" Chapman won the Iowa Soil Conservation Teacher award in Division II for grades 7 - 12. During the 2 years he has been teaching vocational agriculture at the Monticello high school, his students have developed and implemented a conservation plan for the 40-acre school farm. The plan included no-till planting, measuring residue, laying out contours, measuring field borders, and designing grass waterways and contour strips. The students also built models of the practices to use in the classroom and at field days. The Monticello FFA chapter, under Terry's guidance, received a 1992 Earth Team Award from the USDA Soil Conservation Service for 164 hours of volunteer service conducting a Conservation on Your Own field day for area farmers and other conservation activities.

Environmental Ed Committee Has Many Projects

The Environmental Education committee is made up of representatives from each school in Cedar county, the Cedar County Conservation Board, USDA Soil Conservation Service, Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District and Cedar County Extension Service.

The committee meets several times a year and is involved with the following projects: poster contest for grades 4-8, scholarship competition for senior high school students interested in continuing their education in agriculture or environmental fields, Arbor Day celebration providing tree seedlings to all third grade students in Cedar county, tours, teacher in-service presentations, environmental newsletter, environmental education to classes, teacher and leadership camp sponsorships, education materials and displays, resource packets, resource books and an outstanding education award each year.

The 1992 scholarship awards presented to senior high school students at graduation last spring included Brad Chapman from Tipton, attending Iowa State University and Jeffrey Hennings from Bennett, attending Muscatine Community College.

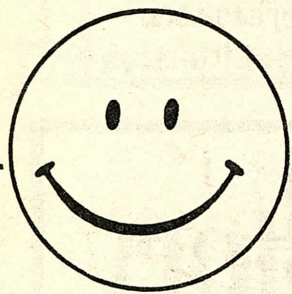
"Our Treasured Trees" was the theme for the 1992 Poster Contest. All participants received pencils and cash awards were given to first place poster winners per grade for each school. First place poster winners included Grant Mast, Matthew Lange and Nicole Wendt from Clarence-Lowden; Cody Chamberlain, Allison Litscher and Holly Robinson from Lincoln and Erika Barglof and Josh Rouse from Bennett. Fifty dollar savings bonds were also awarded for the 2 top posters: Shandon Hoffmeier of Clarence-Lowden and Abby Regennitter of Bennett.

Banner Year for Cedar

Cont. from page 1

In Cedar county, 145,000 acres of cropland are classified as highly erodible land. To remain eligible for USDA programs, land users were required to develop a conservation plan by 1990. They must apply the plan as scheduled by Jan. 1, 1995.

As I drive through the county, there is no doubt that many, many farmers are making efforts to do a better job of taking care of their land. They should be congratulated for their efforts.



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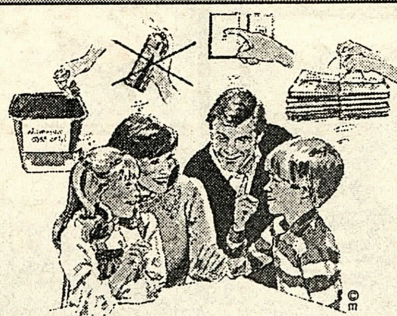
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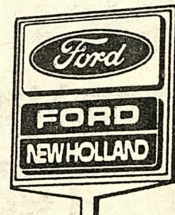


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Walker Develops River Marsh And Timber



Morris Walker

by Pat Kroemer

Who would buy 133 acres of river marsh and timber? Someone who dreams of what the marsh can become and what the timber can provide for wildlife. Someone who enjoys hunting and fishing and developing something out of nothing.

Morris Walker, 68, Clarence, purchased the marshy property, which runs along the Cedar River north of Cedar Bluff, in 1989.

The 53 tillable acres located there have been seeded with a cover crop of alfalfa and clover and will lay idle 10 years in the CRP (Conservation Reserve Program).

"The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) cost shared the seeding twice," Walker explained. "It floods and washes the seeding out."

"I would like to put 10 acres in a wetland program," he said. "The wetland area would be in the program for life."

Walker has worked with the SCS for several years on different projects. In 1975 he sold his stock cattle and only crop farmed. He terraced about 300 of his 650 acre farm south of Clarence.

"I was worried about erosion around the creeks at the home place," he added. "The terracing worked very good for us."

"Our Cedar Bluff property is my hobby," he said. "I enjoy going there and watching the wildlife."

After the Walkers purchased the

property they cleaned up the poor bushy trees and planted approximately 2,500 seedlings. A forester recommended the type of trees the Walkers should plant. They've planted walnut and hickory for the nuts and dogwood for the berries.

They replaced about 200 seedlings last year using a tree planter from the Cedar County Conservation Board. They ordered Shellback Hickory and Bald Cypress, known to grow well in wet areas, to plant this spring.

"I'm going to invest in tree tubes this year," he said. "The 4 foot tubes will fit around the seedlings and protect them from the deer and rabbits that eat them."

The Walkers have spent from 75 cents to \$1 each for the 18 inch to 24 inch seedlings. This size seems to plant well in the tree planter and can be purchased at a reasonable price if you order more than 100. The tree protectors Walker has ordered this year cost \$3.25 each, but he feels they will save a lot of trees.

"I like to plant larger trees because I don't have much time to wait," Walker said. "The deer ate most everything down so I sprayed the trees last fall to keep the deer away."

Walker and his wife, Bernita, planted acorns and hickory nuts last fall and are anxious to see if they come up.

To help feed the wildlife in the area, Walker planted 4 acres to corn last year.

This year he will tear up and replant 2 acres for the wildlife.

"We've seen some wild turkeys in the area," he added. "There aren't too many pheasants since the area floods the birds out in the spring."

Several springs located on the property are home to wood ducks and geese. "I'm planning to put nesting houses out there for the geese this year," Walker said. "I already have wood duck houses and have seen the ducks use the houses."

Walker likes to visit his property and watch the wildlife travel through. He hasn't hunted anything yet, but he one day hopes to bag his own deer. He sat in a deer blind once for the experience.

"I've never hunted deer before," he added. "My grandsons and son-in-law have hunted on the property."

Walker grew up in Louisiana hunting and fishing. He remembers people who had cabins for weekends. After moving to Iowa Walker had very little time between farming and raising a family to hunt and fish.

"Farming never left me too much time for hunting and fishing," he said. "Purchasing this timber was my retirement dream."

Walker looked at other property on the river, but found most was in great demand. The Walkers have no cabin on their land because of the flooding, but

Cont. on page 7

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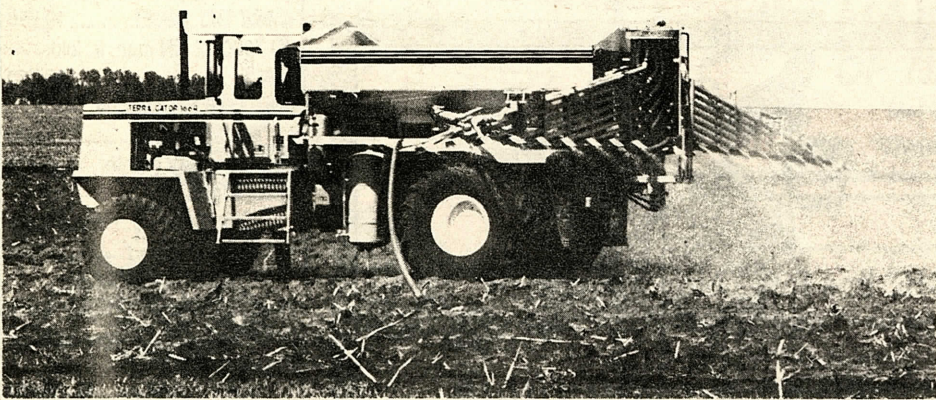
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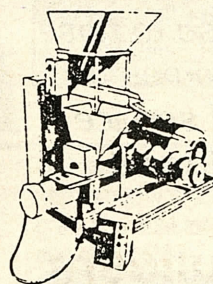
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1995 Preparation Cont. from page 3

while this system takes hold. Earthworms should start to re-establish and will help develop structure in your soil while helping in infiltration rates and aeration of the soil.

Even if your system calls for mulch till

with 40% residue or more you might still follow these recommendations. These higher residues will only be maintained by minimal tillage such as a light disking or field cultivation.

If you have not thought of things such as the example above then you will want to soon.

Morris Walker Cont. from page 6

have a hook-up for their travel trailer and have taken it there.

"When I first purchased the property I was primarily interested in the river bank that runs 80 rods along the west side," he said. "I thought about planting it all in trees, but I'm glad I didn't."

After he purchased the property, the Walker grandchildren took a lot of time and gathered 2 five gallon buckets of nuts from the area. They washed them

and laid them in the sun to dry. When they returned later they discovered the squirrels had carried the nuts away. That fall the area squirrels had themselves an easy harvest. The next year a friend gave the Walkers 60 Buckeyes to plant. When they returned they found the squirrels had gathered them up too.

The Walkers farmed Bernita's family farm south of Clarence from 1948 to 1986. They raised hogs, cattle, beans and corn.



A residue management seminar will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18 at the Amvets hall in Lowden. Pictured above is Doug Ensminger, soil conservationist, demonstrating the proper technique to measure crop residue.

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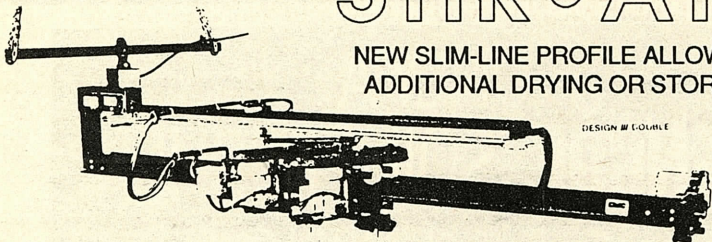
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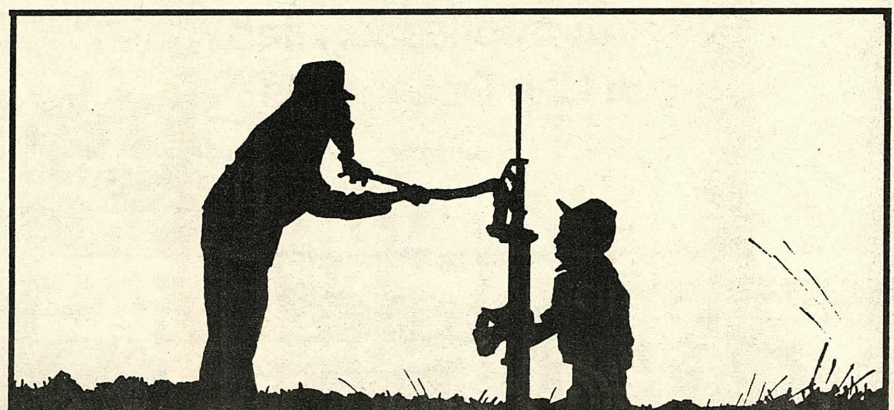
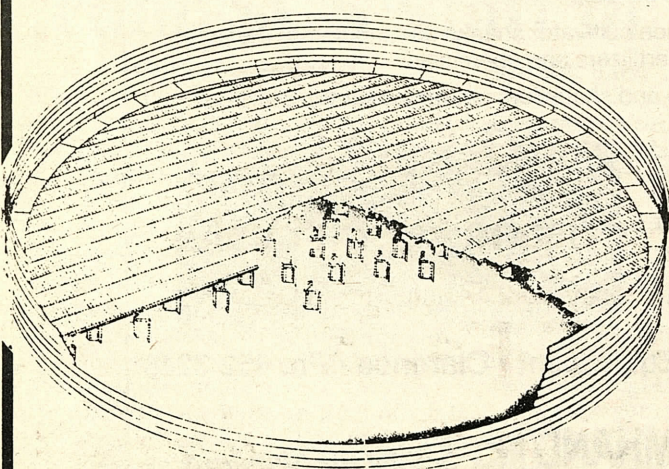
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New Faces At SCS

Cont. from page 1

"I hope to continue doing what I'm doing the best I can," Bunch said. "My purpose here is to continue receiving all the experience I can."

Bunch said he thought someday he'd move back to the south.

Doug Ensminger, 27, grew up on a farm in northeast Missouri, with a Farmington, Iowa address. He attended Northeast Missouri State, graduating in 1987 with a degree in Ag Business.

He served an internship his senior year in college with the Clark county SCS and then worked there after graduation as a technician assistant. He did surveys, design and layouts for ponds, terraces and other projects.

He had enough soil courses in college to become a soil conservationist.

In the fall of 1987 he joined the SCS in Davenport as a soil conservationist and was there for 3 years. In October 1990 he went to Burlington and worked as a soil conservation technician, where he stayed until accepting the Cedar county job in December 1992.

Ensminger is now busy doing farm status reviews of highly erodible land. He discusses conservation practices with the farmer and helps them plan grass

strips, waterways and crop rotation.

"Our basic goal is to educate and inform the farmer of his obligation to comply with the 1985-90 farm bills," he explained.

Because of Ensminger's experience, he makes recommendations to the farmer without having to report to the district conservationist.

"I like the interaction with the clients," Ensminger said. "It's nice to get out into the territory and see your recommendations in practice."

Ensminger explained that it takes a lot of planning to control erodible soil. It can be anything from no-tilling to crop rotation, contour strip farming or terracing.

"We want the operator happy with the compliance the government has made," he added.

Any farmer who has received federal funds has to comply with the 1985-90 farm bill by Jan. 1, 1995.

The SCS staff uses ASCS (Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service) contour and soil maps. Through these maps and discussions with the farm operator the SCS can verify the actual landscape and then develop a plan.

Each operator receives an application schedule which tells when he or she needs to begin specific practices on their land.

Future plans for Ensminger are to one day become a district conservationist in

another county.

Both Bunch and Ensminger enjoy Cedar county and invite farmers to come in and talk to the SCS staff about conservation practices they would like to implement.

Residue Management Seminars Planned

Representatives from 4 equipment companies will speak on equipment for high residue farming at 3 meetings Feb. 18. The meetings will be held in Eldridge - Farm Bureau - 9:30 a.m.; Welton - Buzzy's - 1:30 p.m.; Lowden - Amvets - 7 p.m.

The company reps will

each tell how their system works for high residue as well as no-till and reduced tillage systems in general.

Each company will also have a farmer at the meetings who is using their equipment to talk about what they are doing and how it is working for them.

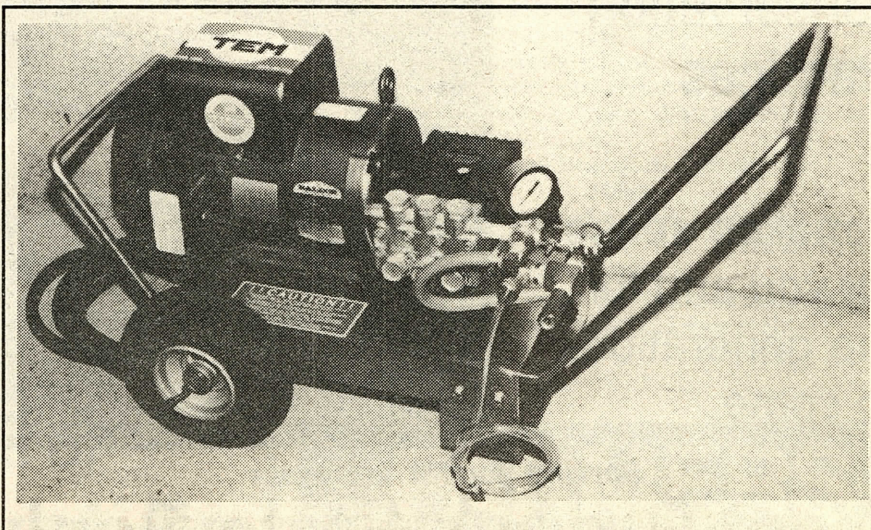
The companies and their reps attending the meetings are Mark Larson, Yetter Manufacturing;

Dean Holst, Rawson Coulter; Mark Mays, Buffalo Till and Vic Christensen, Sunflower.

The meetings will conclude with a panel discussion where farmers will have the opportunity to ask questions and participate in discussion with the speakers. Anyone having questions on residue management or related topics should plan to attend.

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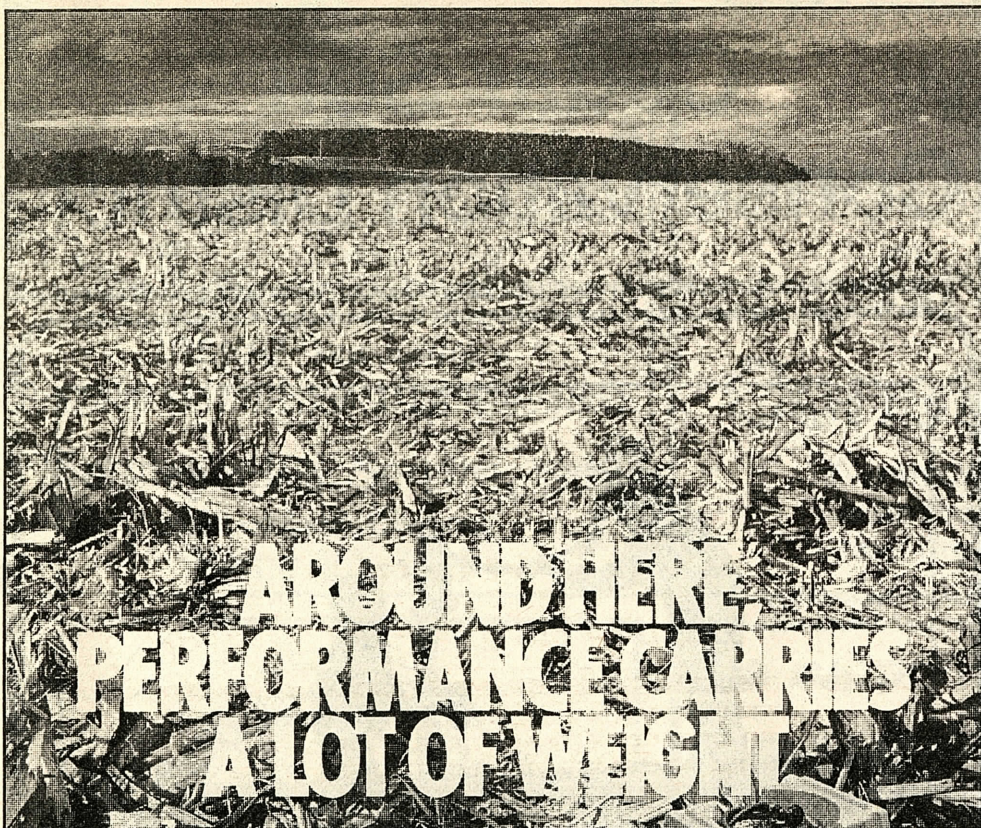
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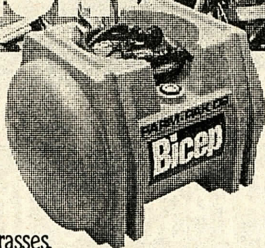
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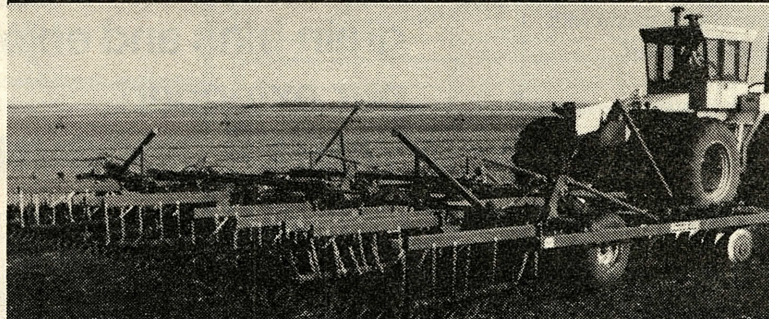
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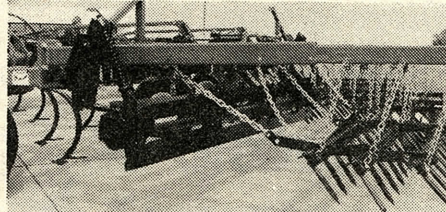


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