

An editorial

We all need to be soil conservation 'doers'

No one will argue the fact that we need to do more to save our high producing Iowa soil. Being against soil conservation is being against clean water, plentiful food supplies, a beautiful countryside, and other benefits of keeping soil in place.

But there's a difference between agreeing that we need to save our soil and taking steps to make sure that we actually do. The record in Iowa (Soil Conservation Service figures) show we have a corps of conservation landowners who have made significant gains in protecting their land, but it also shows we've a long way to go.

On the average, Iowa farmers are losing two bushels of topsoil on unprotected sloping land for every bushel of corn they produce. That's 230 bushels of soil per acre each year, or about 1/2 inch of topsoil. We have about 6-8 inches left from an original 12-14 inches of topsoil on these sloping lands. At present rates, then, in 100 years the topsoil could be gone.

With increases in row crop acreages, progress has been slow in protecting our land against erosion. Only a little more than a third of Iowa's land has been protected in the 40 years since the soil conservation movement began after dust storms in the mid-1930's.

The point is, we need to get conservation practices on the land at a much faster pace than we have in the past. We need that extra nudge to turn the "talkers" into "doers".

The "doers" should be each of us, for we all have a stake in keeping our land productive and in keeping sediment out of our streams and lakes. Conservation practices help the landowner, but they also benefit every one of us that depend on the land. We should all expect to pay our fair share.

DICK SCHILD
Soil Conservation District
Chairman

Statewide, conservation job less than half done

DES MOINES — Numerous terraces, ponds, and protective grass waterways have been built in Iowa along with millions of acres of cropland protected against soil erosion with crop residues. Yet the job of saving Iowa's soil is less than half done.

More than 100,000 Iowa landowners are cooperating with local soil conservation districts to protect soil on their farms," says William Brune, state conservationist for the U. S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS). "They've made substantial progress, but the job of soil conservation is so vast the bulk of the work is ahead."

"One fact that makes progress look slow in Iowa is the increase in row crop acreage. Land that was adequately protected with rotations 10 or 15 years ago is subject to severe erosion when it's continually cropped," Brune said.

SCS figures show that since 1969 more than four and one-half million acres of land have been treated for erosion. But in that same time row cropping increased by over five million acres.

"There will be continued demand for crop production, and that will put more stress on the land," adds Brune. "One of the biggest challenges will be to protect cropland."

Brune sees conservation tillage, the practice of leaving last year's crop residues on the soil surface, as a major soil saving method. This method alone could control soil losses on 40 per cent of Iowa's cropland.

More land could be protected by using conservation tillage and terraces together, says Brune.

His estimates on some major conservation practices needed in Iowa are:

- Terraces, 368,000 miles needed; 60,000 miles built;
- Waterways, 349,000 acres needed; 200,000 acres built;
- Ponds, 92,000 needed; 37,000 built;
- Drainage, 360,000 miles needed; 260,000 miles built; and
- Grads stabilization structures, 47,000 needed; 18,000 built.

Conservation tillage is practiced on a fourth of Iowa's cropland. There is still wide potential for more conservation tillage, he said.

"We had some serious erosion in the state this year," says Brune. "The average soil loss each year on unprotected sloping land is about 13 tons per acre. That is about 230 bushels of soil per acre."

Those losses are higher than limits set by soil conservation districts as part of the Iowa Soil Conservancy Act. Legislation provides that offenders could be held in contempt of court if average annual soil losses are over 3-5 tons per acre, and the sediment produced harms another landowner.

Landowners can receive 75 per cent cost-sharing to solve soil erosion problems with conservation measures, he noted.

Brune praises those who voluntarily practice soil conservation. They have been foresighted enough to know everyone must look at the long-term effects of using the land, he added.



Drought shows the difference between this...

Bill Meigs, Benton County Extension director, examines corn on an area that is sloping, but had not been allowed to

erode. The corn color was dark green and the ears looked large.

This is year conservation made the difference

This year will tell whether or not Benton farmers have done a good job of crop management and how much they have conserved their land through the years, says Floyd Peters, District conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service.

"If you walk through your fields now, you will know where the trouble spots are. Each year that erosion control is not practiced these trouble spots get larger," said Peters.

He and Bill Meigs, Benton County Extension director, walked several fields in early August and found that yields on the eroded spots would be approximately 30 bushels per acre less than areas which have not been allowed to erode. Peters felt that this would be the difference between a profit and loss in 1975 on these areas.

Thirty-two per cent or 140,000 acres of the county's cropland is subject to moderate to severe sheet erosion according to the conservation needs report

for the county. About 35 per cent of the county's sloping lands are being contoured and terraced, but another 219,000 acres need this treatment if present generations are to be as well fed in the future as we are now.

Most people enjoy streams and lakes that are free of sediment and other pollutants, which erode into them from unprotected farm land. This is just another benefit from soil conservation practices being used on the land.

Push for more grain production intensifies soil loss problems

AMES — Iowa's worst soil erosion in 25 years occurred in the last two years, says Min Amemiya, Extension agronomist at Iowa State University.

The consequences of intensive row cropping on Iowa land were evident when heavy spring rains fell on bare, cleanly cultivated fields.

Good management of soil and water is important as farmers increase row crop acres at the expense of less-intensive cropping systems such as small grains.

Soil erosion is adequately controlled on less than 40 per cent of Iowa cropland, Amemiya says. Soil loss limits are established in all counties, and if followed, require measures to control soil and water losses from agricultural land.

On level to slightly rolling land, proper choice of tillage sequences and implements can effectively control soil erosion, says Amemiya. More sloping land requires conservation tillage systems used with other soil conservation practices, such as contouring and terracing to control erosion under intensive row cropping.

The soil surface of conservation tillage usually has a mulch of plant residue or a rough topography that protects the soil against water and wind erosion.

Conservation tillage requires only enough tillage to prepare an adequate seedbed with uniform depth of seed placement and good seed-soil contact.

Some forms of conservation tillage are no different than earlier forms of minimum tillage using the moldboard

plow, explains the agronomist. But they eliminate several secondary tillage operations.

Other systems use a chisel type tool or a disk for primary tillage combined with a minimum amount of secondary tillage. More sophisticated systems combine tillage and planting operations such as a till planter, slot planter or strip-till planter.

If managed properly, conservation tillage systems usually require less time, labor and fuel, and fewer trips over the field. Under dry soil conditions, they reduce loss of soil moisture to evaporation.

With most conservation tillage systems, planting may be more timely. Preplant operations are reduced so any delay due to adverse weather or soil conditions is reduced.

Yields from conservation tillage are comparable to those from conventional methods, if weed control and stands are adequate. Exceptions are where heavy-textured, poorly drained soils affect crop growth because of poor seedbeds and a cold, wet environment.

Weed control with cultural and chemical means becomes vital as tillage is reduced, reminds Amemiya. Control measures for clean-tilled fields must be modified for rough, trashy conditions and to allow for shifts in weed population from mixed annuals to perennials and hard-to-control annuals.

Phosphorus and potassium are relatively immobile in the soil. With conservation tillage, they tend to concen-

trate in the surface 2-3 inches. When material is plowed under, P and K are uniformly distributed throughout the plow layer.

However, variations in fertilizer placement associated with various tillage systems have not yet affected crop yields in Iowa.

Increased damage from insects is associated with plant residues and grassy weed infestations. But control measures are the same as with conventional tillage methods.

Tillage systems can also influence disease control, explains Amemiya. Clean tillage aids soil sanitation. Infected crop residues left on the surface can encourage disease problems if weather conditions are right.

Although plant disease potential may be greater in the presence of residues, this must be balanced against the erosion control benefits. Disease-resistant varieties and modifications of crop sequences can help control some disease problems.

Some form of conservation tillage will work on most Iowa farms, says Amemiya. Many farmers are successfully using conservation tillage.

Conservation tillage requires high level management, Amemiya cautions. "But the benefits of reduced soil and water loss, reduced fuel consumption, less labor, less field time, and more timely planting outweigh the increased management requirements."



... and - on eroded land - this

Meigs kneels in an area, which has been allowed to erode. Stones are on the surface and the corn is about one-half as tall as above. Meigs felt that there would be at least 30 bushels

per-acre difference between the two areas. Both were on sloping land and on the same farm. Both pictures were taken the same day.



Wildlife cover

Untilled and ungrazed areas such as along this drainage ditch are the last habitat for Iowa wildlife like the easant, rabbit, quail, rabbit and other song birds. These

untouched areas provide cover to give the chain of nature a chance to continue.



Versus the need for farmland

Farmers pressed to meet rising costs often will turn a wooded, wandering drainage ditch into a straight clear ditch, such as this one. This allows more farming convenience and

greater economic utilization of the land resources, but as Benton County District Conservationist Floyd Peters notes, the "clean" look offers no wildlife cover.

Photos courtesy Floyd Peters

"My M-C Dryer helps me get more yield per acre."

David Hicks
Shullsburg
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David Hicks bought his M-C 4000E30 Continuous Grain Dryer 9 or 7 years ago, because he thought it would be a good investment. Has it worked out? "Yes," says Dave and for a number of reasons. One reason is because he can start harvesting corn early, knowing that his dryer will handle the high moisture grain with no trouble. In this way, he gets all the crop he's raised because there are no field losses due to poor weather late in the season. How about maintenance? "I've had to replace one belt on the fan." How about grain condition and automatic moisture control? "Every time I sell corn, it tests just the way I expected it to," says Dave.

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Soil types

Benton County Extension Director Bill Meigs examines soybeans growing on sandy soils. Meigs said the bean yield from this area will be low this year because of the drought conditions. Beans in the foreground are growing on a wilt-loom soil, a type that holds moisture better and is more capable of sustaining plant growth during dry periods. A soil map would show the difference in the soils when crops are not present.



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Conservation-development offers self-help

DES MOINES — Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) is a program gaining momentum and recognition in Iowa.

Through RC&D projects, local people are given opportunities to develop their natural resources and improve their economy and community, says Glen Black, deputy state conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service. The projects help people from various organizations and agencies work together.

Some federal funds are available through the projects, but the emphasis of the program is to aid local people in finding their own solutions to resource problems. Local people start the projects, name the problems, and develop plans and priorities to solve those problems.

Three RC&D projects are operating in Iowa. The southern Iowa project includes Adams, Adair, Decatur, Taylor, Union, and Clark counties. Emphasis in that area is on pasture improvement, roadside erosion control, and protection of city water supplies.

A flood prevention structure above the town of Prescott in Adams County was built in 1975, Black said. The town had been hit with high water every year since 1888. The flood prevention structure was built with RC&D funds administered by the Soil Conservation Service.

The area including Lucas, Wayne, Monroe and Appanoose counties make up the Chariton Valley RC&D project. By getting people together they began a \$25 million, four-county rural water system, and are completing a \$5.8 million fish hatchery.

Improved water is another goal of the Chariton Valley RC&D resulting in a two-year water quality planning project.

In another project, six small earth dams were built above Lake Morris, which is the source of water for Chariton. The dams and conservation measures on the uplands keep sediment out of the lake and save the

city \$8,000 a year. Upper Explorerland, a northeast Iowa RC&D project, consists of Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, Winneshiek, and Howard counties. Channel stabilization and erosion control are among the priorities for completion in 1976, Black said.

RC&D projects are also organized, but not federally funded, in two areas of southeast Iowa. Four counties in the southeast corner make up the Geode Wonderland project and six counties to the northeast comprise the Pathfinder Project.

RC&D project boundaries coincide with regional planning areas of the state. More information on RC&D projects is available from the Benton Soil Conservation District office, Vinton.

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Rye seeding holds soybean soil

AMES — Interseeding rye in standing soybeans is a promising method for erosion control after soybean harvest.

Soybeans leave the soil susceptible to erosion because little residue is left for protection, says Min Amemiya, Extension agronomist at Iowa State University. A cover crop is needed for erosion control together with a means of handling the cover crop so it won't compete with the following corn crop.

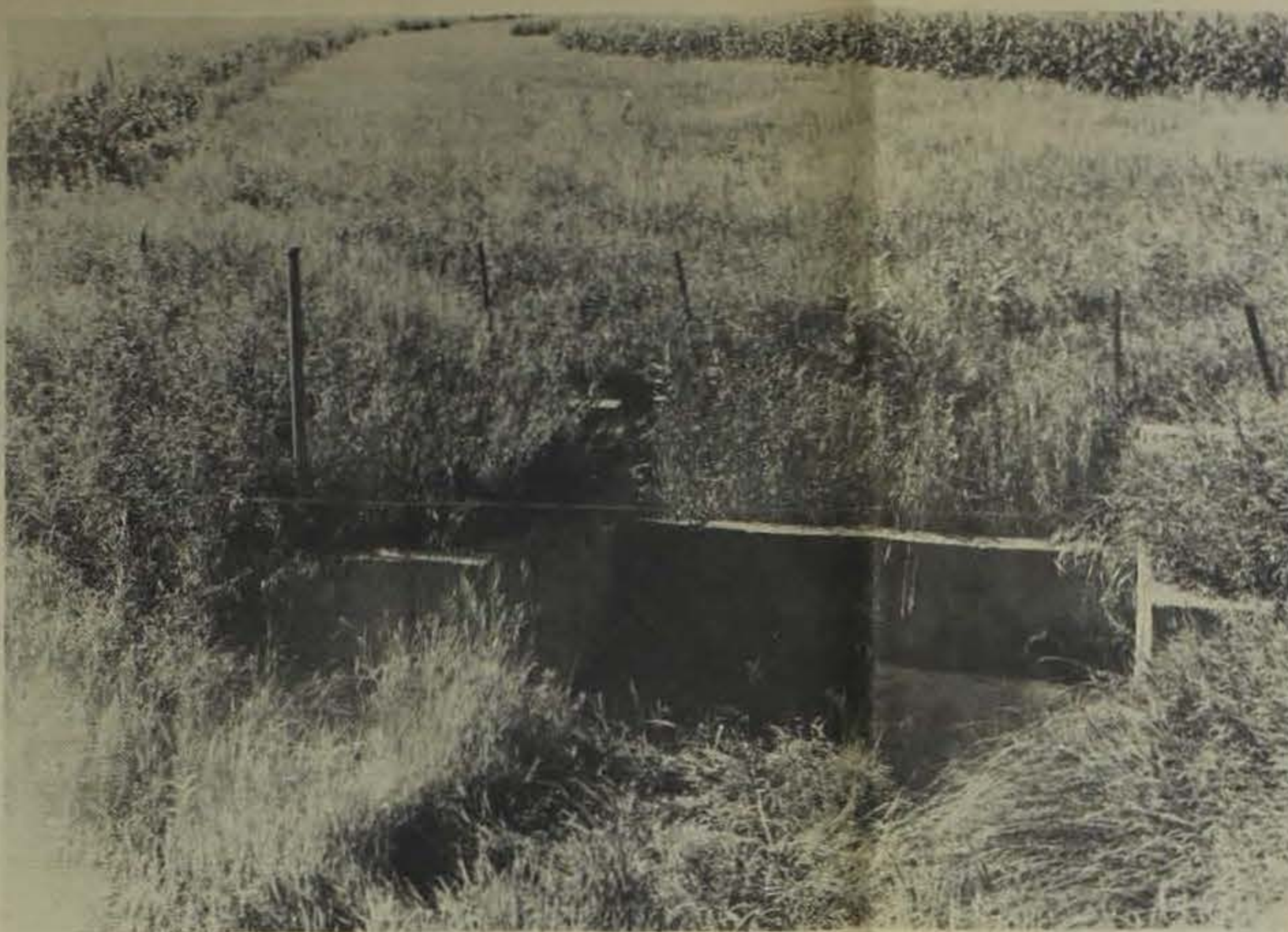
In a study at the western Iowa experimental farm near Castana, rye was aerially seeded in standing soybeans. The rye provided adequate cover during winter and spring.

Prior to corn planting in the spring, a contact herbicide was applied to burn down the rye growth, explains Amemiya. Corn was planted directly on the killed sod with either a slot planter or a till planter.

This technique can also be used to provide soil cover where corn is harvested for silage or stalks are removed for forage. In both cases interseeding can reduce soil erosion.

Gully stopper

This structure and waterway on the St. Clair farm operated by Derold Happel established in 1966. Both seem to be performing the function of lowering water from one level to another without cutting a gully, says Floyd Peters, district soil conservationist.



Soil erosion sediment remains Iowa's chief pollution problems

DES MOINES — Iowa's most significant water pollution problem is sediment from excessive soil erosion, says Larry Crane, director of the Iowa Department of Environmental Quality.

This sediment clogs stream channels, affects aquatic life, increases stream water turbidity, and reduces the capacity of lakes and reservoirs.

Sediment also has other indirect impacts on Iowa waters. Soil erosion carries nutrients, agricultural chemical residues, animal waste residues, and other pollutants into state waters.

These pollutants can increase the aging rate of lakes and reservoirs and affect the suitability and safety of recreational waters and water supplies.

State and federal water pollution control programs have concentrated on pollutant control from point source waste discharges. In Iowa, this is aimed at controlling water pollution from municipalities, industries, and large livestock feeding operations.

However, Crane says further improvement of water quality will have to come from soil erosion control.

Federal law recognizes the need for controlling non-point sources of water pollution, including soil erosion pollutants. The U. S. Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) is requiring states to analyze their non-point source pollution problems and to develop control programs.

The EPA also is establishing guidelines for developing these programs. Controlling pollutants at their source, rather than trying to remove or treat them after entry into water, is the approach used.

Soil conservation emphasizes control of soil erosion on land, explains Crane. Expanded use of soil conservation measures is expected to be emphasized as the U. S. moves toward controlling non-point sources of water pollution, he said.

The Iowa Water Quality Commission has appointed an advisory committee to study problems created by non-point source pollutants such as soil erosion and to recommend a control program.

The committee will probably recommend that non-point source pollution control programs be conducted by local units of government whenever possible.

"Improving Iowa's water quality will require cooperative effort of individuals, corporations, and governmental agencies at all levels," Crane stressed. Individual landowners will be required to increase use of soil and water conservation practices, he added.



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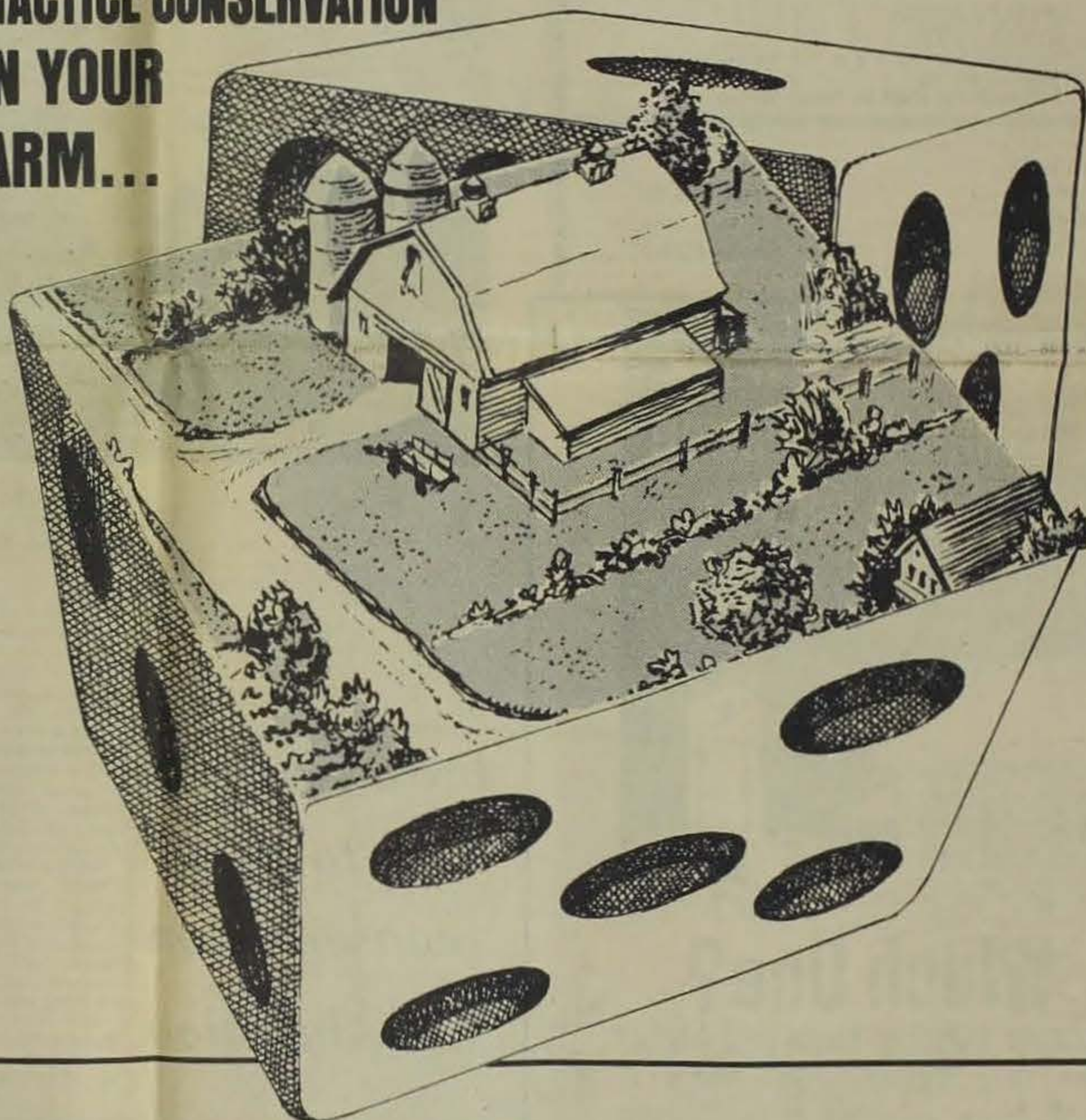
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Ponds have advantages

One doesn't have to travel much through
Benton County before realizing that this
area is a leader in the state when it comes
to soil conservation.

No where can one see more contour
farming, strip cropping and terraces than
in the Garrison and Belle Plaine areas.

There are also many farm ponds in the
area from Belle Plaine to Blairtown.

But more and more farm ponds are
being developed in other parts of Benton
County too, as farmers become aware of
their advantages.

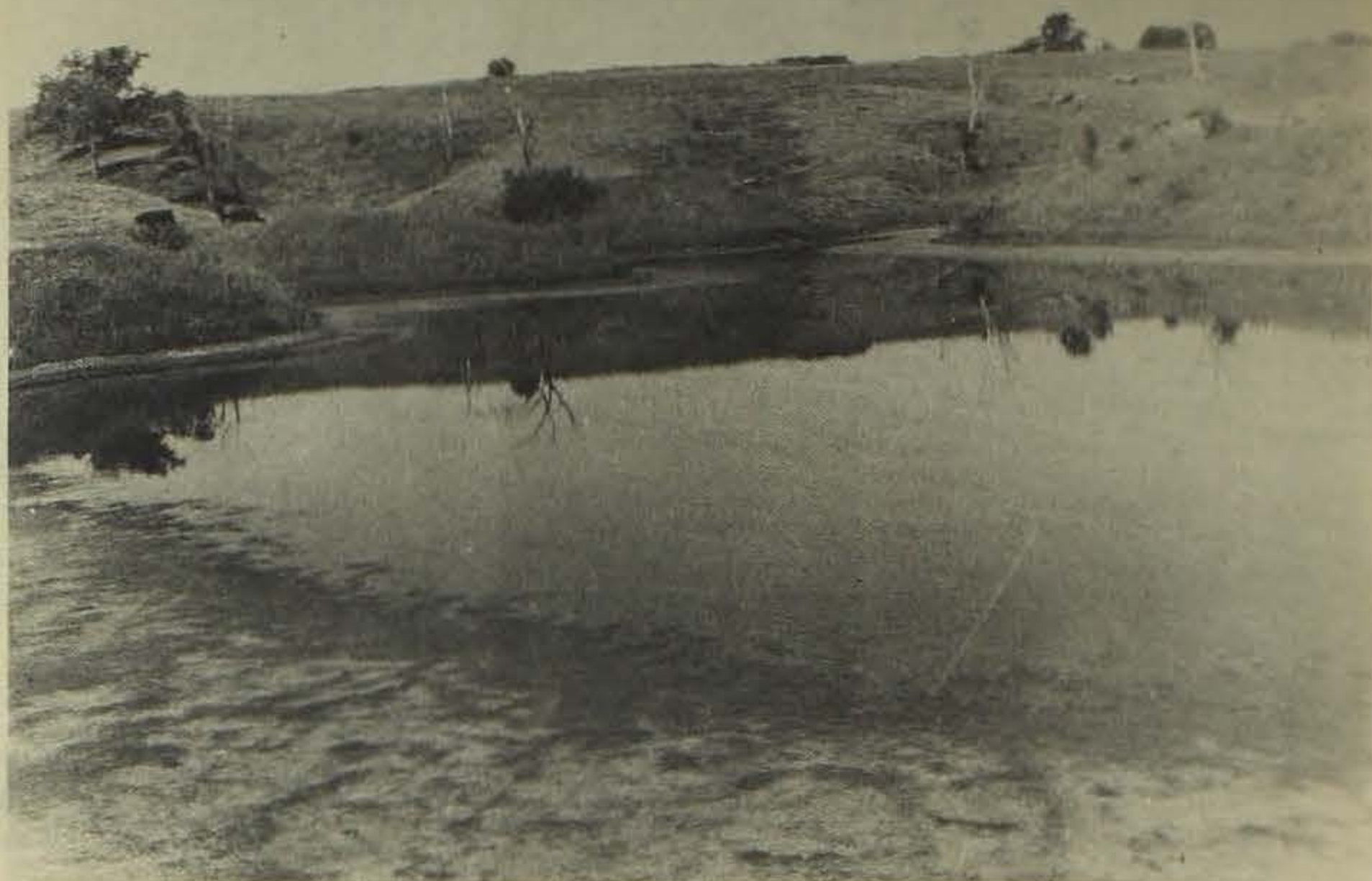
Two ponds are classic examples of why
farmers like farm ponds. One is the long
established pond on the Roman Gardner
farm between Vinton and Garrison.

Warren Wittmer, a well known Jackson
Township dairy farmer, says the presence
of a farm pond had a lot to do with his
buying the farm he now operates four
years ago. The pond is ideally located in a
pasture north of the farm buildings.

Farmers who build ponds only for the
use of their cattle are probably in the
minority because such ponds always invite
recreational use. However for such pur-
poses more maintenance is required.
Anyone considering building a pond should
consult the Soil Conservation office in
Vinton for free assistance.

At least several things are very im-
portant in selecting a good site. First the
size must be considered. If it is to be
stocked with game fish such as bass or
bluegill it should cover at least an acre or
more. Channel catfish or bait minnows are
easier to raise in smaller ponds.

There must be a satisfactory and con-
sistent water supply to have any farm
pond for long. Otherwise water lost by
seepage or evaporation will leave a pond
shallow in a short time.



Ponds are versatile

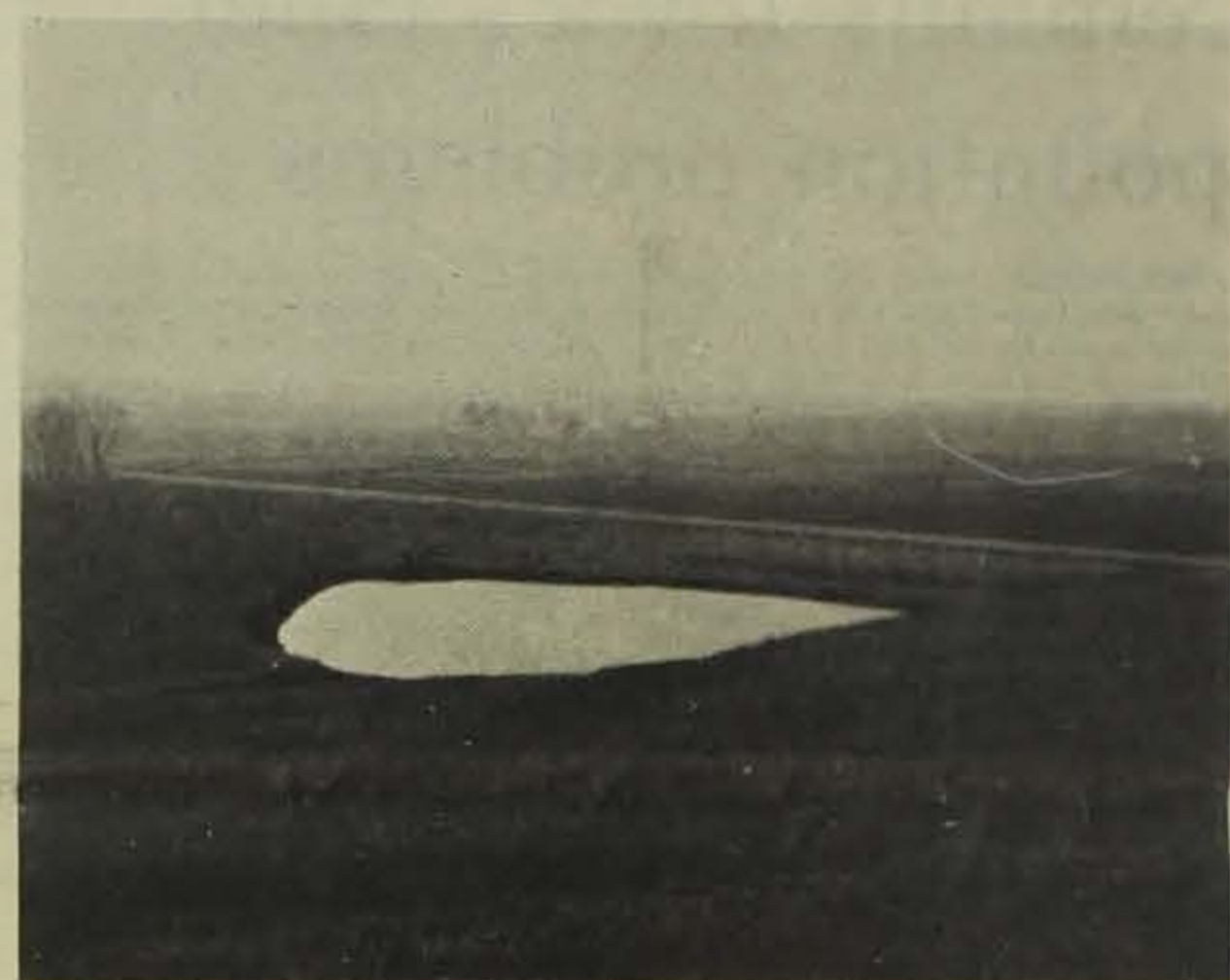
This farm pond in Benton County is fenced from cattle
and provides a water supply for them through an un-
derground pipe. The pond also provides recreation for the
farm family and their friends. The best fish production
results if the pond is stocked with both bass and bluegills says

Floyd Peters, District Conservationist. The pond can produce
up to 80 pounds of bass per acre per year. If both bass and
bluegill are present, it is important to fish for the bluegills,
also, says Peters.



Ponds add beauty

Besides serving recreational needs, farm ponds lend
beauty to homes, as is the case with the V. Dvorak home
along U.S. Highway 30 north of Norway.



Providing a water hole

Ponds serve as a catch basin for water, holding water
and the soil it would otherwise wash away. The water hole
then provides a source of water for grazing livestock.

Iowa teachers to study conservation education

Iowa teachers interested in natural
resources will receive training in con-
servation and environmental education in
a series of October workshops.

About 400 teachers are expected at three
workshops, reports Duane Toomsen of Des
Moines, chairman of the Iowa Con-
servation Education Council, prime
sponsor of the program.

The first workshop will be held at Camp
EWALU (Strawberry Point) Oct. 3-4
primarily for teachers in northeast Iowa.
A second workshop will be at Camp Hit-
chock near Honey Creek Oct. 10-11, for
those in western Iowa. Teachers in central
Iowa will attend the workshop at the State
4-H Camp near Luther, Oct. 10-11.

Both elementary and secondary
teachers will participate in environmental
education discussions and field trips as
part of the program, said Toomsen, who

also is environmental education consultant
for the Iowa Department of Public In-
struction.

"The Iowa Conservation Education
Council's purpose is to promote activities
like this," Toomsen said, "to get everyone
we possibly can to cooperate and help
promote the over-all development of
conservation and environmental education
in the state. The conservation of our
natural resources in the future depends on
the education job that's done today. We
know that attitudes formed in early years
are long-lasting."

The Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp
held each summer by the University of
Northern Iowa is another important
conservation education activity, Toomsen
said. This year, three-week sessions were
conducted at For Dodge and at Cedar
Rapids.

Drake University sponsored summer
studies in conservation and environmental
education at the conservation education
center at Springbrook State Park.
Teachers get graduate and undergraduate
credit for attending these sessions.

The conservation educator said interest
in conservation education is at an all-time
high. Nearly two-thirds of the Iowa
counties have organized Conservation
Education Committees. County con-
servation boards have established outdoor
classroom facilities. Many schools are
organizing outdoor laboratories on school
grounds to make daily teaching of con-
servation possible. Soil conservation districts,
county conservation boards, conservation
education committees and other interested
local groups and individuals have joined
their efforts to develop sound local
programs.

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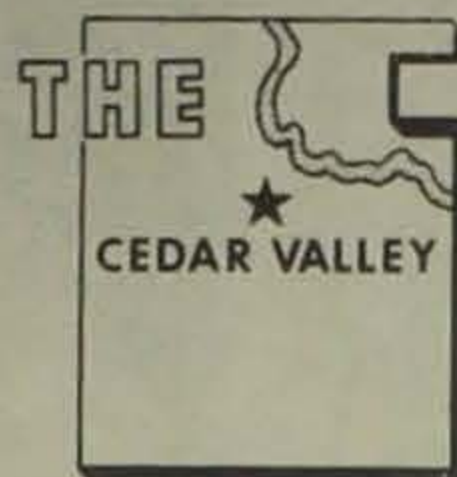
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THE TIMES

BENTON COUNTY'S COLORFUL DAILY NEWSPAPER

Tuesday, September 9, 1975 Vinton, Iowa Volume 60 Number 7 16 Pages



JOHN "DICK" SCHILD

Benton's 'Dick' Schild cited for soil conservation work

TIMESNEWS — Benton County Soil Conservation Commissioner and long-time Belle Plaine conservationist, John Schild, was honored Monday evening with the WMT Stations Soil Conservation Award.

WMT radio and TV stations in Cedar Rapids annually cite individuals for their contributions and achievements in soil conservation. Kay Connelly, crop production specialist in the Waterloo Extension area also received the WMT award.

The WMT citations and other awards made annually in recognition of outstanding soil conservation efforts were presented Monday evening in Des Moines at the 29th annual conference for Iowa Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

The session and awards come during this week, which has been set aside in special recognition of soil conservation efforts.

(Inside today's Times is a look at conservation practices, and their importance here in Benton County.)

Schild has been recognized before for his conservation work. In 1965 he received the Conservation Sweepstakes Award presented in the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program, and in 1968 he was cited as an Outstanding Soil Conservation District Commissioner.

He has served for eight years on the Benton County Soil Conservation District Commission, and is serving as chairman.

Schild has been a pioneer in soil conservation work. He says, "I'm proud to have built my first terraces with a team of horses and a walking plow in 1935 as a FFA project, and then to see the same farm a sweepstakes winner 30 years later."

He and his wife Mildred own 400 acres and rent an additional 130. He has a stock cow herd and also rents pasture for 125 cows. The Schilds own and manage a mobile home court in Belle Plaine.

A life-long Belle Plaine area resident, Schild has been active in supporting the community. He has been associated with the local school district, of which he is a

graduate, the rural fire department, Jaycees, Benton County Fair Board, Benton County Extension Council, Benton County Beef Producers Association, Mid-Iowa Hereford Association, Farm Bureau, 4-H and FFA and Civil Defense. He is a member of the Congregational Church and has served three years on its Board of Trustees.

The Schilds have a son and a daughter. Schild is also the Benton District delegate to the Iowa-Cedar River Conservancy District Advisory Committee and a member of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners Rural-Urban and District Outlook committees.

The WMT Stations Award was begun in 1949 and has been conducted each year since, honoring more than 140 soil conservation district commissioners, cooperators, Soil Conservation Service and Extension Service personnel, vo-ag instructors and other involved in conservation programs.

Jacobson named to GOP reform unit

TIMESNEWS — Dr. Robert Jacobson, Vinton, is one of 38 Iowa Republicans named to serve on a special committee formed to recommend changes in the state party organization.

The group — the Directions '76 Committee — will be chaired by James Leach of Davenport and is commissioned to review and suggest changes in the convention delegate process, the party's organizational structure and other areas relating to overall party strengths.

One area of special interest cited by Republican State Chairman John C. McDonald, Dallas Center, is recommendations to improve the relationship between the state and county organizations.

McDonald said he believes the com-

mittee makeup represents "virtually every phase of the Republican Party in Iowa."

The 38 members on the committee were chosen fairly equally from among the six Congressional districts in Iowa.

The GOP state chairman said he was pleased "with the composition of the committee because it should have representative input from all Republicans." He encouraged the committee to solicit input and opinions from all interested Iowa Republicans.

The group is to hold its first meeting Sept. 13 in Des Moines.

Jacobson is the Superintendent of the Vinton School District. He is also serving as the Benton County Republican Party Central Committee Chairman.

Hear pros, cons of cycle helmets

DES MOINES (AP) — Motorcyclists told the Iowa Department of Transportation Tuesday how realistic they thought state rules for riders' eye safety are.

"I've never been hit by a bird and never driven five feet behind a gravel truck," said Ship Taylor of Des Moines, a motorcyclist who is challenging in court the constitutionality of the helmet law.

Some 50 people attended the hearing, about half of them motorcycle enthusiasts.

The legislature enacted the law this year after federal officials threatened to cut up

to \$11 million in highway funds if the state did not comply with federal guidelines on helmet laws. The Iowa statute became effective Sept. 1.

Many of those testifying said rules on goggles, face shields and glasses could make wearing the gear more of a safety hazard than going without protection.

But most admitted that helmets could improve safety.

"I don't know how many of you follow a grain truck or a gravel truck down the road and have your car peppered with gravel or grain — motorcycles do the

same," said Dr. John Thomas, executive director of the Iowa Optometric Association.

Many testified that the so-called bubble face shield has a tendency to fog over in some weather and hamper vision, and some motorcyclists say they scratch easily and give damaging light reflections.

Dan Truckenmiller, a professional motorcycle stunt man, said he prefers a pair of regular sun glasses to goggles or face shields.

"I've been riding 18 years and used a bubble shield just once — I'll never do it again," he said.

Rains benefit Iowa beans

DES MOINES (AP) — Recent rains have placed Iowa's soybean crop "in much better condition than the corn crop," the Iowa Crop and Livestock Reporting Service says.

The service said Monday that rainfall the past week continues to benefit most Iowa crops.

It said "corn and soybean fields are maturing nicely," but that previous wind damage "continues to pose a threat of additional yield losses."

Flattened corn stalks were reported to be somewhat general in southwest Iowa and in other scattered areas. The lodging, or flattening, is caused by a combination of wind, rootworms and poor brace root system.

The service said that, because of the

lodging, some corn originally intended for grain is being cut for silage or is being green-chopped.

Forty-three per cent of the corn crop is considered mature and safe from frost. This compared with 24 per cent at the same time last year and a 5-year average of 34 per cent.

The growing condition of corn is considered 3 per cent excellent, 55 per cent fair, 40 per cent good and 2 per cent excellent poor.

The reporting service said recent rains will help fill soybean pods and that most areas of the state were still expecting "a fairly good soybean crop."

Maturity of soybeans was progressing rapidly with leaves beginning to run in 44 per cent of the fields. This compared with

23 per cent at this time last year and a 5-year average of 37 per cent.

The condition of soybeans statewide was considered 36 per cent fair, 62 per cent good and 2 per cent excellent.

Hay and pasture crops also benefited from recent rains and were beginning to turn green.

Rains slowed the hay harvest, with the third cutting of alfalfa 56 per cent harvested and the second cutting of red clover 86 per cent completed.

Topsoil moisture was reported 5 per cent short, 81 per cent adequate and 14 per cent surplus. Subsoil moisture was 36 per cent short, 64 per cent adequate and 1 per cent surplus. The amounts were improved from a week earlier.

Ford makes promised oil control veto

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford today vetoed a bill extending oil price controls and allocations for six months. The President's long-expected action left it up to Congress either to attempt to override the veto or to pass alternative legislation.

Without something to replace the vetoed extension, all U. S. oil prices remain free to rise to whatever levels the market will bear. The controls expired Aug. 31.

Roughly two-thirds of U. S. crude oil production was under a price ceiling of \$5.25 per barrel since December 1973.

Uncontrolled crude oil has soared to around \$11 per barrel, tagging along behind price hikes imposed on the world markets by foreign nations.

In his veto statement Ford said he was taking the action "to save American jobs, to protect our future economic stability

and national security... and to assure that this nation after months and months of delay achieves a comprehensive national energy program for future independence from a foreign suppliers."

J. Dawson Aheft, an Agriculture Department economist, told a Senate panel, meanwhile, that the immediate lifting of controls would increase retail food prices seven-tenths of one per cent over the next 27 months.

Aheft called the increase the maximum "if all estimated cost increases were passed on to the consumer."

The Agriculture Department calculations reached a conclusion considerably smaller than a study released Monday by the Library of Congress, which said fuel would cost farmers, food processors and consumers \$2 billion in the next year.

several years — a little more for every program."

House Budget Chairman Brock Adams told House members, however, that Congress was well within its own spending targets. He said Congress was exercising its responsibility to determine funding levels for federal programs.

For this fiscal year alone, which ends June 30, 1976, the bill appropriates \$4.9 billion. This is \$1.1 billion more than Ford had recommended but \$400 million below the target set by congressional budget committees.

House overrides Ford's school veto

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House voted today to override President Ford's veto of an education money bill in a showdown over federal spending.

The Senate is expected to follow suit later this week, making the bill law.

The bill includes money for a variety of educational programs not only for this year but also for the next fiscal year to enable students and school officials to make specific spending plans.

Ford had termed the \$7.9 billion, 27-month funding bill a budget buster and said it is "part of the trend over the past



Fire guts garage

Fire of undetermined origin Monday night destroyed a garage and its contents at the Roy Lane residence, 299 West 8th St. The Vinton volunteer fire department was called about 5 p.m., and had the blaze under control 30 minutes later. Damage was estimated at \$5,000 to the garage and the side and windows of the nearby residence which was seared by the blaze. Cause of the fire is unknown.

Timesphoto by Mert Alpers

In the news

Abandon road f

DES MOINES (AP) — Gov. Ray said Tuesday he "would not" abandon federal highway money. U.S. Department of Transportation mandates that Iowa have annual inspections.

"There are few accidents caused by mechanical failures," Ray told a conference. "If they demand inspections they should at least give us flexibility."

Iowa is one of 14 states reporting trouble with the Department of Transportation for not enacting annual inspection legislation. The law requires inspections only when a road or after being involved in an accident. Iowa received about \$59.1 million in federal highway funds for fiscal 1975.

Production warnin

DES MOINES (AP) — A federal conservationist has cautioned against abuse of the nation's soil and water resources because of efforts to boost production in response to greater demand and higher prices.

"This push for higher agricultural production is picking up momentum putting an increasingly pronounced strain on our soil and water resources," said M. Davis, new administrator of the Soil Conservation Service.

"Agricultural surpluses have virtually disappeared," he said Monday in dressing the Iowa soil conservation leaders at their annual convention.

"Farmers put 28 million acres back in production in 1973, when the federal 'setaside' program was relaxed, another 4 million acres were planted in 1974."

He cautioned against bringing into production any land that could adequately be protected against erosion at a reasonable cost.

2nd Brewer trial s

ANAMOSA (AP) — A second trial for Anamosa Reformatory Ronald Brewer has been scheduled Nov. 17 in Jones County District Court.

Brewer was given a mandatory sentence in the Fort Madison penitentiary Monday for the slaying of Clarence Edwards.

He was found guilty by a Linn District Court jury last month in connection with the slaying in Ed Anamosa home. Jones County Judge James Carter imposed the sentence after overruling a defense motion for a new trial.

At the defense's request, Judge rescinded a change of venue and set the second murder trial. That trial was on a charge that Brewer killed Edwards after overruling a defense motion for a new trial.

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