



Growing 150-bushel corn on rebuilt farmland

by Bob Dunaway

"THERE WERE ditches on my farm that I couldn't cross with anything.

"My waterways were seeded to canarygrass and erosion was so bad that atrazine was washing off the cornfield above it and killing the canarygrass.

"But these problems have been solved by terracing. Plus, I'm growing 150 to 160-bushel corn on ground that, without terraces, shouldn't have been farmed at all."

That strong support for terraces comes from Rex Troute, a Des Moines county, Iowa, farmer.

But terracing wasn't Troute's decision alone. He had to depend on his neighbor, Ed Breuer—and vice versa—before they could go ahead.

Breuer had his problems, too. Ditches and wet spots forced him to go thru lots and cross a creek twice to get to some of the land he farms.

Both farmers needed terraces. But Troute had to drain his land onto Breuer's, explains Ralph Dewey, Soil Conservation Service district conservationist. And Breuer couldn't terrace until Troute did. Otherwise, water rushing off Troute's land would have washed the terraces out.

"I probably could have terraced and dumped the drainage water at Ed's fence," says Troute. "But I wouldn't have been a very good fellow to have done it. It would have caused some real bad ditches on his land."

It was a lot easier, and more neighborly, to work together.

And they prove that neighbors can cooperate well to get benefits for both. In fact, Troute is getting set to cooperate with another neighbor on conservation work now.

On Troute's land, there are 55 acres of newly terraced and tiled land. They are fairly gentle sloping terraces that can be totally farmed. Entire cost was about \$3600.

With ASCS pitching in with REAP assistance on half the cost, Troute pays only about \$1800. That's less than \$33 per acre.

Of course, REAP assistance has been eliminated. But these farmers generally think the results would still justify the investment.

About 24 acres of Breuer's farm has new terraces and tile. Total cost to him is about \$2000, or \$83 per acre. His land took more grading and more tile. But he figures this has added at least 3 acres of tillable land to his farm.

Dewey figures it costs 25¢ to 35¢ per foot to terrace if the slope is gentle enough that you can farm across the terraces. Figure 35¢ to 50¢ on steeper slopes where the backslope will be grassed.

"I had the old style terraces before," explains Breuer. "They drained the soil without a lot of erosion, but they were awfully mean to farm."

"The convenience will be worth a lot," he adds. "If you could plow 15 acres a day on those old terraces with point rows, you could plow 25 with these new ones."



IT COST Ed Breuer about \$2000 to terrace and tile 24 acres on his Des Moines county, Iowa, farm. But he picked up about 3 extra farmable acres—more corn yield. Plus, he figures the new terraces let him plow 25 acres in the time it used to take to plow 15.

"Point rows are costly in terms of seed, fertilizer, herbicides, and insecticides, and you don't get much out of them. These new terraces should eliminate all of that."

"Most of the terraces we build are 240 ft. apart," explains Dewey. "That works out well for 8-row planters in 20, 30, or 40-in. rows."

"Also, it's a short enough span that water can't build up much speed," he adds.

"In a normal year, we were probably losing 5 to 8 tons of soil per acre," estimates Troute. "And that was winding up on someone else's farm or in the river."

"Now I figure erosion isn't taking more than one-half to one ton per acre and it's staying on my farm. The terraces hold it," he adds. "I'm also keeping the fertilizer and chemicals I pay for on my farm."

Finally, Troute finds terraces eliminate wet spots. "We had way above average moisture and rainfall with a few heavy rains, and haven't had wet spots anywhere this year," he explains. "When we had waterways before the terraces, we had spots near the waterways that wouldn't dry up until August."

One of the big advantages these farmers found was that the terracing work could be done during the summer on land that was diverted acres. It didn't interfere with their normal cropping pattern.

Breuer sums it up nicely: "I hate to see soil washing off."

"And when you start looking at soil loss regulations, conservation is going to become more of a neighborhood thing," concludes Dewey.



IT TOOK some extra figuring for Ralph Dewey (left), district conservationist with the SCS, when 2 farmers were involved in one project. But Rex Troute figures it paid off in higher yields, fewer problems farming, and less soil erosion.

Resource development group contemplated

By BOB SOGARD

RC&D is another mouthful of alphabet soup to Bob Dowling and a recipe for solid food for thought to Ralph Dewey.

Resource Conservation and Development projects are conceived by local and area groups and carried out with the help of U.S. Department of Agriculture offices under leadership of the Soil Conservation Service.

Dowling, Lee county extension director, isn't against the concept but says he and the public generally are confused by the plethora of planning and advisory groups. He favors giving the regional planning groups responsibility for RC&D, if such an organization is started in southeast Iowa.

Dewey sees a difference. He's district conservationist with SCS. So does Eldon Weber, Fairfield, area conservationist. They pointed out at a 4-county meeting here last week that SCS has the responsibility.

And Mike Dunn of Keokuk, Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission executive director, said the Area 16 organization he serves is connected with the Department of Housing and Urban Affairs. This gives the group an urban orientation, he added, while RC&D is directed more toward land use and resource conservation.



Mike Dunn



Eldon Weber



Bob Dowling



Dick Munster

Weber said that, while there are some USDA funds for certain projects, the united efforts of decision makers and local people make things go.

He cited a functioning RC&D organization in Iowa, Upper Explorerland. This area includes Howard, Winnebago, Allamakee, Fayette and Clayton counties. Economic growth is the goal of this group. Timber and sawmills have been developed, as have feeder calf operations and tourism with its controlled land use requirement.

"RC&D programs are open-end. You can add projects and change emphases as the years go by," Weber stated. He observed that Area 16 — Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa counties — fall into a "nice compact area" that has many common needs and advantages.

"I feel that a soil survey is a must. Lee county is done, Des Moines is scheduled to be mapped in 1975, Henry in 1976 and Louisa in 1979," Weber noted. One thing area groups can do is to accelerate soil surveys, he said.

Boards of supervisors and regional plan commissions are vital to these programs, as are the RD groups which include SCS, ASC, extension service and other governmental agencies. State employment and welfare officials have been especially valuable in projects in this area, Dewey observed.

The projects already initiated in Des Moines county which an RC&D group could enhance include clearing out junked cars and development of a new fairgrounds. Jim Hodges, Des Moines county extension director, said Southeastern Community college and the Des Moines County Fair Board are contemplating a cooperative plan under which a multi-purpose building could be built with fair funds on college land.

"The college has land and the fair board has over \$625,000, so this could amount to a \$1 million project at far less cost than that," Hodges said. Henry county fair board members said there has been talk over the years of a multi-county fair and this still might be done, but everybody wants the fairgrounds in his county.

Richard Munster, Davenport area extension director, noted that recreation potential of southeast Iowa scarcely has been touched.

"Shimek Forest, for instance, would be a great place for development of this whole area," Munster said.

The procedure for forming an RC&D group is to form a steering committee and file an application with the governor. He forwards it to Washington. Weber said there are quite a few applications pending, so it would be well to get in line quickly.

Those attending agreed to go back to their respective groups and return with the indications of interest. The next meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 22 in Room 211 of the Federal Building.



FIRST PAYMENT of state cost sharing funds for an erosion control project in Des Moines county went to Joseph T. Beckman, Sperry Rt. 1. Beckman, who constructed a dam and diversion structure in connection with a pasture renovation project, said bottomland flooding last spring caused damage that only permanent improvements could rectify. The work performed was part of the conservation plan worked out for his farm by the Soil Conservation Service office here. Dorothy Davis, state clerk in the SCS office, has the check ready for Beckman as he signs the claim.

The Hawk Eye - Jan 16, 1974

Savings in fuel possible with conservation tillage

"Agricultural economists do not show dramatic savings in reducing crop costs by minimum tillage, but the savings in fuel costs may add up to substantial money in the pocket for farmers," district conservationist Ralph E. Dewey of Burlington claims.

A recent meeting with area farmers pointed to the high cost of production (\$1.48 per bushel of corn). Of the expenses going into this crop, only about 11 cents were accounted to tillage operations. This included the usual dozen trips for plowing, harrowing, disking, etc. Economists indicated that substantial reduction of this expense was a very minor saving.

"But these figures are based on pre-shortage of gas prices," Dewey



Ralph Dewey

observes. "We may be looking to a doubling of that input figure as fuel prices advance."

"The probable shortage of fuel makes reduced tillage an even greater prospect," the conservationist continued. "It will be better to plan on fewer tillage operations on the entire cropland than to be forced to abandon some good acres because of lack of fuel."

"This is a year to examine very carefully which acres will bring the highest crop yield," Dewey went on. "Plowing old diverted acres may seem like a good idea in the demand for higher production, but if this means trading rough, low-producing acres for the proven high profit acres, it just doesn't make sense."

"Before tearing into that old grassland to make a quick buck from this years open program, consider the hazards," Dewey concludes. "You may lose production from better cropland. And in the end you may lose that extra profit you thought you had."

The Hawk Eye Jan 16, 1974

Soil district vote Feb. 18

Rex Troute, chairman of the Des Moines county soil conservation district, has decided he won't seek a new 6-year term on the commission.

Two 6-year terms are to be filled in the annual election to be held from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 18 at Memorial auditorium.

There are four candidates: Ray Pilling, Mediapolis, who was appointed to succeed the late S. S. Barton; Jack Jacobs, 1620 S. Main; Charles Matsch, Rt. 1, and Joe Beckman, Sperry.

Running for a 2-year term are William Vierling, Mediapolis, incumbent, and Wayne Carter, Morning Sun.

Eligible voters who will be out of the county the day of the election may apply in person or in writing to the county auditor for absentee ballots. Each applicant must state his or her name and address.

The Hawk Eye Feb 6, 1974

DEPARTMENT OF SOIL CONSERVATION STATE OF IOWA

Notice of election of commissioners for the Des Moines County Soil Conservation district, encompassing lands lying in the county of Des Moines in the State of Iowa:

To all qualified electors residing within the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District:

Notice is hereby given that on the 18th day of February, 1974, between the hours of 10:30 A.M. and 2:00 P.M., an election will be held for the election of commissioners for the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District.

Polling places for the election are as follows:

Memorial Auditorium, Burlington, Iowa. Eligible voters residing within the district shall cast their ballots at one of the polling places. Eligible voters who will be absent from the district on the day of election, may apply in person, or in writing, to the County Auditor at Burlington, Iowa, for "Absentee Ballots". Each applicant for an absentee ballot shall state his name and address when application for such ballot is made.

DEPARTMENT OF SOIL CONSERVATION

By: Donald L. Johnson
Chairman, State Soil Conservation Committee
Department of Soil Conservation
Feb. 6, 13, '74-21

The Hawk Eye Feb 6, 1974

LEGALS

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DEPARTMENT OF SOIL CONSERVATION

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Chairman, State Soil Conservation Committee
Department of Soil Conservation
Feb. 6, 13, '74-21

The Hawk Eye Feb 13, 1974

Des Moines SCS holds election

The Des Moines county soil conservation district election Monday saw William Vierling, Joe Beckman and Ray Pilling elected as commissioners.

Vierling, Mediapolis, will serve a 2-year term. Beckman, Sperry, and Pilling, Mediapolis, start 6-year terms with the reorganizational meeting Feb. 27.

Holdover commissioners are Dwight Stucker, New London, and Carl Shumaker, Danville.

The Hawk Eye Feb 19, 1974

Elect Soil Conservation Commissioners

Results of the Soil Conservation Service election for District Commissioners held February 18 were:

For commissioner for a two year term: Bill Vierling. Wayne Carter was also running for this position.

For commissioner for a six year term: Joe Beckman and Ray Pilling. Jack Jacobs and Charles Matsch were also running for this position.

Commissioners will take over at the February 27 meeting of the Soil Conservation Service.

*Mediapolis New Era
Feb 26, 1974*

Fuel Savings In Minimum Tillage

"Agricultural economists do not show dramatic savings in reducing crop costs by minimum tillage, but the savings in fuel costs may add up to substantial money in the pocket for farmers," district conservationist Ralph E. Dewey of Burlington claims.

A recent meeting with area farmers pointed to the high cost of production (\$1.48 per bushel for corn). Of the expenses going into this crop, only about eleven cents (\$0.11) was accounted to tillage operations. This included the usual dozen trips for plowing, harrowing, disking, etc. Economists indicated that substantial reduction of this expense was a very minor saving.

"But these figures are based on pre-shortage of gas prices," Dewey observes. "We may be looking to a doubling of that input figure as fuel prices advance."

"The probable shortage of fuel makes reduced tillage an even greater prospect," the conservationist continued. "It will be better to plan on fewer tillage operations on the entire cropland than to be forced to abandon some good acres because of lack of fuel."

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the highest crop yield," Dewey went on. "Plowing old diverted acres may seem like a good idea in the demand for higher production, but if this means trading rough, low-producing acres for the proven high profit acres, it just doesn't make sense."

"Before tearing into that old grassland to make a quick buck from this year's open program, consider the hazards," Dewey concludes. "You may lose production from better cropland. And in the end you may lose that extra profit you thought you had."

*Mediapolis New Era
Feb 26, 1974*

1974 Cropping Program

Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz has announced a 1974 cropping program to increase production and at the same time encourage protection of our soil resource.

The focal point of the "Production with Protection" program in Des Moines County will be aimed at controlling erosion on sloping lands, according to district conservationist Ralph E. Dewey of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service in Burlington.

"We know that about 50 to 70 percent of the acres diverted to grassland in the 1973 feed grain program is scheduled for plowing in 1974," Dewey stated. "Likely a big portion of this has been committed already by fall plowing. A major concern of the soil conservation district this year is the prevention of erosion on these acres."

Studies indicate that costs of producing a crop on highly erosive land may increase as much as 18 to 33 dollars per acre, due to increased time in tillage operations. This indicates a need to either reduce tillage operations to a minimum or to eliminate cropping of rough acres.

"In Des Moines County, the estimated soil loss increase from plowing the new acres is about 13,000 tons of soil," Dewey explained. "Plant food losses from this soil, plus the cost of removing its sediment is nearly enough to offset the production expected."

Local farmers are being urged to "think twice" before plowing every acre in 1974, and to check with the soil conservation district office for planning assistance. If the land must be cropped, every effort to protect it from erosion should be used.

*Mediapolis New Era
Feb 21, 1974*

Cost Sharing Available To Farmers

Cost sharing is available to conservation farmers as never before, the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District announced. Chairman Rex Troute of Burlington states that no less than three cost sharing programs will be offered to cooperating farmers in 1974.

"The newest cost-share program is the one offered by the State of Iowa through soil conservation districts," Troute explains. "This offers a 50 percent payment for such erosion control practices as terracing, erosion control dams and waterways. The program was begun in 1973 as a partial replacement for the abandoned federal REAP program."

*Mediapolis New Era
Feb 21, 1974*

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION EDUCATION COUNCIL...

The ECEC began its year last fall in a meeting well bolstered by a dozen teachers who had attended Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp here during the past summer. The group is dedicated to developing a good program of conservation education for students throughout Des Moines County.

Chairman of the ECEC is Mark Volkmann, science instructor at West Burlington Arnold High School, who replaced Sherman Lundy of BHS. Both men have been quite active in ECEC functions during the past three years of its existence.

Several local teachers attended a follow-up workshop, where the highlight of the educational effort was to establish outdoor classrooms for students to observe our resources at first hand.

Do we have a sufficient number of outdoor laboratories, nature study areas, nature trails - whatever you'd want to call them? If this is the environmental age, then surely no school system is complete without adequate outdoor study areas.

*Des Moines Co News
Feb 28, 1974*

"Much of the funding for the 1974 fiscal year has already been used," Troute goes on, "However, new funds will be available in July to help on fall field work."

The Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) handled by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) has been reinstated for 1974 with a reduced schedule of practices and less funding. This should encourage more farmers to complete their conservation work, the district hopes.

"The third, and newest, cost-share concept is RECP (Rural Environmental Conservation Program)," Troute continued.

"This is a long term program, tying conservation cost-sharing to a sound conservation resource plan."

For several years a similar program has been used in the Great Plains states. A farmer develops a conservation plan with the soil conservation district, scheduling his application of erosion control practices over a number of years. He can then sign a multi-year contract with ASCS for cost sharing to get the entire job completed. This is essentially the RECP.

"We are surely hoping for many farmers to take advantage of these cost-sharing helps to protect their lands as they put more

acres under the plow in 1974," Troute concluded. "Planning help is available through our district office in the Federal Building in Burlington."

I can't help but be reminded of the 42-acre plot of land, with its 10-acre lake, that was once occupied by Chapter 44 of the Izaak Walton League. What is really to become of this particular piece of property? Do you agree that it has the potential for being just one of the good things the dedicated members of the ECEC are trying to accomplish? Help the teachers to help the students - you'll actually be helping yourself.

THE DES MOINES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT...

The five-member board of district commissioners meets regularly the fourth Wednesday evening of each month. The

district office is Room 218 of the Federal Building in Burlington.

The meetings are open to the public and you are invited to attend. The commissioners represent ALL land users in Des Moines County and feel that EVERYONE has a vested interest in how the land is used.

Your interest is being sought by the district and I'd like to quote from their newsletter, FOR THE LAND'S SAKE:

"As we move into an era of working with cities and towns, district advice will be sought on land use ordinances. We'll be better able to give good advice if we know the problems of the people.

"So join us when you can. Our decisions may well affect your life and future."

Set RC&D deadline, seek group members

By BOB SOGARD
Hawk Eye Farm Editor

A Sept. 15 deadline has been set for submission of an Area 16 plan for a Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) group.

Representatives of the counties involved met in the Soil Conservation Service office here to tackle the project that has been simmering on the back burner since January.

They are Merle Kelly, chairman of the Des Moines county board of supervisors; Jim Hawkins of Lee county, chairman of the Southeast Iowa regional soil commission; and Leland McCosh, Winfield mayor, all of whom also serve on the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning commission.

Also on hand were Ralph Dewey, district conservationist; Mike Dunn, regional planner, and Jim Hodges, extension director.

They have been seeking members for a proposed 24-person steering committee, six each from Henry, Lee, Louisa and Des Moines counties. Nominees may be submitted to Dewey by July 1. They will be asked to attend a familiarization meeting at 7 p.m. July 3, in Room 211 of the Federal Building here.

There's already an RC&D project in Iowa, Upper Explorerland in the northeast part of the state, and other states have many such area plans on file, awaiting Agriculture Dept. approval in Washington.

Dunn said there's about a 2½-year backup at the USDA, but it is hoped that the southeast Iowa project can be rammed through with help from friends who have access to Secretary Butz.

The regional plan group and RC&D can help each other, Dunn said, although they are organized for different purposes. The planners operate with help of HUD, dealing principally with towns and cities, while RC&D is directed toward land use and resource conservation, under leadership of SCS.

The organizers plan to have a supervisor and a soils commissioner from each of the four counties on the steering committee, as well as concerned citizens.

RC&D projects are locally-directed by boards from four or five counties

and are designed to take better care of natural resources while improving the areas' economy.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is authorized under the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962 to provide local groups technical and financial help.

Dewey said a standard soil survey is a vital part of RC&D projects. Lee county has completed its survey and Des Moines county is scheduled for 1975-78, Henry county 1977-80 and Louisa 1979-82.

"If we could get the counties to speed this schedule up, we could have a single correlated report and the information would be available area-wide at a much earlier date," Dewey said.

Des Moines county's share will be \$37,500, including \$5,500 from the IAAP; Henry county will pay \$48,000 and Louisa county \$50,000, the larger figures allowing for continuing inflation. Matching amounts are contributed by state and federal governments.

Dewey said state and federal money is committed, so any speedup would entail extra local expense for Henry and Louisa counties. "It would be less costly, though, to do all three counties at once," he added.

*The Hawk Eye
May, 1974*

Soil's slipping away

Today marks the mid-point of Resource Conservation Week, April 28-May 4, as declared by Gov. Robert D. Ray.

The occasion was noted by Bill Vierling of Mediapolis, chairman of the Des Moines county soil district, who commented:

"Soil is the most basic of our vital natural resources, yet we lose an average of 13 tons per year from each acre of cropland in Iowa. This is enough soil (one-third of a billion tons) to build a bicycle path six feet wide

and a foot deep from here to the moon."

Vierling also observed that Iowa farmers have been called upon to "produce more in '74" but said future production is bound to suffer unless the productive topsoil is protected from erosion.

Only about one-third of Iowa's cropland is adequately protected from erosion, Vierling said. Soil conservation offices are in Room 218 of the federal building here.

The Hawk Eye May 1, 1974

This Week Chosen For Conservation

In declaring the week of April 28-May 4 as Resource Conservation Week, Governor Ray pointed to soil conservation districts to lead the way in stopping the tremendous waste of our environment.

"Soil is the most basic of our vital natural resources, yet we lose an average of 13 tons per year from each acre of cropland in Iowa," said Des Moines soil district chairman Bill Vierling of Mediapolis, "and this is enough soil (one-third of a billion tons) to build a bicycle path six feet wide and a foot deep from here to the moon."

"Iowa's farmers have been called upon to produce more in '74," Vierling added, "but unless we protect the productive topsoil from erosion, our future production is bound to suffer."

*Des Moines County News
May 2, 1974*

Soil Stewardship Week To Begin

"A Different Place" is the theme set for Soil Stewardship Week, May 19-26, 1974, according to soil district chairman Bill Vierling of Mediapolis.

Set in the spring, when the earth is in full bloom, this special observance has for many years been used as a time of "understanding" that man is merely the user of the soil and not truly the owner.

"Between the two Sundays of Soil Stewardship Week, many of our churches have dedicated their services to the recognition of the tillers of the soil who have used that resource wisely."

Vierling stated. "Our district has again provided the churches of Des Moines County with information to aid in the week-long celebration."

The 1974 soil stewardship booklet focuses on the new and different facets of life that we face today—limited gasoline, shortages of certain foods, car pools, higher costs, etc. It asks, "Are we upsetting the balance of natural things in God's creation to such a point that we risk a devastating environmental accident?"

"Soil Stewardship speaks to the ecologists and environmentalists as well as to those who would waste our resources," Vierling claims.

"The soil is a non-renewable exercise our stewardship of the land will in a great way determine how long that life may continue," Vierling concluded.

*Des Moines Co. News
May 16, 1974*

First attempt for conservation funds

Seeks long-term funding

By BOB SOGARD

The first long-term agreement for Des Moines county under the 1974 federal cost-sharing conservation program has been sought by Eric Massner of Mediapolis.

The agreement depends upon further assurance of federal funds, since LTA programs have a minimum duration of three years. First-year request is for \$1,750 and only \$3,800 is available.

V. Deane Thornton, ASC county executive officer, said \$917.50 would have to be allocated and there is some indication it may be forthcoming. Massner's plan with the Soil Conservation district calls for a pond and waterway this year, terracing and tiling for most of the succeeding years.

The total work would cost \$20,000 if the project extends to 1981, as now is contemplated and the ASC would pay

\$10,000. LTA is expected to get more emphasis in the future. Now, the largest part of the Rural Environmental Conservation Program (RECP) \$22,000 for this county, is for one year only. However, it authorizes only long-term erosion control practices.

Next in line is a six-year \$6,117.50 program for Clyde Scherer, Burlington Rt. 1. It also calls for terracing.

The difference between past conservation programs and the LTA projects is that both government and land owner agree to complete an ongoing program under the latter.

Emphasizing conservation this week are those who observe Soil Stewardship Week, today through May 26. Theme of the nationwide observance is "A Different Place", which points out how the many changes now occurring in the country

affect the continuing responsibility to be good stewards of the land.

Bill Vierling of Mediapolis, soil district chairman, said: "Between the two Sundays of Soil Stewardship Week, many of our churches have dedicated their services to the recognition of the tillers of the soil who have used that resource wisely."

The district provided churches of the county with information to aid in the celebration. The booklet this year focuses on the facts of life today — limited gasoline, shortage of certain foods, car pools, higher costs and similar trials.

Last week, Henderson county ministers and their families were guests at the ASCS building in Stronghurst, Ill. They heard Dick Herm, soil conservationist from Peoria, explain the emphases of shortages to be surmounted, environmental pollution and the growing concern over land use.

More than 2,000 bulletins and litanies for churches were distributed at the Monday meeting. Members of the county soil stewardship committee are Vernon Thorell, Henry Marshall, Robert Smith and Kendall Tippert.

In Van Buren county, a breakfast and conservation tour for all of the clergy in the district is planned for Tuesday. The breakfast will be served at Hotel Manning in Keosauqua.

*The Hawk Eye
May 19, 1974*

Soil Stewardship Week, May 19-26

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"Soil Stewardship speaks to the ecologists and environmentalists as well as to those who would waste our resources," Vierling claims.

"The soil is a non-renewable resource, given to us to sustain life. The way we exercise our stewardship of the land will in a great way determine how long that life may continue," Vierling concluded.



WILDLIFE DISPLAY in the Soil Conservation office is the attraction for Mrs. Susan Baldwin, third grade teacher at Perkins school, and her three children. Mrs. Baldwin has been named Iowa Conservation Teacher of the year. She says the key to teaching is to make learning natural. Story on Page 3.

*Hawk Eye
May 19, 1974*

*The Hawk Eye
June 20, 1974*



RALPH DEWEY

"Friend of Education"

chosen by WBEA

Ralph Dewey, West Burlington, was chosen "Friend of Education" by the West Burlington Education Association. Mr. Dewey was nominated because of his extensive work in community education. He is district soil conservationist for Des Moines County, he is secretary of the Environmental Conservation Education Council which sponsors several teacher's workshops, member of Kiwanis and started Pollution Control Council which works with the Burlington Ecology Club. Also

Mr. Dewey has helped the Girl Scouts set up nature trails for Girl Scout Camp and has worked on many other various committees to aid teachers and students in the four years he has lived in West Burlington.

A letter was written to the Iowa State Education Association by Mark Volkman, teacher from WBAHS, describing the interest Mr. Dewey has taken in the local schools. A state "Friend of Education" will then be chosen from letters received from Iowa schools having a "Friend of Education."

*Des Moines County News
May 30, 1974*

*The Hawk Eye
June 26, 1974*

Learning of nature naturally her goal

Mrs. Susan Baldwin, third grade teacher at Perkins Elementary school, has been named Iowa Conservation Teacher of the Year.

William Vierling, Des Moines County Soil Conservation district chairman, said the Burlington teacher will represent Iowa in regional and national judging.

The award program, recognizing outstanding teaching in the field of environmental conservation, was established by the National Assn. of Conservation Districts (NADC) and the Allis Chalmers Co.

This is the first year for this recognition, although a similar award has been sponsored statewide by the Iowa soil districts and the Farm and Home Register. Vierling said Mrs. Baldwin also will be entered in the awards program.

"Soil districts enter their outstanding teachers who have been teaching conservation to the youngsters in our schools," Vierling said. "Mrs. Baldwin has been very active for nearly two years in our environmental conservation education council and is vice chairman at this time."

The contest entry lists many ways in which Mrs. Baldwin has helped

her students to better understand nature and the relationship of plants and animals to the soil, Vierling stated. Her classroom was extended to the outdoors long before this became the "acceptable" way of instruction, he added.

Under her guidance, Perkins third-graders have catalogued the trees in the school neighborhood. Each youngster has "adopted" a tree to observe.

"Through their learning how natural things live together, students can begin to learn what life itself is all about," Mrs. Baldwin said. "When learning comes naturally, it becomes meaningful."

The statewide honoree has attended many seminars and conferences in environmental education and has pioneered this type of education in the Burlington area.

Mrs. Baldwin and her husband, John, live at 2908 Moody Lane. He is a pilot for Remmers-Tomkins Flight Service. They have three children, Deborah, 8; David, 6; and Diana, 4. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles V. Jaeger, 2101 Vogt, she is a graduate of Burlington Community college and the University of Iowa.

The Hawk Eye June 26, 1974



Mark Simmons

SCS worker likes theater

The new part timer at the Des Moines county Soil Conservation Service office is the son of an engineering technician with the SCS but he doesn't want to follow in Dad's footsteps.

Mark Simmons prefers the theater and he's looking forward to getting involved with the Players Workshop here. He plans to attend Southeast Community college here next fall while working up to 20 hours a week with SCS.

"I want to major in English and theater. After I graduate here, I plan to transfer to Iowa Wesleyan college or the University of Northern Iowa," he said.

Mark, 17, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stan Simmons of Fairfield, where Dad's with the area SCS office.



Named Iowa Conservation Teacher Of Year

Mrs. Susan Baldwin, third grade teacher at Perkins Elementary School in Burlington has been named the Iowa Conservation Teacher of the year, the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District announced today.

District chairman William Vierling of Mediapolis says that the state judging committee in the nationwide awards program has chosen Mrs. Baldwin to represent Iowa in regional and national judging. The award program, recognizing outstanding teaching in the field of environmental conservation was established by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the Allis-Chalmers Company. This is the first year for such recognition.

"Soil districts enter their outstanding teachers, who have been teaching conservation to the youngsters in our schools," Vierling explained. "Mrs. Baldwin has been very active for nearly two years in our environmental conservation education council and is acting as vice chairman at this time."

The contest entry lists the many ways in which this teacher has helped bring her students to a better understanding of nature and the relation of plants and animals to the soil. Her classroom has extended to the outdoors long before this became the "acceptable" way of instruction.

With the guidance of Mrs. Baldwin, Perkins third graders have catalogued the trees in the school neighborhood. Each youngster has adopted a tree to observe. "Through their learning how natural things live together, students can begin to learn what life itself is all about," Mrs. Baldwin stated. "When learning comes naturally, it becomes meaningful."

Mrs. Baldwin has attended many seminars and conferences in environmental education and has pioneered this type of education in the Burlington area. In 1973 she attended the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp, held at that time in Burlington. She has been instrumental in bringing environmental teacher training to the area to help other instructors as well.

"We are pleased to have Mrs. Baldwin as our entry in this nationwide recognition program," Vierling concluded. "She is also our entry in the annual teacher awards program of the Iowa soil districts and the Farm and Home Register."



Jack Jacobs

Soil commissioner vacancy is filled

A new commissioner for the Des Moines county soil conservation district was appointed at last week's commission meeting.

He is Jack Jacobs, 44, of 1621 S. Main, who was a technician with the Soil Conservation Service office here for 13 years. Jacobs was with SCS at Fairfield for two years, then in the office here from February of 1953 to August of 1966.

Jacobs, an agent for Bankers Life of Des Moines, succeeds Carl Shumaker of Danville, who resigned because of his other commitments.

"Carl has been a good man on the board, but he can see that our workload is going to increase," said Bill Vierling, chairman of the commission.

He expressed pleasure at finding Jacobs to fill the volunteer position because of Jacobs' experience and also because, as a city dweller, he can assist the work of the district as it takes on urban responsibilities.

The new commissioner retains his rural connections, though.

Jacobs and his son, 10-year-old Scott, operate the parental farm near Fairfield. The 80-acre place has such conservation practices as contour cropping and diversions. "There's some pasture, a little corn and beans," Jacobs said.

He and his wife, the former Betty Crile of Fairfield, have a daughter, Laura, 13, as well as son Scott. Mrs. Jacobs teaches fifth grade at North Hill school.

Area resource unit meets here tonight

Members of the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission, the Soil Conservation Service and the Iowa Extension Service have been working on the formation of a resource conservation and development program for Region 16, including Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa counties.

An organization committee (Jim Hawkins, rural Argyle, Merle Kelly, Burlington, and Leland McCosh, Winfield) has named a 24-member steering committee with six members from each of the counties.

The steering committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight in Room 211 of the Federal Building in Burlington to explain the development program. The public is urged to attend.

The Hawk Eye
July 3, 1974

Mediapolis New Era
June 27, 1974

Project Organized

An informational meeting for persons in Southeast Iowa Area XVI was held Tuesday at the Federal Building, Burlington, to explain how our natural resources can be developed more effectively.

A Resource Conservation and Development Project (RC&D) is being organized in Southeast Iowa Area XVI comprising Des Moines, Henry, Louisa and Lee Counties.

Sponsored by the county wide soil conservation districts, county boards of supervisors and others, this project is designed to help with future planning and development of the natural and human resources of the area.

Jim Hawkins, chairman of Lee County Soil District, and temporary project council chairman asserts that this project will be one of the most important factors in accelerating the proper development of land in its many uses in the four county area. "As a present member of the Area XVI Regional Planning Commission, I can assure that regional planning and RC&D programs compliment each other and really need each other," Hawkins stated.

Mike Dunn, regional planning director, echoed Hawkins statement in claiming, "RC&D will be able to act as a strong right arm of regional planning and to put into action the plans involving natural resources."

In developing the areawide RC&D project, local county councils have been set up to get grass roots input. The Des Moines County RC&D Council met Tuesday to lay plans for preparing an application for federal assistance.

County chairman Mrs. Olive Sullivan of Burlington states, "This program is a new concept to all of us and we are anxious to meet with interested groups who wish to know more about the project." During the next several weeks, council members will be contacting local organizations to tell about Resource Conservation and Development and to urge local endorsement of the program.

"The council is also searching for possible projects to be considered and developed," Mrs. Sullivan continued. "We know there is a great need for wiser use of our resources and that many persons and groups have had pet projects, simmering in their minds and waiting to be done. We would like to hear about them."

Local council members include Milton Distelhorst, farmer near Burlington; Ray Pilling of Mediapolis, a commissioner of the soil conservation district; local engineer and businessman Sherman Smith; James Settles, director of the County Conservation Board; Merle Kelly, a county supervisor and Mrs. Olive Sullivan representing the League of Women Voters and others in the county.

Resource Conservation and Development is a program to guide local people with land use and development problems to the expertise needed to plan and develop their projects. It is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but is open-ended in its offer of service to all people.

Being a multi-county program RC&D is able to assist on many programs crossing county lines and to provide assistance by the experts from all available sources.

"RC&D is an action program holding a great deal of promise for the future of our area," Mrs. Sullivan concluded. "And we are seeking grass roots thinking to assure its success."

group's application for approval to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is September 5, according to Ray Pilling of rural Mediapolis, a member of the county RC&D board. He said the group is hurrying to get the application in to the USDA, because applications are only considered in the fall. "We hope to save a year by getting this in right away," he said. Even then, Pilling estimated it will take one to three years before the Geode Wonderland becomes an official reality.

"Project measures" - specific projects the RC&D council wants to do in this area - "can be done before we get approval," Pilling said, "as long as the projects are locally funded and sponsored." After approval, the RC&D group will be able to get federal funds from the Soil Conservation Commission, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and other federal agencies.

"As far as I know," Pilling said, "we're the only ones in Iowa right now that have submitted an application. And, since there's only so much money available for RC&D projects in the state, we may be able to get all of that."

There are three RC&D project areas operating in Iowa now; probably the most well-known is the Rathbun RC&D, which developed Lake Rathbun, bringing a recreational facility and more industry to the area.

Town Council Proceedings

Special Meeting 7-9-74 called to order by mayor pro-tem Siefken with all members present. Remarks made about items used to block streets. Eighteen citizens present to discuss law enforcement. Sheriff Glick reminded to ticket violators. Asked Sheriff to keep a closer watch on anyone putting things in the street that would be hazardous to people. Put stop signs on both sides of roll out stop signs at swimming pool. NO PARKING sign to be put at southeast corner of swimming pool lot. Adjourned.

Town Council met in regular session 8-1-74 absent Nelson. Have Mannatt present to discuss additional street work to be done. Motion carried to purchase 15 ton jack. Lofgren present on Recreation Program. Stout granted 90 day temporary trailer parking permit to be used as a bathroom while remodeling home. Granted building permit to Stout. R. Pilling and B. Vierling present to request town's endorsement of Resource Conservation and Development Project. John Holsteen present to request annexation. Council felt if Holsteen would pay for sewer under pavement they would annex. Council would not set precedent by allowing John to hook on to water while not in the city limits. Glick, Johnson and another deputy present to go over July citations. Twentythree stop sign violations, 3 speeding, and many smaller charges. Motion to contribute \$500.00 toward purchase of speed analyzer for the county carried; 3 to 1, if Danville would agree to do the same. Town to update their ordinances as soon as possible. Minutes and warrants approved. Frownfelters letters tabled until further notice. Board of adjustment to handle Wilson building permit for apartment house on corner of Main and Park. Willis Baldwin, Jr. hired by council to replace Wilson. Will start 8-12-74. Council rejected bid for school crossing lights in hopes of obtaining other bids.

Following warrants approved:

*Mediapolis New Era
August 8, 1974*

Subjects RC&D could get involved with, Pilling said, include tree-planting, sewage disposal, soil erosion, road-side ditches and sealing off abandoned wells.

When presented a slide show about RC&D to the Mediapolis town council earlier this month, a problem they seemed concerned with, according to Pilling, was solid waste disposal. "This is a problem throughout the four-county area," he said.

The reason Pilling went to the town council was to get its endorsement of the RC&D idea for this area. The council gave its approval, which should help the Geode Wonderland get approval from the USDA.

Geode Wonderland Seeking Approval

Members of a group that wants to improve resource conservation and development met in Burlington last night to finalize the group's charter application.

The group's official name is Geode Wonderland Resource Conservation and Development (RC & D) group. It includes representatives from Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa counties who want to make some changes in the area's use of natural resources.

Target date for sending the

*Mediapolis New Era
Aug. 22, 1974*

CONSERVATION GROUP

Des Moines County is part of a newly-organized Resource Conservation and Development project (RC&D) that includes the four-county Area 16 region of Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa counties.

RC&D is a locally-initiated, federally - assisted program that tries to direct and assist the use of an area's natural resources.

It first came into being in 1962 and is under the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

There are a large number of RC&D areas throughout the country.

A prime example in Iowa is the Rathbun Lake RC&D. This unit has developed the Rathbun Lake,

a solid waste landfill program, a rural water program and increased private business in the area.

Projects in other parts of the United States have involved things like erosion and flood control, irrigation, water supplies and development of resources such as timber or stone quarries to spur private enterprise and local employment.

Each county in Area 16 has a six-member steering committee to decide the area's resource priorities.

Committee members were selected by an organization committee consisting of Merle Kelly of Burlington, Jim Hawkins of rural Argyle in Lee County and Leland McCosh of Winfield

in Henry County.

Members of the steering committee for Des Moines County are: Milt Distelhorst, a farmer near Burlington; Ray Pilling of Mediapolis, a commissioner of the soil conservation service; local engineer and businessman Sherman Smith; Jim Settles, director of the County Conservation Board; county supervisor Merle Kelly; and Olive Sullivan, representing the League of Women Voters.

Mrs. Sullivan was chosen chairperson for the county group, whose first meeting was the first week in July.

The group's aim, as a steering committee, is to find out what interested organizations and individuals see as needs for re-

source conservation or development in this county and in Area 16. "We know there is a great need for wiser use of our resources," Mrs. Sullivan said. "Many persons and groups have had pet projects simmering in their minds and waiting to be done. We would like to hear about them."

Ralph Dewey of the county SCS office, who described himself as a "ramrod" for the local group, said there are "probably a hundred ideas" that different people in the county have to improve natural resource use. He advised them to "bring them up to the local council."

As ideas are brought to the county six-member steering committee, Dewey explained, that

SEEKS INPUT

committee decides their merit and then refers the good ones to the Area 16 RC&D council.

The project council members are from the four-county area, but they're not necessarily the same people as are on the local steering committees, said Dewey. Jim Hawkins, chairman of the Lee County Soil District, is temporary council chairman.

The project council, whose first organizational meeting will be on Wednesday, August 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Federal Building in Burlington, is where specific projects are actually begun.

Once that group is organized and receives approval from the Department of Agriculture, it will be assigned a coordinator. Dewey said that the coordinator

will probably be a conservationist from the SCS.

Then the four-county council, with the help of its coordinator, will plan specific projects, coordinating federal, state and local agencies and funding sources.

RC&D itself has some funds available to it, Dewey said, but "generally the money for project measures will come from other sources."

Dewey mentioned as an example of a possible RC&D project measure a drainage system for the area near Danville. There's currently a problem of run-off after rains flooding the town there. It would be possible for RC&D people to alleviate this situation by using personnel funds

available under the office of Housing and Urban Development, the federal watershed law and other sources.

An RC&D project for this area has been in the planning stage for about three years, according to Dewey.

He said that, two and a half years ago, he presented information about RC&D to the since-disbanded CAMPS group - Coordinated Area Manpower Planning Services. This was a group made up of people from six agencies in Area 16, agencies like the Office of Economic Opportunity, Southeastern Community College and SCS.

With Dewey's help, the idea grew from there.

There's also more cooperation

between the four counties in other areas, Dewey said. The state-sponsored Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission has come into existence and the SCS district has become organized, both in the four-county area. And, he added, the boards of supervisors in the four counties are cooperating with each other more now than they did three years ago.

Leaders of both the RC&D project and the Regional Planning Commission see the two agencies as working hand-in-hand.

RC&D, with its concern for natural resource use, will probably work mostly in rural areas, while Regional Planning will concentrate more on urban areas, Dewey said.

There are some individuals who are members of both the RC&D council and the Regional Planning Commission, portending close communication between the two agencies.

Merle Kelly is connected with both groups as is Jim Hawkins, who commented, "As a present member of the Area 16 Regional Planning Commission, I can assure that regional planning and RC&D programs compliment each other and really need each other."

*Mediapolis New Era
July 25, 1974*

owners of vehicles accountable for any parking tickets the vehicles collect.

• Approved a resolution calling for full city cooperation in and endorsement of a Resource Conservation and Development Program in Southeast Iowa.

• Tabled action on a request by

*The Hawk Eye
Aug. 4, 1974*



MAPPING THE JOB of the SCS office for the coming week is Ralph Dewey, district conservationist, and on the receiving end of the briefing is Larry Hunt, new soil conservationist.

New soil conservationist

There's a new trainee in the Des Moines county Soil Conservation Service office. Lowrance P. Hunt, 26, of Farmington, Mo., is learning the occupation of soil conservation.

Hunt is a May graduate of the University of Missouri, Columbia, where his major was fishing and wildlife conservation. He said he's fond of fishing, hunting and trapping, which isn't unusual for anyone from his home town in the foothills of the Ozarks. Farmington is about 90 miles

south of St. Louis.

The position was held until last January by Winston Cooper, now agronomist at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant.

Hunt said there weren't any openings in Missouri SCS offices, but that doesn't concern him. "I like it better up here, anyway," he said.

Larry, as he prefers to be called, and his wife, Judy, live at Middletown. They have a 4-year-old son, Lance.

*The HawkEye
August 7, 1974*

Area XVI RC&D meets h

Glen Black, assistant state conservationist, will be in Burlington Aug. 7 to meet with the fledgling Resource Conservation and Development council. He also plans to be in Lee county Tuesday.

The RC&D council is scheduled to meet at 7:30 p.m. next Wednesday in Room 211 of the Burlington Federal Bldg. to complete formalities of organization. Area 16, including Des Moines, Lee, Henry and Louisa counties, is the council's bailiwick.

Ralph Dewey, district conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service, said county councils have been set up to broaden the base of support for the council. The Des Moines county RC&D group has elected as its chairman, Mrs. Olive Sullivan, Hunt road.

Mrs. Sullivan said, "This program is a new concept to all of us and we are anxious to meet with interested groups who wish to know more about the project." During the next several weeks, council members will be contacting local organizations to tell

about the work of the council and to seek local endorsement of the program.

Resource Conservation and Development is a program to guide local people with land use and development problems to the expertise needed to plan and develop their projects. It is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but is open-ended in its offer of service to all people, Mrs. Sullivan pointed out.

Other county council chairmen are Leland McCosh, Winfield mayor, Henry county; Jim Hawkins, Argyle, Lee county, and Robert Fulton, Columbus Junction, Louisa county.

Hawkins is temporary chairman of the area council. Both he and McCosh also are members of the Area XVI Regional Planning Commission. "I can assure that regional planning and the RC&D programs complement each other," Hawkins stated.

Henry county council met Monday night and elected Jack Cowen of Mt. Pleasant as vice chairman and John

*The HawkEye
July 31, 1974*

Resource project presented to council

Ralph Dewey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service gave a slide presentation Monday night at the regular meeting of the West Burlington city council. Information was given about Resource Conservation and Development projects. The project is to help people take better care of their natural resources and, at the same time, improve their community's economy. Dewey cited the number one problem in the surrounding area is soil erosion. Other problems presented were pastures growing back into timber, no protection for stream banks, unsatisfactory landuse, dirt sliding into ditches and the controlling of landfills.

Dewey asked the council for a letter of backing for the project.

The council agreed to have the city attorney draw up an agreement with Don Campbell to settle a dispute over water mains and turnouts on West Burlington Avenue and Van Weiss.

The council also adopted a resolution of necessity for the Pennington Street project. A public hearing was set for Sept. 9, 7 p.m. in the council chambers, City Hall.

The October 8 date for voting on the bus issue was delayed for discussion until the next regularly scheduled council meeting. Wording for the issue on the ballot was also discussed.

A report submitted to the council stated the plans for the swimming pool were completed, but all specifications hadn't been finished.

In other action the council accepted fire safety reports for LaVeine Trailer Sales and Fullerton Lumber Co.; accepted building inspector's report for July; adopted resolution for ordinance 280; tabled 534 freeway project; adopted changes in council-employee

policy effective Sept. 1; sent a letter to resident to cut weeds because they are nuisance;

Minutes approved for council, park commission and planning and zoning commission meetings; new sidewalk to be laid at corner of Glasgow and Broadway; motion to buy new slurrywagon; vacation approved for city employee; adjournment.

Soil, water conservation week observed Sept. 8-15

Iowa Gov. Robert Ray has proclaimed Sept. 8-15 as Soil and Water Conservation week.

The governor's proclamation emphasized orderly development and wise use of Iowa land and water resources as essential to maintain and enhance rural and urban standards of living, and to maintain an adequate food supply for the people of all nations.

He suggested environmental protection and improvement benefits all Iowans, and urged all citizens to participate in soil and water conservation programs or lend assistance to those conducting these programs.

This spring Iowa experienced its greatest soil erosion in 25 years, reminds Min Amemiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State university.

Soil and weather conditions were ideal for this to happen. He observed that more people became acutely aware of damages resulting from improper land use practices.

Soil erosion prevention continues to be an important task of farm operators. Amemiya encourages farmers to select land use practices that will reduce soil and water movement.

On row crop land, he advocates such soil and water conservation practices as contour farming, strip cropping, grassed waterways, diversions, terraces, and conservation tillage systems that leave soil surfaces rough and protected with plant residues. On sloping land considered too steep for continuous row crops, the agronomist encourages crop rotations or

conversion to permanent grass or grass-legume cover.

Soil movement by wind also can be a problem, especially on flat land. Amemiya suggests cropping and tillage systems that leave the surface rough and protected with a mulch of plant residue to reduce soil movement by wind.

Soil erosion by water and wind can also occur on land disturbed for non-agricultural uses. The same principles for controlling erosion on farm land also apply in such instances.

"If Iowa is to maintain its agricultural heritage and leadership, it can do so only by protecting its most valuable resource, the soil, from unnecessary degradation and loss. It is obvious that more emphasis must be devoted to this endeavor," Amemiya said.

*The Hawk Eye
September 4, 1974*

Iowa Soil Conservation Week Sept. 8-15

Soil Conservation Week in Iowa has been scheduled for September 8 - 15 this year as proclaimed by Governor Robert D. Ray. Local celebration of the event in Des Moines county centers around the continuing effort to stop erosion where the raindrops fall according to soil district chairman William Vierling of Mediapolis.

"The combination of too much or too little rainfall has been rough on agriculture in 1974," Vierling stated, "But we can be sure that the conservation farmers have fared the best of the lot."

More recently the commissioners of the soil district have helped spearhead the organization of a multi-county Resource Conservation and Development project (RC&D) in southeast Iowa.

"This RC and D will be pooling the conservation efforts of four districts in the area to give more and better services to the people needing conservation help," Vierling continued.

"Meanwhile construction of ponds and terraces to help halt the flow of silt to our streams has been going on at full speed," the chairman concludes. "Application of conservation plans to the land to protect and improve our agriculture is what it's all about."

"Farmers who have controlled their soil losses with terracing and crop rotations were the best prepared for the heavy rains of early spring," the chairman went on, "and these same people were more likely to have conserved that extra inch or two of subsoil moisture that was needed in the dry spell."

Des Moines county soil district has been a leader through the years in erosion control in southeast Iowa. Vierling points also to the districts successes in the field of environmental conservation education.

"Our environmental conservation education council is in its fifth year of service to teachers and students of the area," Vierling explained. "Probably our greatest accomplishment has been sponsoring the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp in Burlington last year. More than 30 local teachers benefitted from this experience."

*Des Moines County
News.*

August 15, 1974

The Hawk Eye September 4, 1974

Attend State Soil Conservation Meeting

Ray Pilling, Mediapolis and Joseph T. Beckman, Sperry, both District Commissioners in Des Moines County Soil Conservation District, were among the more than 500 people attending a state meeting in Fort Dodge September 8-10. A new record was set for attendance at the 28th Annual Conference for Soil Conservation District Commissioners of Iowa. Mrs. Beckman and Mrs. Dorothy Davis, office clerks, also attended the conference.

Mrs. Susan Baldwin, Burlington, conservation teacher of the year award winner, spoke during the educational division of the program. They discussed what a teacher interested in conservation expects from the conservation District Commissioners. Des Moines County district commissioners presented a resolution to the State Association of the Conservation Education Committee that has already been adopted by their district. They

asked that the State Association evaluate several teachers training courses in conservation. In this way, both the teachers and the conservation officers will know which courses offer the best in conservation training.

David Unger, Executive Secretary of the National Association of Conservation Districts, praised Iowa as one of the most progressive states in soil conservation work. He told the group their work would be more challenging in the next 10 years, as they would become more involved in surface mine reclamation, sediment control, agricultural runoff pollution and land use planning.

He cited the need for districts to get more technical assistance by rebuilding the corps of Soil Conservation Service personnel. He also said the soils information and other resource material available from Districts inevitably will involve them in land use planning.

Assistant Secretary of Interior John Kyl brought commissioners up to date on the Mined-Land Reclamation Act now in conference in Congress. The bill would establish a nationwide program to prevent adverse effects to society from coal mining operations and would involve local districts and agencies in implementations.

Kyl said there is not enough money being spent on conservation or enough interest in taking care of soil and water resources.

*Mediapolis New Era
September 19, 1974*

Top teacher once 'hated science'

By BOB SOGARD

Less than two years ago, Susan Baldwin "hated science." She said, "No creepy, crawly things for me. But I changed my tune and I found gloves helpful in handling them."

Today, the third grade teacher at Perkins school is the elementary school division Iowa Conservation Teacher of the Year. The soil conservation districts of the state and the Farm and Home Register help conduct the program.

Last June, she was named conservation teacher of the year in competition sponsored by the National Assn. of Conservation Districts and the Allis Chalmers Co. Her name was entered in Upper Mississippi region competition.

Chiefly responsible for the about-face for the science-hater was Ben Clausen, biology instructor at

trips as well as classroom projects, is time-consuming but worthwhile, Mrs. Baldwin said. She credits Sherm Lundy and Mrs. Ruth Mertens with pioneering conservation teaching in Des Moines county.

"The school administration has been very helpful, giving us time off to go to Ewalu and Spring Brook (state park near Guthrie Center)," she said.

Her class recently concluded a butterfly unit and one of the pupils was moved to versify. Jane Lohmann wrote:

Georgia was once a caterpillar
Crawling among the leaves.
Now she will be a butterfly
Flying up in the trees.
Now you see she is a Monarch
Pretty as can be.

The class took the Monarch outside while the air was still warm, so it could get accustomed to the weather and survive. Their swallowtail butterfly, the class learned, would lay eggs and die.

On their field trip around the school neighborhood, the youngsters collected seeds, nuts, leaves and sand to use in making soil. They examined buds left after leaves dropped; one pupil announced that the buds will "hatch out" next spring. One bush across Dodge street from the school is a mystery variety the class will be able to identify early next spring. A boy, noting the large buds, called it a "Budweiser" bush.

Paper recycling is popular at the school and the large receptacle on the parking is quickly filled to overflowing.

And the teacher no longer needs gloves to handle the creepy, crawly things.

Mrs. Baldwin and her husband, John, live at 2908 Moody Lane. He's a pilot for Remmers-Tomkins Flight Service. They have three children, Deborah, 8; David, 6, and Diana, 4. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles V. Jaeger, 2101 Vogt.

Photo on Page 3

University of Northern Iowa. He was director of the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp that was held here in July of 1973.

Mrs. Baldwin became involved in the Environmental Conservation Educational council here and has helped conduct in-service conservation training for Burlington teachers. She and Jo Rabe, first grade teacher at Black Hawk school, gave a presentation at the Iowa Conservation Education workshop in September at Camp Ewalu near Strawberry Point. Also taking part were Bev Lundy, Corse school; Betsy Pollock, James Madison; and Pat Mayle, Black Hawk.

The honored teacher has seen rapid growth in conservation teaching the past couple of years. "There are 35 or 40 teachers who are really interested and they come up with a lot of new ideas," she said.

The instruction, making use of field

*The Hawk Eye
October 3, 1974*

Danville Man Wins

The farm of Don Nelson north of Danville was entered as the only district entry in the farmer section of the Register and Tribune contest this year. Don has pretty well completed necessary conservation work on the place by installing terraces, waterways, a pond, and nearly a quarter section of pasture renovation. Known as a highly erosive farm, this place has taken on a new and encouraging look, with the work that Nelson, has done. His entry placed first in the new cooperator division of the contest of southeast Iowa.

*Des Moines County
News*

October 10, 1974

IOWA FARMING

Name regional winners in soil conservation contest

Regional winners were named Saturday in the farmer section of the 1974 Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program.

The contest is sponsored by The Des Moines Register and Tribune and Iowa Farming in cooperation with several conservation and education agencies.

The program is designed to give recognition to those landowners and farmers doing an outstanding job of conserving soil and water.

Three top farms were selected in each of six regions and two farms in each of three regions. They represent owner-operated or family-operated farms (division 1); landlord-tenant farms (division 2); and those operated by farmers who are new co-operators with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

In the latter division, the farms may be either owner-operated or farmed by landlord-tenants.

The three winners in each division are now in competition for a sweepstakes award. The sweepstakes winners, a total of nine, will then compete for the single state award.

All of the regional and

sweepstakes winners will be honored this fall at banquets to be scheduled in the home soil conservation district (counties) of the sweepstakes winners.

Regional winners will receive barometers, and sweepstakes winners will receive watches. The single state winner will receive a plaque.

Regional winners in the public and parochial school-teacher section of the contest will be announced later.

The program, which is now in its twenty-second year, is under the co-direction of Wilson T. Moon, state conservationist for the SCS, and William H. Greiner, director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

Following are the regional winners in the three divisions.

REGION 1, northwest

Division 1. LaVerne Grell, Washta.

Division 2. Verl Kehrberg, Le Mars, owner; Jim Woods, Kingsley, operator.

Division 3. Richard F. Peterson, Correctionville.

REGION 2, north-central, west

Division 1. Denton Myers,

Humboldt; John Myers, Hardy; Mrs. Judith Johnson, Klemme, owners; John Myers, Hardy, operator.

Division 2. Leonard Hansen, Dickens, owner; Harold and Arthur Hansen, operators.

Division 3. Lawrence R. Kees, Algona, owner; David Hefty, West Bend, operator.

REGION 3, north-central, east

Division 1. Terry I. Thompson, Forest City.

Division 2. William J. Larson, Los Angeles, Calif., owner; Roger Nielson, Forest City, operator; Calvin Sorenson, Britt, manager.

Division 3. Ivan Noelck, Hampton.

REGION 4, northeast

Division 1. Orven G. Loftsgard, Elgin.

Division 2. Milo Jacobia, Postville, owner; Daryl and David Anderson, Postville, operator.

Division 3. Merrill Jacobs, Waukon.

REGION 5, west-central

Division 1. Harvey L. Jensen, Exira.

Division 2. Harold Clizbe, Council Bluffs, owner; Jack Hester, Honey Creek, operator.

Division 3. Charles Crawford, Adair.

REGION 6, central

Division 1. Lester Vos, Altoona, owner; Lester and Donald Vos, Altoona, operators.

Division 2. Albert Bollhoefer, Newton, owner; Harold Tiedje, Newton, operator.

REGION 7, east-central

Division 1. Dennis D. Berger, Wellman.

Division 2. George Nopoulos, Wilton, owner; Ed Daufeldt, Tipton, operator.

Division 3. Andrew Horst, Muscatine.

REGION 8, southwest

Division 1. LeRoy Winkler, Creston.

Division 2. Elton Anderson, Essex, owner; Dale Wallin, Essex, operator.

REGION 9, southeast

Division 1. Norman Gott, Ollie.

Division 3. Donald B. Nelson, Danville.

*Des Moines Register
October 6, 1974*

Ray approves 'Wonderland'

Four Hawk Eyeland visitors to Des Moines Monday witnessed Gov. Robert Ray giving his approval to the Geode Wonderland Resource and Development project.

They were Jim Hawkins, project council chairman, Lee county; Ralph Dewey, Des Moines county; Mrs. Norma Jennings, Louisa county, and Leland McCosh, Henry county. Also on hand was Mike Dunn, director of the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning commission, who was in the capital city for another meeting.

The application carrying Ray's endorsement was handed to Wilson Moon, state conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service, for transmittal to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture through the SCS service.

Moon told the delegation that he anticipates the application will be approved sometime during the next fiscal year.

Approval of the RC&D project will make federal money and personnel available through SCS, Farmers Home administration and other USDA offices to carry out programs developed in the 4-county area. Other projects would be developed with local funds.

Projects contemplated to date include area-wide soil conservation efforts, rural-urban water systems, sewage disposal, health facilities, and recreation projects such as bike trails.

Dewey said the Des Moines county RC&D council will hold a breakfast meeting at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday at Burlington's Holiday Inn.

*The Hawk Eye
October 17, 1974*

Winning teachers named in soil conservation contest

Thirteen Iowa teachers were named Saturday as regional winners in the teacher section of the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program.

The winners, who will now compete for state titles, were announced by the contest co-chairmen, Wilson T. Moon, state conservationist for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, and William H. Greiner, director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

Selection was based on the teachers' effectiveness in conservation education; organizing field trips; creating an awareness of conservation problems at the local, state and national levels; and motivating students to promote conservation of natural resources.

The program is sponsored by The Des Moines Register and Tribune in cooperation with state and federal conservation and education agencies.

Teachers from 22 soil conservation districts (counties) entered the contest — which is open to both parochial and public school teachers.

The teacher section of the contest consisted of two divisions: (1) kindergarten through eighth grade, and (2) grades 9-12. Some regions had only one winner.

Regional winners in the farmer section of the contest were announced last week.

Following are the winning teachers listed by region and division. Region one had no winners this year.

REGION 2, north-central, west half

Teacher K-8 — Annette Kouba, Rolfe Community School, Rolfe.

Teacher 9-12 — Owen Primavera, Jr., Spirit Lake, Milford Community High School, Milford.

REGION 3, north-central, east half

Teacher K-8 — Mrs. Maurine Moore, St. Ansgar, St. Ansgar Community School, Carpenter Elementary, Carpenter.

Teacher 9-12 — Dennis J. Lettow, Iowa Falls Community School, Iowa Falls.

REGION 4, northeast

Teacher K-8 — Mrs. Nancy Gephart, Cedar Falls, Black Hawk Elementary, Waterloo.



OWEN
PRIMAVERA



ANNETTE
KOUBA



DENNIS J.
LETTOW



MAURINE
MOORE



NANCY
GEPHART



LEONA
BROWN



JIM R.
ELKIN



MURIEL A.
NICHOLSON



JEANETTE
RUPRECHT



ROGER
ADOLPHSON



LOUISE
KESSLER



GEORGE V.
FREIDHOF

REGION 5, west-central

Teacher K-8 — Mrs. Leona Brown, Jewell, Exira Elementary, Exira.

REGION 6, central

Teacher K-8 — Muriel A. Nicholson, West Des Moines, Jensen Elementary, Urbandale.

Teacher 9-12 — Jim R. Elkin, Ogden High School, Ogden.



SUSAN
BALDWIN

REGION 7, east-central

Teacher K-8 — Jeanette Ruprecht, Clarence-Lowden Middle School, Lowden.

Teacher 9-12 — Roger Adolphson, Moline, Ill., Davenport West High School, Davenport.

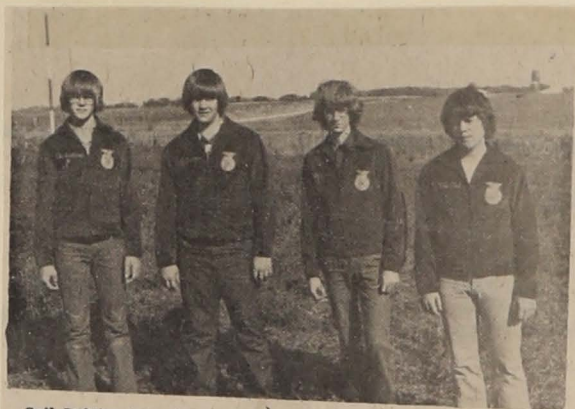
REGION 8, southwest

Teacher K-8 — Mrs. Arnold (Louise) Kessler, Diagonal Community School, Diagonal.

REGION 9, southeast

Teacher K-8 — Susan Elaine Baldwin, Perkins School, Burlington.

Teacher 9-12 — George V. Freidhof, Centerville High School, Centerville.



Soil Judging team from left, Mike Belknap, Jeff Burgus, Rusty Tynner and Mike Abel.

FFA Wins Soil Judging

The sophomore class soil judging team won it all at the recent S. E. Iowa Contest.

Three individual trophies are awarded and one team trophy. Winning individuals were Jeff Burgus, first, Mike Belknap, second and Mike Abel, third. Of course with the three top individuals, the team won the team

trophy. Other schools participating were (in order of places) Central of Argyle, Ft. Madison, Wapello, Winfield, Mt. Pleasant and Columbus.

This year's contest was held on the Olin Jennings farm between Winfield and Columbus Jct. The judging involves three soil sites and a written exam.

Des Moines Register
October 13, 1974.

Metropolis New Era
October 23, 1974

Geode Wonderland endorsement Monday

By BOB SOGARD

Geode Wonderland, newly named and ready for action, will be endorsed by Gov. Robert D. Ray on Monday as a Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) organization.

All four counties of the southeast Iowa group will be represented when the project application is hand-carried to Des Moines for the governor's okay.

The 41-page report already has been approved by the Office of Planning and Programming. After endorsement by Ray, it will be given to the Soil Conservation Service Des Moines office, then forwarded to SCS in Washington for consideration.

It could take a year or more before the Secretary of Agriculture approves the plan. Then the SCS would send an administrator to here to help governments and organizations establish programs to protect and develop natural resources in Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa counties.

Jim Hawkins, project council chairman, will lead the delegation to Des Moines. Hawkins is chairman of the Lee county soil conservation district.

Others expected to attend are Leland McCosh, Winfield mayor, for Henry county; Olin Jennings, Louisa

county soil conservation district chairman, or his wife, Norma; Ralph Dewey, Des Moines county district conservationist; Merle Kelly, Des Moines county supervisors chairman; and Mike Dunn, director of the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning commission.

The application includes a description of the 1.1-million-acre area, soil descriptions, population study, employment and income figures, socio-economic information, problems of the area, objectives and benefits anticipated as the result of the project, environmental considerations, local participation and sponsor listings, constitution and by-laws.

The geode, official state rock of Iowa, was selected as a symbol in part because of the concentration of deposits in this area. The application report states: "The crystalline beauty held within the geode relates to the undeveloped beauty to be found in the timbered hills rich farmland and broad rivers of the area."

"And, as the potential beauty of the geode is held within its globelike confines, so the potential development of Geode Wonderland lies within this RC&D project."

This is the third RC&D council to be formed in Iowa.

The HawkEye
October 13, 1974.



GEODE WONDERLAND Resource Conservation and Development project application is endorsed by Gov. Robert Ray. Representing Henry, Lee, Louisa and Des Moines counties in the governor's office Monday were, from left, Ralph Dewey, Burlington, district conservationist; Leland McCosh, Winfield mayor; Mike Dunn, Keokuk, director of the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning commission; Mrs. Olin Jennings, Columbus Junction, project secretary, and Jim Hawkins, Argyle, Geode Wonderland project chairman.

The HawkEye October 17, 1974.



BUTTERFLY BUSH, a resting place for one of the classroom Monarchs, is headquarters for the third graders of Mrs. Susan Baldwin, who points out a feature of the Perkins school outdoor classroom. Onlookers include Mrs. Carol Krekel, teacher's aide. The youngsters have been stockpiling nature trophies they will be using in environmental studies through the coming winter. Mrs. Baldwin is the elementary school division Iowa Conservation Teacher of the Year.

The HawkEye November 3, 1974



*The HawkEye
November 6, 1974.*

PERKINS SCHOOL has a strong conservation education program, under the leadership of Susan Baldwin, Iowa Conservation Teacher of the Year. One of the projects is this paper recycling receptacle which is quickly filled to overflowing by enthusiastic youngsters.

Top conservation award goes to family farm at Elgin

By a STAFF WRITER

State winners in the 1974 Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program were announced Saturday by contest co-chairmen, Wilson Moon, state conservationist for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS), and William Greiner, director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

Winner in the farmer section of the contest is Orven G. Loftsgard of Elgin.

In the teacher section the winner in division I, kindergarten through eighth grades, is Susan Baldwin, third grade teacher at Perkins School in Burlington.

Division II winner, ninth through 12th grades, is Dennis J. Lettow, vo-ag teacher

in Iowa Falls Community Schools.

Just over 100 farms were entered in the statewide farmer contest, but Loftsgard's 229-acre farm accumulated the highest conservation score — 786 out of a possible 900 points.

The program is sponsored by The Des Moines Register and Tribune and several conservation and education agencies.

Three are three farm divisions in the contest — owner-operators, in which Loftsgard entered; landlord-tenants; and new co-operators with the SCS.

Loftsgard had earlier been named winner in county, regional and sweepstakes com-

petition in the 11-county region in northeast Iowa.

Loftsgard's farm has 113 acres in crops, 65 in permanent pasture, and 48 in woodland. Fifty acres is terraced and strip cropped while another 63 acres is terraced and contour farmed.

Loftsgard has 23,000 feet of cropland terraces, 500 feet of diversion terraces, 4 acres of sod waterways, and 1,600 feet of drainage tile.

Of the 65 acres of permanent pasture, 20 acres has been renovated to a birdsfoot trefoil-grass mixture.

The farm has two ponds for livestock water, wildlife habi-

WINNERS

Continued on page 2-F

WINNERS

Continued from page 1-F

tat, and gully control. Loftsgard has also built one pipe outlet erosion control dam to stabilize a major waterway.

He makes full use of the woodland area as well and manages it to encourage high timber production. He harvests marketable timber in such a way to increase the regrowth of desired tree species.

SCS points out that Loftsgard has completed all of the practices recommended for his farm by the conservation organization.

Besides raising 113 acres of crops, the family produces 700 hogs yearly and maintains a 45-head beef cow herd. The Loftsgards have five children to help out with farm labor.

They are Jane, 19; Bradley, 17; Lisa, 16; Mary, 8; and Sara, 5.

Dennis Lettow, teacher winner in grades 9-12, is a strong believer in learning by doing.

He has taught vocational agriculture for 10 years and over the past two years has had a total of 84 students in conservation of natural resources. This year alone he has 68 students in the class.

4.5-acre Classroom

The students don't learn just by sitting in the classroom, reading books and listening to lectures. One of their primary responsibilities is maintaining the Iowa Falls school's 4.5-acre conservation outdoor classroom and the 20-acre school grounds.

They've planted 250 trees in the conservation area alone.

But perhaps the biggest conservation project they have undertaken was the surveying, leveling, and seeding of the school grounds to prevent and control erosion.

As part of that project they helped a contractor build 500 feet of terraces.

Sears-Roebuck helped them out financially with another giant project.

In April of 1973 the class planted a 300-foot windbreak to help protect the school grounds from winter weather and thus conserve fuel. Sears helped foot the bill for the planting of 220 trees and shrubs to form the windbreak.

No aspect goes uncovered in Lettow's classes on conservation. He emphasizes that everything about the land is precious and must be preserved — soil, water, air, plants, forests — and all the inhabitants.

Recently Lettow served as chairman of a curriculum committee for the Iowa Department of Public Instruction (DPI) which outlined courses on conservation of natural resources. The 46-page booklet has been sent to 260 schools and 42 state DPIs.

Susan Baldwin, teacher winner in the K-8 grades division, believes that conservation has a place in the teaching of any course.

"Environmental education should not be a separate entity in the curricula battle," she says. She teaches all subject areas in the third grade, and has been a teacher for two years.

Miss Baldwin gives her art class as an example of what she's talking about.

The children "adopted a tree" this past year and drew pictures of how it changed

throughout the seasons. In the pictures they included the "community of living things" on and around the tree — birds, insects, and other wildlife — and the environment's effect on the living things.

In another art project, the class received permission to paint murals on a board fence around new construction at the First National Bank. The murals showed the community the importance of the land and also how important it is to preserve it.

Over 70 students from all grades took part in this project.

Build 'Miniworld'

In the school, the students made use of an unused trophy case to build displays to show other students the importance of conservation and the environment.

Perhaps one of their most important displays in the case was the construction of a "miniworld."

The third graders put plants, live insects, spiders, and other wildlife in the miniworld to see how they could all survive together.

Miss Baldwin said the students became quite upset one day when they saw a spider eating one of the butterflies. But they took it in stride.

They were even more surprised at the end of the experiment to find only two living things left in the display case — a grasshopper and a toad.

In another project the children collected 24,000 pounds of paper for recycling.

All of these projects work together to teach the third graders the importance of conservation, Miss Baldwin says.

She leaves nothing out of the discussions. She talks about food chains, food cycles, farm surpluses, crop rotation, contour farming, erosion prevention, land use, biodegradable materials, flood plains and watersheds.

She talks about soil, plants, people, water and air — and

the possibility of changing lifestyles to allow for improvements in the environment.

Isn't all this a little heavy for third-graders? Not at all, Miss Baldwin says.

"In nine short years, my boys and girls will be of voting age," she adds, "and will have a strong voice in the conservation practices of our community."

She's doing her part now to see that they will be well-informed when that time comes.

Photo by GEORGE CEOLLA



DENNIS LETTOW

SUSAN BALDWIN

Orven Loftsgard and his wife Sylvia get plenty of help on their prizewinning farm from their children. From front to back they are Sara, 5; Mary, 8; Jane 19, Lisa, 16; and Bradley, 17.

Des Moines Register and Tribune
November 3, 1974

The HawkEye
November 6, 1974

Many farmers ignore danger of soil loss

The disastrous soil losses this last spring are still fresh in the minds of most Iowans, but many are plunging into another crop year doing the same things that made last spring's soil losses the worst in 25 years, according to Wilson Moon, state conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

"We see many farmers fall plowing, and removing corn stalks for silage,

bedding, "big bale" feed, and other uses. We know many people are short on hay, but taking away that protection for the soil opens the door for the same kind of soil losses we had this year," Moon warned.

"Corn stalks, bean stalks and other residue aren't wasted when they're left on the ground, as some advertisements would have you believe," Moon says. "The stalks are organic matter, and organic matter is the life of the soil. You won't get productivity without organic matter in the soil."

John Maddy, agronomist for SCS in Iowa, joined in Moon's harvest time warning to farmers. "Organic matter and top soil are more important in drought periods and when fertilizer is not readily available," Maddy said.

"It takes more than fertilizer, new varieties and large machinery to grow a bumper crop," he added. "High levels of organic matter are essential for high yields. In their push to use all the crop produced, many people, including some agricultural leaders, have forgotten the basic fundamentals of soil building and productivity. Leaving adequate crop residues on the ground not only increases organic matter," Maddy says, "but it can also reduce soil losses by water erosion 70 to 90 per cent, and entirely stop wind erosion."

"While we do need more production, we must also protect our Iowa topsoil, one of the world's best," Moon adds. "It's not sound judgment to use all crop residues for a short term gain, and get a big loss in the long run."

The HawkEye November 3, 1974



By
Bob
Sogard

the Ag bag

Susan Baldwin had a cogent thought she expressed at last week's land use seminar. Iowa's outstanding elementary school conservation teacher commented:

"In nine short years, my (third grade) boys and girls will be of voting age, and will have a strong voice in the conservation practices of our community."

Despite the best efforts of soil conservationists and progressive farmers, in the past generation less than 30 per cent of the tillable land has been adequately treated to prevent runoff of chemicals, fertilizer and topsoil.

Federal and state proponents of land use legislation are going to prevail, with the support of a substantial portion of the electorate. Landowners are beginning to recognize that local initiative is necessary to maintain maximum control over their holdings.

Vocational agriculture teachers and other educators such as Mrs. Baldwin are a powerful influence on the people who are going to intensify the push for protection of the land.

Dennis J. Lettow, vo-ag teacher at Iowa Falls, is such a person. He's the high school teacher of the year. His class planted 250 trees on the 4.5-acre outdoor classroom they have developed. They also leveled, seeded and helped maintain the 20-acre school grounds.

As Mrs. Baldwin told soil

commissioners at their annual meeting at Ft. Dodge last September:

"I foresee the part of the soil conservation district commissioners and in particular, the education committee as being vital in providing quality education that the teachers of Iowa want and the boys and girls of Iowa need to help conserve and preserve our world.

"At the recent Midwest Governors conference, world famine was predicted as well as a continuing energy crisis. Teachers are the cornerstones to help in the solving of these problems. But they cannot help solve the problems by changing the attitudes of the boys and girls they teach unless they themselves have background, understanding and attitudinal changes. This can be achieved in quality teacher education sessions."

This is a healthy trend taken by the Des Moines county soil district commissioners and others throughout the state who are pushing environmental education. Ultimately, it could be a more effective approach than simply trying to convince individual farmers to install erosion control practices.

Awards night Nov. 23

KEOSAUQUA — The annual Van Buren county 4-H awards night will be held Saturday, Nov. 23 in the Roberts Memorial building.



LAND USE SEMINAR participant Dr. R.J. Cowles, center, examines a report of the "neutral observer" group in a simulated hearing on a community problem at Burlington high school last week. Susan Baldwin, left rear, is the leader of the

"environmentalists" and prepares to answer Cowles' question. There were about 60 participants in the seminar who showed their concern over proper land use in the city as well as on the farm.

Soil award program is Thursday

Gbode Wonderland, a new Resource Conservation and Development organization, will be explained by Jim Hawkins at the annual awards banquet of the Des Moines County Soil district Thursday night.

Hawkins, chairman of the RC&D council, is an Argyle farmer and also is chairman of the Lee county soil district. The banquet will be held at 6:00 p.m. at St. Mary church, Dodgeville.

Special guest for the event will be Fred Higgenbottom, assistant director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

Friends of natural resources conservation to be honored include Susan Baldwin, Iowa Conservation Teacher of the Year; Mark Volkman, district conservation high school teacher winner, and Don Nelson, Danville farmer who was regional winner in the new cooperator division of the state competition cosponsored by the soil conservation districts of the state and the Des Moines Register.

Mrs. Baldwin teaches third grade at Perkins school. She was cited in the elementary school division. Volkman, a Burlington high school teacher, is chairman of the Environmental Conservation Education council here.

Nelson has installed many soil conservation practices on his land and also on land he leases inside the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant reservation. His recognition Thursday will be for work he has done in the past year on a quarter-section of land north of Danville that he purchased.

Geode Wonderland RCD Projects

The newly organized Geode Wonderland Resource Conservation and Development Project (RC&D) for the four counties of Southeast Iowa met at Wapello, Wednesday evening and adopted an application form to be used by persons or groups seeking help for project measures.

Chairman Jim Hawkins, Argyle, announced that the official application for federal assistance had been forwarded to the Washington office of the Soil Conservation Service by State Conservationist Wilson T. Moon of Des Moines. A delegation from the southeast Iowa project had hand delivered the application to Moon on October 14, after receiving the endorsement of Governor Robert D. Ray.

Hawkins pointed out the importance of receiving Project Measure Proposals on the newly adopted form, while awaiting federal approval on the project.

"A project measure may be any natural resource related measure that will further the development of the resources of the area," Hawkins related. "We have already received several inquiries from individuals and officials regarding development of better public water supplies and recreational improvements."

"The project committee for tourism and recreation has been active the past two months to identify and coordinate area activities aimed at Bicentennial celebration," Hawkins went on. "Miss Helen Virdun of Mt. Pleasant is our chairman for this group and we will be referring ideas for development of bike trails and camp facilities to her committee for review."

Area conservationist Eldon Weber of Fairfield urged that county RC&D councils get busy locating possible project measures in order to be ready to develop the master project plan when federal approval comes. Weber also stressed the need for project measure proposals to emphasize community development and enrichment.

Project Measure proposal forms are available now in the soil conservation district offices in Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa Counties. Citizens or sponsoring groups who feel they have legitimate proposals for resource development within the area are urged to contact their local soil districts for further information.

Hawkins concluded by pointing out that information programs and brochures are available through these same offices for groups who are anxious to learn more about Geode Wonderland RC&D.

Assistance in completing proposal applications can be obtained from district conservationists Steve Probst at Donnellson, Leo Turley at Mt. Pleasant, Harry Bryant at Wapello and Ralph Dewey at Burlington.

*The Hawk Eye
Nov. 13, 1974*

*Mediaapolis New Era
November 14, 1974*

Iowa Wildlife
December 30, 1974

Geode Wonderland REC&D Clears Approval Hurdles

An application for the creation of a Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) project encompassing four southeastern Iowa counties has received approval by Governor Robert Ray. The Geode Wonderland RC&D, as the project will be known, includes Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa Counties. The combined populations total 118,000

people and involves an area of 1,135,360 acres.

The Geode Wonderland RC&D was organized officially on August 7, 1974, when a constitution and bylaws were adopted and officers were elected. Member organizations include the four soil conservation districts, boards of supervisors for the four counties, and the

Region XVI Regional Planning Commission. Elected chairman was Jim Hawkins of Argyle, commissioner in the Lee County Soil Conservation District and Regional Planning Commission member, Ralph Dewey, Des Moines County Soil Conservation District Conservationist is coordinating the effort.

Following the October 4 approval of the Geode Wonderland RC&D by the State Soil Conservation Committee, a delegation hand delivered the application to Governor Ray for his signature. Signed copy in hand, the delegation then met with Wilson T. Moon, State Conservationist for the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, who will forward it along with his comments to Washington, D. C.

The Geode Wonderland RC&D project will be the fourth such project in Iowa. Now in operation are the following: the Southern Iowa RC&D, which includes the seven counties of Adams, Union, Adair, Clarke, Taylor, Ringgold, and Decatur, the Chariton Valley RC&D, four counties in size including Lucas, Monroe, Appanoose, and Wayne; and the Upper Explorerland RC&D with Allamakee, Winneshiek, Howard, Fayette, and Clayton Counties.

Meeting of Soil Conservation Board

The 4 county Soil District commissioners met on December 5 at the Holiday Inn in Burlington, representing Louisa, Des Moines, Lee and Henry counties. Thirty people were in attendance including the representatives of the regional planning commission.

Three Des Moines county legislators were also present at the meeting, Bill Monroe, Clay Spear and Senator Miller. A land use policy was adopted by the group and presented to the legislators. The bill is prepared and will be presented to the Iowa senate again, already having been passed by the house. If the measure is passed a Land Use Commission will be set up to draw up policies for the county, consisting of people knowledgeable of the county's problems.

State appropriations in southeast Iowa for soil and water conservation were also discussed. Total appropriations in Des Moines county amounted to \$14,650.00.

Standard soil surveys were discussed, meaning a complete inventory of soils and land use capability for every acre of the county. It is believed that such information is vital to urban and rural planners to assure proper planning and protection for continued use of the land. Lee county has recently completed its survey, Des Moines county is scheduled to start in 1975, Henry county in 1977 and Louisa about 1980.

The board also brought up the fact that we are in desperate need of a strong and sound program of environmental and conservation education in Iowa to create a more intelligent and informed citizenry that must tackle the conservation problems of the future. A bill has been developed in consultation with a sub-committee appointed by the Governor to help decide the direction of environmental pursuits.

A slide series was presented to explain how the RC&D functions

as a coordinator of an open ended plan of development that will eventually make "Geode Wonderland" a better place to work, live and play.

Mediapolis New Era
December 12, 1974

Mediapolis
New Era

Jan 9, 1975

RC & D To Meet Tonight

The Geode Wonderland RC & D will meet tonight at 7:30 at the Federal Building, Room 230. It is expected that two requests will be presented to the committee, one to locate and seal abandoned wells as a safety measure, and one request that hiking and bicycle trails be located throughout the four county area.

Mr. Ralph Dewey, Soil Conservation Director for Des Moines County suggests that if you have a request or suggestion for the County RC&D Council, that you stop in at his office in the Federal Building and pick up the proper forms to complete.

No projects can be officially begun until approval of the Geode Wonderland is received from the officials in Washington, which may be some time. However, they would like to get as many projects organized and ready for development as soon as possible, in the meantime.

The Hawk Eye
February 5, 1974

Plan survey of abandoned autos, wells

A survey questionnaire of the number of abandoned automobile and wells in the county may be conducted by the county assessor's office, the Environmental Pollution Control council said Tuesday.

The questionnaire would ask county landowners about the location and number of any abandoned wells or automobiles and if they would allow cleanup.

The wells are mainly old farm wells which are a source of pollution to underground water supplies and a safety hazard. The automobiles would be crushed and the steel recycled.

Sherm Smith, council president, announced the completion of a procedural draft for the Family Tree Program. Under the program, families may buy seedlings to be planted in the Crapo park arboretum under the direction of city parks. Trees could be planted at the child's birth with a family plaque or in memorial to a deceased relative, standing, as Smith said, as "something tangible."

District conservationist Ralph Dewey said Hillsboro and Salem have submitted an application to the Resource Conservation and Development committee to investigate the possibility of a surface water supply. The supply would include a 100-acre lake and a 500-acre watershed. The multipurpose program would include erosion control, a lagoon, recreational attractions and a rural water supply system. The two towns are also studying the possibility of a \$200,000 well system.

Bargain price on soil survey

Des Moines county's conference board and soil conservation district nailed down a bargain price on a county-wide standard soil survey four years ago.

This was the comment of Ralph Dewey, district conservationist, when the conference board approved participation in the soil mapping program Wednesday night.

The conference board agreed in 1971 to put Des Moines county on the list of Iowa counties jointly funding the program with the state and federal governments. The cost to the county then was set at \$31,500 over a three-year span. The same price applies under the agreement approved by the conference board Wednesday.

Dewey explained that the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant also agreed to participate in the survey, which helped to hold down costs. The 1975-76 budget for the assessor's office provides for payment of \$10,500 to the Iowa State university experiment station, which handles the local and federal funds and provides technical help.

"Henry county is going to have to pay about \$100,000," Dewey said, and Louisa county even more. They were later than Des Moines county in agreeing to a survey.

Survey costs now are running

\$12,000 to \$14,000 per township. The SCS picks up the difference.

Jim Seaholm of Fairfield, soil scientist with the SCS, said the survey will provide a sound basis for equitable assessment of land. He said that 125 to 150 different soil types or "mapping units" will be designated in the final report.

The job will entail nine man-years of work, with two men likely to work each of the next three years and three men winding it up in 1978.

"Mel Brown of Vinton, who is just completing the Benton county survey, will be down here next month and Bennie Clark, now at Algona, also will be here this spring," Seaholm added. There have been 21 county reports published and 26 other counties mapped; 17 are in progress, 21 (including Des Moines county) scheduled and 14 left to be committed.

Assessor Paul Rynell said the state revenue department is pressing to have all the counties mapped. He recommended that the work be confirmed. He expects the results will be as valuable to engineers, farmers, planners, communities and realtors as to his own office.

The budgeted money goes into a special fund that can't be touched for assessment office operations, Rynell added.

After the board unanimously approved the survey, attorney Thomas J. Dailey commented:

"I'd like to say, on behalf of many hundreds of farmers, we commend you for moving forward. This scientific study will be beneficial to . . . all citizens of Des Moines county. It is one of the most progressive things you can do."

Erosion Potential High In Iowa This Year

The stage is set for another year of severe soil erosion in Iowa, says Wilson Moon, State Conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service. January planting intentions of farmers indicate an all-time record of corn acreage this spring, and a near-high for soybeans. Together, the combined 20.4 million acres of rowcrop will mean that more soil will be potentially erosive than ever before.

Adding to this fact that many farmers removed crop residues last fall for feed," Moon says, "you can see we've got the potential for another serious situation."

Erosion last year was the worst it had been in 25 years. About 4½ million acres suffered severe erosion (more than 10 tons per acre). Soil losses of 40-50 tons per acre were not uncommon, and losses reached as high as 200 tons per acre on some fields.

"In this effort for more production, we've got to keep in mind the critical need to take

care of the soil," Moon warns. It takes nature about 200 years to replace an inch of topsoil. In an average year, erosion on much of Iowa's land is 13 tons per acre; it's about an inch of topsoil every 12 years.

That means we can't have increased production in the years ahead without conservation practices on cropland," Moon said. He says terraces and conservation (minimum) tillage or conservation practices to help. Farmers that haven't removed crop residues

could begin this year by leaving last year's corn or bean stalks on top of the ground rather than plowing them under, Moon says.

Terraces could work with reduced tillage operations to cut soil losses to well below soil loss limits allowed in Iowa.

Limits, generally from 3-5 tons per acre average annual soil loss, have been set by individual soil conservation districts. The districts can offer help to farmers in controlling erosion on their entire farm, Moon says.

The Hawk Eye
February 6, 1975

Mediapolis New Era
February 20, 1975

USDA office merger plan

By **BOB SOGARD**
Hawk Eye Farm Editor

County offices serving land owners who participate in federal farm programs are in a turmoil these days, with work forces being slashed and mergers in the wind.

Co-location of offices in a single building, the "one-stop service center" concept announced in 1973, is a laudable goal, most county-level employees agree. The argument concerns vague or little-known plans to consolidate many county offices into regional centers.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, under administration policies being carried out by Secretary Earl L. Butz, is "getting the government out of agriculture" by eliminating subsidies designed to curb over-planting, by freezing federal cost-sharing funds for conservation practices on farms, and by selling off government grain storage facilities.

Latest such effort is President Ford's "all-peril" farm insurance, entirely financed by participating farmers and ranchers. The effect this plan would have on the Federal Crop Insurance Corp. and its service is unclear.

J. Phil Campbell, under-secretary of agriculture, said on a number of occasions that co-location of offices won't result in layoffs or doing away

with lines of authority or autonomy of offices.

This doesn't mean that there won't be staff cutbacks in individual offices. The 100 Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation service offices in Iowa were hit with 103 job losses two years ago and currently are losing some 70 more. Most counties are down to one office manager and two clerks. Only a few have bin site supervisors or other "outside" help.

Frances Wahl, who has worked in the ASCS office here for 12½ years, left the last of January. Richard Osborn, Des Moines county bin site inspector the past 20 years, faces a layoff next April, bringing the staff down to office manager V. Deane Thornton and two clerks.

Mrs. Virginia Seyb, in the Lee county ASCS office at Donnellson more than 25 years, has retired. So has Meredith Bishop, in the Jefferson county office at Fairfield for 22½ years.

Marlyn Madole, Henry county ASCS office executive director, said that Dorothy Payne will retire in March after 25 years in federal service, including one year with the rationing board.

Eugene (Mac) Pogue, manager of the Henderson county office at Stronghurst, said he and others are perturbed that work load studies of

the county offices don't take note of duties in making disaster payments. "Investigations, paperwork and payments took up to half of our time," he stated.

Dale Awtry, Iowa ASCS executive director, said the state office is working toward one-stop stations on the county level, but that he hasn't received any further word on the announced goal of county office consolidation.

Iowa's smaller counties have as much of a workload as the busiest offices in some other states, so we feel co-location of services is justified but merger may not be," Awtry added.

The one-stop centers presumably would have one reception area and telephone number. Offices that might be in the centers could be ASCS, soil conservation (SCS), Farmers Home Administration (FmHA), Federal Crop Insurance Corp., extension service, Federal Land Bank, Conservation commission, state forester, state biologist, etc.

Des Moines county already has offices for ASCS, SCS, FmHA, and extension service in the federal building, but they are scattered around the second floor. Whether this arrangement would be satisfactory under present guidelines is doubtful.

County offices have been advised that 20 centers have been

still alive

recommended by the Iowa State Administrative committee. The nearest one to Burlington is the Jefferson county building at Fairfield. Another is the Davis county office at Bloomfield.

Others will be designated by July 1. Awtry said the national objective is to have 350 to 400 service centers designated immediately and a total of 1,000 by July.

Awtry said a reception area and single phone number is the plan for each area office and the agencies will share equipment. Local committees are to handle administrative details and come up with a fiscal plan to be approved by the state committee composed of administrators of each agency.

"These 20 offices will be set up and get a shakedown to provide experience for others," Awtry said.

There may be some new construction, he added.

Ron Goettsch, executive director of the ASCS office at Fairfield, said he

hasn't received guidelines yet which are to follow the state committee's advisory of Jan. 20.

The offices in the three-year-old building at Fairfield are ASCS, SCS, FmHA, conservation commission and biologist. There is space for other offices. The Jefferson county extension service is located in downtown Fairfield.

The Bloomfield facility houses offices of ASCS, SCS, FmHA and extension service.

Other service centers already designated, listed by city and county: Centerville, Appanoose; Greenfield, Adair; Atlantic, Cass; Cherokee, Cherokee; Estherville, Emmet; Jefferson, Greene; Algona, Kossuth; Chariton, Lucas; Creston, Union; Indianola, Warren; Dennison, Crawford; Elkader, Clayton; Charles City, Floyd; Iowa City, Johnson; Marion, Linn; Marshalltown, Marshall; Decorah, Winneshiek, and Spencer, Clay.

The Hawk Eye
February 12, 1975

Record soil losses seen

By RALPH DEWEY
District Conservationist

The outlook of farmers planting record breaking acreages of corn and beans in 1975 brings warnings from soil conservationists of the high potential for record soil losses.

The past two years of excessive rainfall has caused some of the greatest runoff in a quarter-century. Soils are loaded with water from winter rain and snow and are primed to erode rapidly in spring if not protected.

Add to this the fact that many farmers took advantage of good weather last fall to plow under protective crop residue, and we can count on millions of tons of soil erosion in 1975.

Farmers have been increasing the acreage of plowed land each year and eliminating erosion control practices that protected land in the past. Contour farming that controlled half of soil losses is about a thing of the past as huge modern equipment is designed for long straight rows.

Trends toward livestock feeding in compact controlled areas has all but eliminated grassland on many farms. Crop rotations leaving residues to cover the ground are almost non-existent.

Now the federal government is asking farmers to produce more crops than ever before. If farmers are to meet this challenge and maintain a soil to work with in the future, they

must bend every effort to PROTECT as they PRODUCE.

Alternatives listed

"There are many up to date replacements for contouring and rotations," Dewey said. "Modern conservation tillage methods with disk, chisel and other tillage machines prepare the land for cropping and at the same time leave a protective cover of crop residue to prevent erosion."

"The reduced number of trips to get a crop started is a money conservation feature not to be overlooked," Dewey added.

Information and recommendations on how to produce more while protecting the land are available from the soil conservation district office in Burlington.

The Hawk Eye
March 5, 1975

High Potential For Soil Loss

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"Add to this the fact that many farmers took advantage of good weather last fall to plow under protective crop residue, and we can count on millions of tons of soil erosion in 1975," stated district conservationist Ralph E. Dewey of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in Des Moines County.

"Farmers have been increasing the acreage of plowed land each year and eliminating erosion control practices that protected land in the past," Dewey claimed. "Contour farming that controlled half of soil losses is about a thing of the past as huge modern equipment is designed

for long straight rows."

"Trends toward livestock feeding in compact controlled areas has all but eliminated grassland on many farms," the conservationist went on. "Crop rotations leaving residues to cover the ground are almost non-existent."

"Now the federal government is asking farmers to produce more crops than ever before," Dewey continued. "If farmers are to meet this challenge and maintain a soil to work with in the future, they must bend every effort to protect as they produce."

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RC & D To Meet Thursday

A project named Pure Water 1 will be discussed at the RC & D Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. in Room 230 of the Federal Building. The object of the project is to obtain water for the Hillsboro, Salem and Houghton area, which is in need of a new water supply. They are investigating the possibility of a surface water supply, such as a lake which can also be used as recreational facilities.

Other project measures will also be discussed.

Standard Soil Survey Will Begin

Two soil scientists, Benny Clarks and Melvin Brown, have moved into their office in the Federal Building to start work on the standard soil survey which will be taking place over the next four years in Des Moines County. Their purpose will be to map every acre of land in Des Moines County according to soil type. They will do this by taking samples of earth from different spots all around the county.

Their actual probing of the ground will not begin until the spring thaw takes place.

Mediapolis New Era
March 6, 1975

Mediapolis New Era
March 6, 1975

The Hawk Eye
March 6, 1975

Erosion Potential High In Iowa

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"In this effort for more production, we've got to keep in mind the critical need to take care of the soil," Moon warns. It takes nature about 200 years to replace an inch of topsoil. In an average year, erosion on much of Iowa's land is 13 tons per acre; that's about an inch of topsoil every 12 years.

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Des Moines Co News
March 13, 1975

Soil survey starts

By BOB SOGARD

Hawk Eye Farm Editor

Digging up dirt is the job, not only of construction men, muckracking newspaper columnists and farmers, but also of two men getting settled for a four-year stay in Burlington.

They are Melvin Brown and Bennie Clarks, soil mapping specialists with the Soil Conservation service, who will conduct the Des Moines county standard soil survey.

Brown, 39, survey party leader, and Clarks, 28, will work out of an office on the second floor of Burlington's federal building. When field conditions permit, they will begin probing the soils of the county in a scientific study that will be valuable to farmers, construction people, realtors, government officials and, of course, soil conservationists.

They are working with aerial maps of the county, indexing them for reference when the field work begins. They also will study previous soils information and talk with people who know the territory.

Brown, who has been with the SCS since 1963, was survey party leader for the crew that completed soil mapping of Benton county last fall. He isn't through at Vinton, though, because for the next year or more he will be working on the manuscript of the final report for Benton county.

Clarks began his SCS work at Sioux City in 1969, served three years in the Marine Corps, and for the past two years has been working on the Kossuth county soil survey out of Algona. There's about three years' more work slated before that large county is completely mapped.

The survey is a cooperative job that will cost Des Moines county \$31,500, with the remainder of the estimated \$175,000 project shared by the state, through the Iowa State Experiment station at Ames, and the federal government, through the Soil Conservation service.

Survey 263,000 acres

There are 263,000 acres to be surveyed, including the Iowa Army Ammunition plant, which will be cost-shared by the army. Survey costs are running over \$14,000 per township.

Brown and Clarks will have help in soils interpretation and other work from Iowa State university soils specialists.

The first year, they will describe as many types of soils as possible in the county. They will learn the engineering characteristics, soil permeability (valuable in septic tank construction) and suitability for crop production, among other information.

Brown said land owners will benefit from the survey and anyone buying property can get an idea of the production expected and management needed in running the farm. People building houses can learn whether the site selected will mean a wet basement or pose the danger of cracked foundation walls.



ORIENTATION MEETING of soil mappers and local Soil Conservation service employees was held at the federal building here Tuesday. From left are Melvin Brown, survey party leader; Bennie Clarks, who will work with Brown; Ralph

Dewey, district conservationist, and Larry Hunt, SCS trainee. For the next four years, Brown and Clarks are scheduled to conduct a detailed mapping and soils analysis program on the county's 263,000 acres.

"If we find limestone near the surface, this also can be important information. Also, the district conservationist can determine drainage needs, tile system design and whether problems might arise in building a farm pond or lagoon," he added.

Loan companies and banks can make more accurate appraisals of land before extending credit. The Iowa Highway commission, county engineer, health sanitarian and county assessor also can use the information obtained in the survey.

Regional planning council, the Resource Conservation and Development council and other planners gain valuable facts from the report, too, said Brown. Possible recreation sites, areas with a high water table and flood plains can be better described and possible landfill sites determined.

Helpful to farmers

Farmers will learn their corn suitability ratio, a standard that indicates how much grain can be grown on a specific field. Organic matter will be checked and this

governs the most economical and safe use of herbicides as well as the need for expensive fertilizers.

As each area is mapped, normally by township, the information will be reported to the SCS office here, where interested persons can visit during the winter to get available information.

There will be an interim report, soon after mapping is completed. Brown said approximately 100 copies will be placed in libraries and other locations around the county so that information will be available while it's hot. The

extension service will be in charge of this phase.

The final report takes a couple of years to compile and publish after the soil mapping is done.

The mappers' principal tool for soil study is a hand probe that takes a sample half an inch in diameter to a four-foot depth. In some locations, a power drill will go deeper. The probes in some areas will be only a few feet apart, depending on the number of soil

es.

Brown, a native of Merrill near

Sioux City, graduated from Iowa State university in agronomy.

He served in the army as a medic, at Ft. Jackson, S.C., and after his discharge went with the extension service for 2½ years, working in Butler and Chickasaw counties. After joining SCS in 1963, he worked in Winterset, Charles City and then Vinton before coming here. He and his wife, Marilyn, have a daughter, Kara. They live at 706 Leffler, West Burlington. Mel said he likes to "fool around" with photography.

Louisiana native

Clarks, a native of Delhi, La., is a 1969 agriculture graduate of Southern university in Baton Rouge. He served in the Marines at Camp Lejeune, N.C., as commanding officer of a motor transport company.

He was discharged as a first lieutenant and now is a captain in the Iowa National Guard, having served as liaison officer of the 194th Artillery Battalion at Humboldt.

His wife, Linda, and son, Derrick Wayne, 3½, are still in Algona while Clarks goes house hunting. He's a recent convert to the game of golf and is fond of reading. He's also looking for better weather. His first trip to Burlington was the Washington's birthday weekend when the city suffered through rain, slush and a whole bunch of snow.

The Hawk Eye
March 5, 1975.



Satre



Hodges

Should we try to feed the world?

By LLOYD MAFFITT

Should the American farmer try to feed the world?

This and other questions involving morality, humanitarianism, economics, and politics occupied the attention of nearly three dozen farmers and agriculture experts for two hours at Peace Lutheran church of Prairie Grove Monday night.

The discussion, led by farmer Leonard Lane, was fueled by a panel consisting of Lane; Pastor Roy Satre of the host church; James Hodges, Des Moines county extension director; and district conservationist Ralph Dewey.

Opening the meeting, Lane asked for a show of hands on the pros and cons of the proposed 10-per cent crop cutback; found sentiment about evenly divided. Hodges raised the question, "Is man capable of managing himself in a voluntary program, or must a cutback program be mandatory?" Lane commented that voluntary adherence to programs can't be counted on: "Look at the fuel situation." Ronald Stigge suggested that the high price of fertilizer will cause some cutback.

Donald Beck said fertilizer is being sold on the black market and Dewey declared that some farmers have been "overdoing fertilizing."

The conservationist said that cutting back should be done "in the way that will best protect the land,"

and said it is better to cut back 20 per cent on marginal land, to obtain a 10-per cent crop reduction, than cropping land that may not even return the anticipated cost (\$240 an acre to produce).

Dewey called for reduced tillage and Arnold Wiemann said many farmers are already practicing it. Wiemann said he just returned from Honduras where, if the government feels a

Related story, Page One

farmer isn't doing a good job of farming, it takes his land and gives it to someone it feels will use it to better advantage.

Talmage Mehaffy suggested that the cut be 10 per cent on 100 or fewer acres and 20 per cent above.

Cletus Paull reported that by and large farmers who own their own farms and have little or no indebtedness on them are in favor of the cutback, while those who rent or are deeply in debt "want to go all-out for production."

Donald Mathews and Eugene Schulte blamed the government for the farmers' plight — declining prices at a time of food shortages — and for the "feeling of frustration and indefiniteness among farmers."

Mathews stated that one-fourth of America's total agricultural production is shipped abroad.

Carl Miller wanted to know "why the Board of Trade sets the prices we



Lane



Dewey

farmers get when every other producer sets his own prices." His question triggered a discussion of the role of speculators in the market.

Mathews said he thinks he favors "a totally open market." Lane charged that the government "is more or less regulating demand, fouling up the law of supply and demand."

Hodges brought up the question of the responsibility of the Christian farmer toward the hungry of the world and this engendered discussion of whether it is humanitarian to feed countries that are doing little or nothing to control population growth: "You keep them alive for five years and then they starve anyway," someone put it.

Dwight Stucker observed that many farmers want "to do the Christian thing and help" but are unsure of what to do.

Hodges said it is better to send seed abroad than food, because the seed can stave off future famine.

He said one way of combating world famine is to establish a world food bank, but "who would run it and how would it be managed?"

Summing up, Satre said he felt no hard-and-fast decisions were reached but that many thoughtful opinions had been aired. He then served coffee and cookies, and the thirty-odd men and one woman present fell to with a will.

The HawkEye March 18, 1975



Soil Scientists Mel Brown and Bennie Clarks review the tools of their trade in preparation of the start of fieldwork for the standard soil survey of Des Moines County. Within a few weeks this survey party will begin mapping the land in Washington Township.

SOIL SURVEY UNDERWAY

Farmers in Washington Township will be among the first in Des Moines County to have their land soil mapped under the recently started standard soil survey, according to Melvin Brown, leader of the soil survey party in Burlington.

"This comprehensive inventory of soils of the area will require about four years of field work to complete," Brown stated. "Most of the time the survey party will consist of two soil scientists. Bennie Clarks will be the other member of the team."

Basically, the soil surveyors will be visiting every farm and will physically cover every acre of land to determine the soil type

and condition of the land. The survey is being done by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the Iowa Experiment Station.

During the next several weeks Brown and Clarks will be hiking the fields of Washington Township to pursue the study. "The reason for choosing this area for a start is the easy accessibility of many acres for early spring mapping," Brown went on. "As fields become planted and growing to crops, we will have to retreat to areas of pasture and woodland."

The soil survey in Des Moines County is being financed by an agreement among federal, state and county governments.

*Mediapolis New Era
March 27, 1975*

Announcing First Acre Ceremony

Des Moines County Soil Conservation District invites the public to join them in observing the mapping of the "FIRST ACRE" of soil in their newly inaugurated standard soil survey.

Between 10 a.m. and noon, Tuesday, April 29, 1975, at Peace Lutheran Church of Prairie Grove, they will be holding a special ceremony commemorating this event. A short program will explain the survey as well as to emphasize Soil Stewardship Week.

The Standard Soil Survey will map every acre of soil in Des Moines County during the next four years. This will bring to the land users for the first time the most up to date inventory of soil conditions possible. All citizens will benefit in many ways from the information this survey will bring.

Mediapolis New Era
April 17, 1975

Dewey cited

Ralph E. Dewey, district conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service at Burlington, has received a Certificate of Merit award.

The award was presented by Dewey's supervisor, area conservationist Eldon Weber and was signed by Wilson T. Moon, state conservationist. The certificate is presented to SCS employees who have shown exceptional job performance.

Dewey has served as district conservationist in the Burlington field office since July of 1969. Through the Des Moines County Soil Conservation district, Dewey and his staff provide technical assistance to land owners and units of government.

The SCS office is located in Room 230 of the Federal Building here.

The Hawk Eye
June 1, 1975

"First Acre"

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most up to date inventory of soil conditions possible. We are sure that you and all other citizens will benefit in many ways from the information this survey will bring.

Des Moines County News
April 24, 1975

Nelson, Rev. Satre given certificates

Danville farmer Donald Nelson and Pastor Roy Satre of Peace Lutheran church at Prairie Grove were honored last week by the Des Moines County Soil Conservation district.

In presenting certificates of appreciation to Nelson and Satre, district conservationist Ralph E. Dewey of Burlington pointed out the contributions these men had made to the start of the standard soil survey in the county. The first acre of soil mapping was recently completed on the Nelson farm following soil stewardship ceremonies at Peace church.

District chairman William Vierling of Mediapolis emphasized the great value of public understanding of the soil survey program as it brings new knowledge to land users of the county. He reported that soil specialists Mel Brown and Bennie Clarks have completed surveying more than half of Washington township to date.

The Hawk Eye
June 1, 1975

Soil Surveyors In Washington Township

Mapping has been completed for seven or eight sections, out of 36, in Washington township by the soil surveyors. They hope to get most of it mapped before the crops are up, according to Mel Brown, soil survey party chief.

After the crops are up the soil surveyors will have to turn to the pastures and woods for their soil samples to complete their mapping procedures. All of Des Moines county will eventually be mapped, but they are not certain which township will be next.

Mediapolis New Era
May 15, 1975

Awards, USDA honor to Simmons

FAIRFIELD — Stanley Simmons, a civil engineering technician with the Soil Conservation service here, was in Washington, D.C. last week to receive one of the highest awards of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

He was one of 78 USDA employees among thousands across the nation to get the Superior Service award and was cited for "exceptional leadership in promoting and helping establish high quality title outlet, parallel terrace systems in southeast Iowa."

Over the past four years, terrace construction has doubled in the 17-county area that Simmons serves. He's worked with more than 130 conservation contractors to improve terrace systems and adapt them to various topographies, conducted terrace tours and taught adult education classes. He and his wife, Donna, have a daughter, Sue, and three sons, Mark, Phil and Billy. Mark is a part-time employee in the Burlington SCS office.

The Hawk Eye
June 1, 1975

Annual RC & D Meeting Tonight

Tonight, June 5, at 7:30 in room 230 of the Federal Building, the Annual RC&D meeting will be held.

A tentative agenda includes review of by-laws for annual meeting, election of officers executive board, budget for fiscal 1976, annual plan of operations for 1976, review of project measures, report of information and education committee, status of Geode Wonderland.

Mediapolis New Era
June 5, 1975

Dewey Receives Certificate Of Merit

Ralph E. Dewey, District Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service at Burlington, has received a

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The award was presented to Dewey by his supervisor Area Conservationist Eldon Weber and was signed by Wilson T. Moon, the State Conservationist in Iowa.

The Certificate of Merit is presented to SCS employees that have shown exceptional job performance.

Dewey has served as District Conservationist in the Burlington field office since July of 1969. Through the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District, Dewey and his staff provide technical assistance to land owners and units of government.

The SCS office is located in Room 230 of the Federal Building in Burlington.

Mediapolis New Era
July 17, 1975

New Trainee At SCS Office

Debra Brus is a new trainee at the Des Moines County Soil Conservation Office in Burlington. She succeeds Larry Hunt, who was in that office for 11 months.

Hunt will now take the soil conservationist post at Louisa County, succeeding Harry Bryant. Bryant will become district commissioner of Iowa County on July 21.

Miss Brus is a May graduate of Iowa State University, with a BS degree in agronomy. She is the first soil conservationist in Iowa to try for a district conservationist position with the SCS. Last summer she was a student trainee with a soil survey crew in Clinton.

Mediapolis New Era
June 5, 1975

Flood threat isn't from water

By LES PECK

DANVILLE — The federal government will be guilty of a "ripoff" that will seriously damage Danville if a flood hazard label is kept on sections of this Des Moines county town.

That charge was made Monday by Danville insurance and real estate agent Wayne Wilson during an afternoon meeting at town hall here.

Meeting with Mayor James Banard and other town officials were Ben Stevenson, a flood insurance specialist with the Kansas City office of the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); Bob Asmus, an aide from First District Rep. Ed Mezvinsky's office; Bob Largent, representing Michael Baker, Jr., Inc., a Harrisburg, Pa., engineering firm that collects flood data for HUD; and Ralph Dewey, Des Moines county Soil Conservation Service director.

HUD has designated sections of Danville along a creek that runs through the town and drainage areas north of the Burlington Northern railroad tracks as special flood hazard areas. About a half-dozen residences are in the flood areas.

If the flood hazard designation is retained, property owners in the flood area will be unable to get federally insured loans of any kind — such as VA and FHA money — unless they buy flood insurance. That insurance won't be available unless the town council applies for it, and that's the rub.

Banard emphasized that the council will act as the people want, but people here don't believe they are in danger of flooding. Burlington's riverfront floods out, which usually draws sightseers to watch the parking meters sink, Banard said.

"But Danville, Iowa? Nobody has

ever brought their kids out here to see the water," Banard said.

Wilson agreed that flood insurance is unneeded here. "There has never been one piece of property in town that has had water run in," he said, adding that he has seen 6-inch rains "back to back" that caused no flooding.

HUD bases its flood hazard computations on a 7-inch rainfall in a 24-hour period. Largent of the engineering firm said that with the surrounding watershed that feeds water into Danville, the town could receive with a 7-inch rain 605 cubic feet per second of water while the town's largest culvert can handle only 68 cubic feet per second.

Banard said the data was "full of holes," because history has proven it false.

But Stevenson said floods are a reality. "It is not a question if you have a flood, it is when," he said. If the town refuses to apply for the

insurance, Stevenson said, a flood victim could sue the town.

There is no cost to the city to join, Stevenson said. "You don't know what will happen in the future, but by being in the program you will protect that area."

Banard produced a letter dated in March, 1974, from Othie McMurray, director of the Iowa Natural Resources Council, that recommended that Danville be excluded from any flood hazard area.

The letter was sent to HUD in Washington, Banard told Mezvinsky aide Asmus. He asked that the congressman find out what happened to the letter and why the state recommendation was overturned by HUD.

Another concern, Banard said, is that if the flood hazard label sticks, property values in the hazard area and in neighboring areas will drop, lowering the town's tax base and

giving the town government less money to pay its bills.

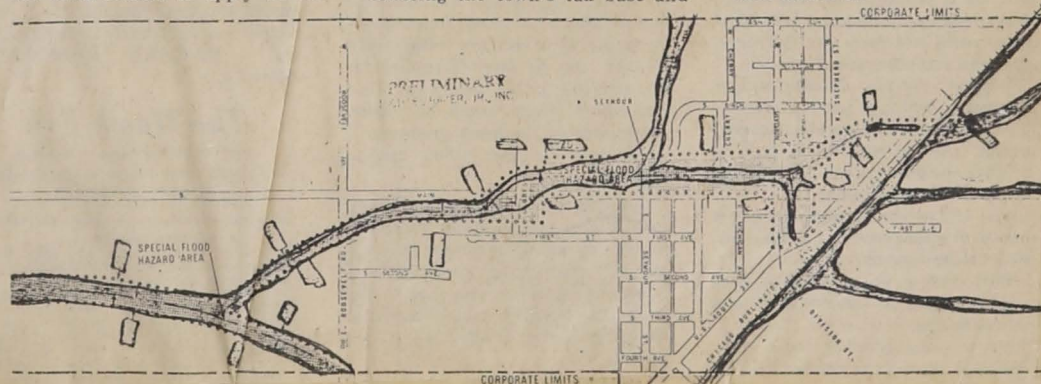
"Doesn't what the people say make any difference?" both Banard and town councilman Gene Thornburg asked.

Stevenson said he was unaware of any town in the country asking that it be completely dropped from the flood insurance program. "You know one now. This one here," Banard replied.

After the meeting, town officials took the guests on a walking tour, Banard said later. Size of the creek that runs through town "surprised" the officials, Banard said.

In addition, Banard said, Mezvinsky's office has obtained a 30-day extension to Aug. 1 for the town council to decide if it wants to apply for flood insurance. The deadline had been July 1.

Stevenson made no promise that Danville would be dropped from the flood hazard list.



SHADED AREAS show sections of Danville that the federal government has designated as flood hazard areas. US 34

and the railroad tracks run diagonally at the north edge of town at the right on this map.

The Hawk Eye

June 10, 1975

30-Day Extension Granted To Danville

A 30day extension has been obtained for the Danville town council to determine if it wants to apply for federal flood insurance, following a meeting of town and HUD officials Monday afternoon in Danville.

The extension moves the deadline for signing an application to join the program from July 1 to August 1, according to Mayor Jim Banard. Meeting with the mayor and several Danville councilmen were Ben Stevenson, a flood insurance director from the Kansas City HUD (Dept. of Housing and Urban Development) office; Bob Largent, representing Michael Baker Associates, an engineering firm for HUD out of Harrisburg, Pa.; Bob Asmus, an aide from Rep. Mezvinsky's office; and Des Moines county Soil Conservation Service director Ralph Dewey.

It was brought out at the meeting that about a half dozen structures were in the designated special flood hazard areas that HUD had recorded, and that the path of the special areas runs through the center of town to the north edge west of US 34. If the flood tag is made effective, those property owners affected will not be able to get federally insured loans (FHA, VA, FDIC) without buying flood insurance.

Mayor Banard, saying that Danville residents don't want the flood designation or the insurance, argued that the HUD map and information was not correct, since history proved that no floods have ever occurred at Danville. "Nobody has ever



Danville town officials and government representatives met Monday over flood hazard situation. Shown taking break outside Danville town hall are: (L. to R.) Dick Richards, Bob Asmu, from Rep. Mezvinsky's office, Mayor Jim Banard, Bob Largent, gov't engineer, Jack Inghram, and Ed Jensen.

brought their kids out to see the water in Danville, like they do in Burlington when the parking meters are covered in Memorial Auditorium parking lot," he added. Local insurance agent agreed the flood insurance was unnecessary there. "As far as I'm concerned, this program is a government rip-off", added Wilson. He stated that Danville has experienced two straight six-inch rains with no flooding resulted. But the HUD official based his figures on the "100-year rainfall", meaning a 7-inch rainfall in a 24 hour period.

Largent, of the Pennsylvania engineering firm, said the computations were made through formulas and figuring

runoff of rain in watershed areas of the town. Ralph Dewey answered a Banard question by saying the only other flood prone area of the county was Burlington, and all agreed it was necessary for that city. The mayor and councilman Gene Thornburg asked Stevenson if the "Die had already been cast" on Danville, and the reply was no, but the designation would hold until proven otherwise. "Don't the people have a say to make any difference?", Thornburg asked.

Banard stated the town's confusion over the matter, and summed it up by asking if "we are foolishly or wisely asking to be removed from the flood program?" That decision was still left with the council, who received no promise from Stevenson that the town would be dropped off the list. After the meeting, the group walked around the town, inspecting the creek in question. The size of it

seemed to "be a surprise to the officials", said the mayor. Several town officials were doing surveying work and preparing other input Tuesday to provide the federal government with facts to change the verdict.

The outcome is yet unknown, but may become apparent in the near future as an excellent effort to dissuade the visiting officials was made.



Ed Jensen (center) and Jack Inghram, Danville public works officials, are shown conferring with federal officials Bob Largent (left) and Ben Stevenson (back to camera) at Danville Monday.

Received Soil Conservation Honors

Danville farmer Donald Nelson and Pastor Roy Satre of Peace Lutheran Church at Prairie Grove were honored Wednesday by the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District.

In presenting certificates of appreciation to Nelson and Satre, district conservationist Ralph E. Dewey of Burlington pointed out the contributions these men had made to the start of the standard soil survey in Des Moines County. The first acre of soil mapping was recently completed on the Nelson farm following soil stewardship ceremonies at Peace Church.

District chairman William Vierling of Mediapolis emphasized the great value of public understanding of the soil survey program as it brings new knowledge to land users of the county. He reported that surveyors Mel Brown and Bonnie Clarks have completed surveying more than half of Washington township to date.

*Mediapolis News Era
June 5, 1975*

*Des Moines County
News.
June 12, 1975*

Woman begins SCS job here

By BOB SOGARD
Hawk Eye Farm Editor

Soil samples and fairway divots—
Debra Brus digs them both.

She is the first soil conservationist in Iowa bucking for a district conservationist position with the Soil Conservation service. Two or three others are a year or two behind her.

Brus, pronounced as in Bruce, is a trainee in the Des Moines county SCS office. She succeeds Lowrance (Larry) Hunt, 27, who has been in the office here for 11 months and who will take the soil conservationist post at the Louisa county SCS office in Wapello Aug. 3. Hunt will succeed Harry Bryant, who will become district conservationist of Iowa county in Williamsburg on July 21.

Bryant, another "graduate" of the Burlington office, was conservation technician here for five years and was named soil conservationist at Wapello



Larry Hunt

Debra Brus

in 1971. Later, he was named district conservationist there.

Hunt, who came here last August from Farmington, is a 1974 graduate of the University of Missouri, Columbia, where he majored in fishing and wildlife conservation. He and his wife, Judy, have a five-year-old son, Lance. The family will move from Middletown to Wapello when he can arrange housing.

The new appointee here is a May graduate of Iowa State university,

where she was awarded a BS degree in agronomy. "It seems like I've always wanted to be in agronomy, at least since we moved to a farm when I was 15," she said.

She's a native of Blue Grass, a Scott county community west of Davenport on US 61. Her parents, Ted and Bev Brus, live on their 20-acre farm just outside of Blue Grass. They have an older daughter, Dianne.

Debra was a student trainee in Clinton county last summer, working with a soil survey crew out of DeWitt. "It was hard work, especially slogging around mucky soil to take samples," she said.

Brus started in horticulture, because "there weren't that many women in agronomy," but then she decided to "jump in with both feet" and switched back to her first interest.

At Iowa State, she sang in the a capella choir, was active in Spanish club, but her main extra-curricular interest was golf. She played No. 3 position on the women's team. She also played on the golf team while

attending Davenport West high school.

When she was accepted by the SCS, she was scheduled for the Mason City office, then Sioux City and finally officialdom decreed Burlington for her first post. She lives in an old, brick apartment house at Fifth and Walnut.

"They said that (district conservationist) Ralph Dewey's a good trainer," Brus reported. "There's lots going on here, including the Resource Conservation and Development project and the Standard Soil Survey, and the land is varied. It's a beautiful part of the state."

Dewey will be acting district conservationist for Louisa county while Hunt is acting soil conservationist in the Wapello office.

She likes this part of the Mississippi Valley and hopes that when she gets an office of her own, it's in eastern Iowa.

Will this deeply tanned blonde be the first female district conservationist in the state? Don't bet against it. Fore! May I play through?

Cost-share soil-saving funds here

Cost-share funds for soil conservation practices have been released by the Des Moines county soil conservation district for use by farmers in the next six months. William Vierling of Mediapolis, chairman of the district, announced that \$7,000 has been made available by the State of Iowa to assist area farmers in erosion control.

Vierling listed the following conservation practices as eligible under this cost-sharing program:

Terracing, erosion control dams, diversions, grassed waterways, tree planting, critical area planting, field windbreaks and pasture and hayland planting.

To take part in this program, farmers must be cooperating with the soil conservation district. In using the funds, priorities will be based on how well the practice satisfies a conservation need and fulfills part of an overall farm conservation plan.

The sign-up period for this program starts immediately Vierling said. It will continue through Aug. 15. "We anticipate more than enough requests to utilize available funds," he added.

"Who will receive assistance will not be decided until after Aug. 15, so all requests will receive equal consideration. We hope to be granted additional funds later, but we must allocate this money first," Vierling said.

This allotment is for practices established before Dec. 31. At that time, unused funds will become available for redistribution.

Local farmers who have been anxious for this program are urged to apply as quickly as possible at the district office, Room 230 of the federal building here. No mail or telephone applications may be accepted.

The HawkEye, July 13, 1975



PRESIDENTIAL PLAN. William Vierling reads a plan for "beneficial utilization of dredged materials" to Corps of Engineers officials.

Dredging material plan told

By LLOYD MAFFITT

A triple play has been proposed to the Corps of Engineers by Des Moines County Soil Conservation district. According to Dist. Chairman William Vierling, the plan would (1) Provide a higher degree of erosion control along exposed levee sections; (2) Prevent current- and wave-action damage; and (3) Increase the natural wildlife production potential of the area. It is a plan for the "beneficial utilization of dredged material."

Vierling presented the plan to the Corps with the aid of a map showing where the conservation district proposal calls for fill.

"This proposal is being made to the newly organized Geode Wonderland Resource Conservation and Development Project, comprising Des Moines, Henry, Lee, and Louisa counties in Iowa. Des Moines, Lee, and Louisa all have levee districts where this approach is feasible," Vierling asserted.

The district chairman told the Corps, reading from the proposal:

"Several miles of the river, particularly immediately above locks and dams, the protective levee is constructed at the river's edge.

"Usually, these sites pose the erosion problem of a wider river, where adverse winds can pile up water to damaging heights, even though the flood level is not at those heights. Protection and maintenance of these sites is costly, since it usually involves rip-rap to a considerable degree.

"Other areas are somewhat protected from wave action by trees and shrubs growing on extended banks or offshore islands. . .

"Using dredged materials from the channel, the shoreline would be extended about 100 feet into the river from the toe of the levee (on the west side above Lock and Dam 18). The land would be raised to a height of approximately five feet above normal pool elevation, with a slope at two per cent to retain a three-foot bank 100 feet out.

"Basically, the fill would be sandy material. Some silt in the top layer is advisable to promote vegetable growth.

"Trees will be planted on the fill areas in a manner to protect the levee embankments during flood periods . . . Tree species of relatively low commercial value will be used to prevent their being 'harvested.'"

The HawkEye - July 19, 1975

The HawkEye July 27, 1975

Erosion Control Assistance

Cost-share funds for soil conservation practices have been released by the Des Moines County soil conservation district for use by farmers in the next six months. William Vierling of Mediapolis, chairman of the district, announced that seven thousand dollars has been made available by the State of Iowa to assist area farmers in erosion control.

Vierling listed the following conservation practices as eligible under this cost-sharing program:

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This allotment is for practices established before December 31, 1975. At that time, unused funds will become available for redistribution.

Local farmers who have been anxious for this program are urged to apply as quickly as possible at the district office, Room 230, Federal Building, Burlington, Iowa. No mail or telephone applications may be accepted. Deadline for application is August 15, 1975.

The Hawk Eye
August, 1975

Conservation breakfast set

The Des Moines county Resource Conservatoin and Development council and the Rural Development committee will meet 7:30 a.m. Wednesday at Holiday Inn to discuss the Iowa-Cedar conservancy district.

Representatives of the state soil conservation committee will be there to describe the district and the place of the county groups in the work of the district. The Iowa-Cedar is the largest of the six conservancy districts in Iowa and the first for which a plan has been developed under the pioneer approach of the conservation law.

The drainage area contains 7.6 million acres of land and approximately one-third of the people living in the state. "This conservancy district also contains some of Iowa's most serious drainage, flood, erosion and sanitary problems," commented Carroll Hobson, member of the state committee representing the district.

Ralph Dewey, secretary of the RD committee, said the breakfast meeting is important to understanding of the part members can play in implementing the law and protecting resources of this area.

Mediapolis New Era
July 31, 1975

Meeting With Ray And Department Heads

Michael V. Dunn, Executive Director of the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission will host a meeting with Governor Robert D. Ray and Department Heads of various state agencies. The meeting will be held Thursday, October 16 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Chapel Auditorium at Iowa Wesleyan College in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. The purpose of the meeting is to allow units of local government and concerned citizens the opportunity to express their views on the state's planning and delivery of services.

Topics of conversation will include: Local corporation and industrial development, community development, water, sewer and solid waste programs, environmental problems, transportation problems, social service planning, elderly programs, health programs, education programs, youth programs, agricultural outlook, RC&D program, and watershed program.

The local units of government and the general public are cordially invited by the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission to attend this meeting.

Anyone wishing to have direct input in the above subjects should contact Mr. Michael V. Dunn, Executive Director, Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission, P.O. Box 971, Keokuk, Iowa 52632. Phone: (319)-524-4711

Geode Wonderland Board Meeting

All county council members are urged to attend an RC & D board meeting on October 2, 1975, 8 p.m. at Room 211, Federal Building, Burlington, Iowa.

Program will include a presentation Woodland Needs and outlook in Southeast Iowa by District Forester Stanley Tate of Wapello.

Any person concerned with the growing, harvest or use of forest products is urged to attend. If you know of such persons—bring them along.

Mediapolis New Era
Oct 2, 1975

District Commissioners To Des Moines

Annual Soil District Commissioners Conference will be held in Des Moines on September 8, 9, and 10. District Commissioners from Des Moines County are Bill Vierling, Mediapolis; Ray Pilling, Mediapolis; Joe Beckman, Sperry; Dwight Stucker, New London; and Jack Jacobs, Burlington.

Principal speaker at the conference will be the new SCS administrator, Mel Davis, originally from the state of North Dakota. George Bagley, of St. Joseph, La., President of the National Association of Conservation Districts, will also be a key speaker.

Dorothy Davis, District clerk, also will attend the conference to receive training in cost-sharing and other new procedures.

Mediapolis New Era
Aug 28, 1975

Conservation Award

Two Burlington teachers were named regional winners in the Iowa Conservation Awards Contest recently. In the elementary division, Mrs. Beverly Lundy, fifth grade teacher at Corse; and Mrs. Betsy Pollock, science teacher at James Madison Middle School, in the secondary division, were winners.

They were named outstanding teachers in the Southeast Iowa region, covering 12 counties. Awards will be given this Friday and Saturday at Camp EWALU near Independence at an Iowa Conservation Education Workshop.

The teachers will also be honored later by the Des Moines Soil Conservation Service, who sponsored them in the contest.

Mediapolis New Era
Oct 9, 1975

Roundabouts Hawk Eyeland

Soil survey moving

Soil surveying was begun this week in Pleasant Grove township, according to Melvin Brown, survey party chief here.

Field work has been nearly completed in Washington township and the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant reservation, Brown reported. He has been working with Bennie Clarks, Jr., for the past six months, gathering soil data in Des Moines county and mapping the information.

Cost of the survey is expected to exceed \$175,000. The county will contribute \$31,500 and the remainder will be paid by state and federal agencies, including the Army in the case of the IAAP and the U.S. Soil Conservation service (SCS). When completed, in about four years, every acre of the county will have been mapped and recorded.

People in the Pleasant Grove area

will be seeing the soil mapping crew in SCS trucks this fall. Brown said that fall and springtime are about the only times to get a really good look at cropland soils.

Information from this survey will be used in many ways in land use planning and development in years to come. Ralph Dewey, district conservationist, said prospective land buyers already have come into the SCS office to inquire about preliminary survey results in Washington township, prior to farm auctions.

Among the information to be available when survey results are published is a corn suitability ratio, a standard that indicates how much grain can be grown on a given field. Also to be determined are soil characteristics such as permeability, load-bearing ability, etc.

Pleasant Grove Next Site For Soil Survey

Soil surveying will begin this week in Pleasant Grove Township according to Melvin Brown, survey party chief of Burlington. Field work has now been pretty well completed in Washington Township and the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant the soil specialist declared.

Brown and Bennie Clarks, Jr. of Burlington have been gathering soil data and mapping this information for the last six months in Des Moines County. The survey is co-sponsored and paid for mutually by Des Moines County, the State of Iowa and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS). When completed in about four years, every acre of the county will be mapped and recorded.

People in the Pleasant Grove area will be seeing the soil

mapping crew in official SCS trucks during the fall months as they proceed with the survey. Brown points out that fall and springtime are about the only times to get a really good look at cropland soils, while they are not covered with crops.

Information from this survey will be used in many ways in land use planning and development in years to come.

*Mediapolis New Era
October 9, 1975*

The HawkEye Oct 5, 1975

Assistant District Commissioners

Two new assistant district commissioners for Des Moines County Soil Conservation Service have been named to help handle the conservation education program.

Susan Baldwin, third grade teacher at Perkins, and Jo Rabe, first grade teacher at Black Hawk, were recently appointed by the district commissioner.

They recently attended an Iowa Conservation Education Council at Luther for 4-H'ers.

OK local teachers as conservationists

Burlington teachers Susan Baldwin and Jo Rabe have been confirmed as assistant district conservationists. Mrs. Baldwin teaches third grade at Perkins school; Mrs. Rabe is first grade teacher at Black Hawk.

They were named by the Des Moines county soil district commissioners and the appointments have been confirmed by the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation. The teachers are in charge of the district's conservation education programs, using the total environment as the classroom.

Part of their duties will involve republishing of an outdoor classroom and field guide for teachers in the county. This is a Resource Conservation and Development project measure headed by Olive Sullivan, Rt. 1. When the guide is published, other counties and school systems will have use of the materials.

Mrs. Baldwin and Mrs. Rabe were instructors last weekend at a two-day conservation education workshop at the state 4-H camping center near Luther. They presented a session on environmental art and literature, representing the Burlington Community school district and the soil district.

*The HawkEye
Oct 26, 1975*

The Soil Conservation Society of America, Iowa chapter, awarded a plaque to CLETUS PAULL, farm director of radio station KBUR, for excellence in reporting soil and water conservation news in the broadcast medium, at the annual meeting held at Ames last week-end.



The honor is given each year to only one person in the state; it was Cletus Paull presented by Howard Hughes of Des Moines, assistant state conservationist and past president of the Iowa chapter. Ralph Dewey, district conservationist here, represented the area at the meeting.

*The HawkEye
Oct 15, 1975*

Paull Receives Conservation Award

Cletus Paull, Farm Director of Radio KBUR, Burlington, Iowa, was awarded a plaque for excellence in reporting soil and water conservation news in the broadcast medium, at the annual meeting of the Soil Conservation Society of America, Iowa Chapter, in Ames, Friday, October 17.

This honor, given each year to only one person in the state was presented to Paull by Assistant State Conservationist Howard Hughes of Des Moines, past president of the Iowa Chapter. Hughes described the

many ways Paull and his radio station had supported the soil and water conservation effort in southeast Iowa with publicity and cooperation.

District Conservationist Ralph E. Dewey of Burlington, a member of the Iowa Chapter represented the area at the Friday meeting.

*Mediapolis New Era
October 23, 1975*

*Mediapolis New Era
Oct 9, 1975*

Ecology teachers cited

By BOB SOGARD
Hawk Eye Farm Editor

Farmers who call themselves stewards of the soil and friends of nature have some allies in the schools, thanks to a recent phenomenon — the conservation teacher.

Everyone who ever pasted fall foliage in a scrapbook or collected butterflies as a class project recalls teachers who fostered appreciation of nature. The new breed also promotes understanding of nature, preservation of our resources and man's role in his environment.

Burlington, West Burlington and Middletown schools have been leaders in this movement for the past five years. Pioneers were Sheman Lundy, Burlington high school science teacher and long-time counselor to the BHS Ecology club, and Ruth Mertens, third grade teacher at Middletown. They were cited as southeast Iowa's outstanding secondary and elementary school conservation teachers in 1971.

Attend workshops

A whole new "generation" of conservation teachers graduated from a three-week Iowa Teachers Conservation camp held here in the summer of 1973. These included Susan Baldwin, third grade teacher at Corse school, who was named Iowa Conservation Teacher of the Year in 1974, and Mark Volkman, West Burlington high school science teacher, like Baldwin, a regional winner last year.

The outdoor classroom also was attended by Beverly Lundy, Sherm's wife and second grade teacher at Corse school, and Elizabeth M. (Betsy) Pollock, James Madison Middle school social studies teacher.

They are the 12-county regional winners this year in the annual competition co-sponsored by the Iowa Dept. of Soil Conservation, Soil Conservation Service and the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation.

They attended an Iowa Conservation Education workshop at Camp EWALU near Strawberry Point last weekend and received their awards.

What induces young women with children to teach all day, to take on extracurricular activities such as Saturday in the park experiences? Why do they take time off for trips to EWALU or universities to qualify for even greater responsibilities?

'Important' work

Pollock said, "It's a lot of extra

work, but I'm interested in conservation and feel it's important. There's an ideal setting here (at James Madison next to Dankwardt park) and it seems logical to make the best use of it. And I like to be outside."

The winning elementary teacher, Lundy added, "I enjoy environmental education." Both have been active in cleanup campaigns and recycling efforts. Betsy promoted an aluminum can recycling project and Bev was credited by her principal as being instrumental in starting the Corse school paper recycling project.

The aluminum sales by the James Madison students brought in about \$100 last year and Betsy said they hope to double it this year to help develop the outdoor classroom in the wooded area behind the middle school.

Work on the trails and wooded classroom has been done by Pollock, science teacher Don Dunn and their student volunteers, with the help of a state teacher incentive award that she won. The award brought a \$1,500 grant last spring.

Her environmental studies class also plans to help develop a natural amphitheater back in the woods.

Pollock credited Dunn with getting her involved in environmental education. "He attended an 8-week workshop at the University of Iowa and talked me into going too," she said. Both Bev and Betsy also were at EWALU last year for training, as were Baldwin and Joan Rabe. The latter two assisted in a workshop this weekend at the state 4-H camp near Luther, held for teachers in central Iowa.

Graduate studies

Lundy is a graduate of Central Missouri State university at Warrensburg, Mo. She is doing graduate work for a master's degree in environmental studies. She taught in summer children's camp for Project Assist 1974 and helped develop and staff a fifth grade overnight experience. She also gave a speech and demonstration at the sectional meeting of the Iowa Council of International Reading Assn. in Ottumwa in November of 1974.

Corse has limited space, but Bev is helping to plan and develop an outdoor classroom near the school and has taken her classes to Perkins park on study tours.

"I have integrated conservation teaching in many subject areas," she said. "We utilize local resource people whenever possible." Ralph Dewey, district conservationist; Keith Summerson, BHS science teacher; Randy Dodds' pet shop owner; Don Simonson, Iowa conservation officer



ON THE TRAIL in the James Madison outdoor classroom are Bev Lundy, left, and Betsy Pollock, southeast Iowa regional winners in Conservation Teachers of the Year competition.

and others including her husband have helped.

Bev has helped coordinate the BHS Ecology club activities such as Earth Day, Walkathon, Community Cleanup, etc.

She and her husband have two children, Paul, 14, and Carolyn, 7. They live on Summer Street road.

Iowa graduate

Betsy is a University of Iowa graduate in social studies education. She teaches seventh and eighth grade social studies classes, and also is working on a master's degree in environmental studies.

She has attended workshops at U-I and the National Council for Social Studies at San Francisco, in 1973.

Betsy said she integrates conservation instruction with her classes and also teaches a separate unit, an elective called Environmental Studies, for eighth graders. The latter concerns conservation of natural resources. Activities, movies, filmstrips and actual experiences with the outdoors are utilized to make the students aware of the environment. "Hopefully, too, they will foster an appreciation and understanding of the world around them," she said.

She lives at 22 Mid Town Lane with her two sons, Steve, 12, and Mike, 8.

Teachers from Burlington continue to dominate regional conservation education awards. Credentials of Bev and Betsy are outstanding examples of why this is true.

The Hawk Eye
October 12, 1975

Four honored at soil conservation banquet

Two farmers and two teachers were honored at the Des Moines County Soil Conservation awards banquet Thursday evening at Shinar Cumberland Presbyterian church, Pleasant Grove.

They are Alan Parrott, who farms near Danville; Rex Trout, who farms just south of Burlington; Beverly Lundy, who teaches second grade at Corse school, and Betsy Pollock, social studies instructor at James Madison middle school.

William Vierling, conservation district chairman, introduced farmers

who have started longtime conservation programs: Clyde Scherer, Burlington; Joseph Beckman, Sperry; and Eric Massner and Kenneth Wehage, both of Mediapolis.

Soil conservationist Ralph Dewey showed slides, with commentary by Jack Jacobs of Burlington, showing the encroachment of "urban sprawl" on farm land in the Burlington-West Burlington area.

Dr. Roy W. Overton, Des Moines, state director of the Izaak Walton League, discussed its SOS (Save Our Stream) and HUNT (Habitat Urgently Needed Today) programs.

Overton said the 2,000-member Des Moines chapter is the largest in the nation. He said he joined the league because "I wanted an avocation to get away from medicine and a hobby that would be good for the community."

The league's purpose, Overton stated, is the conservation of "soil, water, woods, and wildlife," and he said it works closely with "our No. 1 competitor, the Sierra Club, to achieve those ends."

Overton told how the Des Moines chapter worked to save Des Moines' Beaver creek and explained how any

interested group can save a stream by cleaning it up, working in conjunction with soil conservation and environmental experts.

The physician prescribed better conservation practices for his farmer-audience. "There is no place in Iowa in which it is safe to drink surface water," he warned, in part because of farm pollution from soil erosion and farm chemicals.

"The Izaak Walton League is not against chemicals but it is against the improper, inappropriate use of chemicals," he declared.

The HawkEye November 14, 1975

USDA Announces 1976 Conservation Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced an \$85 million 1976 Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) designed to encourage the application of enduring soil and water conservation practices on the nation's farms. The objective is to obtain needed conservation on farmlands beyond that which the farmer would accomplish with his own resources.

The 1976 program will be administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service through its farmer-elected committee system and will offer both annual and long-term conservation agreements with farmers. It will share with farmers from 50 to 75 percent of the cost of carrying out approved soil, water and woodland conservation practices. Under long-term agreements, cost-sharing will be scheduled over a period of from 3 to 10 years. The agreements will be based on conservation farm plans approved by local soil conservation districts.

As was the case for the 1975 ACP, authority to develop practices needed to solve conservation problems is delegated to each of USDA's farmer-elected county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) committees. All approved practices in effect under the 1970 national ACP are eligible.

In carrying out the 1976 program, state and county ASC committees are responsible for identifying the critical farm conservation problems in their respective areas and developing and approving practices for cost-sharing on a priority basis.

The Soil Conservation Service will provide planning and technical assistance. Contracts involving woodlands also will get technical aid from the Forest Service. The Extension Service will assist with educational support. These three agencies provide program development and policy overview assistance through county, state and national program development groups.

Local soil conservation districts also provide support through assistance with long-term agreements and program development.

Program details will be available from county ASC offices.

Land Use Planning Discussed By Council

At Tuesday night's meeting of the Des Moines County RC&D Council and the Area 16 Soil Conservation District Board, the major topic of discussion was the future of land use planning and policy in the four-county area.

Legislators Clay Spears, state representative from the 85th district, and Arnold Lindeen, representative from the 83rd district, attended the meeting along with various guests.

Olive Sullivan, chairman of the RC&D Council, emceed the after

dinner agenda. She opened discussion by stating siltation has been bad in southeast Iowa, and we face a danger of having "less than productive soil".

Bill Vierling, Des Moines County district commissioner, gave a slide presentation depicting urban sprawl in the Burlington-West Burlington area, showing a need for land use planning.

Mike Dunn, Regional Planning Director, updated the audience on changes which have recently been made in the bill on land use planning, House File 505.

Jim Hawkins, district commissioner from Lee County, spoke on land use policy and soil districts. He pointed out the largest single pollutant is sediment. He said we need to "instill land ethic with our citizens, equipping the individual with the capacity to define right from wrong". Hawkins said we must "develop a land conscience", stating a strong need for state land use policy. He feels the bill passed by the House on land use planning is "a positive bill".

Mel Brown, soil scientist, involved in the current Des Moines County soil survey gave an update on the progress of the survey, of which about one-fourth is complete.

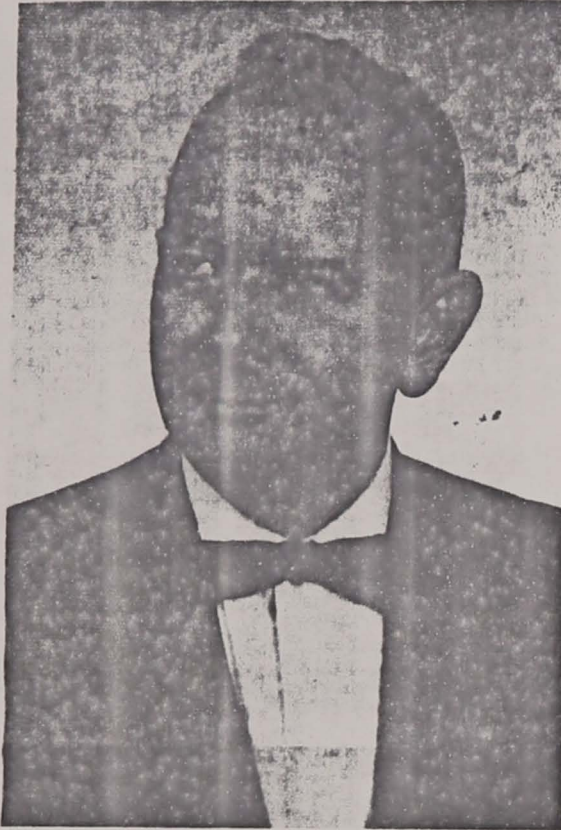
From the environmental conservation education department of the Department of Public Instruction, Duane Toomsen spoke on the education of students and citizens. He feels Iowa is one of the leaders in environmental education. SCATE (Students Concerned About The Environment) was mentioned as a group through which students can find problems with the environment, and interacting through the democratic process, have their resolutions heard. Toomsen said our survival depends on how well we provide and plan environmental education for our citizens.

*Mediapolis New Era
December 4, 1975*

*Mediapolis New Era
December 18, 1975*

the des moines county
dmc new

west burlington, iowa 52655 Vol. 20, Number 22. Thursday, May 30, 1974



RALPH DEWEY

"Friend of Education"

chosen by WBEA

Ralph Dewey, West Burlington, was chosen "Friend of Education" by the West Burlington Education Association. Mr. Dewey has helped the Girl Scouts set up nature trails for Girl scout Camp and has worked on many other various committees to aid teachers and

At West Burlington high

Teachers, board on settlement

At a West Burlington Arnold High School board meeting last Thursday night an agreement was reached between the board members and teachers. Negotiations have been going on for approximately five weeks.

Two major issues were teacher's base salary and the length of teacher's school day. School board members proposed \$7850 and the WBEA (West Burlington Education Association) asked for \$8100 for teacher's base salary. The board accepted a final proposal from the WBEA of \$7900. This is approximately a 12.8 percent increase in salary from a \$7150 base this year. Reduction in staff makes this increase possible with two elementary teachers resigning and one contract not being renewed. Mrs. Robert Bohm, principal of the Middle School will take over

additional duties of Harold Robb, principal of the elementary school. Robb's contract was not renewed for the 1974-75 school year.

An extra 30 minutes was added to the teacher's work day at the high school and an extra 15 minutes were added to middle and elementary school teacher's day. Board members offered hours for teachers in all schools from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Settlement was agreed at 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for high school teachers and 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. for teachers in middle and elementary schools. Fifteen minutes difference was allotted for middle and elementary teachers for duty lunch hours. These teachers have on the average duty lunch hours every three to eight days according to Superintendent James Huelskamp.

Farm News, Feb 1976

*Des Moines Co. News.
February 1976*

Geode Wonderland Funded By USDA

Geode Wonderland is alive and well. At the end of 1975, USDA Secretary Earl Butz announced the approval of funding to establish Geode Wonderland Resource Conservation and Development Project in the four southeast Iowa counties in Area XVI.

This action makes way for the Soil Conservation Service to appoint a project coordinator and set up the necessary office. For the present, the acting coordinator

will be Eldon Weber, SCS Area Conservationist at Fairfield. Efforts are being made to secure joint housing with Area XVI Regional Planning Commission, since both are area planning agencies with complementary programs. Each soil district office has available a slide set program describing Geode Wonderland. It makes a good program of interest to most groups.

Area RC&D Project Approved By USDA

Geode Wonderland is approved and ready to go to work for people of southeast Iowa, according to announcement Monday by First District Congressman Ed Mezvinsky.

Geode Wonderland is the name of a new Resource Conservation and Development project covering Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa Counties. United States Department of Agriculture has been considering the application for assistance under this program which was developed by people of the region a year ago. Project chairman, James Hawkins of Argyle, pointed out that over 70 such applications had been received by USDA for projects across the country.

"The people of Southeast Iowa Area 16 have received a most valuable Christmas present," Hawkins stated. "The RC&D project opens the door to federal technical and financial assistance for many pending projects that local governments have been unable to accomplish."

During the past year of waiting, promoters of the project have been accepting project measure proposals in order to be ready for action when the project became approved. Among these are erosion control measures protecting public facilities, roadside and streambank erosion control and public recreation developments.

"Officials of Geode Wonderland will be meeting early in January to lay plans for progress in 1976," Hawkins added. "U.S. Soil Conservation Service officials will be guiding our activities as we get underway."

Representing Des Moines County RC&D Council are Chairwoman Olive Sullivan, county supervisor Merle Kelly, Sherman Smith and Milton Distelhorst of Burlington; James Settles, county conservation board of Sperry; and soil conservation district commissioner Ray Pilling from Mediapolis.

Geode Wonderland off

Geode Wonderland RC&D is off to a running start, state officials of the U.S. Soil Conservation service said here Thursday and they credited members of the sponsoring groups with speeding up the normal course of events.

The first push toward formation of the four-county organization was made here Jan. 15, 1974, in a meeting of state, regional and county officials. Farm and urban private citizens were added to a steering committee and on Oct. 14 Gov. Robert Ray approved the application. Just 14 months later, Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz approved the RC&D unit for federal funds.

Rollin Swank, asst. state conservationist in charge of RC&D projects, said there were 60 applications on file and Geode Wonderland's was one of the 10 selected. "That just didn't happen. You were organized and working," he stated.

Members from Henry, Lee, Louisa and Des Moines county met at Holiday Inn Thursday. They heard Eldon Weber, area conservationist, make the official announcement that district conservationist Ralnh Dewey

Resource Conservation and Development project.

"Ralph was selected by a nationwide panel and at least part of the decision on his appointment was because of his work to date and his familiarity with this area," Weber said.

The coordinator, Weber said, must be an innovator, expeditor, communicator, motivator, serve as an SCS staff man, understand sponsors' objectives and help coordinate all activities. "It helps if he can walk on water, too," he quipped. Dewey's appointment is effective Feb. 29.

William Brune, state conservationist, decreed that Dewey's office will be in the Burlington area. Weber said the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning commission offices, now in Keokuk, may be moved. "They would like to be at least conveniently located with the RC&D office," Weber added.

By April, the Geode Wonderland council should have completed a plan design, a guide for the planning process. Implementing the design normally would take another 18 months and after that an ongoing maintenance project plan is to be in

to running start

Chuck Cobb, head of SCS state project planning, said it's up to the council to set priority on projects. He said these should be the most sound projects with the greatest need because they will compete for limited funds with other projects. Much of Dewey's work will be finding sources of funds as well as meshing two required plans for each project. These are the economic plan — setting out costs and benefits — and the environmental quality plan.

Cobb and other officials viewed Langwood 4-H camp near Grandview and Franklin Township Lake site

Wednesday. He said the \$8,400 lake plan for the 4-H camp, for which \$4,200 in RC&D funds are sought, is desirable but fails to qualify on several points. It is to be five acres in size while 50 acres is supposed to be the minimum. Water will back onto two adjoining farms and these areas would have to be purchased. Public access is another problem, he said.

The HawkEye
January 1976

Mediapolis New Era
December 25, 1975

Geode Wonderland Gets Underway

Geode Wonderland RC&D was approved for operations by the Secretary of Agriculture in late December. "We are now poised at the start of what can be one of the finest projects to help the citizens of Southeast Iowa Area XVI," said James R. Hawkins, RC&D Chairman.

Thursday, February 5, 1976, is a most important meeting for the leaders of this project. Starting at 10 a.m., at the Holiday Inn in Burlington, representatives of the state office of Soil Conservation Service will help in understanding new techniques in resource development. The meeting will conclude about 3 p.m.

Charles R. Cobb, staff leader of the Planning and River Basin Staff, and Rollin Swank, assistant State Conservationist, will attend the meeting. They will be helping the executive board get their projects off to a good start, looking mainly at project measures for the near future.

This is a highly important meeting - members are urged to attend.

They are now authorized to locate office space in the Burlington area, and the state conservationist is in the process of appointing a project coordinator. An announcement of this position will be made at the February 5 meeting, and Geode Wonderland will be underway.

Project activity will be starting immediately. The waiting is over.

Mediapolis New Era
February 5, 1976.



Ralph Dewey, Des Moines County Soil Conservationist, is explaining the use of the Dumpy Level in surveying soil for conservation practices. The demonstration was given in conjunction with the agriculture program at Southeast Community College. Left to right are Rick Link, Richard Hensley, Steve Smith, Dan Fullenkamp, Bob Linnenbrink, Dennis Dailey, Dan Kelly, Ralph Dewey, Joe Adair, Jerry Allen and Keith Rakes.

Cletus Paull Is Honored

Cletus Paull, Farm Director of Radio KBUR, Burlington, Iowa, was awarded a plaque for excellence in reporting soil and water conservation news in the broadcast medium, at the annual meeting of the Soil Conservation Society of America, Iowa Chapter, in Ames Friday.

This honor, given each year to only one person in the state was presented to Paull by Assistant State Conservationist Howard

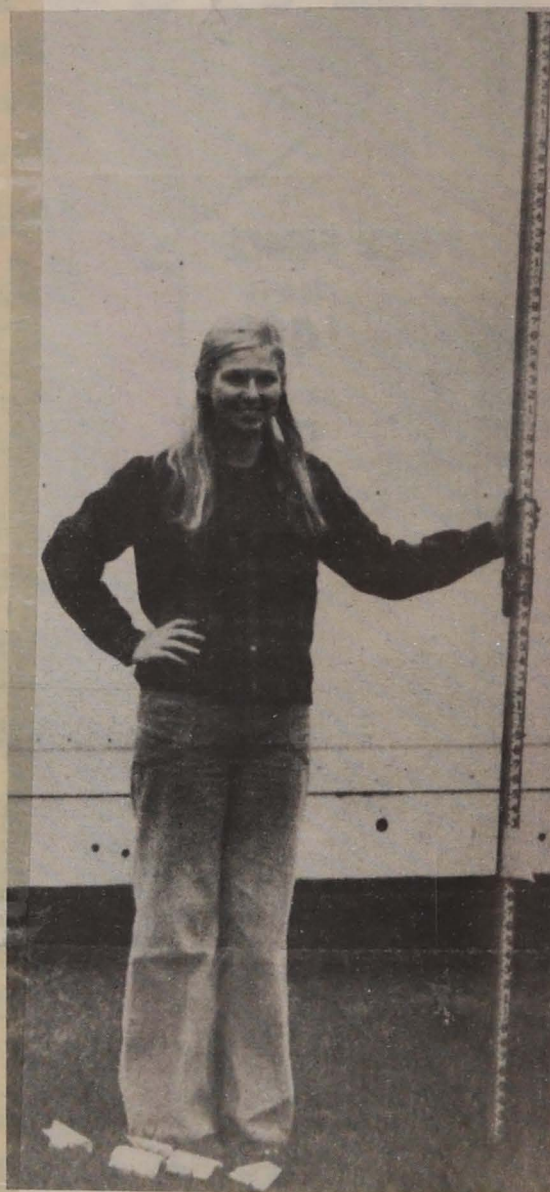
Hughes of Des Moines, past president of the Iowa Chapter. Hughes described the many ways Paull and his radio station had supported the soil and water conservation effort in southeast Iowa with publicity and cooperation.

District Conservationist Ralph E. Dewey of Burlington, a member of the Iowa Chapter represented the area at the Friday meeting.

*Des Moines County News,
Oct. 23, 1975*

Soil Conservationist Visits SCC

BY ARLYN MUSSELMAN



Deb Brus from Blue Grass, Iowa, is currently working with Ralph Dewey as a soil conservationist for Des Moines County Iowa. Deb graduated from Iowa State University in May, 1975.

Farm News, Oct. 1975

Awards Given At Soil Conservation Banquet

Four awards were given at last Thursday evening's Des Moines County Soil Conservation awards banquet at the Shinar Cumberland Presbyterian church, Pleasant Grove.

Two teachers, Beverly Lundy, who teaches second grade at Corse school, and Betsy Pollock, social studies instructor at James Madison middle school, received honors. The two farmers receiving awards were Alan Parrott, Danville, and Rex Troute, Burlington.

William Vieling, conservation district chairman, introduced farmers who have started longtime conservation programs: Clyde Scherer, Burlington; Joseph Beckman, Sperry; and Eric Massner and Kenneth Wehage, both of Mediapolis.

Soil conservationist Ralph Dewey showed slides, with commentary by Jack Jacobs of Burlington, showing the encroachment of "urban sprawl" on farm land in the Burlington-West Burlington area.

Dr. Roy W. Overton, Des Moines, state director of the Izaak Walton League, discussed its SPS (Save Our Streams) and HUNT (Habitat Urgently Needed Today) programs.

Overton told how the Des Moines chapter worked to save Des Moines' Beaver creek and explained how any interested

group can save a stream by cleaning it up, working in conjunction with soil conservation and environmental experts.

Mediapolis News Eye
Nov. 20, 1975

Preserving a slice of natural history

By BOB HANSEN
Hawk Eye Outdoor Writer

At the start of the 19th century, the prairie regions of North America presented a vastly different picture than today's highly organized, functional plots of land.

There were waves of seemingly endless grasslands which rolled to the horizon — a vast expanse of billowing grass which created a sense of spaciousness and freedom.

The great prairies were the largest natural environment in North America and the earliest Americans found them to be a great storehouse of natural resources.

However, the homesteaders were interested in the natural wealth that lay beneath the prairie. They attacked the grassland with plows to feed a growing nation. What it had taken Nature 25 million years to create, man destroyed in 100 years.

But small plots of native prairie still cling to the edges of the cultivated land. Through the gentle prodding of Des Moines county soil conservation officer Ralph Dewey, an effort is being mounted to preserve locally a small slice of our natural history.

Dewey has noted a few small areas of prairie grass throughout the county and has launched a study on the feasibility of the soil conservation district and the Des Moines county conservation board setting aside one of these areas for nature studies.

One site which is being considered is about two acres nestled in the rough ground near Highway 99 north of Burlington.

Geode Wonderland RC&D gets approval

Iowa First Dist. Rep. Ed Mezvinsky announced Monday that the Geode Wonderland area of Iowa has been selected for federal Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) assistance.

Under the sponsorship of the Dept. of Agriculture, RC&D projects are local initiatives in which citizens work to enhance natural resources. With RC&D assistance, Geode Wonderland area citizens in Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa counties will work to develop water resources; reduce sediment, pollution and flooding problems; maximize agricultural productivity; and develop small watersheds.

The program is expected to reduce crop losses; enhance the quality of recreation areas; attract tourism and new industries, and generate

employment opportunities.

Local sponsors are the county Soil Conservation districts, county boards of supervisors and the regional planning commission.

Geode Wonderland is the fourth project to be approved in Iowa. Application was made in October of 1974. Others are: Upper Exploriland, in northeast part of the state; Southern and Chariton Valley.

An application is pending from Pathfinder, an area consisting of Jefferson, Keokuk, Van Buren, Davis, Mahaska and Wapello counties.

James R. Hawkins, Argyle, chairman of Geode Wonderland, said RC&D executive officers and county councils will meet at noon Jan. 12 at Burlington's Holiday Inn to plan for a Feb. 5 education meeting and to lay out work for the coming year. At this time, further details are expected to be available on the RC&D project.

Ralph Dewey, district conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), said funds are to be available immediately after federal approval.

"We in Des Moines county have a number of projects in mind," said Dewey. "One is a series of erosion control dams to protect the proposed Dodgeville Lake site. Also, Lee county has some roadside improvements and stream erosion control work in mind, as well as a lake which might provide drinking water and recreation for Salem, Hillsboro and Houghton communities. There's a new 4-H camp near Grandview that needs an erosion control dam that could also make a large pond or small lake."

The SCS will name a coordinator for the organization.

The Hawk Eye
Dec. 22, 1975

"This ground is unique because it is not typical prairie soil, but rather woodland soil," Dewey explained. "The land was cleared perhaps 100 years ago but I don't believe it was ever farmed. The native grasses simply moved in and took over."

The grasses that now stand six feet high in the area are principally the big blue stem (also known as turkeyfoot because of the shape of its seed head), yellow Indian grass and switch grass. These grasses are different from the highly adapted hybrids now planted in pasture land.

"The tall prairie grasses are not as productive as our present day hybrids," Dewey said. "For one thing, prairie grass is a warm season grass. Our pasture grasses are cool season varieties."

"Cool grasses become dormant during July and August. Prairie grass grew best when the soil temperature was above 90 degrees."

Dewey is concerned that one plot he is looking at may eventually be lost to the incursion of brush and trees if the land is not maintained.

"Prairie fire was once nature's way of clearing the ground for the grass because it destroyed the growth that would crowd it out," Dewey said. "But now there is no burnoff. This portion of grassland is slowly disappearing and will be lost forever."

The inclusion of the prairie plot into the county park system which the conservation board maintains would be a logical extension of Hunt's Woods and Luckenbill Woods, previously set aside for nature study groups.

Dean-Ross to 3-0

The Hawk Eye, Dec. 16, 1975

A pitch for land use policy

By BOB SOGARD
Hawk Eye Farm Editor

The "keynoter" at the legislative dinner put on here Tuesday night by the Geode Wonderland RC&D was Jim Hawkins, Argyle farmer, who conceded that Americans tend to bristle at the words "Compliance, control and regulation."

Hawkins made an impassioned plea for adoption of a state land use policy.

"Those who oppose any form of planning the wise use of land stand with feet firmly planted on 'my rights.' But aren't we being a bit naive in this confrontation with nature? Do we fail to realize, or don't we wish to accept, the fact that our destiny is at this very moment under the regulation and control of relentless, irresistible, merciless forces triggered by the time clock of nature and its' delicately balanced ecological systems?" he asked.

Hawkins and other proponents of land conservation through education and controls were mostly preaching to the converted. Only two of the 10 legislators with constituents in Area 16 took part in the meeting at Holiday Inn. They were Rep. Clay Spear, D-Burlington, 85th district, and Rep. Arnold Lindpen, R-Swedesburg, 83rd district.

"I guess it indicates how important agriculture is to our legislators," commented Ralph Dewey, district conservationist.

Olive Sullivan, chairperson of the Des Moines county Resource Conservation and Development council, opened the meeting with the comment that southeast Iowa was fortunate in some respects last year when this section of the state escaped the worst of the heavy rains. "Central Iowa had soil losses as high as two bushels of soil for every bushel of corn grown," Mrs. Sullivan observed.

"We have a tendency to ignore problems such as soil loss . . . Land use policy is maligned and misunderstood at times. The public so often is apathetic and the vocal minorities with selfish motives are the loudest," she added. "You (legislators) represent 2.7 million Iowa residents, but you also are caretakers of 63,000 square miles of land."

William Vierling, Mediapolis Rt. 2, district commissioner, showed slides and graphs to illustrate area land use problems. "The 118,000 people living on 1,774 square miles of land (in Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa counties) are trying through regional planning organizations to balance the development of the land to the requirements and desires of its citizens," he stated.

Much of the industry of the area is agriculturally oriented, ranging from grain and livestock processing to timber utilization and recreation. Some of the best grain producing land in the world lies within the area, while we also can claim some of the state's poorest.

"Our major agricultural problems in land use seem to lie in sediment caused by farming practices, encroachment of urban uses into prime farmland, and need for land use conversion to uses better suited to land capabilities," he added.

Federal and state cost sharing of erosion control practices installed by farmers has "been used in a most meaningful manner and is truly an investment rather than an expense," Vierling said.

He showed a series of aerial photos, starting with 1941, that illustrated the urban sprawl between Burlington and West Burlington, and the resulting loss of farmland.

Mike Dunn, regional planning director, commented that planning efforts and governmental services to the public often are stymied by other bureaucracies, governments, districts and agencies.

"We propose a better arrangement—a single, one-stop government shopping center. As a start, once RC&D is approved and funded, we hope to have the planning commission and the RC&D offices together," he said.

Dunn reported on the status of land use legislation. House File 505 has passed the House but not the Senate. It provides for a state land use commission which may recommend guidelines and policies to the legislature to be established.

The recommendations would be formulated after hearings by the 99 county land use commissions. Amendments pending would:

1. Clarify that elected local officials may serve on the state commission, but not state or federal counterparts.
2. Provide for mini-conventions at the county level to determine wishes of local people.
3. Designate criteria for critical areas.
4. Limit to 5 per cent the land to be designated as "critical areas."
5. Clarify that the state commission recommends to the legislature, rather than writing its own rules and policies.

Adrian Brinck, Lee county supervisor and former legislator, asked why zoning commissions in each county couldn't do the work, rather than establish another commission. Dunn said this is a good point, but the legislators apparently feel otherwise.

Brinck, saying he was "playing the devil's advocate," claimed that land use planning involves zoning and cited Black Hawk county, where someone moving out of the city would need 35 acres for a home site. Hawkins noted that this is only on Class 1 and 2 land.

Brinck also observed that a Muscatine farmer was denied the opportunity to reap a "bonanza" when the zoning commission refused to let the place be operated as a quarry. "If government is going to remove profit opportunities to landowners, it should pay the landowner," he stated.

Melvin Brown, soil scientist with the Soil Conservation Service, reported on the standard soil survey he heads in Des Moines county.

He and Bennie Clarks have mapped the soils of the IAAP, Washington township and two-thirds of Pleasant Grove township. They will be starting on the North Bottoms next year. The project is to be completed in 1978. Lee county has completed its survey. Henry is to start next year and Louisa county in 1978 or '79.

Dewey commented that these surveys is one place where three levels of government are cooperating effectively and sharing about equally in the costs.

Duane Toomsen, environmental education consultant with the Department of Public Instruction, observed, "We have an opportunity in this state to avoid the fate of Babylon, the Sahara regions, even Illinois with the urban sprawl of Chicago, India and other nations that have lost or are losing the opportunity to save their resources."

He stated that environmental education isn't totally protectionist—it's also responsible resource management. He paid tribute to the late Aldo Leopold, a native of Burlington, as one of the foremost environmental educators.

Toomsen also noted that Burlington high school is represented in a new federally funded program called SCATE—Students Concerned About Today's Environment. The BHS group is studying air quality and the Freon hazard to the earth's ozone layer.

About 3,000 Iowa teachers have been reached with some kind of environmental training and Toomsen said this is about 10 per cent while it should be in the 65-75 per cent range if students are to be made fully aware of environmental needs and concerns.

Dewey said his office will summarize the meeting comments for the legislators who didn't attend.

The Hawk Eye
Dec 3, 1975

Geode Wonderland Underway

Geode Wonderland is approved and ready to go to work for people of southeast Iowa, according to announcement Monday by First District Congressman Ed Mezvinsky.

Geode Wonderland is the name of a new Resource Conservation and Development

project covering Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa Counties. United States Department of Agriculture has been considering the application for assistance under this program which was developed by people of the region a year ago. Project chairman, James Hawkins of Argyle pointed out that over 70 applications had been received by USDA for projects across the country.

"The people of Southeast Iowa Area 16 have received a most valuable Christmas present," Hawkins stated. "The RC&D project opens the door to federal technical and financial assistance for many pending projects that local governments have been unable to accomplish."

During the past year of waiting, promoters of the project have been accepting project measure proposals in order to be ready for action when the project became approved. Among these are erosion control measures protecting public facilities, roadside and steambank erosion control and public recreation developments.

"Officials of Geode Wonderland will be meeting early in January to lay plans for progress in 1976," Hawkins added. "U.S. Soil Conservation Service officials will be guiding our activities as we get underway."

Representing Des Moines County RC&D are Chairwoman Olive Sullivan, county supervisor Merle Kelly, Sherman Smith and Milton Distelhorst of Burlington; James Settles, county conservation board of Sperry; and soil conservation district commissioner Ray Pilling from Mediapolis.

Des Moines County News
Jan. 1, 1976

Banner Year Expected For Conservation Construction

Soil conservation practice help for Iowa farmers got a big boost this week with announcement of state and federal cost-sharing programs for this bicentennial year.

"Nearly ten million dollars will be available to help land-users apply erosion control practices in 1976," Leon Foderberg, of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation announced at Iowa City, Thursday. A gathering of soil conservation district personnel in seventeen southeast Iowa counties met with state conservation specialists to gear up for what appears to be another banner year for construction work.

Area Conservationist, Eldon

Weber, of Fairfield complimented the local conservationists for the success of the heaviest workload in district history. "Most of our districts have exceeded their annual goals for terracing and erosion control dams in the first six months of our fiscal year," Weber claims. "And it looks like next year can be just as busy."

Foderberg pointed to the fact that the full Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) of USDA has been released by Congress with Iowa receiving 6.2 million for 1976. "A part of this allocation will be side-tracked to handle new Long Term Agreements (LTA's)," the conservationist confirmed.

LTA's are contracts with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) and local farmers, assuring a fifty percent costshare for constructing conservation works over a period of three to ten years. An additional three million will be available through state cost-share programs.

"It appears that more contractors may be available for building terraces and structures," Foderberg continued. "Curtailling of highway construction will likely bring some roadbuilding people into the conservation construction field."

Des Moines County farmers have continued to keep pace with the area in building tile outlet terraces. "Our annual goals should be more than doubled with a reasonable spring construction season," district conservation Ralph E. Dewey of Burlington comments. "We should end the fiscal year in June exceeding 100,000 feet of terrace and controlling over 2000 acres of erosive soil in the county."

Conservation officials of Des Moines County will be meeting January 22, to set local priorities for federal cost-share funds.

Attending the Iowa City meeting from Des Moines County were Dewey, soil conservationist Debra Brus, and district clerk Dorothy Davis.

The Mediapolis New Era
Jan. 22, 1976

The HAWK EYE Sunday, January 18, 1976 Page 25

Iowa gets \$10 million for erosion control

Soil conservation practices for Iowa farmers were given a boost last week with the announcement that nearly \$10 million in state and federal cost-sharing erosion control programs will be available for this year.

Soil conservation district personnel from 17 southeast Iowa counties met at Iowa City Thursday with state conservation specialists to plan for a large construction program.

Eldon Weber, area conservationist from Fairfield, complimented county workers for the success of the heaviest workload in district history. "Most of our districts have exceeded their annual goals for terracing and erosion control dams in the first six months of our fiscal year," Weber said, "and it looks like next year can be just as busy."

Leon Foderberg of the Iowa department of soil conservation said Congress has released \$6.2 million for 1976. "A part of this allocation will be side-tracked to handle new long-term agreements," he said.

LTA's are contracts with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) and local farmers, assuring a 50% cost-share for construction of conservation works over a period of three to 10

years. An additional \$3 million will be available through state cost-share programs.

"It appears that more contractors may be available for building terraces and structures," Foderberg added. "Curtailed highway construction will likely bring some roadbuilding people into the conservation construction field."

Ralph E. Dewey, Des Moines (county) district conservationist, said that tile outlet terrace building in this county could more than double with reasonable spring construction season.

"We should end the fiscal year in June exceeding 100,000 feet of terrace and controlling more than 2,000 acres of erosive soil in the county," Dewey added. Conservation officials of the county will meet Thursday to set local priorities for federal cost-share funds.

Attending the Iowa City meeting with Dewey were soil conservationist

Debra Brus and district clerk Dorothy Davis.



DEEP IN THE WOODS of Langwood 4-H camp near Grandview are, from left, Rollin Swank, assistant state conservationist; Eldon Weber, area conservationist; Ralph Dewey,

new coordinator for Geode Wonderland RC&C, and Chuck Cobb, state SCS project planner.

RC&D post goes to Dewey

By BOB SOGARD
Hawk Eye Farm Editor

Ralph Dewey, district soil conservationist here the past 5½ years, is the new coordinator for Geode Wonderland Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) project.

Dewey will begin work Feb. 29 in an RC&D office to be opened here, it was announced Thursday by Eldon Weber, Fairfield, area conservationist with the Soil Conservation service. The four-county group was meeting at Holiday Inn today to set priorities on proposed projects to be sponsored or promoted by Geode Wonderland.

Jim Hawkins, Argyle farmer and Lee county soil conservation district chairman, is regarded as the George Washington of the organization. He is chairman of Geode Wonderland. Ralph Dewey, then, might be called its Thomas Jefferson.

Dewey is the principal architect of the application, a thick publication compiled nearly two years ago that won federal approval for the project late last year.

He came here in July of 1969 from Sac City where he was district conservationist with the SCS for 16 years. He stated then that work of the SCS was moving toward "resource conservation and development of the entire community" with a goal of total environmental development and planning. That, in a nutshell, is the goal of Geode Wonderland for Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa counties.

Dewey has been with the SCS since 1949 after graduating from Iowa State university with a degree in forestry. In addition to his assignments here and at Sac City, he has worked in Marion and Greenfield. He has supervision of Larry Hunt, conservationist for Louisa county, and Debra Brus, conservationist-trainee with the office here. After his promotion is effective at the end of the month, a new district conservationist will be appointed here.

Dewey and his wife, Dorothy, live in West Burlington. They have four children. In addition to his conservation work, he is active in the Kiwanis club; a member of the Rusty Door Four barbershop quartet; is a Mason and is active in the Presbyterian church.

Weber, Dewey, Hunt, Charles Cobb, head of SCS state project planning, and Rollin Swank, assistant state conservationist in charge of RC&D projects, visited Langwood 4-H camp near Grandview Wednesday. The Iowa 4-H Foundation and Davenport area extension groups are developing the wooded area southeast of town and hope that an RC&D measure might help to build a dam to improve a five-acre lake at the site.

Swank and Cobb said that recreational lakes generally must be 50 acres in size and open to the general public if they are to share in the extremely limited RC&D funds, but there may be other ways in which the coordinator may line up help.

The group left Hunt at Wapello after lunch and looked at the Franklin Township Lake site northwest of Burlington. There are three diversion dams in place to prevent siltation in the lake and Dewey has plans for six more on the perimeter of the park.

"This looks made to order for something the RC&D can do right off the bat," said Cobb. Swank agreed, but observed that erosion control structures can't be cost-shared by the government unless the land above them has at least 75% treatment or adequate natural erosion control. They found that two or three dams come close to qualifying right now, but much of the farmland in the watershed still isn't adequately treated as defined in Iowa's conservancy law. The park is being developed by the Des Moines County Conservation board.

RC&D is primarily a catalyst organization. The office here will be maintained by SCS, but Dewey and the council members will have to depend upon other sources — government and private — for finances to carry out project measures.

There are 16 other Iowa counties involved in the three RC&D projects approved earlier. These are headquartered at Creston, Centerville and Postville. Still pending is the application for Pathfinder, serving Jefferson, Keokuk, Van Buren, Davis, Mahaska and Wapello counties.

RC&D unit will name coordinator

Thursday will be see a watershed occasion in the life of Geode Wonderland when the four-county Resource Conservation and Development organization gets a full-time coordinator.

James R. Hawkins, chairman, said the coordinator will be named at a meeting at Burlington's Holiday Inn, convening at 10 a.m. Thursday. There will be representatives of the state office of the Soil Conservation Service here for the sessions that conclude at 3 p.m.

The SCS is responsible for appointment of the coordinator to carry out policies of the executive board and county councils. The administrator also will handle resource development projects and conservation plans by seeking federal approval, and help from any source in implementing them.

Geode Wonderland was approved Dec. 22, 1975, for federal assistance. It is the fourth project to be approved in Iowa, capping an effort of nearly two years to obtain recognition.

A difficulty is that SCS has personnel ceilings and appointment of a coordinator here will cut the staff somewhere else. But on Thursday, Hawkins said, "Project activity will be starting immediately. The waiting is over."

Eldon Weber, district conservationist, has been acting coordinator for the RC&D unit covering Des Moines, Lee, Louisa and Henry counties. He is expected to be on hand Thursday as well as Chuck Cobb, head of state project planning, and Rollin Swank, assistant state conservationist in charge of RC&D projects.

Hawkins said priorities for programs to improve conditions for living, working and recreation in the region will be considered. Among the projects already being discussed are erosion control dams to protect the proposed Franklin Township lake site; a lake to provide drinking water and recreation for Salem, Hillsboro and Houghton and vicinity; stream erosion control and roadside improvements.

Other Iowa RC&D projects are a seven-county area headquartered at Creston (Southern Iowa), a four-county project with office at Centerville (Chariton Valley), and a five-county area with an office at Postville (Upper Explorerland). An application is pending from Pathfinder, an area consisting of Jefferson, Keokuk, Van Buren, Davis, Mahaska and Wapello counties.

Feb. 2, 1976

Dewey Named RC&D Coordinator

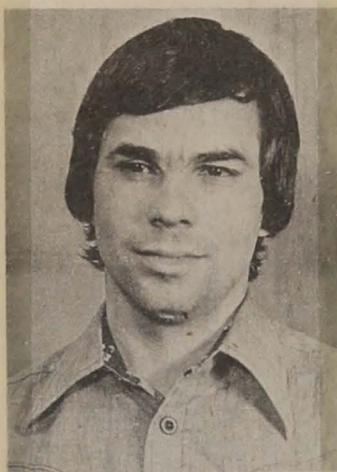
Ralph Dewey, District Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Burlington, is being promoted to Project Coordinator for the Geode Wonderland Resource Conservation and Development Project (RC&D). Dewey will begin work in an RC&D office in Burlington on February 29. The project was authorized for USDA assistance in December.

The project is a cooperative effort of local people in Louisa, Henry, Lee and Des Moines Counties. Its purpose is to make better use of natural resources and improve the economy of the area.

Dewey has been with the SCS since 1949 after graduating from Iowa State University with a degree in forestry. He was District Conservationist in Sac City for 16 years and has also worked in Marion and Greenfield.

Geode Wonderland is one of four approved RC&D projects in Iowa. The Soil Conservation Service is charged by Congress with carrying out RC&D programs.

*Mediaapolis New Era
Feb 12, 1976*



Howard Bright

SCS chief appointed

The new district conservationist for the Soil Conservation service in Des Moines county is Howard Bright, 31, a man who knows his territory.

Bright will take over here March 29, just a month after Ralph Dewey leaves to become coordinator of Geode Wonderland Resource Conservation and Development project.

Now a resident of Iowa City, Bright has been district conservationist for the past year in Cedar county with his office at Tipton. He started with SCS in 1970 as a soils scientist in eastern Iowa, serving the area from Dubuque south to Hawk Eyeland. He worked with the Standard Soil survey in Cedar and Johnson counties before changing to soil conservationist in February of 1975.



Howard Bright



Debra Brus

Soil savers are moving

Soil conservationists moving in, out, and about Des Moines county are hoping the land is holding in place better than they are.

Ralph Dewey, district conservationist here for more than five years, has moved out of the Soil Conservation service offices in the Federal Building to Machinists Hall just east of Middletown. He is the coordinator of Geode Wonderland Resource Conservation and Development project.

Howard Bright, district conservationist of Cedar county, will be here next week to succeed Dewey. He will be on hand for the commissioners meeting at 7:30 p.m. Mar. 31 and the remainder of that week then will leave for a honeymoon trip. His bride-to-be is Donna Krall of Iowa City.

Latest to receive "marching orders" is Debra Brus, soil conservationist trainee under Dewey since June 30, 1975. She will move to Clinton county April 9. The office at DeWitt is directed by Dean Fisher, district conservationist for Scott and Clinton counties.

"I will run the office three days a week and the remainder of the time under Mr. Fisher's direction," she said. She was a student trainee in Clinton county last summer, working with a soil survey crew out of DeWitt, and is a native of Blue Grass in Scott county. Debbie is an agronomy graduate of Iowa State university and may be on her way to appointment as the first woman district conservationist in Iowa.

*The Hawk Eye
Mar. 21, 1976*

A native of Greeneville, Tenn., Bright graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1968 with a BS degree in agronomy. He has 41 hours of post-graduate work, at Tennessee and in a soils science institute at Iowa State university.

"They are getting into a terracing program up in Cedar county, but not so much as here," Bright said. He will be moving to 1103 Iowa with his wife. (He and Donna Krall of Iowa City are to be married late in March.)

Bright is a member of the Soil Conservation Society of America and the National Assn. of Conservation Districts. He likes fishing, plays racquetball and infrequently golfs.

*The Hawk Eye
2-29-76*

Soil conservation allocations probed

DES MOINES (UPI)—An investigation into the distribution of federal and state assistance funds for soil conservation projects in Iowa is under way.

Critics of funding dispersals charge the program may be aiding conservation officers and wealthy landowners to the detriment of other property holders.

A final report on the county-to-county check of reimbursements made to land owners for soil conservation projects is due in early April, said Dale H. Awtry, state executive director of the Iowa Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Awtry said the probe would determine whether a further investigation was warranted, but added so far "no gross irregularities" have been noted.

Neel Hill of Stanhope, a district ASCS director and a former member of the ASCS committee which oversees federal farm programs, filed a complaint that set off the investigation.

The Hawk Eye
Mar. 22, 1976

Hill charged conservation officials who distribute the funds may be favored for federal money for soil conservation projects. Though the law does not forbid such a practice, Hill made his complaint on "ethical grounds" in the hopes of shifting more of the cost-share money to landowners who otherwise would not make a strong soil conservation effort.

Awtry said decisions concerning use of state and federal conservation assistance funds are made locally.

Local conservation district commissioners administering state funds were ordered not to receive any of the funds the first year Iowa legislated a cost-share program. However, district commissioners are not paid a salary and currently may be named fund recipients.

James L. Murphy, a Runnells farmer and a former ASCS state office worker, has suggested allocation of the funds on the basis of financial need.

Iowa was the first state to legislate a financial assistance program for soil conservation. Since 1973, \$3.5 million have been paid out, mainly for long-range practices such as terraces, with lesser amounts going to build erosion control structures and grassed waterways.

Conservation benefits told payoff seen

Conservation practices paid off last weekend during the heavy rains throughout Des Moines county.

From three to seven inches of rain were reported by Des Moines County Soil Conservation District commissioners.

Ray Pilling, district commissioner from Mediapolis, reported that 12 acres of level crop ground near his place was still under water Monday morning. He said four inches of rain fell in the vicinity.

Pilling stated that the ground that had been worked or tilled the most, suffered the greatest damage from both erosion and ponding of water.

Joseph Beckman, district commissioner from Sperry, said five inches of rain fell on his ground and, in some spots, seven inches. He reported severe erosion, and said even level ground with long slopes was scarred with networks of gullies.

Beckman also stated that much of his ground would have been protected, had the proposed County Conservation/Recreation lake in Franklin township been built. Erosion control dams are being planned for the perimeter of the lakesite.

Conservation practices paid off during this rainfall, according to Howard Bright, district conservationist, who reported that newly constructed ponds, some as deep as 25 feet, were more than half-full of water after the rains, whereas before, they were dry.

The Hawk Eye
5-2-76

Iowa Conservation Award Winners

The Iowa Conservation Awards winners for Des Moines County have been chosen. This awards program is sponsored to encourage better land use programs and environmental control on farms by recognizing -

- 1) owner operated farms - winner - Henry Dockendorff of Danville
- 2) landlords and tenants - winner - Eugene Moore of Augusta Township
- 3) new soil conservation district cooperators - winner - Herb Dodds - Prairie Grove Township

The overall winner selected was Henry Dockendorff. He will be entered in the Regional competition.

These farmers, Henry Dockendorff, Eugene Moore, and Herb Dodds are to be commended for their efforts in trying to conserve their land by using conservation practices. They stand out as examples showing that conservation is an integral part of being a progressive farmer.

Mediapolis News
6-10-76

Soil awards deadline set

The deadline for entering the 1976 Iowa soil conservation awards program is Tuesday.

The competition is sponsored by the soil conservation districts to encourage better land use programs and environmental control on Iowa farms.

Recognition will be given in three categories: Family-operated or owner-operated farm, landlords and tenants, and farmers who have become new soil conservation district cooperators since Jan. 1, 1974.

Howard Bright, district conservationist, said anyone interested in nominating a farmer or entering the contest should contact his office in room 230 of the Federal building, or phone 754-8983.

The Hawk Eye
May 9, 1976



John Baird



Jeff Krieger

Extension service and Soil Conservation service offices here have retained extra help for the summer.

JOHN E. BAIRD, 20, was named the Des Moines county 4-H summer aide, it was announced by Don Traman, extension council chairman. Baird, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Baird, Morning Sun Rt. 1, will be a senior at Iowa State university next fall. He is majoring in agriculture education.

Baird is an eight-year member of the Successful Farmers 4-H club and also was a member of the county 4-H council in 1972. His job will include helping with the state 4-H conference, Bi-County camp, Junior Day camp, Burlington summer extension project groups, 4-H project training and the Des Moines County Fair.

JEFF KRIEGER, 17, a May graduate of Mediapolis high school, has been named to an engineering cooperator position with the SCS and will work here this summer. The next two summers will be spent in regional SCS offices and his final summer will be in the state office.

Krieger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Krieger, Burlington Rt. 3, plans to enter Iowa State university next fall in the agricultural engineering sequence. Howard Bright, district conservationist, said the program also calls for Krieger to work with the SCS for a quarter in each of his last two years in college. The young man graduated with a 3.8 grade point average.

The Hawk Eye
6-6-76



Pictured above are two fields on the Melvin Nelson farm northeast of Mediapolis. The minimum tillage field has little or no erosion from the recent heavy rains, while the other field plowed the conventional way (inset) has ravines running north and south and east and west down the gully.

Minimum Tillage Works

Although minimum tillage has not yet found its niche in Des Moines County, a few farmers in the area are using it in a limited number of acres, with satisfactory results. Melvin Nelson, rural Mediapolis, is now in the second year of using minimum tillage on a field northeast of his home, and has only good to say about it.

In the recent heavy rains, Nelson said the conservation tillage field "didn't wash out in the rain", but another field plowed in the conventional fashion "did wash". And the minimum tillage field was even hillier than the other field.

Nelson said as soon as their crops were out in the fall, they used a chisel plow, which "makes the difference". A moldboard plow would work up the corn stalks and turn them under, rather than leaving them on the surface of the field. Then in the spring they either disc or cultivate, depending on "which machine they have free".

With minimum tillage Nelson feels they make "less trips over the field", causing less packing of the ground. And he stresses the "tool" makes the difference in using minimum tillage.

What started out as an experiment for the Nelson's last year, convinced him minimum tillage is the way to go on all of his hilly fields.

Another area farmer who is using minimum tillage, for the first time this year, is Alvis Kramer, rural Mediapolis. He said he "disced the stalks and chisel plowed" his field so the ground wouldn't wash as bad. Kramer feels to use minimum tillage you should "really have a sidewinder", or you have to disc more. "If you had a stalk cutter,

it wouldn't be as much work," he said.

County soil conservationist, Howard Bright, said he would like to see more minimum tillage for erosion control in Des Moines County. "It keeps the ground from drying out, and also absorbs more moisture," said Bright. To be considered conservation tillage, the field should have about 1500 lbs. of roughage per acre. Bright said this amounts to chisel plowing and disking two times.

Bright feels there is not much minimum tillage done in the county because of "force of

habit" and the "fear of being different". He pointed out, "The corn grows just as well."

The only difference in growing corn with minimum tillage is doubling the water in the herbicide. Bright said this could be done rather than using twice the amount of herbicide.

Another reason for avoiding minimum tillage, as Nelson agreed, is the fact it looks so bad. Farmers are used to having a nice black field where the earth is plowed and disced till it is fine as a garden. But Nelson admitted the benefits were worth the unsightliness.

Officers Elected

Slate of candidates elected at the last RC&D meeting on June 16 were - Chairman, James Hawkins; Vice-chairman, Dale Schultz; Treasurer, Ray Pilling; and Secretary, DeEdwin White.

Copies of the Plan Design for the Geode Wonderland RC&D have been printed and were distributed at the meeting. The plan is complete with maps, problems, inventories, as well as committee structures and membership.

The Budget Committee of Dewey, Elliott, and Pilling reported the proposed budget of \$3,300 would need a 3 cent per capita to fund. Approved on a motion by Elliott.

Word was received the Flint Hills Project Measure has been reviewed by the state and declared an eligible measure.

Louisa County presented a project measure for approval. It involves engineering help for waterfowl wetland development with high priority status. Approved on a motion by Kelly.

Mediapolis New Era
7-8-76

Cost Sharing Funds Announced

The State of Iowa has released \$4,000,000 for cost sharing to the Department of Soil Conservation. These funds will be used to assist Iowa farmers in erosion control. Des Moines County Soil Conservation District has been allocated \$13,000.

To take part in this program, farmers must file an application and be cooperating with the soil conservation district. In using the funds, priorities will be based on how well the practice satisfies conservation need and fulfills a part of an overall farm conservation plan. The practice must be applied to land in agricultural use.

The following conservation practices are eligible under the cost-share program: terracing, erosion control structures, critical area planting, field windbreaks, pasture and hayland planting, grassed waterways, diversions and tree planting.

Des Moines County farmers, who plan to apply one or more of the above practices within the next six months, may apply at the district office, Room 230 Federal Building, Burlington.

Be Wise Advertise

Mediapolis New Era
7-15-76

Soil Survey "Bottoms Out"

Mapping and classifying soils is old hat for experienced Mel Brown and Bennie Clarks or so they thought until they sank their soil probes into the old Mississippi River bottom. Mel and Bennie found that mother nature doesn't care how she mixes her soils along the Iowa and Mississippi rivers.

Both Mel and Bennie got a chance to show off some unidentified river bottom soils during their annual field review. Gilbert Landtiser, Iowa's State Soil Scientist, and Dale Lockridge, soil specialist, were on hand to participate in the soils review.

The soil survey review is an annual get-together of soil experts. They iron out problems in soil classification by actually going to the field where each soil occurs.

Well, our Des Moines County soil survey has its problems solved for now, but wait until they venture southward. I bet they'll discover even more new soils. Maybe they could name one of them "Old Miss silty clay" or how about "Old Mess silty clay."

Mediapolis New Era
7-22-76



Howard Bright, left, and Roger Cling, right, take a look at conservation practices Cling has planned for the near future.



This pond was the first conservation project to be completed by Cling on his farm. Left to right, Bright, Cling, and SCS intern Jeff Krieger.



The three men stand on the erosion control structure near the pond to illustrate its height. Bright is by the tile inlet.

Mediapolis New Era
7-8-76

Cling Farm Utilizes Conservation Measures

As Roger Cling puts it, his main reason for following conservation measures is to "help those in the future". And with the cooperation of the Soil Conservation Service, headed in Des Moines County by Howard Bright, a comprehensive report of conservation planning can be drawn up for any landowner interested in insuring good soil for future generations.

Cling, who farms two miles east of Mediapolis, had his plan drawn by former SCS director Ralph Dewey in March of 1974. Bright said they "work with the landowner to make the decisions", using alternative treatments for problem land if necessary. Included in the conservation plan are areas which need correction, what treatment is needed, and tentative years for doing the conservation work.

In Cling's program, 22 acres of contouring are planned, and 16 of them have been completed. For 1976, 3400 feet of terraces were called for, and so far 2450 feet have been built. Tiling, mainly for the terraces, has amounted to 1475 feet.

The SCS office keeps a copy of the plan at their office and records each time conservation work has been completed in an area. First project to be completed by Cling was a pond with terracing and two acres of wildlife habitat. It serves as an erosion control measure, recreational facility, and water supply for livestock. Near the pond is an erosion control

structure which is the equivalent of an extra large terrace. Cling said Lawrence Whipple, Mediapolis, did all of the terracing and building the pond.

The terraces located in the gently sloping fields were "very easy to build", according to Bright. "Most farmers wait until fall when it's hard to get a tractor," said Bright of the field terraces. He feels it would be beneficial to plant wheat or oats and do the work in the summer when the contractors are more available. Alternatives to field terraces are rotation, as opposed to continuous row, or minimum tillage.

Bright said the gentle slopes fool farmers as to the amount of soil lost each year. He estimates 12 to 13 tons of topsoil are lost each year per acre on the average farmland. "It takes two bushels of topsoil to grow one bushel of corn," he said. When losing topsoil, you lose nutrients and fertilizer. "You gain a lot with conservation, even if you can't see it."

Besides helping the future farmers, Cling also feels using good conservation measures will slow down the water, cut down sheet erosion, and "help the farmer next to him" by cutting the water flow to his farm. "It also helps the lakes and rivers," said Cling.

Bright said he believes if you can keep the soil from eroding, you can build up the topsoil. He pointed out Iowa has lost about half its original topsoil, from 12-15 inches when it was prairie, to

only 6-7 inches on the average now.

Some landowners may have had conservation plans drawn up several years ago, which may need to be updated. Landowners who have never had any program drawn up may wish to contact the SCS office on the second floor of the Federal Building in Burlington for more information.

District Commissioner Vacancy

Des Moines County will need two soil conservation district commissioners.

William Vierling, chairman of Des Moines County Soil Conservation District commissioners, has announced that he will not seek re-election as district commissioner. Vierling has served the district as commissioner since 1972 and as chairman of the district since 1974.

Commissioner Jack Jacobs was appointed in 1974 to fill an unexpired term, and he too will not seek re-election.

Regular term of office is six years. However, one of the vacancies will be for two years, filling out an unexpired term of appointment.

Election of the district commissioners will be in the November general election in accordance with HF 54 passed by the 66th Iowa General Assembly. This is a change from previous commissioner elections where Des Moines County commissioners were elected at county farm meetings.

No more than one commissioner may be elected from a single township.

Nomination of candidates shall be made by a petition of 25 signature of eligible voters. Petitions must be filed with the county auditor by September 8, 1976. An eligible voter shall not sign in any one year the nominating petitions of a number of candidates greater than the number of commissioners to be elected in that year.

Other Des Moines County Soil Conservation District commissioners not up for re-election are Dwight Stucker, Pleasant Grove Township; Ray Pilling, Yellow Springs Township; and Joseph T. Beckman, Franklin Township.

For further information contact the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District office, Room 230 Federal Building, Burlington.

Conservation commissioner needed

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For further information contact the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District office, Room 230 Federal Building, Burlington.

Soil funds released

The state of Iowa has released \$4 million for cost-sharing to the Department of Soil Conservation. These funds will be used to assist Iowa farmers in erosion control. Des Moines County Soil Conservation District has been allocated \$13,000.

To take part in this program, farmers must file an application and be cooperating with the soil conservation district. In using the funds, priorities will be based on how well the practice satisfies a

conservation need and fulfills a part of an overall farm conservation plan. The practice must be applied to land in agricultural use.

The following conservation practices are eligible under the cost-share program: terracing, erosion control structures, critical area planting, field windbreaks, pasture and hayland plant, grassed waterways, diversions and tree planting.

Des Moines county farmers who plan to apply one or more of the above practices within the next six months may apply at the district office, Room 230 Federal Building, Burlington.

Mediapolis New Era
7-8-76

Des Moines County News
7-29-76

The Hawk Eye
7-18-76

Mediapolis New Era
7-29-76

Conservation posts open for elections

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Commissioner Jack Jacobs was appointed in 1974 to fill an unexpired term, and he too won't seek re-election.

Regular term of office is six years, but one of the vacancies will be for two years, to fill a vacancy.

Election in November

Election of the district commissioners will be in the November general election in accordance with HF 54 passed by the 66th Iowa General Assembly. This is a change from previous commissioner elections where Des Moines county commissioners were elected at county farm meetings.

No more than one commissioner may be elected from a single township.

Nomination of candidates shall be made by a petition of 25 signatures of eligible voters. Petitions must be filed with the county auditor by Sept. 8.

Nomination restriction

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Other district commissioners not up for re-election are Dwight Stucker, Pleasant Grove township; Ray Pilling, Yellow Spring township; and Joseph T. Beckman, Franklin township.

For further information contact the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District office, Room 230 Federal Building, Burlington.

The Hawk Eye
8-2-76

Conservation speech contest

"Soil Conservation-Lifeline to Continued Prosperity" will be the topic for the 1976 Soil Conservation Speech Contest to be sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District. The contest is open to all junior and senior high school students as well as 1976 high school graduates that reside in Des Moines County.

The regional and state levels of the contest are co-sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company, Grinnell, Iowa.

The winner of the local contest to be held on October 27 at 7:45 P.M. will advance to the regional competition which will be held in November. The state contest will be held on November 29 at the Annual Conference of Soil Conservation District Commissioners in Des Moines, Iowa.

First, second and third place winners of the local contest will win \$15, \$10 and \$5 respectively. The regional prizes will consist of \$30, \$20 and \$15. The first place winner in the state contest will receive a \$300 college scholarship and \$110 in cash. The second and third place awards in the state contest will consist of \$85 and \$60 in cash respectively.

Anyone interested in entering the 1976 Soil Conservation Speech Contest may obtain information from the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District office, Room 230 Federal Building in Burlington.

Des Moines Co. News
9-23-76

Soil Scientists Get The Low Down On Soil

You farm it, you garden it, and you travel on it every day, but not many people know much about the composition or origin of soil. Soil scientists are now at work in Des Moines County mapping basic soil facts, including a map drawn on an aerial photograph showing the location of each kind of soil and a report describing the characteristics of each.

Benny Clarks and Mel Brown have mapped 90,000 acres of Des Moines County's 261,000 acres, and are in their second field season. They have completed Washington Township, Pleasant Grove Township, most of Huron Township, half of Tama Township, and the Ordinance Plant area. They are now working in Tama, and will try to finish it after the crops are out. They estimated by the time they are done with the entire county they will have 60-80 different types of soil mapped.

Some of the most common soils, reported the soil scientists, are Taintor, Mahaska, Clinton, Lindley, Chequest, and Wabash. The flat, dark soils around Mediapolis are Taintor, a dark, poorly drained soil formed in loess, a wind blown material; and Mahaska, a somewhat poorly drained, nearly level soil. In the rolling areas, such as the bluffs, they have mapped Clinton and Lindley most often. Clinton is a light soil, moderately well drained, formed in loess, and Lindley is a light, well-drained soil, formed in glacial till. On the Mississippi bottoms, Chequest is often found. It is dark, formed in water-laid material, alluvium. Wabash, also found frequently on the bottoms, is slightly darker, also formed by alluvium, and higher in clay content.

Mel Brown pointed out the soils below the Skunk River have a higher clay content, and above the Iowa River the clay content is lower.

One of the new soils the surveyors found in the Mississippi bottoms was classified as Viele. It is like Chequest with a dark surface, but is not as deep. Although the soil didn't fit exactly into any classification, it was named Viele, since it was the closest. They said they found about 200 acres of soil in this classification.

In their surveying, the men found some areas they feel are being "cropped more intensively than should be", mostly in areas where Clinton soil is found. This is in ridgetops and steep areas. Brown suggested using more minimum tillage, and mechanical practices such as contouring and terracing. They also said there are a few areas which could be farmed that are presently in timber. Such areas are small plots of dense timber which could be cleared, but no single large area.

The best land for farming, said Brown, is Mahaska, found in the nearly flat area east of Mediapolis, with gentle slopes.

In their soil survey report, they will rank each soil on a scale of 5-100, a corn suitability rating, with the higher number better suited to row crops. Most of the soils have already been mapped and rated elsewhere, so it is not a new job for the surveyors.

Soil surveys not only help the farmer, but provide information for homeowners, potential homeowners, engineers, and soil conservation districts. For rural builders, a soil survey will provide you with information on the capacity of the soil to absorb effluent. Some soils are unsuitable for absorption fields if they are not porous, have a high water table, have steep slopes, or are subject to flooding.

Soil properties are a major consideration for all building construction. Swelling and shrinking of certain kinds of clay soils may crack walls and foundations. Flooding or high water tables may flood basements or damage buildings and other installations.

Soil surveys can help in evaluating the suitability of a tract of land for the intended use before buying. They can also be used to determine the potential tree, crop, or forage production of soils on woodland, farm, or ranch.

After the survey in Des Moines County is completed, Brown said there will be copies available. In the meantime, anyone with a question can stop by their office on the second floor of the Federal Building in Burlington.

Brown lives in West Burlington and has been a soil scientist since 1963. He has helped map Madison, Mitchell, Benton, and Howard counties. Clarks started as a soil scientist in 1967. He has been involved in the mapping of Kossuth and Plummatt counties in Iowa. Clarks lives in Burlington.

Cost of the soil survey is shared by the Federal government, state, and county. Thirty of the 99 counties in Iowa have completed and published soil survey reports and field work has been completed in 23 other counties.

New Era
9-23-76



Soil scientists conducting the present Des Moines County soil survey are Benny Clarks, right, and Mel Brown, left. Their office is in the Federal Building, Burlington.

Mediapolis New Era 9-23-76



Jim Settles stands in a small silt deposit area, part of the larger silt pond. The dam is in the background, just recently completed as part of the necessary measures in making the Franklin Township Lakesite a reality.

Construct Silt Ponds For Franklin Lakesite

Three of sixteen silt ponds are nearly completed at the Franklin Township Lakesite area, but Jim Settles, head of the County Conservation Board predicted it will be two years before the ponds are completed.

The silt ponds are silt control structures placed around the edge of the lakesite, in major ravines. The largest silt dam took two months to complete. They prevent the lake from filling with silt, since it will go to the bottom of the silt ponds first. These ponds will be stocked with catfish, bluegill, and bass, reported Settles, available to fisherman.

Six private landowners still need to install erosion control measures, said Settles, to help bring the project to the 75 percent erosion control mark needed to get fully underway. When 75 percent of the land is under erosion control, the major dam can be built and water impounded. Settles said they have the specifications for the dam construction "in a safe in the

office", all ready to go upon approval by the State Conservation Commission. After the state agency okays the site and plans, the bids on the dam can be sublet, according to Settles.

In October the conservation board will be building a maintenance shed near the lakesite, and during the winter will be building a service road all along their fence line. Settles said they would soon be posting signs to prevent unauthorized vehicles from entering the service roads. People will be allowed to walk through, and horses will be allowed, he said, but no driving.

Another project in the Franklin Township area is a nursery for dog wood and flowering crab

trees. The board planted the seedlings on four acres of ground, to be transplanted to the main entrance of the park someday. The seedlings were donated by the Burlington Kiwanis Club, said Settles.

Other projects underway are the Waters Roadside Park at Danville, remodeling the caretakers house at Star's Cave, and installing steps to the cave itself.

Settles reported recently the state acquired 111 acres near the Skunk River of Ordinance Plant timber, with the intention of turning it over to the County Conservation Board as a natural area.

New Era 9-30-76

Soil conservation speech subject

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Commissioners and the Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Co., Grinnell, Iowa.

The winner of the local contest to be held Wednesday at 7:45 p.m. will advance to the regional competition in November. The state contest will be held on Nov. 29 at the annual conference of soil conservation district commissioners in Des Moines.

First, second and third place winners of the local contest will win \$15, \$10 and \$5 respectively. The

regional prizes will consist of \$30, \$20 and \$15. The first place winner in the state contest will receive a \$300 college scholarship and \$110 in cash.

Second and third place awards in the state contest will consist of \$85 and \$60 in cash respectively.

Anyone interested in entering the contest may obtain information from the Des Moines county soil conservation district office, Room 230 Federal Building in Burlington.

Hawk Eye 10-24-76

Land use questions for board candidates

A presentation and questions on land use have been prepared by John Johnson, Burlington assistant city planner, for response by county supervisor candidates tonight. Occasion is Candidates Night at 7 o'clock at the Dance Hall in Peazz! Johnson represents the Environmental Pollution Control Council — Ed.

As you gentleman may be aware,

The Hawk Eye
10-17-76

Des Moines county is without any effective means to control land development in the rural areas of our county.

The citizens of Des Moines county, two-thirds of which reside in Burlington, have witnessed the continual haphazard conversion of prime farm land into unrelated commercial and residential uses. We have seen taxes go up as it becomes more and more expensive to provide required government services, such as road and road repairs, police and fire protection and related governmental services to these scattered developed areas in the county.

Citizens of the county watch as our environment is adversely affected by uncontrolled, unplanned development through soil erosion losses, losses in ground cover and wildlife habitat, air and dust pollution caused by increased rural auto and truck traffic,

in addition to rural vandalism and littering.

Much if not all of these problems can be greatly reduced with proper land use policies based upon a sound comprehensive plan for the county. The League of Women Voters, the sponsors of this event, strongly support and I quote: "land use policies and powers needed to foster an optimum balance between human needs and environmental quality."

Such land use planning, or zoning, or land use policy formulation, however it may be termed, can, when properly developed, balance this county's human needs with the strong need to preserve our valuable natural resources and environment.

As a candidate for the Des Moines county board of supervisors, you must have given the important issue of land use some considerable thought. What are your specific plans to deal with land use, assuming you are elected? In other words, do you favor land use planning and what precisely are you going to do about it?

In a relatively brief time span, the Soil Conservation Service will have completed a 100% soil inventory survey for Des Moines county. With this information transferred to maps,

it will be precisely known where all of our best farm land is throughout the county.

This information will also locate areas that have septic system problems, and where soil erosion problems are likely to occur. This information on soil types and information on transportation and utilities capabilities, coupled with

clear statements on the county's housing, recreation, and commercial needs can lead to a land use plan that can make sense for Des Moines county future development.

Do you favor having such a plan developed, or do you favor continuing without any plans and land use controls for the county and what is your timetable for implementing land use planning for the county?

Area Farmers Attend No-Till Tour

Farmers are becoming more and more concerned with soil erosion and timeliness of their field operations. At this time, I feel that we are opening the door to a whole new dimension in tillage operations.

Many open minded farmers are seeking better ways to save time, money, and most importantly their soil. These farmers, who are individuals not afraid of negative comments from their neighbors and peers, are stepping out into a new frontier. This new frontier just now on the horizon is what we call "No-Tillage." A farmer who is willing to try a few acres of "No-Tillage" will be a pioneer to future successful farming.

No-Tillage requires the use of a special no-till planter. Several companies have good no-till planters. When using a no-till planter, it is not necessary to prepare a seedbed. The no-till planter prepares its own seedbed and leaves virtually all of last year's crop residue on the surface. Weeds are controlled by chemicals.

No-tillage requires good management and before a farmer replaces his old system of field preparation and planting, he should experiment with 10-40 acres for a few years before completely shifting over to no-tillage.

By using no-tillage methods properly, a farmer can get just as good yields as he can any other way. The advantages are evident in no-tillage. There is a tremendous time savings, less equipment cost, and his soil will be protected from erosion.

Several farmers attended the No-Till Tour in Johnson County a

few weeks ago, and they were very much impressed. Both fields that were visited were planted no-till into sod. Just talking about the success that these farmers had is not going to convince many people that no-tillage is great. I would encourage all farmers to view whenever possible a no-tillage plot or field. Seeing is believing. Just to get some of you interested in no-till practices there will be a no-till planter available

next year from Ortho Chemical Company. You can use the machine free of charge, and it will be centrally located in Des Moines County.

To learn more about this new type of conservation tillage, a show and tell will be held during the first part of November. Watch for time, place, and date in a future article.

Howard Bright,
District Conservationist
SCS
Burlington, Iowa

Medapalici News En
10-21-76



Ray Pilling, Mediapolis, admiring a nice ear of corn in a no-till field.



Don Jarvis, Roy Breuer, and Joe Wallasper, all from Des Moines County, listen while Hal Knowling, A.C. dealer, explains the No-Till planter.

Medapalici News En 10-21-76

It's a bad year for soil erosion

By HOWARD BRIGHT
District Conservationist

Early harvest and dry weather are causing concern among soil conservationists in Iowa about serious soil erosion. Their main worry is that soybean and corn land will be plowed after harvest, exposing the soil to the wind and rain this fall and next spring.

"We had a fall like this last year, and more than eight million acres of land was fall plowed and opened up to wind erosion. Much of that did blow, and we had dust in the air and soil piled up in road ditches last winter. We'd like to keep that from happening again," says William Brune, state conservationist for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

The erosion problem has already been aggravated by the dry weather this year. The drought has encouraged farmers to chop corn for silage, a

Howard
Bright



process that uses all the plant.

Leave ground protected

Brune urges farmers to leave cornstalks and beanstalks on top of the ground for soil protection. "Research shows there's no yield advantage from fall plowing soybean land," Brune says. "And if tillage is done on corn land, we hope it's some kind of reduced tillage that doesn't bury all the corn residue and destroy

what soil protection there was."

SCS agronomist John Maddy says the key to stopping wind erosion on flatter soils is to leave at least half of this year's residue on the soil surface.

"If you leave half of this year's stalks on top of the ground, you stop most wind erosion. And you generally cut water erosion in half. The amount left is the key, rather than the machine used."

Maddy says the chisel plow, an increasingly popular substitute for the moldboard plow, is a good tillage tool. It leaves residue on the soil surface, and you can take advantage of its ridging by chiseling perpendicular to prevailing winds.

Over-chiseling harmful

"But you can't go across a field too many times. Farmers who chisel two or three times bury most of their residue, too. Especially on soybean ground. Last year, soybean ground

that was over-chiseled blew nearly as badly as conventionally plowed ground."

Some fall plowing has already been done in the state. The advantage is that some soils "work up" better for spring planting, and the work can be done in the fall when the farmer has more time.

"But our topsoil simply won't last if we keep losing it at our present rate," Brune says. "On unprotected sloping soils, we've got only six to eight inches of topsoil left. We're losing an inch of that every 12 years. If it stays dry, we'll probably have wind erosion. If it rains, we get water erosion. Soil protection is the answer."

Information on crop residue systems, called "conservation tillage" or "minimum tillage," is available from your local soil conservation district office. There's an office in every county.

Toothpaste test for soil savers

By BOB SOGARD
Hawk Eye Farm Editor

PLEASANT GROVE — Curt Eisenmayer posed the toothpaste test at the county soil conservation awards banquet Wednesday night at the Shinar Cumberland Presbyterian church.

The Henderson county, Ill., extension director suggested that the people who pinch the rear end of the tube are conservationists as compared with those who squeeze the middle.

The example was one of several he used to illustrate the principles of conservation. Another is the motorist who switches to a smaller car.

"He makes fewer trips to the gas station, but he sacrifices carrying capacity. He conserves energy, perhaps at the expense of convenience or comfort," the speaker observed.

Sue Baldwin, conservation teacher and assistant district commissioner, said she gained space by getting a compact station wagon but, because of its size, tends to drive defensively.

Eisenmayer quoted a standard definition of conservation: Planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction or neglect.

In this connection, he cited the difference between timber conservation as practiced by the USDA's Forestry Service, which promotes managed cutting, and the National Parks Service (Interior Dept.) that recognizes only recreation uses and won't cut trees before they die.

"I believe in managed cutting and in managed use of soil, too, but motivation is the big problem. How can we convince farmers to use conservation tillage such as chisel plowing or no-till practices?" he asked.

Eisenmayer told of tests made in Henderson county in 1967 involving different crops and no-tillage methods. "On alfalfa, production actually was cut but on cornstalk ground we had 146 bushels per acre," he said. Use of

disks in various combinations brought yields of 140 and 135 bushels and moldboard plowing in the same field brought 127-bushel yields.

"Yet this farmer hasn't done any more of this (no-till). Why? We have to do a better job of motivation. We know that the conventional method works, so we keep on, even though plowing straight up and down the hills is costing irreplaceable soil."

The advantages of minimum tillage or no-till include reduction of both soil and water losses, but there are problems, the speaker noted. Difficulties include application of anhydrous ammonia, with stalks on the surface, the buildup of diseases, phosphates and insects as well as possible weed problems.

"So the way to go is to try it on a few acres, to solve the problems as you go along," he said.

Howard Bright, district conservationist, said Des Moines county will have a no-till planter available next season for those who want to experiment.

There will be an informal meeting at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 22 at Mediapolis school to discuss no-till practices, Bright said. "We need five or six years of study on this," Bright said, "but the potential is there to increase production while saving soil."

William Vierling, commissioner serving as master of ceremonies,



CONSERVATION WINNERS, Herb Dodds at left and Henry Dockendorff, right, discuss their farm plans with Jack Jacobs, district commissioner, who presented the awards.

welcomed two newly elected commissioners. They are Clyde Sherer and Rex Trout, both of Rt. 1, who for the first time were elected at a general election. Sherer immediately succeeds Jack Jacobs, who was filling a vacancy, and will serve two years. Trout will begin a six-year term next January, succeeding Vierling.

Purpose of the evening was to recognize farmers named conservationists of the year for the county in three categories: Owner-operator, landlord-tenant and new

cooperator.

Henry Dockendorff, who farms 258 acres near Danville, won owner-operator award.

Eugene Moore, landlord, and Lloyd and Gary Beckman, tenants, were cited for a 200-acre farm in the former Augusta township, south of the blacktop road to Geode state park.

Herb Dodds, who signed up a 70-acre farm in Pleasant Grove township in 1975, was cited in the new cooperator category.

The Hawk Eye 11-11-76

The Hawk Eye 10-17-76

11-18-76



SOIL CONSERVATION OFFICERS - These officers, both newly elected and outgoing, attended the annual conservation awards banquet last Wednesday. Left to right - Harold Linder, secretary, Sperry; Jack Jacobs, outgoing commissioner, Burlington; Clyde Sherer, newly elected commissioner, Burlington; Susan Baldwin, assistant commissioner, Burlington; Bill Vierling, chairman, Mediapolis; Ray Pilling, commissioner, Mediapolis; Barbara Bonnett, assistant commissioner, newly appointed, Burlington; Dwight Stucker, commissioner, New London; Joe Beckman, commissioner, Sperry; and Horace Sutton, treasurer, Burlington.

No-Tillage Talk At Conservation Banquet

Main topic of Curt Eisenmayer's speech to the conservation group was no-till or minimum tillage at the annual conservation awards banquet last Wednesday evening, November 10. Eisenmayer is the Henderson County, Ill., extension director. He said farmers need to do a better job of cultivation, trying the no-till method on a few acres, solving the problems as they go.

William Vierling, Mediapolis, served as master of ceremonies, and welcomed two newly elected commissioners - Clyde Sherer and Rex Troute, both of Rt. 1 Burlington. Sherer immediately succeeds Jack Jacobs, who was

filling a vacancy, and will serve two years. Troute will begin a six-year term next January, succeeding Vierling.

Purpose of the evening was to recognize farmers named conservationists of the year for the county in three categories - Owner-operator, Landlord-tenant, and new cooperator.

Henry Dockendorff, who farms 258 acres near Danville, won the owner-operator award.

Eugene Moore, landlord, and Lloyd and Gary Beckman, tenants, were cited for a 200 acre farm in the former Augusta township, south of the blacktop road to Geode State Park.

Herb Dodds, who signed up a 70

acre farm in Pleasant Grove township in 1975, was cited in the new cooperator category.

No-Till Meeting At High School

A meeting to inform farmers and interested persons on "no-till farming" will be held at the Mediapolis High School on Monday evening, November 22, at 7:30 p.m., announced Howard Bright, director of the Soil Conservation Service in Des Moines County.

Bob Jones of the Ortho Chemical Company will attend the meeting to give a slide presentation on no-till operations. Ortho Chemical has agreed to furnish a no-till planter for county farmers, to be stationed in the area.

Following the slides, there will be an informal discussion on no-till farming.

Everyone is welcome to attend

New Era 11-18-76

Recognizing soil savers

The annual conservation awards banquet of the Des Moines Conservation District will be held at Shinar Cumberland Presbyterian church, Pleasant Grove, at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The Iowa Soil Conservation Awards program honors those who have done outstanding work toward soil and water conservation. Henry Dockendorff and Eugene Moore, both Danville rural, and Herbert Dodds, New London rural, will be recognized, respectively, in the owner-operator division, the landlord-tenant division and the new cooperator.

Curt Eisenmayer, Henderson county extension director, will present the evening's program.

The Hawk Eye
11-9-76

No-till system interests Hawk Eyeland farmers

By BOB SOGARD
Hawk Eye Farm Editor

Conservation tillage — including no-till — is gaining a lot of interest in Hawk Eyeland, spearheaded by district conservationist Howard Bright.

A recent meeting at Mediapolis drew 69 persons, most of them interested in some form of soil-saving tillage practice. Bill Vierling, district chairman, expressed his personal support and Bright explained the value of zero tillage in terms of preventing soil erosion on cropland.

"On 5% slopes, soil erosion can be cut to near zero soil loss with 'no-tillage.' This is a big different when considering conventional tillage erodes 23 tons of soil per acre per year on 5% slopes if fall plowed up and down the hill," Bright said.

"Not only does no-till reduce soil loss to minimum leveles but it increases water infiltration and reduced runoff from cropland. By using no-tillage, Des Moines county could quickly protect most of the valuable farm land from destructive soil erosion," he added.

This would also have the added benefit of cleaning up streams of soil particles and dangerous chemicals that attach themselves to soil particles Bright stated.

"Millions of dollars could be saved in dredging operations alone, especially in the Mississippi river," Bright said.

Ortho offers planter

Bob Jones, Ortho Chemical Co. representative, showed slides on several no-till plots in this area. He explained that equipment costs could be cut drastically because no-tillage requires only a special planter and a tractor. Time is saved as well, because fewer field operations are needed.

Yields are comparable with conventional tillage and in some cases better yields can be expected, Jones said. He cautioned that better management is required and a system has to be faithfully followed.

Bright suggested that farmers interested in trying no-tillage should experiment on 40 acres or less to get used to the system before shifting his entire operation.

Plant's sod or stubble

"You can plant in sod or in last year's corn stalks or bean stubble. Paraquat and Atrazine are used as chemical weed control — usually, one quarter of Paraquat plus 2½ to 3¾ pounds of Atrazine 80 wettable per acre and one pint of X-77 spreader per 100 gallons of diluted spray at planting time," heuuaaid.

"Your sprayer must be accurately calibrated and nozzles of proper size and placement must be used to get complete herbicide coverage. Use 20 to 60 gallons of water per acre," he advised.

Darrel Glahn, a farmer from Charlotte, answered questions about his no-tillage operation on 700 acres of cropland.

He has been using this system since 1961 and said he's convinced that it's the only way to go for crop production on all soils.

Next year, a no-till planter will be available free of charge to interested farmers, courtesy of Ortho. The only requirement is that Ortho recommendations must be followed.

The planter is a 38-inch, four-row Allis Chalmers no-till. It will be centrally located for accessibility. Bright and anyone who wants to schedule the planter should contact the Des Moines county soil conservation service office.

Those signed up

Already signed up for the planter are: Myron Schulz, Jr., Burlington Rt. 2; Roger J. Krieger, Burlington Rt. 1; Roger Cling, Mediapolis Rt. 1; Melvin Gerst, Oakville Rt. 1; Jim Howell, Mediapolis; Mediapolis FFA chapter; Mike Schrader, Burlington Rt. 2; Laurence Strawhacker, Mediapolis Rt. 1; Jim Settles, Burlington; Bernie Laue, West Burlington, and Joe Beckman, Sperry Rt. 1. Tom Kuntz, Oakville Rt. 1, and Beckman signed up for an interseeder.

The conventional conservation techniques have been the basis of most awards to soil conservation district cooperators. These include terrace building, erosion control structures, waterways development, shelter belt planting and farm pond construction. Perhaps future winners will be leaders in no-till, chisel plowing or other conservation tillage techniques.

For instance, Des Moines county winners this year had these practices:

HENRY DOCKENDORFF, owner-operator, has been a cooperator since 1951 and his farm has 60 acres fo contouring, seven acres of waterways, 60 acres protected by terraces, 0.7-acre of tree plantings, 0.1-acre of diversions, three farm ponds, four erosion control structures and 14,800 feet of tile drains.

EUGENE MOORE, landlord, and Lloyd and Gary Beckman, tenants, have 70 acres of contouring, two acres of grass waterways, 70 acres protected

by tile inlet terraces, 0.1-mile diversion, two farm ponds, two erosion control structures, 52 acres of conservation tillage (see?), 35 acres of pasture planting and 17,500 feet of tile.

Moore has been a cooperator since 1948; his was the 44th plan to be approved in the county.

HERBERT DODDS, new cooperator, signed up a 70-acre farm in Pleasant Grove township in 1975 and already has installed 50 acres of contouring, 0.5-acre of waterways, 50 acres protected by terraces and 2,000 feet of tile.



Good crowd at Mediapolis school no-tillage meeting

The Hawk Eye
12-5-76

Schedule Tillage "Show And Tell"

A tillage show is scheduled for January 13, 1977 at Mt. Pleasant, to "show and tell" about the latest in farm equipment designed to leave crop residue on the soil surface. The show, which will begin at 9 o'clock in the National Guard Armory, will be sponsored by the Geode Wonderland Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D Area). The Geode Area covers Henry, Lee, Des Moines and Louisa counties.

The "show and tell" program will include presentation from U. S. Soil Conservation Service, Iowa State University Extension Service and Agriculture Research Service Specialists. Also featured will be a panel of farmers who use various kinds of tillage equipment. Time will be allowed to look at equipment available and talk to equipment dealers who will be given space for display.

James Hawkins, a farmer from Argyle and chairman of the RC&D announced plans for the tillage event at their November 11, Executive Board meeting. "Conservation Tillage, reduced tillage, or minimum tillage must be adopted as a conservation measure in Southeast Iowa, if we are going to begin to control erosion where intensive row cropping is common," says Hawkins.

Another RC&D, called the Pathfinder covers Jefferson, Wapello, Davis, Van Buren, Keokuk and Mahaska counties. The Pathfinder group will help with the tillage show as they also have identified "sheet erosion" as one of their greatest problems



The latest in farm equipment designed to leave "Soil Protecting Crop Residue on the Surface" will be featured at the Mt. Pleasant special tillage day, on January 13. The meeting is sponsored by the Geode and Pathfinder's RC&D Councils of Southeast Iowa. This may be the most important conservation measure to protect the fast-diminishing top soil in the area, conservation officials say.

in soil resource depletion. Both RC&D Areas look at conservation tillage as a means to protect the fast diminishing top soil in Southeast Iowa.

"We hope farmers and equipment dealers might work out some arrangements for tillage demonstration in Southeast Iowa, during the 1977 cropping season", says Eldon Weber, Area Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service. "I think the most effective method of promoting mulch (conservation) tillage is to encourage

farmers to try at least a small acreage on their own farms. This system requires management where there is little substitute for experience", Weber says.

Ralph Dewey, RC&D Coordinator at West Burlington is working out details on the tillage show program. He is attempting to line up the top mulch tillage representatives from equipment companies. Equipment companies interested in participating should contact Ralph E. Dewey, P. O. Box 208, West Burlington, Ia. 52655, phone 319-754-7636.

Schedule Tillage "Show And Tell"

Mediapolis New Era
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RC&D ideas

Geode Wonderland RC&D members and officers have completed a draft of objectives proposed for the next several years that will be reviewed at the next meeting, 7 p.m. Wednesday in the south meeting room of Henry County Savings Bank in Mt. Pleasant.

Also on the agenda is a discussion by John Humphrey of the Farmers Home Administration concerning Resource Conservation and Development measures contemplated by Geode Wonderland and how best to work with FmHA.

These are the proposed objectives:

1. Reduction of soil losses from cropland of 50% by 1983 through accelerated use of conservation tillage methods and intensive conservation measures.
2. Establishment of conservation tillage observation plots on two or more of the major soil types of the area for study and promotion of tillage methods by 1978.
3. Accelerate and complete standard soil survey by 1982, and help soil conservation districts develop programs to promote broad uses of the survey.
4. Develop plans of tree planting and timber stand improvement to place 1,000 acres of timber soils per year under sound woodland management by 1981.
5. Study wetland wildlife potential of the area and plan the development of three or more wetland improvement measures to be installed by 1982.

6. Develop at least one water-based recreation measure in each county of the area by 1981.

7. Improve pasture productions by 25% through better management, introduction of best adapted species and renovation of substandard pastures - 10,000 acres by 1983.

8. Convert croplands with high erosion potential to grassland or woodland for permanent erosion control - 5,000 acres by 1980.

9. Coordinate tourism and public recreation activities in the four county area and provide a promotion program through public information, inventories and studies by 1987, with brochure beginning in 1977.

10. Develop a comprehensive plan for conservation in the area, including soil conservation, wildlife, water, etc., a plan that can be implemented - and pursue the needed public funding to achieve the plan by 1981.

11. Develop a rural sewer and water plan including priorities of steps required to implement the plan by 1979.

12. Develop areawide solid and liquid waste management system including toxic waste disposal by 1979.

13. Establish a coordinator for environmental education for all schools of the area by 1977.

14. Develop teaching guides and outdoor classroom guide for the area by 1978.

15. Create a one-stop services center for area, state and federal agencies at or near the Area Community college for convenience of clients by 1978.

16. Assist in developing industries that are compatible with resources of the area and that will encourage young workers to stay in the area. Three industries by 1981.

17. Work with Regional Planning Commission to activate an area housing commission that will improve housing facilities in the smaller communities.

18. Assist in developing more efficient and coordinated facilities for rail, river, highway and air transportation by developing a transportation plan by 1980.

19. Provide an information and public relations program to identify RC&D in the area. Monthly newsletters, timely news releases and one or more published brochures per year, beginning 1977.

20. Counsel with legislators at state and national level twice yearly to promote the best support possible for the area.

The Hawk Eye
12-5-76



Jim Hodges, left, and Roger Cling, right, discuss the no-tillage benefits at last Thursday evening's meeting at the Mediapolis High School.

No-Tillage On The Horizon

The Des Moines County Soil Conservation District recently sponsored a no-tillage meeting at Mediapolis High School. Sixty-nine people interested in this modern farming method were present.

Bill Vierling, chairman of the Soil Conservation District, expressed his support for no-tillage practices as a way of achieving more efficient and economical soil conservation.

Howard Bright, District Conservationist, then explained the value of no-tillage in terms of preventing soil erosion on cropland. "On 5 percent slopes, soil erosion can be cut to near zero soil loss with 'no-tillage'." This is a big difference when considering conventional tillage erodes 23 tons of soil per acre per year on 5 percent slopes if fall plowed up and down the hill. Not only does no-tillage reduce soil loss to minimum levels, but it increases water infiltration and reduces runoff from cropland. By using no-tillage, Des Moines County could quickly protect most of the valuable farm land from destructive soil erosion. This would also have an added benefit of cleaning up our streams of soil particles and dangerous chemicals which attach themselves to soil particles. Millions of dollars would be saved in dredging operations alone especially in the Mississippi River.

Bob Jones, Ortho Chemical Co. Representative, showed slides on several no-tillage plots throughout the area. He explained that with no-tillage, equipment costs could be cut drastically because no-tillage requires only a no-till planter and a tractor. Also time is saved because of reduced number of field operations. "Yields are comparable with conventional tillage and in some cases better

yields can be expected with no-tillage. No-tillage requires better management and a system has to be faithfully followed. Each person interested in trying no-tillage is urged to experiment on 40 acres or less to get used to the system before shifting his entire operation over to this new method of planting row crops. No-tillage can be used to plant in sod or in last years corn stalks or bean stubble. Paraquat and Atrazine are used as chemical weed control. Your sprayer must be accurately calibrated and nozzles of proper size and placement must be used to get complete herbicide coverage.

Most fertilizers can be broadcast. Use starter fertilizer with no-till planting just like with conventional tillage. Paraquat plus Artrazine may be applied in

liquid nitrogen applications."

Farmer, Darrell Glahn of Charlott, was present at the meeting and answered questions about his no-tillage operation on 700 acres of cropland. Darrell has been using this system since 1961 and is convinced that it's the only way to go for crop production on all soils.

Next year, a no-till planter will be available free of charge to interested farmers and Ortho recommendations must be followed. The planter will be a 38" four-row Allis Chalmers No-Till. The planter will be centrally located for accessibility. Please contact the Des Moines County Soil Conservation Service office for more information. This will be a good opportunity for farmers to find out for themselves what no-tillage can do for them.

Need Environmental Education Specialist

The Geode Wonderland Resource Conservation and Development Area is developing a job opportunity for a specialist in environmental education in the Des Moines, Lee, Henry and Louisa County Area.

Realizing a need for assistance to teachers in developing curriculum in the vital environmental area, the RC&D is looking for a person or persons to help establish such a position.

New Era
1-13-77

Minimum Tillage Demonstration Day

Conservation Tillage, the up-to-date way to conserve soil, will be the theme of a special demonstration day at the Mt. Pleasant National Guard Armory, January 13, 1977. Co-sponsors of the event are Geode Wonderland and Pathfinder Resource Conservation and Development Areas (RC&D).

Geode Wonderland chairman, Jim Hawkins of Argyle stresses that a potential of nine million tons of topsoil can be lost annually from the cropland of Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa Counties. These four counties make up Geode Wonderland. Pathfinder RC&D is chaired by Lowell McCracken of Ottumwa who agrees that similar hazards exist in the Pathfinder counties Van Buren, Davis, Jefferson, Wapello, Keokuk and Mahaska.

"Many farmers in southeast Iowa are concerned about reducing their soil losses with conservation tillage," explained RC&D Coordinator Ralph E. Dewey of West Burlington. "This demonstration is designed to show farmers opportunities they have with new or existing equipment to use this practice."

Conservation Tillage Day will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the National Guard Armory, across from McMillan Park on the south edge of Mt. Pleasant. Activities will continue all day until 3:00 p.m.

Included on the morning program will be John Maddy, Agronomist with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), David Williams, Extension Agricultural Engineer and Don Erbach, Agricultural Engineer with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS). These specialists have studied conservation tillage over the past 15 years and will have the very latest information to help local farmers.

Highlight of the afternoon session will be a panel of farmers from Geode Wonderland and Pathfinder RC&D Areas, who will discuss their experiences with conservation tillage methods and respond to questions.

Hawkins pointed out that many local equipment dealers and national manufacturers will have displays to show how conservation tillage can be done. Plenty of time is allowed during the day to look at the equipment.

A catered meal will be served at the Armory for those attending the event, which begins at 9:00 a.m. January 13, 1977 in Mt. Pleasant.

New Era
1-6-77

Schedule Tillage "Show And Tell"

A tillage show is scheduled for January 13, 1977 at Mt. Pleasant, to "show and tell" about the latest in farm equipment designed to leave crop residue on the soil surface. The show, which will begin at 9 o'clock in the National Guard Armory, will be sponsored by the Geode Wonderland Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D Area). The Geode Area covers Henry, Lee, Des Moines and Louisa counties.

The "show and tell" program will include presentation from U. S. Soil Conservation Service, Iowa State University Extension Service and Agriculture Research Service Specialists. Also featured will be a panel of farmers who use various kinds of tillage equipment. Time will be allowed to look at equipment available and talk to equipment dealers who will be given space for display.

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The latest in farm equipment designed to leave "Soil Protecting Crop Residue on the Surface" will be featured at the Mt. Pleasant special tillage day, on January 13. The meeting is sponsored by the Geode and Pathfinder's RC&D Councils of Southeast Iowa. This may be the most important conservation measure to protect the fast-diminishing top soil in the area, conservation officials say.

in soil resource depletion. Both RC&D Areas look at conservation tillage as a means to protect the fast diminishing top soil in Southeast Iowa.

"We hope farmers and equipment dealers might work out some arrangements for tillage demonstration in Southeast Iowa, during the 1977 cropping season", says Eldon Weber, Area Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service. "I think the most effective method of promoting mulch (conservation) tillage is to encourage

farmers to try at least a small acreage on their own farms. This system requires management where there is little substitute for experience", Weber says.

Ralph Dewey, RC&D Coordinator at West Burlington is working out details on the tillage show program. He is attempting to line up the top mulch tillage representatives from equipment companies. Equipment companies interested in participating should contact Ralph E. Dewey, P. O. Box 208, West Burlington, Ia. 52655, phone 319-754-7636.

Schedule Tillage "Show And Tell"

Mediapolis New Era
PAGE 6 - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1976

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RC&D ideas

Geode Wonderland RC&D members and officers have completed a draft of objectives proposed for the next several years that will be reviewed at the next meeting, 7 p.m. Wednesday in the south meeting room of Henry County Savings Bank in Mt. Pleasant.

Also on the agenda is a discussion by John Humphrey of the Farmers Home Administration concerning Resource Conservation and Development measures contemplated by Geode Wonderland and how best to work with FmHA.

These are the proposed objectives:

1. Reduction of soil losses from cropland of 50% by 1983 through accelerated use of conservation tillage methods and intensive conservation measures.
2. Establishment of conservation tillage observation plots on two or more of the major soil types of the area for study and promotion of tillage methods by 1978.
3. Accelerate and complete standard soil survey by 1982, and help soil conservation districts develop programs to promote broad uses of the survey.
4. Develop plans of tree planting and timber stand improvement to place 1,000 acres of timber soils per year under sound woodland management by 1981.
5. Study wetland wildlife potential of the area and plan the development of three or more wetland improvement measures to be installed by 1982.

6. Develop at least one water-based recreation measure in each county of the area by 1981.

7. Improve pasture productions by 25% through better management, introduction of best adapted species and renovation of substandard pastures - 10,000 acres by 1983.

8. Convert croplands with high erosion potential to grassland or woodland for permanent erosion control - 5,000 acres by 1980.

9. Coordinate tourism and public recreation activities in the four county area and provide a promotion program through public information, inventories and studies by 1987, with brochure beginning in 1977.

10. Develop a comprehensive plan for conservation in the area, including soil conservation, wildlife, water, etc., a plan that can be implemented - and pursue the needed public funding to achieve the plan by 1981.

11. Develop a rural sewer and water plan including priorities of steps required to implement the plan by 1979.

12. Develop areawide solid and liquid waste management system including toxic waste disposal by 1979.

13. Establish a coordinator for environmental education for all schools of the area by 1977.

14. Develop teaching guides and outdoor classroom guide for the area by 1978.

15. Create a one-stop services center for area, state and federal agencies at or near the Area Community college for convenience of clients by 1978.

16. Assist in developing industries that are compatible with resources of the area and that will encourage young workers to stay in the area. Three industries by 1981.

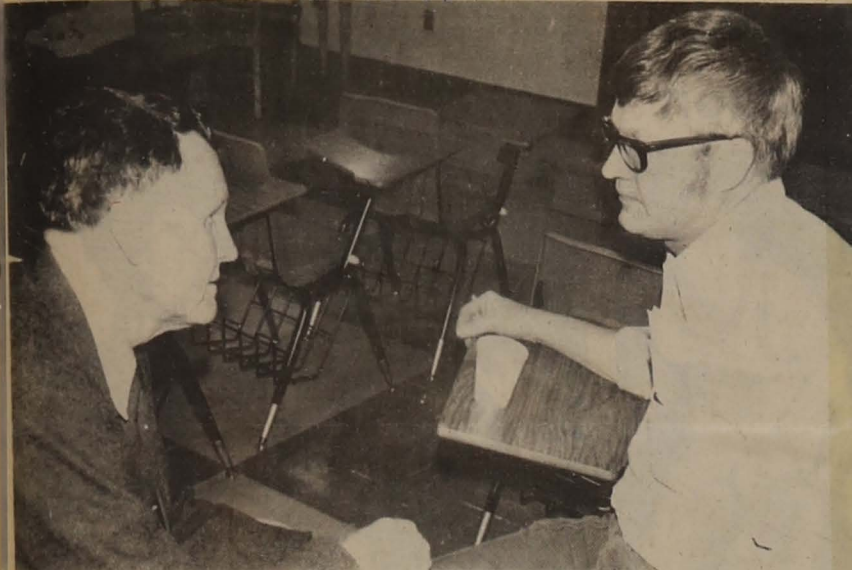
17. Work with Regional Planning Commission to activate an area housing commission that will improve housing facilities in the smaller communities.

18. Assist in developing more efficient and coordinated facilities for rail, river, highway and air transportation by developing a transportation plan by 1980.

19. Provide an information and public relations program to identify RC&D in the area. Monthly newsletters, timely news releases and one or more published brochures per year, beginning 1977.

20. Counsel with legislators at state and national level twice yearly to promote the best support possible for the area.

The Hawk Eye
12-5-76



Jim Hodges, left, and Roger Cling, right, discuss the no-tillage benefits at last Thursday evening's meeting at the Mediapolis High School.

No-Tillage On The Horizon

The Des Moines County Soil Conservation District recently sponsored a no-tillage meeting at Mediapolis High School. Sixty-nine people interested in this modern farming method were present.

Bill Vierling, chairman of the Soil Conservation District, expressed his support for no-tillage practices as a way of achieving more efficient and economical soil conservation.

Howard Bright, District Conservationist, then explained the value of no-tillage in terms of preventing soil erosion on cropland. "On 5 percent slopes, soil erosion can be cut to near zero soil loss with 'no-tillage'." This is a big difference when considering conventional tillage erodes 23 tons of soil per acre per year on 5 percent slopes if fall plowed up and down the hill. Not only does no-tillage reduce soil loss to minimum levels, but it increases water infiltration and reduces runoff from cropland. By using no-tillage, Des Moines County could quickly protect most of the valuable farm land from destructive soil erosion. This would also have an added benefit of cleaning up our streams of soil particles and dangerous chemicals which attach themselves to soil particles. Millions of dollars would be saved in dredging operations alone especially in the Mississippi River.

Bob Jones, Ortho Chemical Co. Representative, showed slides on several no-tillage plots throughout the area. He explained that with no-tillage, equipment costs could be cut drastically because no-tillage requires only a no-till planter and a tractor. Also time is saved because of reduced number of field operations. "Yields are comparable with conventional tillage and in some cases better

yields can be expected with no-tillage. No-tillage requires better management and a system has to be faithfully followed. Each person interested in trying no-tillage is urged to experiment on 40 acres or less to get used to the system before shifting his entire operation over to this new method of planting row crops. No-tillage can be used to plant in sod or in last years corn stalks or bean stubble. Paraquat and Atrazine are used as chemical weed control. Your sprayer must be accurately calibrated and nozzles of proper size and placement must be used to get complete herbicide coverage.

Most fertilizers can be broadcast. Use starter fertilizer with no-till planting just like with conventional tillage. Paraquat plus Artrazine may be applied in

liquid nitrogen applications."

Farmer, Darrell Glahn of Charlott, was present at the meeting and answered questions about his no-tillage operation on 700 acres of cropland. Darrell has been using this system since 1961 and is convinced that it's the only way to go for crop production on all soils.

Next year, a no-till planter will be available free of charge to interested farmers and Ortho recommendations must be followed. The planter will be a 38" four-row Allis Chalmers No-Till. The planter will be centrally located for accessibility. Please contact the Des Moines County Soil Conservation Service office for more information. This will be a good opportunity for farmers to find out for themselves what no-tillage can do for them.

Need Environmental Education Specialist

The Geode Wonderland Resource Conservation and Development Area is developing a job opportunity for a specialist in environmental education in the Des Moines, Lee, Henry and Louisa County Area.

Realizing a need for assistance to teachers in developing curriculum in the vital environmental area, the RC&D is looking for a person or persons to help establish such a position.

New Era
1-13-77

Minimum Tillage Demonstration Day

Conservation Tillage, the up-to-date way to conserve soil, will be the theme of a special demonstration day at the Mt. Pleasant National Guard Armory, January 13, 1977. Co-sponsors of the event are Geode Wonderland and Pathfinder Resource Conservation and Development Areas (RC&D).

Geode Wonderland chairman, Jim Hawkins of Argyle stresses that a potential of nine million tons of topsoil can be lost annually from the cropland of Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa Counties. These four counties make up Geode Wonderland. Pathfinder RC&D is chaired by Lowell McCracken of Ottumwa who agrees that similar hazards exist in the Pathfinder counties Van Buren, Davis, Jefferson, Wapello, Keokuk and Mahaska.

"Many farmers in southeast Iowa are concerned about reducing their soil losses with conservation tillage," explained RC&D Coordinator Ralph E. Dewey of West Burlington. "This demonstration is designed to show farmers opportunities they have with new or existing equipment to use this practice."

Conservation Tillage Day will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the National Guard Armory, across from McMillan Park on the south edge of Mt. Pleasant. Activities will continue all day until 3:00 p.m.

Included on the morning program will be John Maddy, Agronomist with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), David Williams, Extension Agricultural Engineer and Don Erbach, Agricultural Engineer with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS). These specialists have studied conservation tillage over the past 15 years and will have the very latest information to help local farmers.

Highlight of the afternoon session will be a panel of farmers from Geode Wonderland and Pathfinder RC&D Areas, who will discuss their experiences with conservation tillage methods and respond to questions.

Hawkins pointed out that many local equipment dealers and national manufacturers will have displays to show how conservation tillage can be done. Plenty of time is allowed during the day to look at the equipment.

A catered meal will be served at the Armory for those attending the event, which begins at 9:00 a.m. January 13, 1977 in Mt. Pleasant.

New Era
1-6-77

Farmers Learn Tillage Methods

Area farmers from ten Southeast Iowa Counties attended the Conservation Tillage Day, Thursday, January 13, sponsored by the Pathfinder and Geode Wonderland RC&D areas. Over 350 people gathered to hear discussions of tillage methods, join a panel discussion and view specialized equipment on display in the Mt. Pleasant National Guard Armory.

Geode Wonderland Chairman Jim Hawkins of Argyle was well pleased with the turnout on a blustery day and with the overall interest shown by visitors. "We are encouraged that so many area farmers are enthused about these methods of halting soil losses from their land," he said. "One of our RC&D objectives is reduction of sediment, and our four counties can lose as much as nine million tons of topsoil a year," He went on.

Jerry Lehman, farmer from New London, is chairman of the Henry County RC&D Council and hosted an afternoon panel of our conservation farmers. These men represented four different systems of conservation tillage ranging from no-till slot planting to chiseling and mulching. On the Panel were Charles Fricke of Mt. Pleasant, Duane Dobson of Donnellson, Duane Brinegar of Ottumwa and Tom Krumboltz from Fairfield.

David Williams and Don Erbach, Agricultural Engineers with the Iowa Experiment Station in Ames, joined Soil Conservation Service Agronomist John Maddy of Des Moines in focusing on the technical and erosion control factors of the event.

"Follow up activities are planned by the RC&D's to keep those in attendance aware of conservation tillage methods," stated Geode Wonderland Coordinator Ralph Dewey of West Burlington. "We hope to develop demonstration plots throughout the area, where people can observe and convince themselves of the value of conservation tillage."

Mediapolis New Era
1-20-77

Million Acre Increase In Minimum Tillage

More than 7 million acres of Iowa cropland were planted this year leaving crop residues on top of the ground, according to a survey by the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Their estimates show 7.2 million acres this year, an 18 percent increase from 6.1 million acres last year. Agency officials say that means one-third of Iowa's corn and soybean land is now being readied for planting without the use of a moldboard plow.

"We're very happy to see this kind of increase, from an erosion control standpoint," says SCS state conservationist William Brune. "Generally, leaving half the residue from the previous year's crop on the soil surface will cut erosion by water in half. The practice has broad application in Iowa."

The SCS survey, compiled from county estimates by SCS district conservationists, shows acreage increases by nearly all types of conservation tillage methods. (Conservation tillage, minimum tillage, and mulch tillage are all terms used to describe reduced tillage which leaves crop residues on the soil surface.)

Chisel plowing showed the biggest increase from 1975 figures. In 1976, about 2.4 million acres were chisel plowed, compared to 1.8 million acres in 1975.

Disking, or using a field cultivator (or a similar machine) increased from 3.8 million acres in 1975 to 4.2 million acres this year. Till planting increased from 272,000 acres to 281,000 acres, and slot planting (also no-till planting) increased from 106,000 acres to 118,000 acres. The only decrease came in rotary strip planting, which dropped from 194,000 acres to 188,000 acres.

"We've run this survey since 1968, and we've seen a tremendous jump in conservation tillage in eight years," says Mervin Danielson, SCS state resource conservationist. Only 440,000 acres were minimum-tilled in 1968. The figure went to 2,900,000 acres in 1972, and has more than doubled since then.

"There's potential for much more conservation tillage in Iowa," Danielson says. "It's the fastest way a farmer can reduce soil losses and continue to plant corn and soybeans."

While the conservationists say the survey results are encouraging, they also feel the quality of conservation tillage needs improving. "We found that overall, 72 percent of the 7.2 million acres had more than 1,000 pounds of residue per acre left on the surface after planting. The other 28 percent didn't have enough crop residues to do a good job of erosion control."

Soil protection is gained by the residues covering soil; raindrops hit the residues rather than soil and don't dislodge soil particles. Thus, more ground coverage means better soil protection.

"We found the best protection, of course, in no till planting, with 99 percent of the acres leaving adequate residue," Danielson says. "Till planting left 97 percent of the land with more than 1,000 pounds of residue per acre; the rotary tillage figure is 92 percent."

Survey results show that 54,264 farmers, or about 40 percent of those in the state, are trying some kind of reduced tillage on at least part of their land.

Mediapolis New Era
1-6-77

Mediapolis New Era
1-8-77

THURSDA

Commissioners Choose Officers

Soil conservation district commissioners met Monday evening to select their new chairman and vice-chairman for 1977. Elected in the general election to the commission was Rex H. Troute (six year term) and Clyde W. Scherer (two year term). Other members are Ray W. Pilling, Dwight Stucker, and Joseph P. Beckman.

William Vierling was past chairman and Dwight Stucker was past vice-chairman. Elected Monday night to the positions were Dwight Stucker, chairman, and Ray Pilling, vice-chairman.

Harold Linder was re-appointed as secretary and Horace Sutton was re-appointed as treasurer for the commission.



Typical of most country roads on Friday morning, January 28, high drifts of snow blocked any passage. Winds of up to 40 mph blew the snow, mixed with soil from the fields, during a blizzard Thursday

night and Friday morning. Picture was taken facing south on a gravel road off the Mediapolis blacktop just west of Kossuth.

Blizzard Incapacitates Entire Des Moines County

Record sub-zero temperatures over the past month may have toughened area residents, but it didn't prepare them for the blizzard that hit the county on Friday, January 28. Actually, the wind and snow started Thursday

night, and the roads quickly started drifting shut with the new snow, snow already on the ground, and lots of soil.

Nearly 100 motorists were stranded or abandoned their

vehicles in the Des Moines county blizzard, according to authorities.

Spend Night at Fire Station

Thirteen motorists were picked up and brought to the Mediapolis fire station, after the county deputies found them stranded north of Burlington along Hwy. 61. They remained at the station overnight. Fire chief Paul Nelson said he spent most of Thursday night taking care of the needs of the stranded citizens, and working the radio. Nelson said the Mediapolis fire department "gave a radio to the Sheriff's department and helped them by relaying messages."

One couple, according to Nelson, who spent the night at the fire station weren't stranded, but they decided not to go any further because of the poor road conditions and no visibility. He said the couple was from Toledo, O., and had come to see the Ohio St. vs. Iowa game.

Many cars and semis were off the road along Hwy. 61 north and south of Burlington early Friday, but wreckers were removing the vehicles quickly. Hwy. 61 was officially closed to all traffic for several hours Friday morning. With nearly all county roads drifted shut, Mediapolis residents were unable to travel - and the town was very quiet.

Mediapolis is Stymied

No school was held, more than half of the Main St. businesses were closed, athletic contests were cancelled - and people who were unable to get out spent their time trying to stay warm. The high winds, gusting up to 40 mph or more, caused many houses to stay cold, despite the setting of

the thermostat. Homes in the country with no wind break were the hardest to heat.

Pub Accommodates Guests

At the Dodgeville Pub, owner Bill Hill accommodated about 65 persons who were advised by sheriff's officers at 1 a.m. not to attempt returning home. Hill and his staff provided coffee and sandwiches to the 65 persons who stayed.

The guests stretched out on blankets, provided by Hill, on benches and tables. In the morning, most were able to return home. Some were taken to Holiday Inn in Burlington by the Sheriff's deputies to make their own passage home.

Farmers Lose Topsoil

One aspect of the blizzard on farmer's minds is the loss of topsoil with the high winds. Howard Bright, director of the Des Moines county soil conservation service, said "the only fields not hurt are the ones in pasture or complete stalk cover". He said it would be impossible to estimate total soil loss because of varying snow cover. In driving past plowed fields, it is easy to see where all of the snow has been blown off, along with a lot of topsoil. In most fields with a good stalk cover, quite a bit of snow remains to protect the field.

Luckily, no serious injuries or fatalities were reported Friday, and everyone survived the blizzard - although they may have had their doubts at times. Life in Des Moines County was back to normal on Saturday, and the stories were being passed about whose experiences were the worst.

Name Robb To RC&D Post

Harold R. Robb, 53, of 123 Grand, Burlington, has been named environmental resources coordinator for the Geode Wonderland Resource Conservation and Development Area, it was announced by Ralph Dewey, coordinator.

Robb, who was principal for the West Burlington elementary school for six years, will assist in developing RC&D measures and help to speed action on measures already approved. He will work with educators in Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa counties to determine needs for environmental education programs.

He is responsible for finding ways to carry out environmental and conservation education programs in compliance with guidelines of the Iowa Department of Public Instruction.

Robb's wife, Ramah, is a teacher at Apollo school. They have three children, all of whom have completed school and are no longer at home.

Dewey will be in Lincoln, Neb., February 14-17, taking part in a seminar on public involvement in federal programs, a nationwide event for 35-40 persons, held at the Soil Conservation Service regional technical services center.

Mediapolis New Era
2-3-77

New Era
2-10-77

MEDIAPOLIS NEW ERA

Survey Seeks Farmer Advice

Rex Troute, chairman of the Des Moines County Resource Coordinating Committee has announced that the committee is preparing to mail a survey seeking farmer advice on soil conservation and water quality. Currently, the committee is aiding in the preparation of a plan mandated by the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments. This plan is being done to improve water quality in the nation's rivers. In Iowa and Des Moines County this means the control of soil erosion and agricultural runoff, nonpoint pollution, as well as industrial and municipal waste discharges, point pollution. The committee hopes to aid in the development of a plan that does this job, while creating minimum hardships for individuals.

3-31-77

Mr. Troute notes that 70 surveys will be mailed in Des Moines County. The individuals to whom the surveys will be forwarded are to be randomly selected from a list of landowners and operators within the county. There will be no personal identification of individuals participating.

Mr. Troute has requested that people who receive these surveys complete and return them. The Des Moines County Resource Coordinating Committee will use this information to advise the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation throughout the water quality planning process.

A sample survey is shown below. You may want to complete it and return to the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District, Federal Bldg., Box 637, Burlington, Iowa 52601, by April 7, 1977.

Results of both surveys will be summarized and published in a future issue of this publication.

WATER QUALITY FARM SURVEY

1. Name of county in which you have a farming operation or own land. _____
2. How much land do you farm? _____ acres
3. Do you feel soil erosion caused by water runoff is a problem on this farm(s)? _____ yes _____ no
4. Do you feel there are water quality problems caused by erosion in your county? _____ yes _____ no
5. Are you satisfied with the quality of the water in your county or drainage area? _____ yes _____ no
6. Do you follow fertilizer recommendations from soil tests on your farm(s)? _____ yes _____ no
7. How often do you have the soil on your farm(s) tested? _____
8. If soil conservation practices must be installed to improve water quality what source(s) of funds should be available? (check as many as you like)
federal funds _____ state funds _____
local funds _____ other _____
no funds _____
9. What method would you favor for financial assistance to farmers in applying conservation practices? (check as many as you like)
cost-share _____ what percent? _____
long term low-interest loans _____
no assistance _____
some form of tax incentive _____ list type _____
other _____
10. Do you favor an acreage set-aside program to allow conservation construction during the summer? _____ yes _____ no
11. If public money is used for installation of soil conservation practices should farm operators be held responsible for all maintenance of these practices? _____ yes _____ no

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New Era 3-10-77

Mediapolis New Era 2-10-77

Set Long Range Cropland Program

Long range planning for conservation of Des Moines county cropland was discussed at a January 27 meeting of the Soil Conservation District commissioners. This is only one phase of their land treatment needs and objectives; others are pastureland, timberland, and land use policies.

Their long range program for cropland is as follows:

There are approximately 35,000 acres out of the 165,512 acres of cropland that are adequately treated. This means that only 21 percent of our cropland is protected or adequately treated.

There are approximately 130,512 acres of cropland needing erosion control treatment.

In the past, we have used structural means and rotations to deal with these erosion problems. Times have changed and there are no longer conservation cropping rotations being used. Contouring has virtually disappeared, even though it is still a very effective practice for preventing erosion.

We are faced with a present need for erosion control that is acceptable to both land owners

and conservationists. We also need to get the job of erosion control implemented soon.

While terracing is very effective in controlling erosion, especially when used in conjunction with other conservation practices, such as conservation tillage and crop rotations, it does not appear that all of the acres needing terracing can possibly be done in the near future. There are 85,000 acres in need of terracing at present. This is equivalent to 21,000,000 ft. of terracing or 3,977 miles of terraces. At present we have been averaging 50,000 to 100,000 ft. of terraced being built each year. At this rate, we can expect to complete terracing of Des Moines county in 210 to 420 years.

It is evident from these figures that another alternative is needed for reducing erosion, immediately. If our cropland is farmed as we are presently doing for 420 years, we will have lost 5,460 tons of soil from each acre. This would amount to three feet of soil taken from each acre.

In order to expedite an erosion control program rapidly, we are establishing the following goals:

Goal	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Demo. no-tillage plots	10	10	10	10	10
No-tillage (acres)	160	600	2,000	3,000	5,000
Conservation tillage	10,000	15,000	18,000	23,000	30,000
Terracing per year	60,000	60,000	75,000	100,000	100,000

Environmental Meeting March 9

An information meeting on the topic of "Environmental Education for Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa Counties" will be held starting at 7:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, 1977, at the Geode Wonderland RC&D Office, Machinists Building just east of Middletown on Highway 34.

Soil Conservation District commissioners in Lee, Henry, Louisa and Des Moines Counties have proposed a measure for developing the environmental education process in schools of Area 16. Their concern is expressed in the objectives of the Geode Wonderland Resource Conservation and Development Area (RC&D) as follows: "To coordinate assistance to area schools for environmental education improvement," and "to develop guides for environmental education and use of outdoor classrooms".

Geode Wonderland is in a coordinating position regarding development of this important measure. The RC&D Council feels that there is a lot of local interest in developing more effective means of environmental education. A small percentage of teachers have received training in the field and feel qualified to pursue the subject in the classroom. A larger number of teachers have expressed interest in such teaching, but they hesitate to proceed with feelings of inadequacy.

RC&D has done minor preliminary investigation. We have found a broad variety of approaches from area level consultants to county hired naturalists operating outdoor classrooms. We have determined one definite guiding fact.

"RC&D cannot determine what sort of environmental education help is best suited to this area. The decision makers of this measure must be people involved in local school districts - mainly, teachers, administrators and funding bodies."

Among things to be discussed at the March 9 meeting will be:

- What level of employment will do the job best?
- Just what is the job to be done?
- What potential funds are available?
- Procedure in development.
 - Naming a representative group to come up with a proposal.
 - Establish parameters for the group to work within.
 - Other considerations (expenses, etc.)

New Era
3-3-77

New team, new concept

WAPELLO — There's a new team with a new concept in the Soil Conservation Service office here.

James Ranum, 27, Louisa district soil conservationist, came here from Elkader in Clayton county where he was in training. He's a native of Northwood and graduated from Iowa State university in 1975 with a major in agronomy.

Ranum and his wife, Marsha, live at 709 Buchanan with their 4-year-old daughter Sheila and 1½-year-old son Travis.

William Baugh, 32, is a conservation technician. He came here from West Union. He started with the SCS at Ottumwa in 1965 and moved to Ranum's home town of Northwood in 1968.

He and his wife, Marian, have 10-year-old twins Gerald and Geneva and 5-year-old daughter, Shannon; the family lives here.

The concept they are trying to use is a group approach to conservation projects — getting neighboring farmers to cooperate in cost-sharing improvements. "What we are trying to do are a bunch of semi-small watersheds," Ranum said.

"Bill made the contacts with 12 individual farmers on this one and he got some good cooperation," he added. Involved are about 900 acres on the upper reaches of Long creek, west of Columbus City.

"This would cost too much for us for regular cost-sharing. We're getting ready to go if the funds become available," Ranum added. Tile outlet terraces are programmed for this one and for two other, smaller projects. One, between Letts and Columbus Junction, is slated for this fall.

Howard Bright, Ranum's counterpart in Des Moines county, also is try-



BILL BAUGH, left, shows his boss, Jim Ranum, some of the locations on a topographical map where he has secured cooperation of landowners in a small watershed project under a Soil Conservation Service program that hasn't yet been approved.

ing to line up group efforts around the county. Keeping the contractor in one place longer is more efficient and helps hold costs down, he added.

"There are 85,000 acres in need of tile outlet terraces; that means 21 million feet of terrace while 50,000 to 100,000 feet actually are being put in annually," Bright said.

Since it's impossible to get all that's needed installed, Bright said his office is concentrating on promotion of minimum tillage. There are 261,761 acres in the county, so nearly one-third are in need of treatment, but even more could benefit from minimum tillage.

"There are 10 people who are going to have demonstration plots on no-till practices," Bright said. "Some are on sod but most are on corn ground. The plots are between 10 and 40 acres each."

He has been working with the ASCS committee in an effort to get cost-sharing funds for conservation tillage.

"It probably wouldn't be a whole lot — maybe \$5 to \$10 per acre for conservation tillage and \$10 to \$15 for no-till. We would make them meet specifications, like 2,000 pounds of debris left on slopes up to 3% and 3,000-4,000 pounds on steeper slopes."

Corn stalks and similar plant debris help hold soil and moisture. Some no-tillage advocates plant corn in sod ground, using special equipment.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1977

New Era

Special Minimum Tillage Practices

A "special conservation tillage" practice is now available to Des Moines county farmers in 1977 through the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP), announced the Des Moines ASC county committee.

The purpose of this practice is to promote the use of a cultural system that reduces the number of tillage operations; to maintain enough crop residue on or near the surface of the soil to reduce water and wind erosion and pollution of the land, air and water.

The acceptance and continued use of this practice will reduce the need for terracing on most of the Des Moines county soils and economically protect the land from erosion. Use is limited to land devoted to the production of intertilled (row) crops during the program year, and is authorized for the farmer who has not already adopted a satisfactory conservation tillage system of farming.

Two methods of using the conservation tillage practice are:

Minimum tillage - using a method of farming which will leave sufficient crop residue on the surface after planting to be eligible for cost-sharing as follows.

0-2 percent slopes - a minimum of 2,000 lbs. residue per acre.

Over 2 percent slopes - a minimum of 3,000 lbs. residue per acre.

Federal cost-share rate - \$5.00 per acre not to exceed 80 acres per applicant. Not to exceed \$10,000 for the practice in the county.

No tillage - preparation of the seedbed and planting is completed in one operation. No soil is disturbed except in the immediate area of the planted seed row.

Federal cost-share rate - \$15.00 per acre. Not to exceed \$5,000 for the practice in the county.

Technical responsibility is assigned to Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

Further information and specification's may be obtained by visiting the ASCS office.

As in all ACP practices, an application for the practice must be made at the ASCS office before the practice is begun to be eligible for consideration by the County Committee.

Plant Earlier With Conservation Tillage

If you want to plant earlier this year to take advantage of what moisture is in the soil, you might want to consider a "conservation tillage" system. This type of system leaves crop residues on the soil surface, and requires fewer trips across a field before planting. With some systems, planting is the only operation, says Howard Bright, District Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service in Des Moines county.

"To be able to plant earlier, you've got to be in the field planting when your neighbor is plowing, disking, or harrowing," Bright says. The condition your soil is in, the amount of crop residue you have to work with, and the type of planter you have are important points to consider.

The main point in deciding when to plant is to start as soon as the soil is fit to plant in. "As soon as the soil is warm enough and dry enough, you're ready to go with no-till, slot planting or till planting," says SCS agronomist John Maddy. "Some farmers shred cornstalks or disc lightly ahead of planting with these systems," he says, "but the idea is to plant in the row of last year's crop. Disking can destroy the warm, dry soil in that crop row, and delay planting."

Over-working the ground before planting not only causes later planting - it also covers crop residues. Those residues are valuable in preventing soil erosion by wind and water. In soybean land in particular, residues are easily buried. "This land is ideal for a no-till or till plant system," the agronomist says.

The soil conservationists say that if fertilizer and herbicide incorporation are needed, they recommend chiseling or disking lightly to leave as much residue on the soil surface as possible.

New Era
3-31-77

Plan For Spring Cost-Sharing

Despite the snow on the first day of spring, farmers are planning for their spring cost-sharing practices with the Soil Conservation Service.

Either already approved or soon to be approved are 26 terraces, 20 ponds, two waterways and one lagoon. A few of these are 1976 measures left from the fall.

Some farmers in the Mediapolis district planning terracing for this spring and fall are Earl Miller, Harold Abel, Lloyd Massner, Bill Myers, Darrell Tucker, Cecil Burkey, Art Strawhacker, Eric Massner, and Virgil Massner.

Ray Petersen, Dan Wistrom, Walter Lee Tyner, Raymond Johnson and Jerry Miller are planning stock watering ponds for their farms.

Carroll Oberman is planning to construct a large waterway, and Milford Kester is looking toward

terracing and a lagoon.

Most of these measures are through 50 percent federal cost-sharing. A few are funded through the State.

Deane Thornton of the ASCS office said there was originally \$62,000 in federal funds for conservation practices, and estimates there is \$23,000 remaining. He urges any farmer interested in conservation practices to apply soon.

New Era
3-31-77

SCS Will Give Away Pasture Seed

Howard Bright, Des Moines county soil conservation service director, said they have 50 lbs. of free seed to give away to any interested farmer. It is Big Blue Stem, enough for six acres.

"It must be a permanent pasture," said Bright.

The seed is from a native prairie grass, according to Bright, and makes a good mid-summer pasture when others are dormant. "The best grazing time is July and August," said Bright of the free seed.

Any farmer interested in planting the seed in a permanent pasture should inquire at the soil conservation office at the Federal Building, Main and Jefferson Streets, Burlington. "We will give instructions on how to plant it," said Bright. They also want to study the grass to see how it grows in this area.

New Era
4-7-77

Present New Measures To RC&D

At the March meeting of the Geode Wonderland RC&D Council, several new measures were presented and approved for inclusion in the Area Plan.

A Farmers Market system is to be developed in Keokuk, Ft. Madison, and Burlington, featuring opportunities for outlet for youth group garden projects and local truck farmers.

An outdoor classroom planning

and implementation at Lincoln School, Ft. Madison, was discussed.

Agricultural chemical waste disposal for Louisa County was presented, involving flushing, crushing, and salvage of farm chemical containers.

The board moved to send a letter of inquiry to the City of Burlington to determine their reasoning in dumping fill material into the Mississippi. The RC&D is promoting the reduction of sediments in the streams, and are concerned about the displacement of water in the flood plain as well as pollutant hazards.

Philosophies, techniques, and legalities of environmental education were discussed for about two hours. A plan for developing an Environmental Education measure was presented to Ralph Dewey, RC&D director, involving contact persons for each school in the RC&D area and a core committee representing all the publics to work out the measure.

A regular meeting is set for April 6, 7:30 p.m., in the meeting room at Capitol Savings and Loan, Mt. Pleasant. On the agenda is a program concerning the EPA Water Quality Program 208. This will be a public informational meeting.

The county councils will meet and name representatives to the Area Council and elect officers. Several new measures are being proposed. These include a Farmers Market and potential riverfront developments involving tourism and recreation.

New Era
4-7-77

Who, when, where & why

Monday, April 25

9:00 a.m. — Burlington city council, public hearing and bid advertising on Flint Hills Golf course reclamation project, mayor's office, city hall.

7:30 p.m. — Burlington plan commission, regular session, council chamber, city hall.

12 noon — Southeast Iowa planning commission, regular session, Flint Hills room, Hotel Burlington.

Tuesday, April 26

10 a.m. — Burlington city officials and Federal Aviation Administration representatives, on Municipal airport, mayor's office.

Wednesday, April 27

6:30 p.m. — Des Moines County RC&D council, Room 230, Burlington federal building.

7:30 p.m. — Des Moines County Soil Conservation district commissioners, Room 230, Burlington federal building, regular meeting, and county Resource Coordinating Advisory committee.

Thursday, April 28

9:00 a.m. — Des Moines county supervisors and Burlington city council, joint ambulance service, city hall.

2:00 p.m. — Burlington city council, work session, mayor's office.

New Era
4-24-77

Soil & Water Conservation Week...

September 12-18

Saving our soil...

A GUEST EDITORIAL
by Governor Robert D. Ray

In this bicentennial year, we can pause and reflect upon our accomplishments in America which are unparalleled by any other nation. Those accomplishments, in great part, have been made because of the initiative and creativity of the hard-working citizens of this country.

There is another important reason for our success—our natural resources. In Iowa, we live, walk, drive, and grow food on one of our nation's most valuable natural resources—the soil.

Take a look at the facts. Agriculture is our leading export industry, with \$22 billion in export sales a year, or 20 percent of all our exports. Each of our farmers feeds himself and 55 other Americans. As a group, U. S. farmers spent \$75.5 billion last year which goes into our economy for the benefit of all.

These facts are important to us in Iowa, where 95 percent of our land is in agriculture and where our economy is heavily oriented toward agriculture.

Unfortunately, the unique combination of soil and climate that makes Iowa ideal for crop production also makes our state one with a high potential for soil erosion. We have seen some serious erosion of top quality farmland. Conservation officials report that less than half of our land is properly protected from the menace of soil erosion.

The need for good conservation practices in urban and industrial areas that support our agricultural economy is equally essential. And proper conservation measures will be needed to maintain the quality of life we enjoy for future generations.

We have always recognized the need to conserve and protect valuable soil. Iowa is the only state in the union that provides its own funds for cost sharing with landowners to install conservation practices.

As we observe Soil and Water Conservation Week September 12-18, I would like to join thousands of others in paying tribute to the conservation minded farmers of Iowa, and to those citizens rural and urban alike, who give of their time and effort to make our programs work.

However, we must not dwell on our past accomplishments, but on the task that lies before us. Working together we can increase the productivity of our resource base and at the same time make Iowa an even better place in which to live, work, and play.

Soil erosion also a problem in cities

When the soil conservation movement began 40 years ago in America, erosion was thought of only as a farm problem. But recently, a soil erosion has been recognized as a serious problem within city limits.

Soil erosion can be 10 times worse on urban development land than on cropland, and 200 times worse than on pastureland, according to William Brune, state conservationist, Soil Conservation Service.

Stream channels below construction sites often become filled with sediment, then flood after heavy rains.

Sediment, the greatest single pollutant of our streams, lakes and reservoirs, damages nearly every area where it is deposited, Brune said. It lowers water quality for recreation uses and shortens the effective life of reservoirs. It buries lawns, fills ditches, clogs storm sewers, blocks navigation channels, and hurts game and shell fish.

Nationwide damage caused by sediment each year is estimated at \$500 million.

Iowa is a leader in the fight to stop erosion and sediment within cities. In 1970, the Iowa legislature passed a law requiring cities to become part of local soil conservation districts. Districts are the local subdivisions of state government responsible for carrying out soil conservation programs, explains Brune.

Another law was passed in 1971 urging soil conservation on farmland and urbanized land. "Soil loss limits" of 5 tons per acre per year are now established for construction sites.

If these limits are exceeded, neighbors being damaged by sediment may complain to the soil district to force the developer to solve the problem.

Many Iowa cities are passing erosion control ordinances which require the local soil conservation district to review development plans before a building permit is issued. Others are cooperating with farmers outside the city limits to stop erosion and flooding problems which affect farms, city land and facilities.

Many conservation practices and controls used to control erosion on farmland can be used in cities, says Brune.

The USDA Soil Conservation Service, with an office in every county, is a source of help for erosion problems. Each office has soil information to show developers or home builders potential problems, as well as specific recommendations for solving urban erosion problems.

The Iowa Department of Soil Conservation has a new 225-page book "Iowa Guidelines for Soil and Water Conservation in Urbanizing Areas" which outlines solutions to urban erosion problems. The book is available to city officials and urban developers.

Iowa landowners investing in soil conservation measures can get cost-share assistance from two sources — state and federal.

Legislators and citizens concerned about maintaining the productivity of Iowa's solid resources started a state cost-share program to accelerate soil conservation efforts in Iowa. Federal money is also available to Iowa farmers for conservation work.

Federal cost-share programs are administered through county committees of the USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). This is part of the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP).

ACP funds will provide \$6.8 million for cost sharing in Iowa during 1976. The assistance is used for permanent and annual conservation practices.

Iowa began its own cost-share program in 1973. State funds are used for permanent soil conservation practices and are administered through local offices of the soil conservation districts in the state.

Landowners who voluntarily install conservation practices may receive 50 percent of the cost from the state program.

The Iowa Department of Soil Conservation oversees the program. It received a \$4 million appropriation from the Iowa General Assembly for the 1976-77 fiscal year. The cost-share program was funded at \$2.5 million for the 1975-76 fiscal year.

Applicants for assistance under either program receive technical assistance from the USDA's Soil Conservation Service for layout and design of needed conservation measures.

Cost sharing helps pay for needed conservation work done on a voluntary and cooperative basis. Both landowners and the public benefit from measures installed so they share the cost.

Types of permanent soil conservation practices shared include terraces, erosion control structures, waterways, diversions, field windbreaks, tree planting and seeding of critical areas.

Five percent of the state cost-share funds is held in reserve in case of mandatory measures required by Iowa's Sediment Control Law. Under Iowa law persons whose land erodes at a rate exceeding the soil loss limits set by their local soil conservation district can have a complaint filed against them by adjoining landowners receiving sediment damage.

The law requires 75 percent cost sharing be provided if landowners must install conservation measures because of a complaint.

Soil loss limits also apply to construction sites and nonagricultural lands, but cost sharing is not required on these sites.

Another portion of the state funds is used for watersheds above state-owned lakes. They qualify for special project status and are eligible for reserve funds plus those allocated to the local soil conservation district.

The soil conservation districts require a landowner to be a cooperator with the district before state cost-share funds can be made available for the voluntary and special project categories. In the 75 percent cost-sharing category, where conservation practices are mandated, the landowner does not have to be a cooperator with the district.

The Iowa cost-share program has increased the application of soil conservation practices on Iowa lands. The fall of 1975 established records for the number of conservation practices applied during a construction season.

As a result, many districts throughout the state exhausted their state cost-share funds during the fall of 1975.

State conservation district officials are reporting a heavy sign-up for state soil conservation cost-share funds, available since July 1. Requests for state cost-sharing funds exceed the 1976-77 allocation in many districts.

Landowners interested in this assistance should contact their local soil conservation district office or county ASCS office.

Renovate pastures with interseeding

Interseeding is done quickly because no plowing or disking is required. The grass sod is not destroyed and will resume growth in three to four weeks after spraying with Paraquat. This reduces the chances of erosion on hilly pasture land.

The seeding can be grazed during the seeding year but should be limited to favor legume establishment.

Interseeding is most effective on thin, low producing bluegrass sods. Applying lime and fertilizer and spraying weeds with 2,4-D are important to establishing the new seeding and to production after establishment. Interseeding can be done in early spring or in late summer from mid-August to early September.

Frost seeding is an alternative method of establishing legumes in grass sod. This is broadcasting legumes on established grass without tillage, in late February or

Conservation tillage saves time and money for this farmer

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"A lot of my fields are pretty hilly so I use conservation tillage to reduce soil and water erosion and also to save time," he said.

I had virtually no soil loss this spring from wind erosion," he said.

This year Lindflott chisel-plowed 400 of his 1200 acres of continuous corn. In other years, he has chiseled up to 600 acres. He usually chisels land with erosion problems.

Because chisel plowing is faster than moldboard plowing, he has gotten away from much spring plowing. "Time is very important to me because of the amount of land I farm," adds Lindflott. He said chisel plowing is 50 percent faster than moldboard plowing.

Chiseling is fast because I can drive faster and my chisel takes a 162-inch swath compared to 108 inches with my moldboard plow.

His chisel also requires less upkeep and less fuel. At a nine-inch depth, a moldboard plow uses 2.75 gallons of diesel fuel per acre and a chisel plow uses 1.5 gallons per acre, he said.

Where he does moldboard plow, Lindflott uses a high clearance plow that leaves more mulch on the soil surface than a conventional moldboard plow.

Besides these advantages, yields aren't much different between his chiseled and moldboard plowed acres. Last year he averaged 110 bushels per acre of No. 2 corn.

Conservation tillage works well for Lindflott. He doesn't have the problems some people associate with it. He has no major insect, disease or weed problems. "Of course there are some weeds, like milkweed, that probably will always be a problem," he adds.

For insect control he alternates using 10 pounds per acre of Furadan, five pounds of Dyfonate and eight pounds of Counter.

He uses the same rates for his chisel and moldboard plowed acres. He uses three chemicals to avoid buildup of insect resistance.

There is also no variation between tillage for his herbicide rates. His basic herbicide is Lasso at two and one-half to three quarts per acre. This year Lindflott applied two quarts of Prowl, the new herbicide, "mostly out of curiosity." Where broadleaf weeds are a problem, he adds one and one-half pounds of Atrazine to Lasso.

Corn stalks aren't a problem, either. If he chisels in the fall, he disks the stalks in the spring. On spring-chiseled land, the stalks are disked before planting.

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Renovate pastures with interseeding

Pasture renovation is becoming more popular with Iowa farmers, says Frank Schaller, extension agronomist at Iowa State University. Interseeding, a method of pasture renovation, reduces soil erosion compared to the conventional method of plowing or disking, then seeding.

Legumes are interseeded in pasture with a special drill that opens a slit or trench in grass sod. Seed is placed in the trench and covered shallow.

Paraquat, a contact herbicide, can be sprayed on existing grass to retard growth until the new seedlings are established.

Establishing legumes such as birdsfoot trefoil, alfalfa, and crownvetch can increase pasture yields, improve forage quality, and eliminate the need for nitrogen fertilizer, says Schaller.

Interseeding is done quickly because no plowing or disking is required. The grass sod is not destroyed and will resume growth in three to four weeks after spraying with Paraquat. This reduces chances of erosion on hilly pasture land. The seeding can be grazed during the seeding year but should be limited to favor legume establishment.

Interseeding is most effective on thin, low producing bluegrass sods. Applying lime and fertilizer and spraying weeds with 2, 4-D are important to establishing the new seeding and to production after establishment. Interseeding can be done in early spring or in late summer from mid-August to early September.

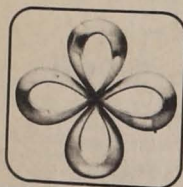
Frost seeding is an alternative method of establishing legumes in grass sod. This is broadcasting legumes on established grass without tillage, in late February or

March. Seed is covered by freezing and thawing of the surface soil and early spring rains.

Frost seeding is considered an uncertain practice, but it often works well. It may be the only alternative on hillside too steep for other seeding methods.

Best success from frost seeding is when weeds are sprayed and the grass is closely grazed the fall before seeding. Phosphorus and potassium fertilizer should be applied in the fall. A light disking following fertilizer spreading may help cover the seed.

Birdsfoot trefoil, alfalfa and the clovers have been established by frost seeding. A mixture Schaller suggests for bluegrass sod is five pounds per acre of red clover and four pounds of birdsfoot trefoil.



Iowa
a place to grow

Soil & Water Conservation Week...

September 12-18

Saving our soil...

A GUEST EDITORIAL
by Governor Robert D. Ray

In this bicentennial year, we can pause and reflect upon our accomplishments in America which are unparalleled by any other nation. Those accomplishments, in great part, have been made because of the initiative and creativity of the hard-working citizens of this country.

There is another important reason for our success—our natural resources. In Iowa, we live, walk, drive, and grow food on one of our nation's most valuable natural resources—the soil.

Take a look at the facts. Agriculture is our leading export industry, with \$22 billion in export sales a year, or 20 percent of all our exports. Each of our farmers feeds himself and 55 other Americans. As a group, U. S. farmers spent \$75.5 billion last year which goes into our economy for the benefit of all.

These facts are important to us in Iowa, where 95 percent of our land is in agriculture and where our economy is heavily oriented toward agriculture.

Unfortunately, the unique combination of soil and climate that makes Iowa ideal for crop production also makes our state one with a high potential for soil erosion. We have seen some serious erosion of top quality farmland. Conservation officials report that less than half of our land is properly protected from the menace of soil erosion.

The need for good conservation practices in urban and industrial areas that support our agricultural economy is equally essential. And proper conservation measures will be needed to maintain the quality of life we enjoy for future generations.

We have always recognized the need to conserve and protect valuable soil. Iowa is the only state in the union that provides its own funds for cost sharing with landowners to install conservation practices.

As we observe Soil and Water Conservation Week September 12-18, I would like to join thousands of others in paying tribute to the conservation minded farmers of Iowa, and to those citizens rural and urban alike, who give of their time and effort to make our programs work.

However, we must not dwell on our past accomplishments, but on the task that lies before us. Working together we can increase the productivity of our resource base and at the same time make Iowa an even better place in which to live, work, and play.

Soil erosion also a problem in cities

When the soil conservation movement began 40 years ago in America, erosion was thought of only as a farm problem. But recently, a soil erosion has been recognized as a serious problem within city limits.

Soil erosion can be 10 times worse on urban development land than on cropland, and 200 times worse than on pastureland, according to William Brune, state conservationist, Soil Conservation Service.

Stream channels below construction sites often become filled with sediment, then flood after heavy rains.

Sediment, the greatest single pollutant of our streams, lakes and reservoirs, damages nearly every area where it is deposited. Brune said. It lowers water quality for recreation uses and shortens the effective life of reservoirs. It buries lawns, fills ditches, clogs storm sewers, blocks navigation channels, and hurts game and shell fish.

Nationwide damage caused by sediment each year is estimated at \$500 million.

Iowa is a leader in the fight to stop erosion and sediment within cities. In 1970, the Iowa legislature passed a law requiring cities to become part of local soil conservation districts. Districts are the local subdivisions of state government responsible for carrying out soil conservation programs, explains Brune.

Another law was passed in 1971 urging soil conservation on farmland and urbanized land. "Soil loss limits" of 5 tons per acre per year are now established for construction sites.

If these limits are exceeded, neighbors being damaged by sediment may complain to the soil district to force the developer to solve the problem.

Many Iowa cities are passing erosion control ordinances which require the local soil conservation district to review development plans before a building permit is issued. Others are cooperating with farmers outside the city limits to stop erosion and flooding problems which affect farms, city land and facilities.

Many conservation practices and concepts used to control erosion on farmland can be used in cities, says Brune.

The USDA Soil Conservation Service, with an office in every county, is a source of help for erosion problems. Each office has soils information to show developers or home builders potential problems, as well as specific recommendations for solving urban erosion problems.

The Iowa Department of SOIL Conservation has a new 225-page book "Iowa—Guidelines for Soil and Water Conservation in Urbanizing Areas" which outlines solutions to urban erosion problems. The book is available to city officials and urban developers.

Iowa landowners investing in soil conservation measures can get cost-share assistance from two sources—state and federal.

Legislators and citizens concerned about maintaining the productivity of Iowa's soil resources started a state cost-share program to accelerate soil conservation efforts in Iowa. Federal money is also available to Iowa farmers for conservation work.

Federal cost-share programs are administered through county committees of the USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). This is part of the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP).

ACP funds will provide \$6.8 million for cost sharing in Iowa during 1976. The assistance is used for permanent and annual conservation practices.

Iowa began its own cost-share program in 1973. State funds are used for permanent soil conservation practices and are administered through local offices of the soil conservation districts in the state.

Landowners who voluntarily install conservation practices may receive 50 percent of the cost from the state program.

The Iowa Department of Soil Conservation oversees the program. It received a \$4 million appropriation from the Iowa General Assembly for the 1976-77 fiscal year. The cost-share program was funded at \$2.5 million for the 1975-76 fiscal year.

Applicants for assistance under either program receive technical assistance from the USDA's Soil Conservation Service for layout and design of needed conservation measures.

Cost sharing helps pay for needed conservation work done on a voluntary and cooperative basis. Both landowners and the public benefit from measures installed so they share the cost.

Types of permanent soil conservation practices shared include terraces, erosion control structures, waterways, diversions, field windbreaks, tree planting and seeding of critical areas.

Pasture renovation is becoming more popular with Iowa farmers, says Frank Schaller, extension agronomist at Iowa State University. Interseeding, a method of pasture renovation, reduces soil erosion compared to the conventional method of plowing or disking, then seeding.

Legumes are interseeded in pasture with a special drill that opens a slit or trench in grass sod. Seed is placed in the trench and covered shallowly. Parquat, a contact herbicide, can be sprayed on existing grass to retard growth until the new seedlings are established.

Establishing legumes such as birdsfoot trefoil, alfalfa, and crownvetch can increase pasture yields, improve forage quality, and eliminate the need for nitrogen fertilizer, says Schaller.

Five percent of the state cost-share funds is held in reserve in case of mandatory measures required by Iowa's Sediment Control Law. Under Iowa law persons whose land erodes at a rate exceeding the soil loss limits set by their local soil conservation district can file a complaint filed against them by adjoining landowners receiving sediment damage.

The law requires 75 percent cost sharing be provided if landowners must install conservation measures because of a complaint.

Soil loss limits also apply to construction sites and nonagricultural lands, but cost sharing is not required on these sites.

Another portion of the state funds is used for watersheds above state-owned lakes. They qualify for special project status and are eligible for reserve funds plus those allocated to the local soil conservation district.

The soil conservation districts require a landowner to be a cooperator with the district before state cost-share funds can be made available for the voluntary and special project categories. In the 75 percent cost-sharing category, where conservation practices are mandated, the landowner does not have to be a cooperator with the district.

The Iowa cost-share program has increased the application of soil conservation practices on Iowa lands. The fall of 1975 established records for the number of conservation practices applied during a construction season.

As a result, many districts throughout the state exhausted their state cost-share funds during the fall of 1975.

State conservation district officials are reporting a heavy sign-up for state soil conservation cost-share funds, available since July 1. Requests for state cost-sharing funds exceed the 1976-77 allocation in many districts.

Landowners interested in this assistance should contact their local soil conservation district office or county ASCS office.

Renovate pastures with interseeding

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Conservation tillage saves time and money for this farmer

Conventional isn't always the best, says Dean Lindflott, Joice, Iowa farmer. He has a field of continuous corn that hasn't been moldboard-plowed for nine years. He chisel-plows it every years.

"A lot of my fields are pretty hilly so I use conservation tillage to reduce soil and water erosion and also to save time," he said.

I had virtually no soil loss this spring from wind erosion," he said.

This year Lindflott chisel-plowed 400 of his 1200 acres of continuous corn. In other years, he has chiseled up to 800 acres. He usually chisels land with erosion problems.

Because chisel plowing is faster than moldboard plowing, he has gotten away from much spring plowing. "Time is very important to me because of the amount of land I farm," adds Lindflott. He said chisel plowing is 50 percent faster than moldboard plowing.

Chiseling is faster because I can drive faster and my chisel takes a 162-inch swath compared to 108 inches with my moldboard plow.

His chisel also requires less upkeep and less fuel. At a nine-inch depth, a moldboard plow uses 2.75 gallons of diesel fuel per acre and a chisel plow uses 1.5 gallons per acre, he said.

Where he does moldboard plow, Lindflott uses a high clearance plow that leaves more mulch on the soil surface than a conventional moldboard plow.

Besides these advantages, yields aren't much different between his chiseled and moldboard plowed acres. Last year he averaged 110 bushels per acre of No. 2 corn.

Conservation tillage works well for Lindflott. He doesn't have the problems some people associate with it. He has no major insect, disease or weed problems. "Of course there are some weeds, like milkweed, that probably will always be a problem," he adds.

For insect control he alternates using 10 pounds per acre of Furadan, five pounds of Dyfonate and eight pounds of Counter.

He uses the same rates for his chisel and moldboard plowed acres. He uses three chemicals to avoid buildup of insect resistance.

There is also no variation between tillage for his herbicide rates. His basic herbicide is Lasso at two and one-half to three quarts per acre. This year Lindflott applied two quarts of Prowl, the new herbicide, "mostly out of curiosity." Where broadleaf weeds are a problem, he adds one and one-half pounds of Atrazine to Lasso.

Corn stalks aren't a problem, either. If he chisels in the fall, he disks the stalks in the spring. On spring-chiseled land, the stalks are disked before planting.

In the fall, Lindflott uses 12-inch chisel points with a curved shank. In the spring, he prefers eight-inch chisel points with a straight shank. "Which one you use depends on what you're doing," explains Lindflott. The curved shank runs shallower than the straight shanks, he said.

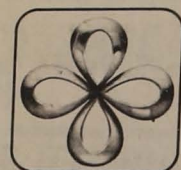
When Lindflott spring plows he uses his moldboard plow until May 8 because the soil warms up faster on moldboard plowing. But after May 8, he chisel plows. He didn't do any spring plowing this year because of the good weather last fall.

For fertilizer this year Lindflott applied 150 pounds of nitrogen, 80 pounds of phosphate and 100 pounds of potash. Nitrogen is applied in the form of anhydrous ammonia or 8 percent nitrogen solution. Most of the phosphate and potash is bulk spread. A starter fertilizer is applied at planting time.

The corn harvest is dried and stored in four bins that hold 70,000 bushels. Fifteen percent of his corn yield goes back into his hog operation of 80 sows, farrow-to-finish.

Lindflott's price goal for last year's crop was \$2.50 per bushel. His production cost was \$1.70 per bushel.

In this high management operation Lindflott proves that conservation tillage works and is profitable.



Iowa
a place to grow

Des Moines County News
Sept. 16, 1976

Soil erosion

By: William Vierling, Chairman
Des Moines County Soil Conservation
District

We have talked for years about the fact that soil erosion hurts everyone from the landowner right on down to the child in the supermarket who depends on the farmer for food. And on that same basis, soil conservation helps everyone, not only now but in the future as well.

It follows, then, that everyone should do his or her share to save our land. Conservationists have repeatedly said that everyone benefits and that everyone should pay his or her share for keeping our soil productive.

In Iowa, we have "Put our money where our mouth is" as far as soil conservation is concerned. We are unique in being the only state to provide state tax money for cost sharing on soil conservation.

The state legislature appropriated \$4 million to be spent this year on a 50 percent cost-share basis with landowners. On a \$3,000 terrace job, for instance, the farmer would pay \$1,500 and the state would pay \$1,500.

Since the state cost-share program was initiated in 1973, \$10.5 million have been appropriated by the Iowa General Assembly for use in conjunction with the program. Funds are allocated to individual soil conservation districts on a conservation needs basis. The Des Moines County Soil Conservation District has received \$46,000 in conjunction with the program. These funds are in addition to federal monies already coming into Iowa through the Agriculture Conservation Program (ACP) administered by county committees of the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

These "incentives" for soil conservation are actually a way of having society pay for its share of the cost of saving our soil. It is a "pay now or pay later" situation and if our "pay later" situation occurs, the cost will be tremendous. Can you imagine what it would be like with no topsoil? That would also mean no good lakes (all filled with sediment); poor water quality (sediment is our No. 1 pollutant); scarcity of food; poverty (farmers depend on good soil for a living); and an economic slump (agriculture is our leading export business). The list could go on and on. We so often take our soil for granted.

But we shouldn't. We have lost half our topsoil in Iowa on unprotected sloping lands. We have only 6 to 8 inches of topsoil left on those lands, and we are losing another inch every 12 years. In another generation of farming, our topsoil could be gone from unprotected sloping lands!

We have had serious erosion in Des Moines County the last 3 years. We encourage landowners to take advantage of the state's foresight in saving our soil and encourage the program to continue at a faster pace than in the past.

Iowa Watershed Projects Offer Protection, Recreation

(September 12-18 is Soil and Water Conservation Week. Residents of Mediapolis may be interested in reading this article submitted to the New Era by Iowa State University in conjunction with the recognition of this special week. It tells of a town in southwest Iowa, Corning, which solved its water shortage problems.)

The largest water-based recreation area in southwest Iowa consists of a 700-acre lake and 1200 acres of surrounding recreation land.

Located near Corning in Adams county, the lake, named Lake Icaria in a local contest, is filling with water now and will be ready to use next summer. Final construction is being done on a beach, boat ramps, and other facilities this fall.

Besides the recreation possibilities the lake will offer, it will also double as a water supply for the city of Corning, and help control flooding along Walter's Creek. This stream has posed a threat to area farmers for years.

The idea for the lake originated in 1955 when a few farmers met with the Adams county soil conservation district, looking for a solution to erosion and flooding problems. The next year they organized the Walter's Creek Watershed project.

Townpeople became interested in it as a way to get water for Corning, since watershed projects traditionally use small water impoundment structures to reduce flooding. Corning, like many other southern Iowa towns, has a long history of a shortage of good water.

In 1964 the local sponsor's met with the Iowa Conservation Commission to develop a recreation plan, and now the 19 years of effort are about to pay off. Cost of the lake and recreation facilities is about \$1.7 million.

The 700-acre lake is a small

part of the entire Walter's Creek project. It teams with 37 smaller dams and numerous terraces, ponds and other conservation measures on farmland to stop flooding and erosion in a 31,560 acre area.

Local groups involved are the Adams county soil conservation district, city of Corning, Adams county conservation board, Adams county board of supervisors, and the Corning board of waterworks. The conservation commission helped coordinate local funding for the project. The USDA Soil Conservation Service is giving financial and technical help.

Walter's Creek is one of more than 100 watershed projects applied for in the state. About six other projects now call for "multi-purpose" lakes as part of their overall community improvement plan.

New Era, Mediapolis
Sept. 16, 1976

Soil Conservation - Everyone's Job

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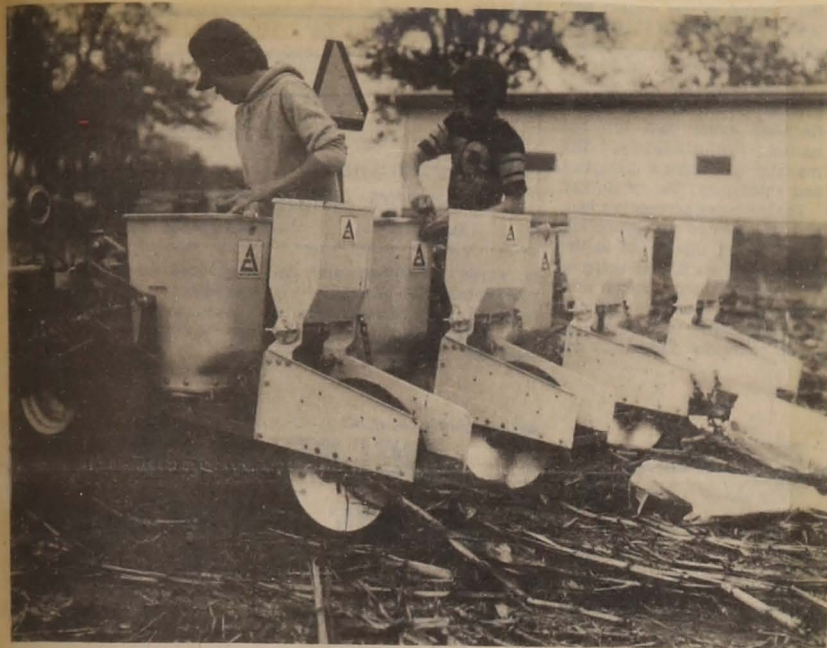
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years. We encourage landowners to take advantage of the state's foresight in saving our soil and encourage the program to continue at a faster pace than in the past.



Filling the planters for the demonstration Monday night at the FFA plot south of Mediapolis school on Northfield are Mark Meeker, left, and Mike Schrader, right.

Farmers Observe No-Till Planter

Nine farmers made definite commitments to use a no-till planter this spring after observing operation of the planter at an FFA plot south of the Mediapolis school Monday evening.

A meeting was held at this particular spot, since the FFA plot manager, Mike Schrader, had decided to plant the one acre with a no-till method. About 25 farmers observed while Mike planted, getting a wide variety of reactions from the farmers.

Howard Bright, Des Moines county Soil Conservation Service director, said he felt "everyone was amazed he could run the planter through that many corn stalks". Bright stated, "I felt it was doing a pretty good job for such heavy stalk ground." One thing Bright said was particularly noticeable was the hard, compacted ground where a disc had run through last fall. "It was a lot harder there," said Bright. "Where the ground wasn't touched, it was pretty mellow."

The no-till planter is provided by Ortho Chemical Co. to anyone who wishes to use it, along with applying Paraquat, an Ortho chemical.

Jim Howell, FFA leader and vo-ag instructor at Mediapolis high school, said the vo-ag building was used by the farmers after the meeting in the field so the farmers could "go over the planter in detail." Technical aspects, fertilizer application, planting rates, and whether to plant in the old row were discussed.

Both Bright and Howell said some farmers who were skeptical before were highly impressed with the no-till planting demonstration, and also some who had planned on using it changed their minds.

Nine farmers signing up after the meeting Monday night were - Joe Beckman, rural Sperry; Jim

Howell, rural Mediapolis; Melvin Gerst, rural Oakville; Andy Gouisle, rural Wapello; Mike Schrader, rural Burlington; Roger Cling, rural Mediapolis; Arne Hausknecht, rural Burlington; Roger Krieger, rural Burlington; and Roger Kroll, rural Sperry.

Howell said FFA members will construct signs to place by all of the no-till plots.

More Soil Conservation This Year

Soil conservation work got off to an early start in Iowa this year, and soil conservation officials are predicting a good year for progress in the fight against soil erosion.

"We're in the planting season now, so the terrace building has slowed down - but we had a heavy construction period this spring," says William Brune, state conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service. "The conditions were right for building terraces early this spring, and if weather conditions are favorable this fall, we expect a big year in construction of soil saving practices on Iowa farmland," the conservationist says.

The dry winter left the soil so dry that contractors began building terraces in March this year. Usually, April is the month for beginning construction.

Last year, more terraces were built in Iowa than any year since the 1950's. SCS reported 2,186 miles of terraces built in 1976 - enough to stretch from Sioux City to Davenport six times if laid end to end. Fremont County in southwestern Iowa, where more terraces have been built than any other county, was the state's high county again in 1976 with 140 miles of terraces built.

Brune expects this year to be similar to last year. "Some farmers have made plans to build terraces in oat fields after harvest. Many others will wait until fall after their corn and beans are harvested, and the kind of fall we have will have a lot to do with how many terraces are built," he says.

New Era, Mediapolis 5-19-77

But Brune concedes that even with a good year in conservation construction, much of Iowa's land remains unprotected against soil erosion. SCS is in the process of updating figures on how much of the land in Iowa is not protected - the agency expects to find that at least half of Iowa's 21 million acres of cropland are still not adequately protected against soil erosion.

"I'm not sure people understand what a tremendous job lies ahead in protecting Iowa's topsoil," Brune says. "For instance, we're looking at an increase in soybeans this year. Soybean land can be quite erosive. We've had a 5 million acre soybean increase in the state in the last 15 years, and this intensive row crop pattern increases soil erosion hazards. This land needs protection."

Conservation tillage, the practice of leaving last year's crop residues on or near the soil surface, is a farming method the conservationists hope will help solve the problem. Some form of conservation tillage was used on 7.1 million acres of Iowa cropland last year. "We hope that figure will increase this year," says SCS agronomist John Maddy. "The dry weather we've had this spring should have encouraged more farmers to try it, since conservation tillage helps save moisture as well as soil."

Both the terrace building and conservation tillage increases are good signs for Iowa's water quality programs.

"Sediment is our number one water pollutant by volume, and if we stop it, we stop much of our water quality problem," says SCS water quality spokesman Rollin Swank.

The SCS is working with the Department of Soil Conservation and soil conservation districts in the state to develop a "non-point" water quality plan for Iowa by 1978. The plan will be designed to pin-point sediment producing areas and recommend "best management practices" which can help stop the erosion.

New Era
Mediapolis
5-19-77

Good Response For Rural Water System

Importance of a rural water supply in Southeast Iowa is evident by response of people to a recent survey by Geode Wonderland RC&D Area. Coordinator Ralph Dewey of West Burlington stated that in four days his office had received over 50 positive responses from rural people of the area.

"Highest interest has been shown in southern Des Moines County, northern Lee County and parts of Henry County", Dewey recounted. "From verbal comments in other areas, we know there are problems throughout the four counties, but citizens have not yet responded in writing.

"When communities such as Mediapolis, Olds, Houghton, Argyle and others have had such difficulties obtaining water, it seems that rural residents would be having similar problems," Dewey observed.

Before our committees can be assured of enough interest to pursue this measure, they have to know that there will be a majority of support of the people", Dewey says. "Fifty out of a potential 5,000 water users is hardly a groundswell".

At this time, the RC&D Council is only trying to determine the overall need of rural water delivery system. Financial support is a future problem.

Ray Pilling, Mediapolis, and chairman of the RC&D Land and Water Committee, points out that seventy percent of wells tested in Southeast Iowa show signs of contamination. "Most of our farm wells and several of our towns draw water from these shallow polluted resources", Pilling claimed.

Rural water users are urged to contact the Geode Wonderland RC&D Area, Box 208, West Burlington 52655, with their opinions on need for a rural water project. Feasibility of the measure is based upon the number of potential users. The greater the usage is, the cheaper the cost will be for consumers.

Deadline for comments about rural water needs is June 1, 1977, according to the RC&D Coordinator.

Des Moines County News
Sept. 16, 1976

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part of the entire Walter's Creek project. It teams with 37 smaller dams and numerous terraces, ponds and other conservation measures on farmland to stop flooding and erosion in a 31,560 acre area.

Local groups involved are the Adams county soil conservation district, city of Corning, Adams county conservation board, Adams county board of supervisors, and the Corning board of waterworks. The conservation commission helped coordinate local funding for the project. The USDA Soil Conservation Service is giving financial and technical help.

Walter's Creek is one of more than 100 watershed projects applied for in the state. About six other projects now call for "multi-purpose" lakes as part of their overall community improvement plan.

New Era, Mediapolis
Sept. 16, 1976

Soil Conservation - Everyone's Job

By William Vierling, Chairman
Des Moines County Soil Conservation District

We have talked for years about the fact that soil erosion hurts everyone from the landowner right on down to the child in the supermarket who depends on the farmer for food. And on that same basis, soil conservation helps everyone, not only now but in the future as well.

It follows, then, that everyone should do his or her share to save our land. Conservationists have repeatedly said that everyone benefits and that everyone should pay his or her share for keeping our soil productive.

In Iowa, we have "put our money where our mouth is" as far as soil conservation is concerned. We are unique in being the only state to provide state tax money for cost sharing on soil conservation.

The state legislature appropriated \$4 million to be spent this year on a 50 percent cost-share basis with landowners. On a \$3,000 terrace job, for instance, the farmer would pay \$1,500 and the state would pay \$1,500.

Since the state cost-share program was initiated in 1973, \$10.5 million have been appropriated by the Iowa General Assembly for use in conjunction with the program. Funds are allocated to individual soil conservation districts on a conservation needs basis. The Des Moines County Soil Conservation District has received

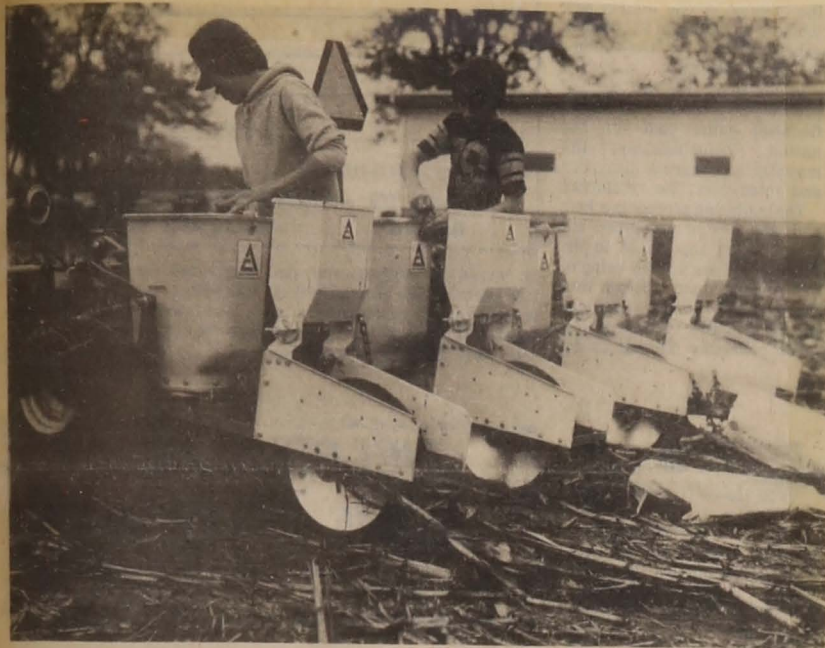
\$46,000 in conjunction with the program. These funds are in addition to federal monies already coming into Iowa through the Agriculture Conservation Program (ACP) administered by county committees of the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

These "incentives" for soil conservation are actually a way of having society pay for its share of the cost of saving our soil. It is a "pay now or pay later" situation - and if our "pay later" situation occurs, the cost will be tremendous. Can you imagine what it would be like with no topsoil? That would also mean no good lakes (all filled with sediment); poor water quality (sediment is our No. 1 pollutant); scarcity of food; poverty (farmers depend on good soil for a living); and an economic slump (agriculture is our leading export business). The list could go on and on. We so often take our soil for granted.

But we shouldn't. We have lost half our topsoil in Iowa on unprotected sloping lands. We have only 6 to 8 inches of topsoil left on those lands, and we are losing another inch every 12 years. In another generation of farming, our topsoil could be gone from unprotected sloping lands!

We have had serious erosion in Des Moines County the last 3

years. We encourage landowners to take advantage of the state's foresight in saving our soil and encourage the program to continue at a faster pace than in the past.



Filling the planters for the demonstration Monday night at the FFA plot south of Mediapolis school on Northfield are Mark Meeker, left, and Mike Schrader, right.

Farmers Observe No-Till Planter

Nine farmers made definite commitments to use a no-till planter this spring after observing operation of the planter at an FFA plot south of the Mediapolis school Monday evening.

A meeting was held at this particular spot, since the FFA plot manager, Mike Schrader, had decided to plant the one acre with a no-till method. About 25 farmers observed while Mike planted, getting a wide variety of reactions from the farmers.

Howard Bright, Des Moines county Soil Conservation Service director, said he felt "everyone was amazed he could run the planter through that many corn stalks". Bright stated, "I felt it was doing a pretty good job for such heavy stalk ground." One thing Bright said was particularly noticeable was the hard, compacted ground where a disc had run through last fall. "It was a lot harder there," said Bright. "Where the ground wasn't touched, it was pretty mellow."

The no-till planter is provided by Ortho Chemical Co. to anyone who wishes to use it, along with applying Paraquat, an Ortho chemical.

Jim Howell, FFA leader and vo-ag instructor at Mediapolis high school, said the vo-ag building was used by the farmers after the meeting in the field so the farmers could "go over the planter in detail." Technical aspects, fertilizer application, planting rates, and whether to plant in the old row were discussed.

Both Bright and Howell said some farmers who were skeptical before were highly impressed with the no-till planting demonstration, and also some who had planned on using it changed their minds.

Nine farmers signing up after the meeting Monday night were - Joe Beckman, rural Sperry; Jim

Howell, rural Mediapolis; Melvin Gerst, rural Oakville; Andy Gouisle, rural Wapello; Mike Schrader, rural Burlington; Roger Cling, rural Mediapolis; Arne Hausknecht, rural Burlington; Roger Krieger, rural Burlington; and Roger Kroll, rural Sperry.

Howell said FFA members will construct signs to place by all of the no-till plots.

More Soil Conservation This Year

Soil conservation work got off to an early start in Iowa this year, and soil conservation officials are predicting a good year for progress in the fight against soil erosion.

"We're in the planting season now, so the terrace building has slowed down - but we had a heavy construction period this spring," says William Brune, state conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service. "The conditions were right for building terraces early this spring, and if weather conditions are favorable this fall, we expect a big year in construction of soil saving practices on Iowa farmland," the conservationist says.

The dry winter left the soil so dry that contractors began building terraces in March this year. Usually, April is the month for beginning construction.

Last year, more terraces were built in Iowa than any year since the 1950's. SCS reported 2,186 miles of terraces built in 1976 - enough to stretch from Sioux City to Davenport six times if laid end to end. Fremont County in southwestern Iowa, where more terraces have been built than any other county, was the state's high county again in 1976 with 140 miles of terraces built.

Brune expects this year to be similar to last year. "Some farmers have made plans to build terraces in oat fields after harvest. Many others will wait until fall after their corn and beans are harvested, and the kind of fall we have will have a lot to do with how many terraces are built," he says.

But Brune concedes that even with a good year in conservation construction, much of Iowa's land remains unprotected against soil erosion. SCS is in the process of updating figures on how much of the land in Iowa is not protected - the agency expects to find that at least half of Iowa's 21 million acres of cropland are still not adequately protected against soil erosion.

"I'm not sure people understand what a tremendous job lies ahead in protecting Iowa's topsoil," Brune says. "For instance, we're looking at an increase in soybeans this year. Soybean land can be quite erosive. We've had a 5 million acre soybean increase in the state in the last 15 years, and this intensive row crop pattern increases soil erosion hazards. This land needs protection."

Conservation tillage, the practice of leaving last year's crop residues on or near the soil surface, is a farming method the conservationists hope will help solve the problem. Some form of conservation tillage was used on 7.1 million acres of Iowa cropland last year. "We hope that figure will increase this year," says SCS agronomist John Maddy. "The dry weather we've had this spring should have encouraged more farmers to try it, since conservation tillage helps save moisture as well as soil."

Both the terrace building and conservation tillage increases are good signs for Iowa's water quality programs.

"Sediment is our number one water pollutant by volume, and if we stop it, we stop much of our water quality problem," says SCS water quality spokesman Rollin Swank.

The SCS is working with the Department of Soil Conservation and soil conservation districts in the state to develop a "non-point" water quality plan for Iowa by 1978. The plan will be designed to pin-point sediment producing areas and recommend "best management practices" which can help stop the erosion.

Good Response For Rural Water System

Importance of a rural water supply in Southeast Iowa is evident by response of people to a recent survey by Geode Wonderland RC&D Area. Coordinator Ralph Dewey of West Burlington stated that in four days his office had received over 50 positive responses from rural people of the area.

"Highest interest has been shown in southern Des Moines County, northern Lee County and parts of Henry County", Dewey recounted. "From verbal comments in other areas, we know there are problems throughout the four counties, but citizens have not yet responded in writing."

"When communities such as Mediapolis, Olds, Houghton, Argyle and others have had such difficulties obtaining water, it seems that rural residents would be having similar problems," Dewey observed.

Before our committees can be assured of enough interest to pursue this measure, they have to know that there will be a majority of support of the people", Dewey says. "Fifty out of a potential 5,000 water users is hardly a groundswell".

At this time, the RC&D Council is only trying to determine the overall need of rural water delivery system. Financial support is a future problem.

Ray Pilling, Mediapolis, and chairman of the RC&D Land and Water Committee, points out that seventy percent of wells tested in Southeast Iowa show signs of contamination. "Most of our farm wells and several of our towns draw water from these shallow polluted resources", Pilling claimed.

Rural water users are urged to contact the Geode Wonderland RC&D Area, Box 208, West Burlington 52655, with their opinions on need for a rural water project. Feasibility of the measure is based upon the number of potential users. The greater the usage is, the cheaper the cost will be for consumers.

Deadline for comments about rural water needs is June 1, 1977, according to the RC&D Coordinator.

New Era, Mediapolis, 6-16-77



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View No-Tillage Corn Plots

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Around 40 farmers joined the tour to see the results of no-tillage corn planting, beginning at the Mediapolis school building.

Des Moines county officials

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Included in the inspection tour were plots farmed by the Mediapolis FFA (south of the

school), Joe Beckman, Roger Kroll (county conservation bd. plot), Roger Cling, and Doug Cling. Minimum tillage was also viewed at the Doug Cling plot.

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"It looks comparable to conventional tilled corn," stated Bright. He complimented the farmers who used the no-till method, because they did not "cut corners" and followed the directions carefully. "That's the reason it all looks so good," he said.

Bright is a strong no-tillage advocate, saying it would make his job "a lot easier if everyone used no-tillage". "It does a terrific job of soil conservation because of the ground cover," he said, "and our main concern is soil erosion."

Bright said he expected the no-till planter, provided by Ortho chemicals, would be available to farmers again next spring for those who wish to repeat no-till or implement it for the first time.

Another tour is expected to be held in late August or early September to view the mature corn plots.

New Era, Mediapolis
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7-14-77

Announce Conservation Award Winners

The Iowa Conservation Awards winners for Des Moines County have been chosen. This awards program is sponsored to encourage better land use programs and environmental control on farms.

Recognition is given in three divisions. The following are winners selected in the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District:

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Division III (new soil conservation district cooperator) - Carl Shumaker of Danville Township

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In addition to the winners the district recognizes Clarence Kuntz, Oakville, and Roger Cling, Mediapolis, for outstanding accomplishments in conservation this past year.

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New Era, Mediapolis, 7-14-77

County Receives \$13,000

A bill appropriating \$4,230,000 to the Iowa State Cost-Share program has been passed by the 67th Iowa General Assembly and signed by Governor Ray.

The State Soil Conservation Committee has approved the distribution of these funds in the following way: a) \$3,083,000 will be allocated directly to districts, b) \$211,000 will be retained by the Department of Soil Conservation for use in cost sharing on soil loss limit complaints, c) \$211,500 has been set aside for cost sharing in watersheds above state-owned lakes, d) \$50,000 has been set aside for nonstate-owned lakes

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Farmers planning any of the permanent conservation practices may sign-up for State cost sharing at the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District office, Room 230 Federal Building, Burlington. Applications are being accepted on work scheduled to be started before December 31, 1977.

The Hawk Eye, Burlington, 7-31-77

Work begins on gulley at Flint Hills golf course

Work has begun on "curing" a gulley on the 13th fairway at Flint Hills golf course north of Burlington.

The project is the first to be partially funded by the Geode Wonderland Resource Conservation and Development council (RC&D).

Members of the Des Moines County RC&D council inspected the work at a meeting last week.

The gulley is rapidly being eroded into the former city landfill. RC&D is providing 25% of the cost and Burlington the remainder for a stabilizing, earth-retaining dam and drainage system.

Merrimac Construction and Engineering, Brighton, is doing the work for \$33,606.

The concrete dam will be at the head of the gulley. Brush and trees will be grubbed from the area and the 40-foot-deep gulley will be backfilled with dirt from a nearby hillside. The land will be shaped and planted above and below the dam.

A storm sewer upstream from the structure will take runoff from the city-owned golf course. Subsurface water seeping through the old landfill will pass through a bed of rock in a "dry

lake" behind the dam, said Howard Bright, district conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service.

A water impoundment there would be helpful, but it's impossible because of the old landfill that was covered with a very shallow layer of earth, Bright said.

While RC&D members inspected the site, the Flint Hills advisory board discussed the golf course's water supply.

"It's estimated that an automatic irrigation system for greens, tees and fairways would cost \$120,000 and a deep well and pumping setup would cost another \$40,000," said course professional Don Lindsey.

Present well supplies 110-120 gallons per minute; 600 gallons a minute would be required if fairways are to be watered, Lindsey said. The system would provide one inch of water per week on the fairways and two inches on tees and greens.

"We are watering greens and tees, but if this drought continues we are going to have to have water for fairways or we will lose the grass," parks commissioner Tom Martin said.

A proposed rural water system under consideration by Geode Wonderland, which would take several years for completion, or water from Burlington might be used at the course.

On another matter, RC&D councilman Robert Murry reported that he is working on a proposal affecting the disposal and possible recycling of agricultural chemical waste containers. Preliminary checks indicate that it may be difficult to sell crushed pesticide cans because mills would reject them for fear of environmental prohibitions, Murray said.

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Next meeting of the county council will be at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 7 at the RC&D office east of Middletown.

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7-21-77

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Deane Thorton, Des Moines County ASCS director says, if the drought continues, many farmers may plow under or take corn off for silage. He advises, "In order to be eligible for disaster payments, farmers must contact the ASCS office before destroying or removing any corn that might be drought damaged."

Ponds Curb Soil Erosion

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Develop Policy On Land Preservation

A temporary County Land Preservation Policy Commission is being organized under the State Land Preservation Policy Act passed by the Iowa General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Robert D. Ray.

The county commission is to develop a land preservation policy for Des Moines County and to submit recommendations for a state policy, according to James C. Hodges, County Extension Director with Iowa State University's Des Moines County Extension Office. The ISU Extension Service is assisting in the organization of the county commission.

They will meet on Thursday, August 18, 3:30 p.m. in the County Board of Supervisors room in the Court House to formally organize and elect officers. Meetings of the commission are open to the public. There will be three scheduled public hearings that anyone from the public can appear and offer suggestions and recommendations to the commission. After the commission is organized they will schedule these meetings and announce them in the media.

Over-all intent of the new legislation is to develop a land preservation policy for the consideration of the General Assembly through participation and recommendations of citizens and local government, Hodges said. Specific goals of the policy will be to provide for the orderly use and development of land and

related natural resources in Iowa, and to preserve private property rights and prime agricultural land for agricultural production.

In addition, the state policy goals are to guide the development of critical areas, key facilities and large-scale development. The policy should also provide for the future housing, commercial, industrial and recreational needs of the state, the legislature said.

Plan No-Till

Tour August 30

Howard Bright, ASC director, announced there will be a no-till tour on Tuesday, August 30, to examine the no-till corn crops planted this spring.

Those interested in joining the bus tour should meet at the Mediapolis school parking lot at 10:00 a.m. August 30.

Bright said they will be viewing the plots farmed by the Mediapolis FFA, Joe Beckman, Roger Kroll (County Conservation Board at Franklin lakesite), Jim Howell, Roger Cling, and Doug Cling.

"Beckman's and Kroll's have received little to no rain," said Bright, "and have suffered because of the drought conditions. Considering the amount of rain, though, they don't look too bad," he concluded. "The rest of the plots look good," Bright said, however.



This pond on the Massner farm is 20 years old, but it still provides erosion control and an extra benefit for the "bird-watchers".

Five Acre Farm Pond Is Conservation Measure

In 2½-3 weeks, a gully with a barn in the middle was turned into a five acre pond on the Virgil Massner farm north of Mediapolis. "About the biggest pond in the county", it was built mainly for erosion control.

With the heavy rains received since it was completed two weeks ago, the pond is already half full. "It will be 30-32 feet deep when it's full," said Massner. "My son is planning on water skiing in it," he stated.

The Massners have three sons and one daughter, and the oldest son, Todd, helped in the construction of the pond, according to Massner. Along with Kenneth Moyers, who did the main groundwork, Massner said his son and the whole crew often worked until 2:30 or 3:00 in the morning to complete the pond.

"It didn't take out any farmland," said Massner. "We just filled in a big gully." Massner feels it will "really stop the water coming through the cornfield".

Massner's farming neighbor, Jim Johnson, also will receive some benefits from the large pond. "He is going to use it for drinking water for his cows," said Massner. By digging out an extension of the pond to the north, the water will cross over into the neighbor's land at a depth of about 12 feet when the pond is full. Massner said he will use the pond for watering livestock on his own land only if he is "short of water", because he has a creek running through the farm.

Massner said he started planning the pond three years ago. After receiving approval from the county and state soil conservation offices, Massner worked with the county ASC office on a cost-sharing basis.

A 12" overflow pipe and tile will drain the extra water into the nearby creek, according to Massner. Three other ponds are located on Massner's farm, but

he said he has "never seen the water get up over the dam on any of them".

Massner estimates from 22-23,000 yards of soil was moved from the gully to form the dam on the south side of the pond. It has been seeded around the pond, but Massner plans to level off the area surrounding the pond, some of which is now in corn, and "seed it down". "We may even have a sand swimming hole," said Massner, at the shallow end

of the pond.

He isn't sure what he is going to stock the pond with for fishing, but he is considering "bluegill, bass, catfish, or all three".

An older pond is located right by the Virgil Massner home, but this one is stocked with tame ducks. Massner said the 20-year-old pond is an enjoyment for the family as they can view the ducks from the window of their home. "My son takes care of the ducks," said Massner. Canadas and Mallards inhabit the small pond which was renovated two years ago, and to which Massner added some terracing last fall.

Massner explained he is a soil conservation advocate. I'm 100 percent for it. Terracing is the best thing that ever happened. If we built more ponds it would save all that dirt from washing down over the hills."

Bright Urges More Practices

Howard Bright, soil conservation director for Des Moines county, urges farmers to visit their office at the Federal Building in Burlington and learn more about cost-sharing on conservation practices.

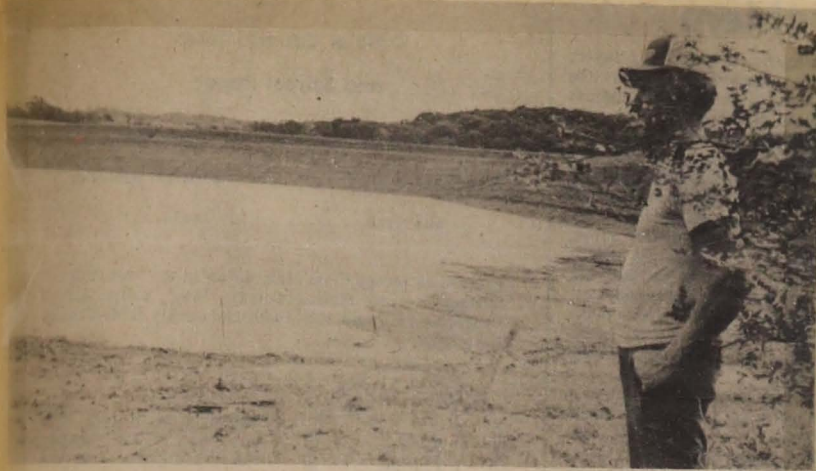
"You can do a little each year and get the serious problems covered," said Bright. "Maybe you can get a particular field treated that is the most critical problem. Farmers should remember each year it gets more costly to fix."

Bright went on to explain, "Gulleys are a symptom, not the problem themselves. If you can control sheet erosion, the gulleys won't be so bad. Farmers need to protect their investment."

More landowners are becoming aware of the situation, according to Bright, but he feels much more could be done to control erosion in Des Moines county.

If any farmers would like to learn more about cost-sharing or would like to have a conservation plan drawn up for their farm, stop in at the ASC office during soil and water conservation week - or anytime.

New Era, Mediapolis, 9-8-77



Virgil Massner proudly eyes his new erosion control structure - a five acre pond. Finished only two weeks ago, it is already half full of water, and will be 30-32 feet deep when full.

Release Survey Results On Erosion And Water Quality

Rex H. Troute, Chairman of the Des Moines County Resource Coordinating Committee, has received the statewide results from a survey of farm operator opinions concerning soil erosion and rural water quality. This survey was conducted by the county resource coordinating committees in each Iowa county as part of Section 208 water quality planning required by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (Public Law 92-500). The Iowa Department of Soil Conservation assisted these county committees with this effort.

Seventy randomly selected farm owners or operators were polled from each of Iowa's 100 soil conservation districts. In the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District 23 people completed the survey. Over 2,500 completed surveys were included in the statewide total.

Statewide, the majority of people surveyed were satisfied with the quality of water in their home drainage areas. Des Moines County respondents indicated, 13 to 7, that they were satisfied with the quality of the area's water. Seventeen of these people indicated that they felt soil erosion was contributing to the pollution problem in Des Moines County, and 14 felt that they had a soil erosion problem on their own farm.

Statewide, seventy percent of the people who returned the survey indicated that they felt soil erosion was causing local

water quality problems, and fifty-two percent felt that there were soil erosion problems on their own farm.

Survey results indicated that ninety-three percent of the respondents felt that some type of government assistance should be available to farmers for erosion control to improve water quality. The most popular forms of assistance were costshare funds and long-term low interest loans to farm operators for erosion control investments. Fifty percent of Des Moines County farmers stated that they thought cost-share assistance should be made available for water quality improvement. Also, 75 percent indicated they thought a loan program would be desirable.

Results from these questions and others dealing with levels of cost-share assistance, conservation set-aside programs, soil conservation district cooperation, and other related areas can be reviewed at the Des Moines Soil Conservation District office in Burlington. A copy of the survey results is also available free from the Department of Soil Conservation, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

New Era, Mediapolis
9-29-77

New Era, Mediapolis
Sept. 22-77

Submit Trout For Outstanding Award

The name of Rex H. Troute, Rt. 1 Burlington, has been submitted for competition for outstanding soil district commissioner on the regional level, announced Howard Bright SCS director for Des Moines county.

Troute farms 560 acres, 400 in corn and 100 in beans, and uses terraces, ponds, waterways, wildlife area, and other conservation practices on his farm.

He was chairman of the district board for two years.

Troute and his wife Darlene have four children, Rex L., 21, Diana, 19, Carla, 18, and Tod, 15.

The Hawk Eye, Burlington 9-25-77

Farm survey results told

The majority of Des Moines county farmers are satisfied with the quality of water here, but most feel that soil erosion is contributing to water pollution.

Rex Troute, chairman of the county Resource Coordinating committee, reported those results from a statewide survey of farm operators on soil erosion and water quality.

The survey was conducted as part of Section 208 water quality planning required by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. Iowa Dept. of Soil Conservation assisted.

Only 23 Des Moines countians out of 70 surveyed turned in questionnaires.

On water quality, 13 said they were satisfied; 7 said they were not; 17 respondents said soil erosion is contributing to pollution; 14 said they had soil erosion problems on their own farms.

On a statewide basis, 70% of the re-

spondents said soil erosion is causing local water quality problems; 52% said they had erosion problems on their own farms.

Nine out of 10 farmers feel that government assistance should be available for erosion control to improve water quality. Most popular forms of assistance were cost-share funds and long-term low interest loans.

Results from those questions and others dealing with conservation set-aside programs, soil conservation district cooperation and related areas can be reviewed at the Soil Conservation office in Burlington.

5% Of County Into Conservation Tillage

Conservation Tillage estimates in Des Moines County point out that only 5 percent of the cropland was farmed using conservation tillage. Conservation tillage means 2000 lbs. of residue are left on the soil surface after planting.

There are many farmers who do not use the moldboard plow. Approximately 1,200 acres are chiseled, disked, and gone over with a field cultivator before planting. This method has proven effective for those that have tried it, reports Howard Bright, district conservationist.

Only 150 acres of land was farmed using no-tillage methods, however this is a great increase over last year," Bright said.

Approximately 150 farmers used some other type of tillage other than the moldboard plow or chisel. Most of these farmers used some type of disk.

There are approximately 9,000 acres of conservation tillage in Des Moines County. The most important thing to remember in conservation tillage is leaving enough residue on the soil sur-

face to protect the soil during heavy rains and high winds, Bright emphasized.

Conservation tillage saves time, soil, and moisture. Most farmers have the necessary equipment for this practice. Each year more and more farmers are farming without the moldboard plow. They have found that they can get along without it and still get good crops.

New Era
Mediapolis
9-29-77

View No-Till Plots Crop Prospects

In another no-till tour, farmers viewed the crops as they neared harvest time. Howard Bright ASC director for Des Moines County, said it was a small group, and they toured only four fields - the FFA plot, Jim Howell's, Roger Cling's, and Doug Cling's.

"In general they looked good for the weather we've had," said Bright. "I think the farmers who tried it are satisfied."

They estimated the school plot would have 145 bushels per acre with a 4 oz. ear, and Roger Cling's would have 145-185 bushels per acre, depending on whether a 3 oz. or 4 oz. ear.

Bright said he is "anxious to try next year" using the same corn and same planting date, and comparing field with conventional tillage and no-till.

New Era
Mediapolis
Sept 20-1977

Teachers May Learn Conservation

Educators with a special interest in energy and environmental education will have the opportunity to learn new techniques for energy conservation at an all-day workshop November 16 at the Burlington Holiday Inn. The session is planned for elementary and junior high school teachers.

Teachers from the 13 local district schools within Area Education Agency No. 16 will become acquainted with curriculum materials on energy studies at the AEA sponsored workshop. Packets on energy conservation for classroom use kindergarten through sixth grade were developed by the Iowa Energy Policy Council in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Public Instruction.

Energy and the environment are important issues in today's world, according to AEA 16 math-science consultant Dr. Jerry Doyle. It is important that teachers are aware of new materials and techniques for the broad scope of environmental education, the consultant explains.

The AEA is sponsoring the inservice program, in cooperation with the DPI and the EPC to assist schools in developing environmental programs as required by law in grades 1 through 8. Learning aides and instructional techniques for teachers will be discussed.

Dr. Doyle and local district teachers, Sue Baldwin, Burlington, and Linda Guerdet, Keokuk, received copies of the energy packets along with environmental education materials while attending the state meeting at Springbrook State park near Guthrie Center in September. The three were representatives of AEA 16 at the state session.

Further information regarding the workshop and energy curriculum materials is available from Dr. Doyle at the AEA office in Ft. Madison.

New Era, Mediapolis
Oct 27, 1977

Results Of FFA Soil Judging Contest

The annual FFA soil judging contest was held at Lee County on October 19. Four members of the Mediapolis Agronomy class participated in the contest. They were Lynn Huiskamp, Bill Hillyard, Jerry Wagenbach, and Dan Keitzer.

The contest consisted of four sites of which three were judging sites and site four was a written test. Some of the factors considered in judging soils are slope, color, texture, and permeability. The participants were scored as a team as well as individuals.

The four top teams were all within fifty points. They were 1st, Harmony, 2nd Central, 3rd Fort Madison, and 4th Mediapolis.

Lynn Huiskamp was awarded 3rd place individual.

New Era, Mediapolis
Oct 27, 1977

Public Hearing On Land Policy

The first in a series of three public hearings for citizens input into the Des Moines County Land Preservation Policy Statement will be held on Thursday, November 17, 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Third Floor of City Hall in Burlington. Chairman, Bob Christensen, and the other eight members of the Commission will be meeting to hear citizens express their views as to what should go into the County Land Preservation Policy Statement to be submitted to a District Convention and ultimately the State by April 1, 1978.

The Commissioners in addition to Christensen include: Ray Pilling, Mediapolis; Joe Beckman, Sperry; Rex Trout, RR 1, Burlington; Merle Kelly, Burlington; Bob Gerdner, Burlington; Tom Martin, Burlington; Rod Ralston, Burlington; Denny Cross, Danville. James C. Hodges, County Extension Director serves as secretary to the Commission.

Any Des Moines County resident wishing to address himself to the Commission will be given an opportunity to state his or her views on the subject of Land Preservation. Commission members want citizen input to help guide their deliberations in developing a policy statement for Des Moines County.

New Era
Mediapolis
11-17-77

New Era, Mediapolis
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1977 - PAGE 9

Can Apply For State Forestry Trees

Application for obtaining State Forestry trees for establishing or improving existing forests, erosion control or wildlife cover are now being accepted at the Des Moines County Extension Office, Room 216 Federal Building, Burlington. Soil Conservation Service Office and ASCS Office also in the Federal Building have application blanks.

James C. Hodges, County Extension Director, says the trees must be ordered in multiples of 100 and the order must total at least 500 trees. Growers have to agree to plant

and use the trees for establishing or improving existing forests, erosion control, game or water conservation. Species available include: Austrian Pine, Jack Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Red Pine, Scotch Pine, White Pine, European Larch, Autumn Olive, Dogwood, Amur Honeysuckle, Tatarian Honeysuckle, Ninebark, Russian Olive, silver Maple, Green Ash, White Ash, Black Walnut. Prices range from \$12.50 to \$15 per 500 plants with the plants ranging in height from 6 to 12 inches for most species.

Land Preservation Commission Meets

Des Moines County Land Preservation Policy Commission is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, December 7, 2:00 p.m. in the Supervisors' Room at the Court House. The purpose of the meeting is to further develop plans for the land preservation policy statement that the commission is preparing for submission to the district commission and eventually to the state.

James C. Hodges, secretary to the commission, says the public is invited to attend the commissioner's meeting at their work session. The next public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, January 19, 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Burlington.

New Era
Mediapolis
12-1-77

SCD Conference Next Tuesday

A Soil Conservation District commissioners conference will be held on Tuesday, December 20.

Coordinating board chairman Jim Hawkins will make opening remarks, then each of the individual districts will have a chance to present their goals and objectives.

RC&D accomplishments to date will be given by the chairman, which will be followed by introductions of constructive criticism session.

After the luncheon, group reports will be given on the sessions, a slide will be shown on RC&D, and a group problem solving session will follow.

New Era
Mediapolis
12-15-77

Explain Rural Water System

A proposed rural water delivery system for Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa Counties will be explained at an informational meeting on Monday, December 5, 7:30 p.m. in the Vocational Agricultural Building at Southeastern Community College.

James C. Hodges, County Extension Director, says the Land and Water Committee of Geode Wonderland RC&D is sponsoring this meeting in cooperation with the Des Moines County Extension Service.

Hodges says the objective of this meeting is to inform rural residents the steps that need to be taken in order to provide a water transmission system that is adequate and dependable. Persons who cannot make this meeting are invited to attend a similar meeting at the Swedesburg Lutheran Church Parish Hall on December 12, 7:30 p.m.

New Era
Mediapolis
12-1-77

Conservationist In Training Here

Des Moines county will employ a soil conservationist to work in the SCS office in training under district soil conservationist Howard Bright.

Sid Mais, Wyoming, Ia., arrived in Burlington Friday to begin his training in the county. He previously served at the SCS office in Dewitt, working as an aide in Clinton county.

Mais attended Western Illinois University, Macomb, receiving a B.S. in ag science. He has a farming background in Wyoming, where one of his two brothers operates a farm.

New Era
Mediapolis
12-15-77

30 Percent Increase In Conservation Tillage

Iowa's farmers increased by 2 million acres the amount of land farmed by conservation tillage methods this year, according to a survey by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

"About 9,385,000 acres of rowcrop were planted this year in such a way as to leave crop residues on the soil surface," SCS state resource conservationist Mervin Danielson says. That compares to a 7.2 million acre estimate a year ago.

Danielson told soil conservation officials at a research meeting of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners in Fort Dodge Tuesday that the increase is very encouraging. "This was a 30 percent increase in acreage; our survey showed that the practice was applied on 64,500 farms this year - that's 10,000 more farmers using conservation tillage this year than last," Danielson said.

The SCS survey, compiled from county estimates by SCS district conservationists, shows acreage increases by nearly all types of conservation tillage methods. (Conservation tillage, minimum tillage, and mulch tillage are all terms used to describe reduced tillage which leaves crop

residues on the soil surface.)

Chisel plowing again showed the biggest increase from previous years. In 1977, about 4.2 million acres were chisel plowed, compared to 2.4 million acres in 1976. Danielson attributes the increase in chiseling to the fact that chisel plows cover more acres in less time than conventional plows, and take less energy. Then, too, they leave residues on the surface to save soil. A big increase in chiseling came in north central Iowa, where wind erosion is a danger.

Disking, or using a field cultivator (or a similar machine) increased slightly from 4.2 million acres in 1976 to 4.7 million acres this year. Till planting increased from 281,000 acres to 345,000 acres. No-till planting fell from 118,000 acres to 67,000 acres, but Danielson said the drop was due to allowing no disking or other ground preparation prior to no-till planting. He expects the method to increase next year.

"We've run this survey since 1968, and seen a tremendous jump in conservation tillage in nine years," says Danielson. Only 440,000 acres were minimum-tilled in 1968. The figure went to 2,900,000 acres in 1972, and has tripled since then.

"There's potential for much more conservation tillage in Iowa," SCS agronomist John Maddy says. "It's the fastest way a farmer can reduce soil losses and continue to plant corn and soybeans."

While the survey results are encouraging, Maddy was quick to point out the need for improving the quality of conservation tillage. "We found that overall, half of the 9.4 million acres had more than 2,000 pounds of residue per acre left on the surface after planting. The other half didn't have enough crop residues to do a good job of erosion control, especially on sloping land.

Soil protection is gained by the residues covering soil; raindrops hit the residues rather than soil and don't dislodge soil particles. Thus, more ground coverage means better soil protection.

"We found the best protection, of course, in no-till planting, with 97 percent of the acres leaving adequate residue," Maddy says. "Till planting left 88 percent of the land with more than 2,000 pounds of residue per acre."



One of two beaver dams at the Franklin Township Lakesite, Jim Settles said developing the beaver population is one of their wildlife conservation goals.

No Lake In Near Future For Franklin Township Lakesite

It may have many uses for the public, but one of them won't be swimming at the Franklin Township Lakesite recreation area near Dodgeville.

Money for a dam (estimated at 1.2 million dollars) just isn't in the Des Moines county conservation board's budget. Officer Jim Settles said the board will "try to develop it piece-meal, a little at a time as we can afford it". Settles said, "We will develop it so people can use it until the lake is in. It is used now primarily by hunters, hikers, and primitive campers."

Other sources of money are under investigation for use in the lakesite project, and Settles said the main source used so far has been the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. "It is the only realistic source," said Settles. On a 50 percent cost-sharing basis, the BOR has assisted in obtaining land for the lakesite. "You have to come up with 100 percent initially," Settles explained. He estimated it would take a million dollars to complete all work other than the dam.

Latest work at the lakesite includes the beginning of a \$47,000 caretaker's residence. The basement has been dug and should be completed in April by Wick Homes. Settles said he would then reside there.

Last year, \$60,000 was budgeted for the lakesite, which included building the home, drilling the well, and building some siltation ponds. In the coming year, Settles said they would build more siltation ponds, do some fencing, and possibly add on to the maintenance shed.

All of the land is now purchased for the lakesite area, and all of the main roads are built. They are not surfaced yet, however. Settles hopes to get three roads gravelled in the near future - one to a fishing area, one to a picnic area they will be developing, and one to a public use area. These projects are planned for development over the next three years, and Settles said, "Then the next few years we will develop another area."

The fishing area will be the first ready - only needing the

three ponds to fill in the spring and be stocked for public fishing.

Plans in the future include a rifle range, picnic area, day camp area for Scouts, etc., outdoor learning center, parking area, winter sports area, and a 175-acre lake. Settles said the camping area will be "one of the last things before the lake is built".

One project which is still off in the future is the winter sports area, which would offer a location for "sledding, skiing, tobogganing, and sliding". There will be a heat shack at the top of the hill and a mechanical tow rope. "This is still down the road a ways," said Settles. "You need more personnel to supervise it for safety."

Meanwhile, the 700-acre Franklin township lakesite is used for wildlife habitats, hunting, and some recreation - such as hiking and primitive camping. The facilities will be expanding, offering more to the public each year, but the question of the actual lake still remains to be answered.

*New Era
Mediapolis
12-8-77*

New Era, Mediapolis, 12-29-77



Sid Mais, right, studies project with Howard Bright

SCS trains conservationist

Sid Mais, 25, has begun training as soil conservationist with the Des Moines county Soil Conservation service office here.

He's expected to spend the next nine to 12 months under the tutelage of district conservationist Howard Bright and working with Oren Champ, conservation technician. He will be getting into the planning aspect of conservation work.

A March, 1976 graduate of Western Illinois university at Macomb, Mais majored in agricultural sciences. Since last March he has been a conservation aide in the office of Debbie Brus Harmsen at DeWitt.

She is Bright's counterpart in Clin-

ton county, the first and only female district conservationist in Iowa. She was trained in the Burlington office, too.

Among the "graduates" from Burlington, under Ralph Dewey, predecessor of Bright, were Harold Bryant, former technician, who was Louisa district conservationist at Wapello before moving to Iowa county and Larry Hunt, who succeeded Bryant at Wapello.

"This seems to be a training center," Bright said. He added that Mais will be getting into soils training and the timing is good. Melvin Brown is in his third year here as party chief of a standard soils survey. He works closely with ASC and SCS offices here.

Mais was reared on a farm near Wyoming, in Jones county. His father and a brother operate the farm now.

In Clinton county, he conducted surveys and helped to design farm ponds and tile inlet terraces. "There are a lot of the projects we worked on that are going to hold over until next year; it was just too wet this fall," he said. This also is the case in Des Moines county.

At WIU, he became involved in rugby and in four years learned a back position. "I also learned the rules, but not all of them. It's an extremely complex game," he said. "It may be a bit dull for spectators for that reason. Not too many of them know the game that well.

"It's a ruffians' game played by gentlemen, they tell me."

He played with a Quad Cities team while in DeWitt. Mais said he also enjoys snow skiing. He's single and looking forward to a career with the SCS.

*The Hawk Eye
Burlington
12-14-77*

Water meeting at Swedesburg

Many rural residents who couldn't get to previous water meetings can go to the parish hall of Swedesburg Lutheran church at Swedesburg at 7:30 p.m. Monday for a session hosted by Henry county extension director Dick Thuma.

Making the presentation on a rural water system will be Ralph Dewey, executive director of Geode Wonderland Resource Conservation and Devel-

opment council.

The land and water committee of the RC&D unit is sponsoring the series of public meetings to determine interest in formation of a water association in Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa counties.

James C. Hodges, Des Moines county extension director, said a number of persons in the Yarmouth and Mediapolis communities planned to

attend the Dec. 5 meeting at Southeastern Community college but snow and high winds intervened. They will have the opportunity to hear the same presentation Monday night.

If there's enough interest, a steering committee will be formed to survey residents and accept \$25 fees which will pay for a feasibility study of forming an association to provide a modern water supply to farms, suburbs and small towns.

Will Hold Public Hearing On Land Policy Jan. 19

A public hearing on a new 20-point land policy will be held on January 19 at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers at Burlington city hall.

This plan was based on recommendations of the nine commissioners for Des Moines county land preservation at a meeting last Thursday night.

Their plan is to limit the growth of cities and rural housing and keep good farm-land in production, locating industry and housing on poor land.

Major recommendations of the commission are:

Incorporated cities and towns use undeveloped land within their borders before expanding outside city limits.

Industrial and commercial development should be restricted to land of low agricultural quality.

Housing in rural areas should be limited to land which produces less than 65 bushels of corn per acre. That in effect, would probably require all future residential housing to be built on timbered or hilly land, rather than tillable ground.

A permanent Des Moines county land commission to oversee land development be created.

The power of the Iowa Department of Transportation to take prime ag land for highways be restricted.

Farmers be encouraged through tax incentives to use good conservation practices.

Recycling of waste materials be encouraged, adequate and safe rural water supplies be ensured and the possibility of using treated sewage as fertilizer on farm land be explored.

Individual septic systems and lagoons in rural housing developments be banned in favor of centralized sewage and water systems.

Nuclear power plant construction be prohibited until a safe means of disposing of radioactive waste can be found.

Industrial growth be confined to existing industrial areas and population centers.

The policy also suggests the state should reduce the number of airports in the state below the proposed 105. Mineral extraction and quarry operations would be permitted if the land is returned to recreational or agricultural use when production ceases.

Land quality would be determined by the local commission, based on US Department of Agricultural soil surveys, which are now underway.

The best land would be classified for agricultural use, with the poorest land designated for housing or industrial expansion.

Commission members are county supervisors Bob Christensen, Robert Gerdner and Merle Kelly; soil commissioners Ray Pilling, Rex Trout and Joe Beckman; Burlington councilmen Tom Martin and Rod Ralston, and Danville councilman Denny Cross.

*New Era, Mediapolis
1-2-78*

A NO-TILLAGE meeting is scheduled at 1:30 p.m. Monday at the First Presbyterian church, Mediapolis. Des Moines and Louisa county farmers and landowners are invited and will have an opportunity to sign up for use of the no-till planter this spring.

*The Hawk Eye
Burlington 1-18-78*

Plan No-Till Meeting Monday In Mediapolis

Advantages of no-till planting will be discussed at a meeting Monday, January 23, at 1:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian church in Mediapolis.

Howard Bright, district conservationist, said they will be talking about last year's no-till plots, and he hopes each of these farmers will be present to discuss their individual plots. Involved in no-till farming last year were - Joe Beckman, Roger Kroll, Jim Howell, Roger Cling, Doug Cling, Melvin Gerst, Mike Schrader, Arne Hausknecht, and Roger Krieger.

Bob Jones, Ortho chemical representative, will be present at

the meeting to explain the proper procedures for no-till planting, fertilizer and chemical application.

Through Ortho, a no-till planter will be available again, said Bright. He encourages farmers to sign up for the program and use the planter. Bright said if the recommended procedures are followed, "the only thing you have to worry about is the weather".

Bright said some advantages of no-till planting are less trips across the field, and a good mulch to protect the soil from erosion and provide more adequate sub-soil moisture.

*New Era, Mediapolis
1-19-78*

Minimum Tillage Talks January 27

"Managing Tillage for Conservation" is the title for the conference to be held on Friday, January 27, at the Ottumwa Coliseum.

Agenda for the event is:
9:30 - 10:15 a.m. - Conservation Tillage - An Overview - Bill Hayes, Regional Agronomist, Soil Conservation Service

10:15 - 10:45 - Fertilizer - What, When and How - Regis Voss, Extension Agronomist, Iowa State University

10:45 - 11:10 - Weed Control and Conservation Tillage - Wayne Dietz, Extension Soil, Water and Waste Specialist, Dubuque

11:10 - 11:30 - Potential Insect and Disease Problems - Allan Seim, Extension Crop Production Specialist, Ottumwa

11:30 - 1:15 - Lunch Break
1:15 - 2:00 - Herman Warsaw, Past National Corn Growing Champion

2:00 - 3:00 - Panel Discussion and Questions - Farmers and Specialists
3:00 - Adjourn

Roger Cling, Mediapolis, will serve as a member of the panel during the 2-3 p.m. panel discussion.

Tickets for the conference are available from your county Soil Conservation District Office.

*New Era
Mediapolis
1-19-78*

Who, when, where & why

Monday, Jan. 23

6:30 p.m. - West Burlington school board, regular meeting; library of West Burlington Arnold high school.

7:30 p.m. - Mediapolis school board, special meeting, high school library, to review attendance policy, discuss administrative staff and employment of superintendent.

7:30 p.m. - Burlington plan commission, regular session, council chambers of city hall.

Tuesday, Jan. 24

7 p.m. - West Burlington city council, regular meeting; West Burlington city hall, second floor.

7:30 p.m. - Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission, regular meeting, supervisors room, Des Moines county courthouse.

Wednesday, Jan. 25

7 p.m. - Des Moines County Soil Conservation district commissioners, regular meeting, Room 230, Burlington federal building.

Thursday, Jan. 26

2 p.m. - Burlington city council, work session, mayor's office, city hall.

*The Hawk Eye
Burlington
1-23-78*

Land policy hearing Thursday

If you have an opinion on how to preserve land, the Des Moines county land preservation policy commission wants to hear it.

The nine-member commission will hear comments at a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in council chambers at Burlington city hall.

The commission, headed by supervisor Bob Christensen, will unveil a 20-point policy designed to keep farm land in production and limit urban growth.

The recommendations were based on member's suggestions and those made in a public survey several months ago. The commission was created last fall to recommend policies to the Iowa Legislature for inclusion in a land use bill.

Its basic position is that good farm land should be retained for agricultural use and that industry and housing should be located on poor land.

Christensen said recently that the commission may revise the policy after listening to public reaction. A third hearing is

required before recommendations can be adopted.

Major recommendations are that cities and towns should use undeveloped land within their borders before expanding city limits.

Industrial and commercial development should be restricted to land of low agricultural quality, and housing in rural areas should be limited to ground which produces less than 65 bushels of corn per acre.

The commission wants permanent responsibility to oversee land development within the county, its cities and towns.

Good conservation practices, adequate sewer and water facilities for all residents and recycling of waste materials are also priorities.

Members include supervisors Christensen, Merle Kelly and Bob Gerdner, soil commissioners Rex Trout, Joe Beckman and Ray Pilling, Burlington councilmen Tom Martin and Rod Ralston, and Danville councilman Denny Cross.

Hawk Eye, Burlington 1-18-78

Name Jan. 27 Tillage Conference

The members of the farmer discussion panel for the Conservation Tillage Conference to be held in the Ottumwa Coliseum on January 27 were named recently. Lowell McCracken, Chairman of the Pathfinders Resource Conservation and Development District which is hosting the conference, announced that Allen Ammons, Monroe County; Richard Burger, Appanoose County; Roger Cling, Des Moines County; and Ken McNabb, Van Buren County, would serve on the panel moderated by Jerry Lehman, Henry County.

Ammons operates approximately 600 acres of rolling land in southern Monroe County. About 200 acres is used for corn and 100 acres for soybeans. He has used a Buffalo-Till planter for two years. Major reasons for choosing this type of conservation tillage system were to minimize time used in planting and capital investment in planting and tillage machinery.

Richard Burger has been farming for 11 years. His fields are gently to moderately sloping. His conservation tillage system includes the use of a Sidewinder rotary tiller to perform shallow tillage and planting at one time. Fertilizer is generally applied in the fall and incorporated with a disk.

Roger Cling has used a chisel plow based system for two years on most of his land and also tried an Allis Chalmers No-Till planter on part of his acreage in 1977. Fields on his farm range from early level to moderately sloping. His cropping program is basically a corn and soybeans rotation.

Ken McNabb has been using a chisel plow system for three years on his 200 acres of row crops. Prior to that he utilized a field cultivator in his tillage program. He has used the chisel plow in either fall or spring, but generally does it in the spring to allow fall grazing of cornstalks. He does not fall chisel soybean ground.

The panel discussion will be one feature of the afternoon program at the conference. Herman Warsaw, a past national corn growing champion, will also speak to the conference then.

The morning program will include specialists from the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the Iowa State University (I.S.U.) Extension Service. Bill Hayes, Regional Agronomist for the S.C.S., will present an overview of conservation tillage systems. Dr. Regis Voss, I.S.U.

*New Era
Mediapolis
Jan 1978*

Hold Second Land Policy Hearing

The second in a series of three public hearings for citizens input into the Des Moines County Land Preservation Policy Statement will be held on Thursday, January 19, 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Third Floor of City Hall in Burlington, Chairman Bob Christensen and the other eight members of the Commission will be meeting to hear citizens express their views as to what should go into the County Land Preservation Policy Statement to be submitted to a District Convention and ultimately the State by April 1, 1978.

The Commissioners in addition to Christensen include: Ray Pilling, Mediapolis; Joe Beck-

man, Sperry; Rex Trout, RR 1, Burlington; Merle Kelly, 708 S. Central, Burlington; Bob Gerdner, 806 North Central, Burlington; Tom Martin, 119 Greenwood, Burlington; Rod Ralston, 3012 Flint Hills Drive, Burlington; Denny Cross, 109 W. Roosevelt Road, Danville. James C. Hodges, County Extension Director serves as secretary to the Commission.

Any Des Moines County resident wishing to address himself to the Commission will be given an opportunity to state his or her views on the subject of Land Preservation. Commission members want citizen input to help guide their deliberations in developing a policy statement for Des Moines County.

New Era, Mediapolis 1-19-78

Two New Employees For Conservation Board

The Des Moines County Conservation Board has recently added a naturalist position to their staff. Debbie Smith began work March 2 in this capacity.

Some of her duties will include working with schools developing an environmental education program, assisting youth organizations with conservation projects, and promoting the "Acres for Wildlife" program. She will also be available to present educational programs for interested organizations.

Debbie is a 1976 graduate of Iowa State University in zoology. She also has a background in education. In the fall of 1976 she student taught with Project ECO, an environmental education program sponsored by the Ames School district. Last year she was a science teacher for the Gilmore City Bradgate Jr.-Sr. High School. For the past three summers she has been on the nature staff at the State 4-H Camping Center.

The Board also has a new Park Ranger for their 4th Pumping

Plant Recreation Park. Tom Marsh began work on February 6.

Tom is a 1977 graduate of Iowa State University in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology. During the summers of 1975 and 1976 he worked at the Guttenberg Management Station for the Iowa Conservation Commission. In the summer of 1973 he worked for the Des Moines County Conservation Board as a temporary park technician.

Both positions are C.E.T.A. funded for several months.

New Era, Mediapolis, 3-16-78

Windbreaks Are Energy Savers

If you are a rural homeowner, now is the time to plan your windbreak for spring planting. Windbreak location should be on the north and west of your farmstead to break the force of winter winds.

A mature, well-planned windbreak can reduce wind velocity more than 50 percent. This, in turn, lowers the chill factor and may reduce your heating cost by as much as 30 percent. Windbreaks reduce livestock stress in



Planted to the north and west, this maturing windbreak is located at the Jim McCartie home east of Mediapolis, in Kossuth.

winter and in summer by tempering hot winds by several degrees.

Also, a windbreak enhances the beauty of your farmstead and

provides shelter for wildlife. Scotch pine and Norway spruce are just a couple of species recommended in Des Moines County. Trees planted as soon as

the frost is out will start growing when soil temperature permits.

Contact the Soil Conservation Service for help in location and species selection.

New Era, Mediapolis, 2-2-78

Farm meetings

CLEAN WATER is the subject of a public meeting called by Rex Troute, chairman of the Des Moines County Resource Coordinating committee, at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the RC&D office in the Machinists building on US 84 just east of Middletown.

Iowa has been required by the 1972 Clean Water Act to develop a plan to control non-point sources of pollutants. These include sediment and chemical runoff from all lands, including farmland. Departments of Soil Conservation and Environmental Quality are charged with developing the plan.

"This meeting will be one of a very few opportunities

Troute

for local people to have a say in the type of control program to use in Iowa," Troute said. "We need to shape the program to our needs or else someone will do it for us."

The implementation program would require pollution control measures in watersheds that contribute to a water quality problem. The Soil Conservation Service reported that the implementation program would require pollution control measures in watersheds that contribute to a water quality problem. SCS maintains that its proposal allows for a number of incentives and alternative pollution control practices.

Troute urged the public to attend; its input will be reviewed by the conservancy districts before final decisions are made next summer.



*The Hawk Eye
Burlington
2-26-78*

Committee Plans For Best Management

Members of the Des Moines County Resource Coordinating Committee met recently to discuss "best management practices". This group is considering practices to include in the states Water Quality Plan.

In accordance with the Water Pollution Control law, which calls for "fishable and swimmable streams" by 1985, local groups are determining conservation practices which would be accepted by the community.

Under the new law, the Department of Environmental Quality would identify streams which are adversely affected by pollution, sediment, or farm chemicals. The DEQ would then inform the conservancy district in which the stream segment lies. In turn, the conservancy district would identify the watershed where the problem originates and inform the proper soil conservation district.

Landowners in these watersheds would be contacted by the local soil conservation district, informing them of the problem. The SCD will offer incentives to the landowners for voluntary participation in installing the best management practices. If landowners do not cooperate voluntarily, then the district will initiate action against the landowner in a manner similar to the nuisance procedure now authorized for soil erosion control.

Howard Bright, district conservationist, said the local group's proposal for best management practices will be sent to the Environmental Protection Agency in the fall. If they are accepted, they expect to receive some money which would be made available to individuals with problems.

"You have to find means of cost-sharing to implement programs," said Bright. "A voluntary program is not effective."

At the meeting of the Coordinating Committee, the following practices were voted upon in the categories of not applicable, much resistance, some resistance, accepted, easily accepted, and strongly accepted. In almost every case, votes were divided among four or more categories. Following is a list of the practices and the category or categories receiving the most votes.

Debris basin - 7 accepted; sediment and water control basin - 5, 5, some resistance, accepted; dike - 8 accepted; diversion - 8 accepted; grade stabilization structure - 4, 4, some resistance, easily accepted; grasses waterway or outlet - 9 accepted; sediment control structures - 8 some resistance; streambank protection - 7 accepted; terraces (basin) - 7 accepted.

Conservation tillage - 16 some resistance; conservation crop-

ping systems - 6 accepted; cover crops - 7 much resistance; critical area planting - 7 some resistance; green manure crop - 6 much resistance; pasture and hay management - 10 some resistance; permanent veg. cover - 6, 6 much resistance, some resistance; temporary seeding - 9 some resistance.

Bright said there are 165,000 acres of cropland in Des Moines county and 36,000 are treated adequately for soil erosion.

"That means there are about 130,000 acres that need some treatment," said Bright. He estimated 54,000 acres of flat or gently sloping land could be treated with conservation tillage or no-tillage to bring it within allowable limits.

"If we go to terraces it would take 353 years at our present rate to complete terracing of the county," said Bright.

"On our most prime farm land, at the present rate of erosion of 15 tons per acre per year, there are 120 years left before it is eroded to the subsoil. It's less for the poorer land, because it is more susceptible to erosion," he pointed out.

"This points for a need for something to be done right away. It would be easiest if we could get farmers to use conservation tillage. At 2,000 acres a year, in 25 years all the land would be adequately treated."

New Era, Mediapolis, 3-16-78

Set Aside Acres For Conservation Work

More farmers and landowners are getting interested in applying soil conservation practices each year. This is good, but there is a problem involved here. Since most farmers have intensive row crop rotations it is no longer possible to construct conservation structures in the summer. Everyone wants their conservation work done in the spring or fall when the fields are fallow. This places an impossible workload on the earth moving contractor and tiler. It's no wonder there are few jobs being completed. Many jobs are carried over from year to year tying up federal and state cost-share dollars.

With the new "ASCS set aside program", farmers can take advantage of this opportunity to set aside those acres on which

they are planning terraces and other conservation practices. By seeding down these areas to oats or grass, earth moving contractors can play catch up on all those jobs that have been postponed the past couple of years.

There are other advantages in utilizing set aside acres for conservation work. The soil is in its best condition for construction, saving the contractor time and the farmer money.

If you are considering conservation practices for your farm, the SCS office urges you to think about setting aside these acres for summer construction. It could save you money and increase your chances of getting your favorite earth-moving contractor and tiler.

New Era, Mediapolis, 4-6-78

Editor's note: Conservation, (minimum) tillage has been touted as a new way of farming. And to most, it is. But the idea goes back a long way. These excerpts from an article written in 1943 by Hugh Bennett, Chief of the US Soil Conservation Service, show how the practice was promoted years ago.

Like fine wine, fast automobiles and cussin' words, the old moldboard or turning plow is something that serves us best when used with moderation. But it takes a strong man to resist the temptation to excess, and an experienced man to see the wisdom of discriminate use.

For the past two hundred years, more or less, we in the United States have been on

something that might be called a moldboard-plow jag. Young and healthy, with plenty of land, we were able to take it year in and year out for a long time, returning to our farm labors each spring with little more than a mild hangover. Ultimately, however, excesses reach a climax. There comes a time when the hangover begins to resemble an unhappy delirium. Some twenty years ago we went out with turning plows on a particularly lavish spree, and awoke to find ourselves in a delirium of monstrous dust storms and yawning gullies. That was when we really began to learn from experience and see the handwriting on the wall of time.

Now I don't mean to condemn the turning plow out of hand. It is a handy and serviceable instrument. It ought to continue as an honorable servant of mankind for generations to come, but there's a time and place for everything. Turning soil upside down - which has been one of the main functions of this plow - is not generally one of the wisest steps in agriculture, although we've been indulging in it for well over a century. It puts the vegetative material, including grain stubble, corn stalks, grass and legumes, as well as weeds, anywhere from six to twelve inches underground, and turns fresh loose earth to the top.

When the grass and other vegetative litter is lodged a foot

underground, it can't protect the surface. And fresh, loose soil exposed to the sun, wind and rain on top of a field is a rank invitation to trouble. The sun bakes the life out of the unprotected soil, at least temporarily. When it is good and dry, the wind can blow it away. And when any kind of rainfall heavier than a drizzle hits it, you get soil washing - sheet erosion and gullies - and an aftermath of muddy rivers and silt in reservoirs and harbors. Also, if the land happens to be sloping - and about 90 percent of the cropland of the United States slopes enough to erode readily - you may get such a rush of water and soil downhill that crops go along with it. It is only adding insult to injury, of course, to

realize that the downhill wash of water and topsoil also carries away with it the fertilizers and natural plant food in the soil that crops must have in order to thrive.

I wouldn't want to argue for complete prohibition of the moldboard plow.

Across the vast expanse of America's cropland, however, we are in need of a new type of plow. This is not heresay. Is it so fantastic to expect that the agricultural operation of plowing should progress by refinement, just as refrigeration, the automobile, lighting and the airplane have progressed? Already many new-type plows are in the field to replace the old turning plow. More than twenty

were introduced in a recent single year. Some are proving more satisfactory than others, but all have a common aim: to break up compacted soil, kill weeds, and at the same time leave protective crop residues on the surface of the land.

Some of the new plows run along a few inches beneath the surface of the ground. Others have the effect of slicing through. And there are all manner of variations in between. Farmers already are beginning to adopt the new system. In some localities, where only a few years ago 95 percent of the farmers burned off their wheat stubble every year so as to make it easier to plow for the following year's crop, nearly all the growers are

now using plows that leave a considerable part of the stubble on the surface. They have stopped burning and are finding that the wheat-stubble litter, or straw scattered over the field, has a powerful effect, not only in increasing yields but in preventing soil from washing and blowing. This new system is sometimes referred to as "subsurface tillage." Some call it "trashy fallow," and many of us are hoping that it will eventually be referred to as the "stubble-mulch" method. The new method will not be a cure-all, of course, but it is proving to be a most efficient tool in an ever increasing number of farming areas.

By personal observation, by

the results of scientific study and by the practical experience of farmers, I believe it is becoming increasingly evident that the passing of the turning plow from general use in field cultivation would be a boon. Some day it may be regarded as a notable event in history.

H. H. Bennett, 1943

**Boy Scouts of
America Scouting
Environmental Day
April 22**

New Era, 4-27-78

Quicker Way To Get In Fields

If the high soil moisture predictions hold true this spring, wet fields could put many area farmers behind schedule at planting time. "This spring may be like 1974 and 1975, when it wasn't easy to get in and out of the field," says Howard Bright, district conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service. "Those wet springs prompted a number of farmers to skip moldboard plowing of their fields - they just disced, or chisel plowed, and then planted. And I think they found they really didn't need to do all that work they had in the past."

Bright says reduced tillage will be important again this year.

"With conservation tillage, you can be in the field planting when your neighbor is plowing, disking, or harrowing," he says. The condition your soil is in, the amount of crop residue you have to work with, and the type of planter you have are important points to consider.

The main point in deciding when to plant is to start as soon as the soil is fit to plant in. "As soon as the soil is warm enough and dry enough, you're ready to go with no-till, slot planting or till planting," says SCS agronomist Ernie Hintz. "Some farmers shred cornstalks or disc lightly ahead of planting with these systems," he says, "but the idea is to plant in the row of last year's crop. Disking can destroy the warm, dry soil in that crop row, and delay planting."

Over-working the ground before planting not only causes later planting - it also cover crop residues. Those residues are valuable in preventing soil erosion by wind and water. In soybean land in particular, residues are easily buried. "This land is ideal for a no-till or till plant system," the agronomist says.

The soil conservationists say that if fertilizer and herbicide incorporation are needed, they recommend shallow chiseling or disking. This leaves residue on the soil surface and in the top two to three inches of soil for erosion protection.

New Era, 5-4-78
**No-Till Planter
 At K&M Implement**

The Soil Conservation office has announced the AC no-till planter is now at K & M Tractor and Implement in Mediapolis. Anyone wishing to use it should contact Dennis Spitznogle, 394-3434.

New Era, Mediapolis, 6-22-78



Mediapolis FFA no-till plot

No-Till Works In All Weather

by Sid Mais, soil conservationist

Most farmers in Des Moines County will agree as to the difficulty of planting crops this past spring due to the weather. However, there is a practical solution to this problem, and that is the no-till farming method.

In traveling through the county, I have seen many farmers in their fields spending countless hours preparing a seedbed, only to have another rainfall force them back to the field to repeat the process. This generally leads to 1) a cloddy seedbed and 2) compaction of the soil structure.

No-till farming, on the other hand, maintains soil tilth, conserves soil moisture, and reduces soil erosion to nearly zero. Because only two trips are

needed through the field, net profit is increased by savings in fuel, time, and equipment.

Yields in no-till farming compare favorably to conventional methods and in many cases, yields are increased. How many inches of topsoil, gallons of fuel, and tons of fertilizer can we afford to waste using conventional tillage methods?

Virtually any soil type in Des Moines County which is now conventionally tilled is compatible to no-till farming. Many area farmers have already found success with this method and plans are under way to conduct a tour this summer featuring no-till fields.

Now is the time to include no-till in your farming future. It's later than you think!



New corn pushes through 1977 trash

No-till farming seen as wave of the future

By SID MAIS
 Soil Conservationist

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Yields in no-till farming compare favorably to conventional methods and in many cases are actually increased. How many inches of topsoil, gallons of fuel, and tons of fertilizer can we afford to waste using conventional tillage methods?

Virtually any soil type in Des Moines county which is now conventionally tilled is compatible with this method and plans are underway to conduct a tour this summer, featuring no-till fields.

Now is the time to include no-till in your farming future. It's later than you think!

Form Local Geode Rural Water Assoc.

Southeast Iowa now has a rural water association. Friday evening, April 28, residents of Flint River, Tama, Benton and Franklin Townships in Des Moines County, met to organize the Geode Rural Water Association for business.

Stemming from an information meeting held two weeks ago, fifteen volunteers formed a steering committee to set the plan in operation. Their purpose is to develop a water distribution system that will provide rural users a permanent, safe and high quality source of water.

Jim Kearns of Corning, is executive director of the Iowa Rural Water Association, and spoke briefly to the group about their organization. Kearns answered many questions with knowledge based on his years of experience in forming and operating such organizations.

"Development of a rural water association in southeast Iowa will happen as rapidly as the people are willing to make it go," Kearns said. "One association, started just a year ago is now funded and ready for construction."

Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) is the prime source of funding for Rural Water. A pre-application to FmHA is being prepared by Geode Wonderland RC&D Area. The RC&D, along with Des Moines County Extension Service has promoted and helped guide the Geode Water group into existence.

Kearns pointed out that existing rural water projects are being installed at an initial hook-on fee of from 200 to 500 dollars and monthly minimum rates of from 12 to 18 dollars. He urged the sponsors to move quickly in surveys of potential users and to incorporate and hire the needed consultants to get the job done.

The steering committee chose to select three directors from each township. Named at the Friday meeting were: Robert or Leona Schmeiser, Don or Marguerita Campbell and Bruce or Patricia Edwards representing Flint River Twp.; Robert Reif, Ernest and Marlene Gerst for Franklin Twp.; John Sandell and Mrs. Wayne Parsons for Tama Twp.; and Jackie Wistrom from Benton Township. The remainder of representatives to the board will be selected before the next board meeting, scheduled May 8, at the RC&D office.

Rural residents of the four townships who wish to sign up for rural water or are interested in volunteering to help in surveys are urged to contact the directors or the Des Moines County Extension Service or Geode Wonderland RC&D as soon as possible.

New Era

Mediapolis, 5-4-78



Probably the first time in Des Moines county for actual no-till corn planting, Wiegand sows 40 acres of corn with his John Deere Maxi-merge near Oakville.

Plant 40 Acres By No-till Method

Innovation has always been part of Joe Wiegand's farming career, and his latest experiment is the "highlight of the whole thing". On Wednesday, April 27, Wiegand planted 40 acres in corn using a no-till method.

Wiegand now lives in Mediapolis, but his son-in-law and family, the Galen Metzgers, live on the homestead south of Oakville near the Mississippi River.

The 40 acres were all fairly flat, according to Wiegand, and the no-till method was used mainly "to save costs". In using no-till he also conserved fossil fuel, saved time and energy, and tried out "a new way".

Last year Wiegand purchased a new John Deere Maxi-merge planter, using it with conventional and minimum tillage planting. He discovered it could easily be used for no-tillage planting, so decided to give it a try. Wiegand said, "You can't use just any planter." Most planters have a fluted colter in front, but his new planter does not. The John Deere planter has a V-shaped opener with wheels which continuously gauge the depth. "No other ground is disturbed," said Wiegand.

Last year the 40 acres were in beans, and Wiegand said the "trash" on top wasn't as much as it could have been because they "weren't full season beans". "I think we could have had twice as

much trash and still got along all right," said Wiegand. The corn planting "went perfectly", he reported.

Wiegand used 1½ quarts Lasso per acre, 1½ lbs. Atrex per acre, and 8-25-0 fertilizer banded with a 15" pattern for the 30" rows.

This spring he bulk spread 18-46-120 fertilizer on the ground. He plans to knife in about 100 lbs. per acre anhydrous ammonia at a later date.

Using a 118 day Super Crost variety, 6800, Wiegand planted at the rate of 26,200 plants per acre.

On hand from the Des Moines county soil conservation office were Sid Mais and Oren Champ. Mais said, "Depending on the type of soil, from a soil conservation standpoint it is a practical alternative." Wiegand is planting the 40 acres on a cost-share basis at \$10 an acre from the ASCS office.



Galen Metzger, left, and Joe Wiegand, right, examine the results of using a no-till planting method last Wednesday.

New Era, Mediapolis, 5-4-78

USDA makes set-aside program more attractive

By BOB SOGARD
Hawk Eye Farm Editor

The feed grain and wheat programs signup continues in ASCS offices across the nation while Washington keeps on changing them.

The staffs in county ASC offices in Iowa will be slim Monday and Tuesday while managers and clerks meet in Des Moines to hear the latest developments.

Since last Wednesday, the set-aside has taken on a new dimension. Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland announced that some \$600 million to \$700,000 in subsidies would be paid cotton, wheat and feed grain farmers to hold an extra 5 million acres out of production.

Approximately 17 million acres of set-aside already had been predicted. The new features make the program more flexible and economically attractive, according to Donald Jarvis, chairman of the Des Moines County ASCS committee. He urged farm owners and operators to attend one of the informational meetings being scheduled in the coming week.

Time is getting short in the Corn Belt, with planting in prospect as soon as the land dries sufficiently to allow plows, disks and harrows into the fields. If farmers are to participate in the programs, they may have to make significant changes in cropping plans.

It's possible to idle 10% or as much as 20% of "normal crop acres" on a farm. If the lesser figure is used, the farmer wouldn't receive a set-aside payment but would be eligible for price supports and disaster (or prevented planting) payments.

If the second 10% is idled, a land diversion payment of 20 cents for each bushel of corn normally produced would be multiplied — not by the set-aside acres — but by the number of acres actually planted.

The land to be diverted is selected by the farmer, meaning that some of the marginal land, more easily eroded, will be taken out of production.

Deane Thornton, ASCS executive director here, said Des Moines county has the highest yield projection in the state, 118 bushels per acre.

Since the payment comes out to about \$1 per bushel yield, the ground that has a yield figure of 118 bpa would pay about \$118 per acre planted to corn, if the farmer is signed up for a 20% set-aside.

The signup continues through April 30.

Howard Bright, district conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service, said farmers can take advantage of the set-aside program to put in conservation structures in the summer.

"Everyone wants their conservation work done in the spring or fall when the fields are fallow," Bright said. "This places an impossible workload on the earth-moving contractor and tiler. It's no wonder there are few jobs being completed."

He said diverted acres may be seeded down to oats or grass, then earth-moving contractors can play catchup on all those jobs that have been postponed the past couple of years.

Four meetings have been set for Des Moines and Louisa county farmers to learn the latest developments in the feed grain and wheat set-aside programs. Deane Thornton, Des Moines county ASCS office manager, will join his Louisa county associate, Jim Mul-lahy, at the first one.

Wednesday, April 5 — Oakville school house, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 6 — Mediapolis high school, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 7 — Danville Community building, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, April 10 — Yarmouth fire station, 7:30 p.m.

Milton Distelhorst, Rt. 2, a state ASCS committee member, said such projects as building waterways on diverted acres are being allowed, if conserving practices are followed, but this will be "chopped off" after the signup closes.

Thornton said there's also a demonstration program available that encourages farmers to use conservation tillage. Up to 60 acres of minimum tillage will receive an incentive payment.

Using this technique, the farmer must leave 2,000 pounds of crop debris on the surface on slopes up to 2% and 3,000 pounds where the slope is 2% or more.

The no-till payment is larger on plots up to 40 acres.

Distelhorst told a meeting here last week that diverted acres may be plowed in the fall, which means they could be seeded to winter wheat.

Adding to the confusion of changes in the program, Congress returns from spring vacation Monday and a Senate-House conference committee will take up the emergency farm legislation.

The conferees will try to compromise such diverse plans as the so-called full parity Dole bill that would pay for idling up to half the normal crop acres and the \$2.3 billion bill of Talmadge, Clark et al that would divert about 31 million acres in addition to the 10% set-aside in the present bill.

Iowa Sen. Dick Clark voted against the Dole measure on the grounds it was slanted toward cotton and wheat producers, that it would price grain out of the export market and that President Carter would veto it. He said the Dole measure would cost about \$5 billion.

At the meeting here last week, extension farm management specialist Dale Seebach observed that the nation's corn stocks are high and, with normal yields this year, the 1978 carryover will be even higher.

The national yield last year was 90.8 bushels per acre and 70 million acres were harvested. The government and grain trade specialists see more than 1.1 billion bushels on hand next Oct. 1. Before the crop is planted, yields are guessed at 5.8 to 6.3 billion bushels, and with the carryover, up to 7.4 billion bushels could be available.

Increasing livestock numbers will use 3.9 to 4 billion bushels, while human food, industry and seed producers will use 540 million bushels and 1.6 billion bushels will be exported, Seebach said.

This would leave between 1.2 and 1.4 billion bushels, a heavy carryover that would help hold prices at about \$2.25 per bushel, a figure that is barely the break-even point for many farmers.

The Hawk Eye, Burlington, 4-2-78

Conservation service urges no-till farming

By Soil Conservation Service, Burlington

Most farmers in Des Moines County will agree about the difficulty of planting crops this past spring due to the weather. However, there is a practical solution to this problem no-till farming.

Traveling through the county, spending countless hours preparing a seedbed, only to have another rainfall force them back to the field to repeat the process. This generally leads to 1) a cloddy seedbed and 2) compaction of the soil structure.

No-till farming, on the other hand, maintains soil tilth, conserves soil moisture, and reduces soil erosion to nearly

zero. Because only two trips are needed through the field, net profit is increased by savings in fuel, time, and equipment.

Yields in no-till farming compare favorably to conventional methods and in many cases, yields are increased. How many inches of topsoil, gallons of fuel, and tons of fertilizer can we afford to waste using conventional tillage methods?

Virtually any soil type in Des Moines County which is now conventionally tilled is compatible to no-till farming. Many area farmers have already found success with this method and plans are under way to conduct a tour this summer featuring no-till fields.

*Des Moines County News
St. Burlington*

Editorial

Local citizens interested in conservation will have new opportunities for action under a law signed in November by President Carter. Although it has not received a lot of attention, the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 may well be one of the most significant pieces of legislation in the history of the natural resource conservation movement in the United States.

The new law calls for a comprehensive look at our basic natural resources and for better programs to protect and improve them. An important part of the law is its emphasis on citizen participation in determining the future direction of national conservation programs that affect local communities.

Under the law, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service (SCS) will appraise the nation's natural resources, develop a five-year program to guide conservation efforts and evaluate the program's effectiveness each year.

Many local conservation districts are conducting open meetings and workshops about the Resources Conservation Act. To develop a truly responsive conservation program, SCS and districts must have the participation of concerned individuals as well as local governments, farm and environmental organizations and other interested groups.

Soil and water conservation programs in this country have a long and successful history of being locally initiated, locally planned and locally managed through conservation districts.

The Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 broadens this traditional approach to include even wider public involvement. Because of the new law, all citizens now have a voice in planning decisions that will guide future conservation programs - and the future of the nation's natural resources.

A veteran of 30 years of federal service, **Oren Champ**, recently received a certificate of achievement at a Soil Conservation Service statewide meeting at Des Moines.

Champ, 58, a native of Fairfield, has been a conservation technician with the Des Moines county SCS office for the past eight years. For 18 years prior to coming here, he was an engineering technician with the area SCS office at Fairfield.



Champ
at Fairfield

Champ's citation was presented by William Brune, SCS state conservationist. Brune praised him for his "extra effort to the understaffed offices of Louisa and Des Moines counties." It said Champ handled an extremely heavy application workload and yet terracing goals were exceeded in both counties by the end of fiscal year 1976 "due to your drive and determination. Goals for plans, revisions and inventories and evaluations also were exceeded."

Champ plans to retire later this year. His work includes surveying for farm ponds, laying out terraces and drainage systems. He lives at Fairfield, commuting there weekends and staying in West Burlington during the week.

The Hawk Eye
Burlington
6-25-78

New Era, Mediapolis
6-29-78

Champ Receives SCS Citation

A veteran of 30 years of federal service, Oren Champ, recently received a certificate of achievement at a Soil Conservation Service statewide meeting at Des Moines. Champ, 58, a native of Fairfield, has been a conservation technician with the Des Moines county SCS office for the past eight years. For 18 years prior to coming here, he was an engineering technician with the area SCS office at Fairfield.

Champ's citation was presented by William Brune, SCS state conservationist. Brune praised him for his "extra effort to the understaffed offices of Louisa and Des Moines counties." It said Champ handled an extremely heavy application workload and yet terracing goals were exceeded in both counties by the end of fiscal year 1976 "due to your drive and determination. Goals for plans, revisions and inventories and evaluations also were exceeded."

Champ plans to retire later this year. His work includes surveying for farm ponds, laying out terraces and drainage systems. He lives at Fairfield, commuting there weekends and staying in West Burlington during the week.

No Appraisals Needed For RC & D Measures

State Conservationist, William J. Brune, has determined that the preparation and review of environmental impact statements are not needed for planning and implementation of critical area treatment measures in Geode Wonderland RC&D Area.

The RC&D Area covers Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa Counties.

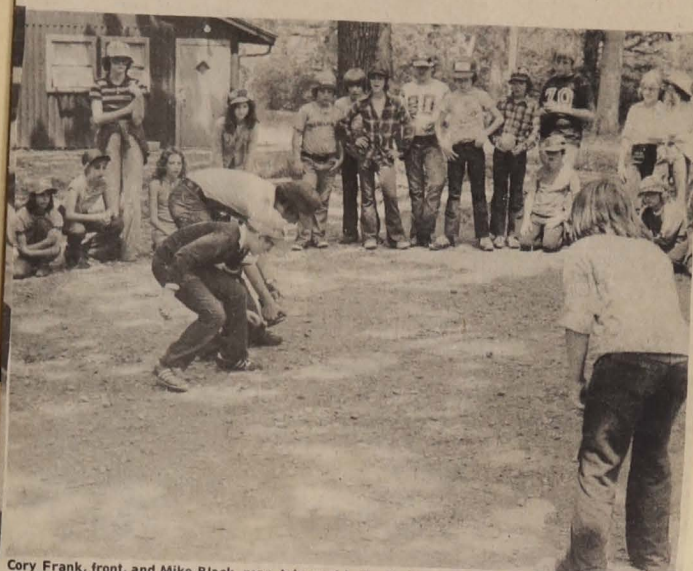
In making this decision RC&D and Soil Conservation Service officials evaluated typical works of improvement involved in critical area treatment. These measures included grade stabilization structures, tile outlet terraces, sediment and water control basins, critical area plantings, debris basins and fencing.

It was found that these measures, typically, disturb minor areas of the environment for relatively short time periods. Benefits from their construction invariably outweigh any non-preventable, adverse en-

vironmental effects. An environmental impact appraisal has been filed with interested federal agency as well as publishing in the Federal Register for public comment.

Details are available for interested parties at the Soil Conservation Service, 639 Federal Building, 210 Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309, Phone (515) 284-4260.

New Era, Mediapolis, 6-8-78



Cory Frank, front, and Mike Black, rear, take part in the "critter race" while other sixth graders observe.

Teach Mini-Courses At Environmental Camp

Eighty-nine Mediapolis sixth graders enjoyed an environmental camp at Camp Golden Valley near Lockridge May 23-26 with the cooperation of nineteen parents. The students stayed two days and one night by home room.

The first group arrived at the camp Tuesday morning and returned home Wednesday afternoon. The second group arrived Wednesday morning and left Thursday afternoon. The final group arrived on Thursday morning and returned home Friday. Several hours on Wednesday and Thursday 60 students were at camp together.

Each group was involved in a series of mini-courses that provided the students with a better understanding and appreciation of nature. One conclusion the students developed was that man depended on all facets of nature but nature does not depend on man. Man only disturbs or upsets the balance of nature.

A typical day began with arriving at camp about mid-morning and unpacking. A large dinner bell would ring to assemble the students under the shelter house for announcements and to start classes until lunch. After lunch sometime was free to try their luck at tetherball, volleyball, or cheering their favorite critter in a critter race. The afternoon was spent with more classes until 4:30. Until supper time some games were played while many prepared themselves for skits to be presented later.

After supper the student chose either to go fishing or exploring. At sundown a campfire was enjoyed by all with refreshments and skits galore. Sleep came late but morning too early for most.

After breakfast and cleaning up the lodge and sleeping quarters the students hunted for strange and scarce objects found in nature. Classes again followed until noon.

The different mini-classes were broken down to groups of seven to ten students taught by parents or to groups of fifteen taught by school personnel or special helpers.

Debbie Smith, from the Conservation Board, taught a class on streams. The students sought and caught different species found in or near streams for observation and study.

Mr. Schermer instructed a group on tree identification.

Many parents showed each student how to make a willow whistle. Some students were able to play several different notes while others only able to blow air.

Other parents taught classes on estimations, insects, web of life,



Contemplating the art of roasting wieners are, left to right, Lisa Brown, Nancy Reynolds, and Sandy Wehage.

seeds, the five senses, and taking short hikes and looking for different evidences of wildlife.

Several teachers taught classes, one on art using only the colors found in nature and pond life. Pond life was studying and checking the oxygen and Ph of the pond water. The students also used a plankton net to gather samples of pond life.

In the evening several fathers took a group fishing. The fish were abundant and so were the mosquitos. One evening Tom Darbyshire caught two turtles. The turtles were kept for a turtle race the following day.

While some were fishing the other students went exploring with Mr. Schermer, the expert explorer. Just getting back to the lodge was an accomplishment, according to Bobby Belsley. They all returned hot, tired, wet, and dirty after following Mr. Schermer up and down the country side on some well concealed trails.

Around the campfire each

class displayed their many talents of acting and getting their classmates and chaperones involved in jokes. They had drips in the outfield, suckers on the telephone line, and a nut on the wheel. This was one of the most enjoyable parts of camp.

The sixth graders returned home tired, with many stories to tell, and ready to go again.

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New Era, Mediapolis



Theresa Beckman, Sperry, plants big bluestem pasture grass.

Grasses Increase Pasture Capacity

Many Des Moines County farms that include a cow-calf operation, have an untapped resource right in their own backyard. Pasture renovation, including the establishment of warm-season grasses, has great

potential in this area. Theresa Beckman of rural Sperry has begun her program of pasture renovation using big bluestem.

Big bluestem is one of several varieties of warm season grasses, which is native to

THURSDAY, JULY 6, 1978 -- PAGE 7
southern Iowa. Others include Indian grass, switch grass, and little bluestem.

Optimum growth for these native grasses occurs during the hot summer months when most pastures lose productivity. Including warm season grasses in a pasture rotation means optimum grazing for a cow-calf herd from spring through fall. This increases the carrying capacity of pasture land which means more profit for Beckman and other cow-calf operators in Des Moines County.

Contact the Soil Conservation Service for further details.

Des Moines County News, West Burlington, 7-20-78

Soil district successors to be elected in November

The terms of two Des Moines County Soil Conservation District Commissioners, Dwight Stucker of New London, Pleasant Grove Township and Clyde W. Scherer of Rt. 1, Burlington, Union Township, will expire at noon on January 2, 1979.

Successors will be elected at the general election on November 7, 1978.

Any qualified elector residing in the soil conservation district, which is all of Des Moines County including cities and towns, is eligible for the office of commissioner, except that no more than one commissioner may be a resident of any one township.

Incumbent commissioners are Ray W. Pilling of Mediapolis, Yellow Springs Township, Joseph T. Beckman of Sperry, Franklin Township and Rex H. Troute of Rt. 1, Burlington, Concordia Township; therefore, residents of those townships would not be eligible for office at this time.

Prospective candidates seeking the office of soil conservation district commissioner must file nomination petitions in the same manner as for other elective positions at the general election, except that no political party is designated.

Nomination petitions can be obtained from the County

Auditor.

These petitions, signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the County Auditor at the Des Moines County Courthouse no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 13, 1978.

Individuals elected in November 1978 will serve a term of six years commencing January 2, 1979. Soil conservation district commissioners

serve without salary and guide the overall and water conservation program in the county.

For further information pertaining to the responsibilities of a commissioner, contact the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District Office, Ro 230 Federal Building, Burlington. Telephone 754-8983.

Des Moines County News, 7-6-78

Plant natural grass for cow-calf operations

By Soil Conservation Service

Many Des Moines County farms that include a cow-calf operation, have an untapped resource right in their own backyard. Pasture renovation,

including the establishment of warm-season grasses, has great potential in this area.

Theresa Beckman of rural Sperry has begun her program of pasture renovation using big bluestem.

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This increases the carrying capacity of your pasture land which means more profit for Theresa and other cow-calf operators in Des Moines County.

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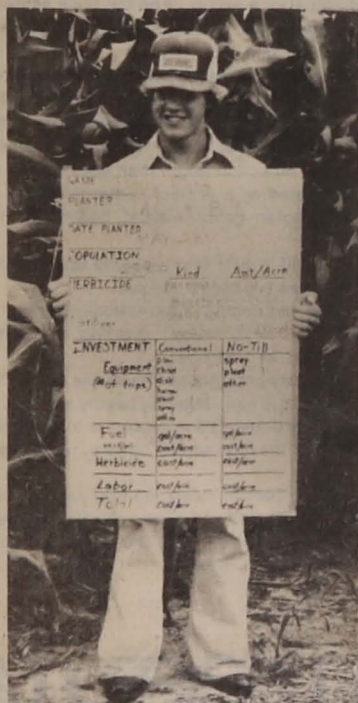
3rd.
New Era, 7-13-78

Set No-Till Tour For Tuesday

Des Moines County Soil Conservation District will sponsor a bus tour of no-till plots on Tuesday, July 18. Everyone interested should meet at the Mediapolis school building at 1 p.m. for the bus tour.

Hawk Eye, 7-12-78

A BUS TOUR of no-till plots will be held by the Des Moines county soil conservation district July 18. Interested persons should meet at the Mediapolis school at 1 p.m.



On Tuesday, July 18, 24 Des Moines county residents toured six of the no-till corn fields in Des Moines county. The tour was sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil Conservation Board.

The six no-till plots belonged to a Future Farmers of America group in Mediapolis, Roger Cling, Doug Cling (pictured to the left), John Wagenbach (picture in center of the above photo), Horace Sutton, and Jim Howell.

Of the six test plots, Howell expressed the most negative attitude towards no-till. He stated, "The money I save in labor and fuel goes toward greater use of chemicals. If it weren't for soil conservation, I wouldn't go no-till."

All other test plots showed some savings using no-till according to figures released. The future farmer's test plot's average cost per acre was \$23.10 using no-till and an estimated cost of \$34 per acre using conventional farming methods.

All but one of the farmers used special no-till planters. The future farmers group, Sutton, and Howell used an AC No-Till planter. Roger Cling used a Buffalo Till. Doug Cling used both a Buffalo Till and the AC No-Till planter. John Wagenbach used a conventional John Deere planter.

Election Time Approaches

Two Seats Open On AEA No. 16 Board Will Elect Two To SCD Committee

Two positions on the Area Education Agency No. 16 Board of Directors, to serve a 3 year term, are to be filled in keeping with Chapter 273 of the Code of Iowa in the operation and function of Area Education Agency No. 16.

The terms of Director Joseph Mauck of District No. 1 and Director Kenneth Aspelmeier of District No. 2 will be expiring October 2, 1978. Mr. Mauck and Mr. Aspelmeier have served in this capacity since October, 1974.

The selection process of Directors of the A.E.A. No. 16 Board is through Director District Conventions whereby Boards of Education of local schools in each Director District cast a ballot on a pro rata basis to select a person to serve as Director of A.E.A. No. 16 Board.

Materials for filing a Statement of Candidacy are available at Area Education Agency No. 16 administrative office - 305 Avenue F - Fort Madison, Ia., or at the office of

local school superintendents. Statement of Candidacy must be filed at least ten days prior to the date of the Director District Convention with the A.E.A. Administrator or Secretary to the Board. Nominations for positions of Director District No. 1 and No. 2 may be made by school board members from community districts.

Director District Convention No. 1 will be held in Mt. Pleasant, Tuesday, September 19, 1978, at 8:00 p.m., at 801 East Henry, Mt. Pleasant.

Director District Convention No. 2 will be held in Mediapolis, Thursday, September 21, 1978, at 8:00 p.m., at the High School Building.

Members of the Board of Directors for A.E.A. No. 16 must be residents and electors of the Director Districts. They may be members of local Boards of Directors, but may not be employees of local school districts or members of merged Area Boards of Directors.

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These petitions, signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the County Auditor at the Des Moines County Courthouse no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 13, 1978.

Individuals elected in November 1978 will serve a term of six years commencing January 2, 1979. Soil conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county. For further information pertaining to the responsibilities of a commissioner, contact the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District office, Room 230 Federal Building, Burlington. Telephone 754-8983.

New Era, 8-31-78

Measure Feeling On Conservation

During the last two months, the Soil Conservation Service has been attempting to determine the public feelings on major problems in conservation. Through a series of meetings the SCS office has had citizens complete questionnaires to determine what their views are in specific areas.

The reason behind the survey is the Resource Conservation Act, a federal act administered by the SCS office. The information obtained by local SCS offices will be "passed on to the State and then on to Washington", said district soil conservationist Howard Bright. The information will be used to "change conservation programs to fit the needs", he said.

Items of concern were rated by the percentage who felt it was "a major concern". Results in Des Moines county were as follows.

Food and fiber production - 81 percent

- Land use - 77 percent
- Flooding - 33 percent
- Wetlands - 39 percent
- Prime, unique, important farmland - 79 percent
- Water management - 40 percent
- Water supply - 81 percent
- Soil erosion - 89 percent
- Mining - 22 percent
- Land disposal of organic waste - 40 percent
- Recreation - 25 percent
- Wildlife habitat - 42 percent
- Fish habitat - 44 percent
- Forestry - 45 percent
- Water quality - 81 percent
- Air quality - 42 percent
- Rural development - 49 percent
- Environmental - 56 percent
- Socio-political concerns - 73 percent
- Drainage - 34 percent

Hawk Eye, 8-8-78

Resources act demands input from ag interests

Complaints about operation of federal soil and water conservation programs are common, but farmers and other taxpayers apparently feel it does no good to air their gripes and suggestions.

Howard Bright, district conservationist, said Congress felt otherwise when it passed the Resources Conservation Act.

"The new law requires that the people who administer the law listen to the public," Bright said. "Iowa requires public hearings as its land use policy is being developed. This is doing the same sort of thing on the federal level."

Each county, or soil conservation district, is holding public meetings. The Des Moines county session will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Machinists building, east of Middletown on US 34.

The Resources Conservation Act will be explained. It calls for a comprehensive look at the nation's basic natural resources and for better programs to protect them. Bright said the emphasis is to start from local districts, with full citizen participation, in developing a five year program.

"Everybody has a stake in these programs and everybody is welcome to share their ideas," Bright said.

New Era, Aug. 10, 1978

Public Meeting On Natural Resources

A public meeting concerning the new Resources Conservation Act will be held Thursday, August 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Machinist Union Building, Highway 34, near Middletown, announced Howard Bright of the Soil Conservation Committee.

The meeting will be to explain the conservation act, and to seek opinions on resource problems.

The new law calls for a comprehensive look at basic natural resources and for better programs to protect and improve them. It has an emphasis on citizen participation in determining the future direction of national conservation programs that affect local communities.

Under the law, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service will appraise the nation's natural resources, develop a five-year program to guide conservation efforts and evaluate the program's effectiveness each year.

The Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 broadens this traditional approach to include even wider public involvement. Because of the new law, all citizens now have a voice in planning decisions that will guide future conservation programs - and the future of the nation's natural resources.

New Era, 8-10-78

Choose District SCD Farm Winner

The Des Moines County Soil Conservation District has picked a district winner for the annual Iowa Conservation Awards program. The winner this year is the Maggie M. Hully farm operated by Evan Parrott of Danville.

Bill Parrott stated, "There was too much sheet erosion. We didn't want the soil to go down the creek." The Parrotts have installed more than 9,000 feet of tile outlet terraces on the Hully farm this past spring.

Parrott added, "We're not through yet; more terraces and minimum tillage are needed as part of a total system to control sheet erosion." The Parrotts got technical and financial assistance through ASCS and the Soil Conservation District.



Sutton's outdoor classroom

This corn was planted in the Horace Sutton demonstration field along US 61 four miles north of Burlington June 10, directly into alfalfa sod. The stand varies,

but the average of the 40 acres looks like a good crop could be harvested. The field was one of five no-till fields visited last week by about 30 persons on a tour conducted by the Soil Conservation Service.

Group tours six no-till cornfields

By BOB SOGARD
Hawk Eye Farm Editor

More than 300 acres of Des Moines county farmland, ranging from light timber soils to level, high-quality land to Mississippi river bottomlands are being devoted to no-tillage corn plantings.

Some are "farming in the trash" experimentally but others are working toward eliminating the moldboard plow, cultivator, harrow, disk and conventional planter.

A group of 25 persons toured six no-till fields this month, traveling in a Mediapolis Community school bus with vo ag instructor Jim Howell as driver and Sid Mais of the Soil Conservation Service office as tour conductor.

Howell said the practice on his farm southwest of Mediapolis and FFA plot near the school demonstrate to him that no-till is a great conservation practice. However, he feels the savings in fuel and machine operation costs are offset by increased costs when more chemicals are used.

Roger Cling was more optimistic. He said he's looking for a no-till planter of his own. He has used Buffalo Till and AC No-till planters and hasn't decided yet which is best. He planted 120 acres in no-till corn in late May. Last year, he had 110 acres.

"We feel it's worth our efforts," he said. "I was on a conservation tillage panel last winter and one of the guys

on the panel said he had eight percent organic matter after eight or nine years of continuous corn with no-till."

Cling, known as an innovator in swine raising as well as crop growing, has used chisel plowing on much of his land to help reduce erosion on his light, timber soils.

His son, Doug, has a farm in the Northfield vicinity. He has two fields, 35 acres and 45 acres, in no-till planting. The corn is doing well, observers agreed.

"It used to be that I used the 110-horsepower tractor for field work and my little one for chores like pulling wagons and grinding feed," he said. "But this year, the little one was used in the field and the other one sat near the gate most of the time," he told the tour group.

"It doesn't take much power to plant no-till," he added.

No-till planters, unlike the heavy plow, can be pulled through sod, soybean or cornfields littered with last year's crop debris with ease.

There was about 120 pounds of nitrogen on the fields and he used 500 pounds of 3-10-30 plowdown fertilizer per acre. That's three pounds of nitrogen, 10 pounds of phosphate and 30 pounds of potash. In one field, he said he used side dressing to bring the nitrogen up to 180-200 pounds per acre.

John Wagenbach joined the no-till participants on impulse. He farms in the bottoms east of Iowa 99 and about

eight miles north of Burlington.

He had a 50-acre field he wanted to plant, but it was too wet to work the soil on May 26.

"I called Deane Thornton (ASCS county executive director) and he said to go ahead," Wagenbach said. The ASC can offer payments for no-till planting through the SCS on a one-time basis.

Wagenbach used a lighter tractor and a John Deere Max-Emerg planter and planted on May 27 in corn stubble. "In spite of the ruts and wet spots, I got a good stand," he said.

The cost of no-till planting was \$39.80 per acre, Wagenbach figured, as compared with \$48.90 for conventional planting. These figures didn't include fertilizer, seed or operational costs that would be about the same for either system.

An interesting experiment is being conducted by Horace Sutton on two fields totaling 40 acres, along US 61 about four miles north of Burlington. These were planted in alfalfa sod June 9 and 10. Sutton's hired man put on 150 pounds of nitrogen, 50 pounds of phosphate and 70 of potash, in addition to the customary chemicals.

One field lags but the south section has corn surprisingly far along for such a late planting date.

Mais said he hopes to have a tour later in the year to check on yields in the fields visited on July 18.

"If we can get them to try it, I think

no-till will go," he stated. "Some farmers up by Mt. Pleasant are going all-out, but I think it's better to try a little bit at a time because it requires a higher degree of management."

Mais said that phosphates can't be applied with Paraquat because that plant food and the desiccant (drying agent) reduce each other's effectiveness. Liquid nitrogen fertilizer, however, can be applied with Paraquat which is used in conjunction with herbicides in planting no-till.

"We are at the stage where we know that no-till will work, but we have to work carefully in application — boom height, nozzle setting, pressure, speed, etc.," Mais added. The technique saves not only soil but also conserves moisture, a benefit that would have been more obvious last year than this moist season.

And, of course, there may be only two trips across the field prior to harvest while with conventional seedbed preparation and planting, five trips is typical. The energy savings are obvious.

'Land of majesty' scarred, eroded

By BOB SOGARD

America the Beautiful is developing scars.

Her "amber waves of grain" are growing in ever thinner soils, suffering from sheet or wind erosion.

A lot of Iowa's prime farm land continues to erode, silting streams and eroding gulleys. Some of Des Moines county soil types are expected to be depleted in 20 or 30 years at the present rate.

The "purple mountain majesties" are less majestic, as coal and copper are ripped out of their flanks. The gaping holes are being refilled only grudgingly as state and federal edicts require renovation.

The "easy oil" is gone. The rigs are bigger, they drill deeper and the drilling towers in the ocean leak, despite safety measures. The supertankers split in high seas, or dump the dregs of their cargoes.

The air is losing its clarity. The water table is falling in many places; sometimes the ground over the heavily mined wells is depressed. Nitrates from fertilizer and sewage pollute farm wells.

Most people recognize that resources are limited, that conservation of America's soil, water and energy is necessary. Now the government is trying to find out what are their major concerns. The Resources Conservation Act of 1977 directs the secretary of agriculture to do four things:

1. Continuously appraise soil and water related resources.
2. Develop and periodically update a national program for effective and orderly development of those resources.
3. Report to Congress on the progress and effectiveness of the program.
4. Include broad public involvement in carrying out the law.

Agriculture secretary Bob Bergland assigned leadership for these activities to the Soil Conservation Service.

Sue Baldwin, environmental education teacher and an assistant soil district commissioner, explained the measure at a public meeting held by the SCS Aug. 10. She said the measure is a companion to the Resources Planning Act of 1974, which was administered by the Forestry Service.

"The two laws give the secretary authority to make a total assessment of the nation's basic natural resources and act to protect and improve them," she said.

In connection with the fourth matter, SCS county offices nationwide are seeking public opinion on the condition of local resources and on what needs to be done. The Des Moines county office sent out about 350 flyers to community leaders, recreation interests, service club officers, government officials, etc. The leaflets incorporated questions also made to a public meeting held Aug. 10.

Approximately 35 persons attended the session at Geode Wonderland RC&D office and filled out survey sheets that included the questions in

These are the percentages of respondents who have major concerns:

- Soil erosion, 89%.
- Land's ability to produce food, 81%.
- Future water supplies, 81%.
- Quality of water in the future, 81%.
- Loss of prime farmland to other irreversible uses, 79%.
- How land is used (which purposes), 77%.
- Concern about our government's ability to deal with (these) resource problems, 73%.
- Damage to our natural environment, 56%.
- Maintaining and improving rural areas, 49%.
- Dust from wind erosion, 45%.
- Future of forests on private land, 45%.
- Concern about having good habitat for fish in the future, 44%.
- Air quality, 42%.
- Habitat for wildlife in the future, 42%.
- Managing water, as for irrigation and drainage, 40%.
- Disposal of sewage on land, 40%.
- Degrading and loss of wetlands, 39%.
- Drainage, 34%.
- Flooding, 33%.
- Enough recreation facilities in the future, 25%.
- Effects of mining the land, 22%.

The first appraisal report will include information on quality and quantity of soil, water and related resources, including fish and wildlife habitat; capability of the resources for meeting current and projected needs, and changes occurring because of such influences — as farming techniques and practices.

The report will be completed and the first national soil and water conservation program will be developed by Dec. 31, 1979; it will be updated every five years thereafter and serve as a guide to future USDA conservation efforts.

Dean Pettit, Fairfield, conservancy district coordinator, told of Public Law 208 water quality planning in Iowa.

The present program, he said, uses existing agencies and stresses the voluntary approach. It emphasizes local control and the logic of addressing worst problems first.

"Control measures that reduce yields or income must be implemented with care," is the way the policy reads. This assumes that pesticides are essential in raising a crop. He said watershed standards and field level standards are needed.

Iowa, he pointed out, is divided into 737 watershed or hydrologic units. Interim standards are to eliminate 40% of the sediment load and obtain an 80% reduction of excess soil loss over permissible limits.

In the case of a five-ton-per-acre permissible annual soil loss, a typical limit in this county, and where 15 tons is the actual loss, the interim goal would be to cut the loss by eight tons.

Pettit said the (Sen. John) Culver Amendment has been passed, calling for \$200 million in federal matching funds for conservation projects in fiscal 1979 and \$400 million for FY 1980, but it didn't pass Congress in time to be included in the fiscal year 1979 budget.

If it's appropriated, the

cost-sharing match will "probably" go higher than the current 50% authorization, Pettit added. He pointed out that a long-term project, for instance, \$100,000 for terraces over a 10-year period, would cost a farmer \$5,000 per year, a "pretty stiff" price.

Projects that federal funds won't pay for, he said, are drainage, flood protection and making of more cropland.

New Era, 8-2-78

Tour 300 Acres Of No-Till Plots

A group of 25 persons recently toured six no-till cornfields located on more than 300 acres of Des Moines County farmland with Sid Mais of the Soil Conservation Service acting as tour guide.

The land used for the experiments ranges from light timber soils to high quality Mississippi River Bottomlands. The farmers are working toward eliminating the moldboard plow, cultivator, harrow, disk, and conventional planter.

Area farmers practicing the no-till method include Jim Howell, vo-ag instructor at Mediapolis schools, Roger and Doug Cling, John Wagenbach, and Horace Sutton.

Howell stated that while he has discovered a savings in fuel and machine operation costs, this has been offset by increased costs in a heavier use of chemicals.

The Clings have both been very satisfied with the no-till lands. "It doesn't take much power to plant no-till," cited Doug. These planters can be pulled through sod, soybeans or cornfields littered with the previous year's debris with much more ease than the heavier plows.

Wagenbach impulsively used this method on a field that was too wet to work on May 26. Using a John tractor and a John Deere Max-Emerg planter, he started planting the next day in corn stubble. "In spite of the ruts and wet spots, I got a good stand," he said.

Sutton didn't get his corn planted in the no-till fields until

June. Located along Highway 61, the two tracts total 40 acres, and he said that the south section has corn surprisingly far along for such a late planting date.

Mais thinks that farmers will be sold on no-till plots if they can be tempted to try the method. "We are at the stage where we know that no-till will work, but we have to work carefully in application - boom height, nozzle setting, pressure, speed, etc.," he added.

The technique saves in energy because as few as two trips across the fields are required before harvest, and soil and moisture are conserved, which could mean a good edge in a dry season.

No-till farmer is saving soil, water and time

OTTUMWA — Duane Brinegar, Ottumwa farmer, began conservation tillage to save time. After using a Buffalo Till planter for two years, he noted that he conserved soil and water as well as saving time.

Brinegar uses no tillage on corn except the planter. He disks twice before planting soybeans to control weeds. The only ground he plows is bromegrass sod.

A sweep on the front of the planter shears two inches off the top layer of ground and moves it aside. Trash is moved to the center to make a clean area for the seed. The seed is then dropped in the ground and a narrow rubber wheel presses the seed into firm soil before it is covered with loose soil.

"There is less erosion because the

soil is worked less and the stalks keep the ground covered," he said.

He spreads 100 pounds of dry nitrogen on corn ground before planting. During planting he uses 50 pounds of liquid nitrogen mixed with two quarts of Lasso and two pounds of atrazine for weed control, 200 pounds of 8-32-16 starter fertilizer and insecticide.

He usually gets about 95% weed control on corn, but he still likes to cultivate if he can. This year he didn't have time to cultivate.

For weed control in soybeans, he applies two quarts of Lasso and 1½ pounds of Lorox and cultivates at least once.

Besides saving time and soil he says his Buffalo Till planter saves energy. He uses about 1½ gallons of fuel per

acre of corn up to harvest time. This includes spreading fertilizer, planting and cultivating. Soybeans take more fuel because he disks.

Brinegar bought his first Buffalo Till planter in 1969. His is a rigid style planter, but he would like to get a newer model which allows each row to flex separately.

He also likes the slot shoes in the new models. Instead of rolling the sod to the center, which causes problems when cultivating, he said, the only ground disturbed with the slot shoes is a narrow area where the seed goes. Herbicides are used to kill the sod.

After acquiring his Buffalo Till planter and becoming more interested in soil and water conservation, he decided

to build tile outlet terraces on part of his land.

"The first tile outlet terraces around here were built five or six years ago," he said.

No-tillage tour

A free pig roast will conclude a fall no-tillage tour, principally of north Des Moines county cornfields, Thursday afternoon.

The tour begins at 1 p.m. at the Mediapolis high school parking lot. Plots included are an FFA field in Mediapolis, Horace Sutton's demonstration field, Roger Kroll place, Franklin Township lakesite, and the Doug Cling farm, where the pig roast will be held.

Conservation Tillage Cuts Soil, Water Loss

Conservation tillage reduces the loss of soil or water compared to unridged, clean tillage, according to Min Amemiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State University.

Effectiveness of conservation tillage systems depends on the amount and distribution of crop residues, surface roughness and surface soil configuration, he said. Such conditions are enhanced by less moldboard plowing and unnecessary secondary tillage prior to planting.

The adoption of conservation tillage makes it possible for farmers to have efficient and profitable crop production, to conserve soil and water resources, and to improve environmental quality, Amemiya said.

Conservation tillage can lower crop production costs by reducing time, labor, and machine and fuel requirements, although some of these reductions may be partially offset by increased costs for pest control.

Crop yields usually are comparable to those from conventional tillage systems, Amemiya said, but conservation tillage requires more management. As with conventional tillage, good stands, effective pest control and adequate soil fertility are necessary for maximum yields, he added.

Conservation tillage is adapted to a broad range of soils and slopes. "It could be the single

most effective and least costly means of reducing soil erosion," Amemiya said. He also noted that by controlling erosion, conservation tillage can contribute to the maintenance or improvement of water quality.

The specialist noted that Iowa is involved in a national program to maintain and improve the integrity of water. Surface runoff from agricultural land carries pollutants into Iowa's waters, he explained.

Pollutants occur as sediment caused by soil erosion, plant nutrients, agricultural chemicals and organic matter. Of these, the major pollutant is sediment eroded from land and transported to streams and lakes by runoff waters. Thus, sediment control through soil erosion control measures can prevent or reduce the generation of sediment and related pollutants.

Conservation tillage systems control erosion on level to gently sloping land, which makes up more than half the land in Iowa.

"This does not imply that terraces and erosion control measures should not be used," Amemiya said. "But in many instances, adoption of such practices is costly or short-run economic return is low."

On sloping land, soil and water losses can be reduced by providing a mulch of plant residues or a rough soil surface. If fall tillage is necessary, Amemiya says a chisel plow can be used on the contour or across the slope. A once-over system such as a till planter or a slot planter may prove promising on sloping land, he added.

On level to nearly level land on the uplands, operations that provide surface residue and cloddy overwintering surfaces promote surface drying and protect against wind erosion. By reducing the number of trips, soil compaction and soil crusting potential are minimized. These soils are often slow to dry in the spring, Amemiya said, so some fall tillage with a chisel plow and till planting are desirable.

"The better drained the soil, the less tillage needed," Amemiya said. Crop residue reduces evaporation of soil water on sandy soils, which makes slot planting or till planting ad-

vantageous, he added.

Using the proper tillage equipment at the right time of year and on certain soil conditions can also help soil and water conservation, Amemiya said.

Chisel plowing in the fall is preferred over spring plowing. But using a field cultivator in the spring may not always produce desired results. Disking or strip tillage may be needed to firm the soil and provide a good seedbed to obtain stands comparable to conventional tillage.

Fall disking leaves less residue than chisel plowing and may result in more wind erosion over the winter months. Disking in the spring is well adapted to late springs when weather or soil conditions do not allow for all or early spring tillage.

Till planting provides good stands except on poorly drained, heavy textured soils, when planting on top of ridges is more successful. Ridges should be made across the slope for best erosion control.

Weed control problems are most severe with slot planting, especially on sod, Amemiya said. "It is essential to provide sufficient weight for the coulters to penetrate the undisturbed soil. Firmness of soil with continuous slot planting decreases water infiltration, but produces the best erosion control," Amemiya said.

Amemiya suggests that Iowa farmers adopt some form of conservation tillage as part of their crop production program. "Increased use of conservation tillage will go a long way in solving Iowa's erosion and water quality problems," he said.

New Era, Mediapolis, 9-28-78

Pig Roast To Follow No-Till Tour

A fall tour of Des Moines county no-till corn plots and a free pig roast will be held next Thursday afternoon.

The no-till tour begins at 1 p.m. at the Mediapolis high school parking lot. Plots included on the tour are farmed by FFA, Horace Sutton, Roger Kroll, County Conservation plot at Franklin Township Lakesite, and Doug Cling.

Sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District, there will be a free pig roast following the no-till tour.

Des Moines Co. Fall No-Till Tour

A fall no-till corn plot tour has tentatively been scheduled for Thursday, September 21. While it is still in the planning stages, organizers are hoping to add some new dimensions including a pig roast, yield checks, and various technical presentations. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

SE Iowa Farm News, Mediapolis 9-7-78

New Era 9-14-78

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Conservation schizophrenia frustrates soil experts

Third in a series

By JAMES RISSE

The Register's Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Five years ago, with wheat prices soaring because of massive U.S. grain exports, absentee landowners in southeastern Colorado plowed up pastures and began growing wheat.

After three years of good crops and profits, wheat prices fell and the owners dropped crop production. In some cases they simply abandoned the land without taking any conservation measures.

Then last year, with dry conditions, the dreaded plains winds removed tons of topsoil from the land. "This whole country's about a foot closer to sea level now," said one exasperated farmer.

During the same period, farther east in the Corn Belt states, land that had long been held out of grain production was planted with corn and soybeans. Because much of the new acreage is hilly and fragile, water erosion increased tremendously, draining millions of tons of topsoil into rivers, reservoirs, and even out to sea.

This year, with low crop prices inducing the federal government to take some land out of production through a set-aside program, soil conservationists hoped for some relief for the overworked and abused land.

No Relief

But regulations adopted by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conser-

vation Service (ASCS) to implement the set-aside program encouraged some farmers to plow land that they had kept in grass under federal conservation programs.

Despite protests from conservationists, the ASCS refused to let farmers count their protected grasslands as "normal crop acreage," and the effect was to give them government price-support protection on fewer acres of their farm.

Many farmers, especially those enrolled in the Great Plains Conservation Program, responded by plowing and planting the land that the government previously had paid them to keep idle.

"The guy who was a conservation farmer, and did what society wanted him to do, got penalized," said James B. Newman of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

These incidents illustrate the schizophrenia that surrounds government crop production and soil conservation objectives. They are one reason soil conservation experts are so frustrated today.

"Pendulum Policies"

"The pendulum policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture," said Lyle Bauer of Harper, Kan., president of the National Association of Conser-

AGRICULTURE

Please turn to Page 5A



Ralph Dewey, left, co-ordinator of the Geode Wonderland RC & D, and Howard Bright, right, district soil conservationist, hold a conversation at the pig roast last Thursday at the Doug Cling farm, rural Mediapolis. The pig roast followed the no-till tour sponsored by the Des Moines county Soil Conservation District.



Doug Cling's no-till plot was included on the no-till tour last Thursday, and although it suffered some wind damage the prospects were good for this year. The no-till tour was the largest ever, with 50-60 people attending.

New Era, 9-28-78

Des Moines Register, Sept. 12, 1978

Federal soil programs not effective, studies say

AGRICULTURE

Continued From Page One

vation Districts, "swinging from tight controls on crop production to fence-to-fence planting, then back to controls, have farmers reeling.

"You can't jump in and out of a conservation system every year or two, or you have no conservation system at all. We can't keep on penalizing conservation farmers economically, then criticizing conservation programs for being ineffective."

Federal conservation programs are, in fact, under heavy criticism for having been mismanaged. Poor operation of the programs, combined with the "pendulum" planting policies, now have the U.S. in a position where topsoil erosion from water and wind is perhaps 25 percent greater than in the Dust Bowl days of the 1930s.

The current realization that soil erosion is becoming more serious and is a threat to future farm productivity, stems to a great degree from a report issued in 1975 by the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST), an industry-funded academic study group headquartered at Iowa State University.

CAST said that conservation efforts by individual farmers and by government programs "have not kept pace with the pressures of land use and production."

Because of these pressures, in the Corn Belt states "we are less effective in controlling erosion today than we were in the 1930s," the study found.

Nationally, more than one-third of all cropland was "suffering annual soil losses in excess of the limit at which soil productivity can be sustained over time," said CAST. Over the long haul, it indicated, crop yields may begin decreasing despite continued heavy use of fertilizers and other chemical aids.

Soil Loss Figures

The amount of soil that soil scientists believe can be lost and still maintain production over a long period varies from one ton per acre per year on shallow soils to five tons on deep soils," CAST said. Estimates put the national soil loss figure at about nine tons.

With its recent intensive cultivation in the Great Plains and Corn Belt states, "the farm community may be creating another Dust Bowl," the report said.

An ISU report issued in 1972 warned that the United States was losing 4 billion tons of soil a year through water erosion, compared with 3 billion tons in 1934. The figure is believed to be even higher now.

Following the 1975 CAST report, the General Accounting Office (GAO) undertook a study of the effectiveness of federal soil conservation programs. GAO's findings, published last year, were that the programs have not been as effective as they should have been.

Money was spent on practices that were aimed at increasing crop yields, and not on "critically needed soil conservation practices having the best payoffs for reducing erosion."

The GAO made random visits to 283 farms in eight states, and found that 84 percent of the farms were suffering annual soil losses of more than five tons per acre yearly. "Topsoil losses are threatening continued crop productivity," the GAO said.

Problems Compounded

"In addition, soil erosion was creating water and air pollution and highway maintenance problems," the report said. Millions of dollars are being spent, it found, to dredge channels and remove sediment from reservoirs, and clean roadside ditches and drainage systems.

The Iowa State University Agriculture Experiment Station said last year in a report entitled "Our Thinning Soils" that sediment removal costs \$250 million annually.

"Many reservoirs, planned and designed to last 75 years, are silting up so rapidly that they will be useless in half that time," it said.

The same ISU report estimated that 200 million acres of U.S. farmland may already have been permanently damaged for crop production.

Replacing plant nutrients washed from the soil is costly but can be done, the study said, but "restoring the productivity of erosion-damaged lands, characterized by reduced infiltration rates, soil crusting, poor crop stands, difficult tillage problems, and decreased water-holding capacity, is considerably more difficult and frequently impossible."

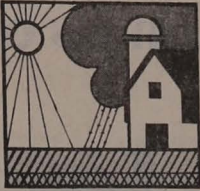
Unfortunately, the scientists said, traditional erosion control practices of terracing and crop rotation have been rendered "impractical" because of modern farm equipment and more intensive cropping.

"Public intervention is necessary to reduce soil erosion to levels compatible with society's long-term interest," the report said, suggesting government subsidies, low-interest loans, and other steps to "shift some of the economic burden to the public."

One of the most damning findings in the 1977 GAO study was that soil losses from farms cooperating in federal conservation programs were virtually the same as losses from farms that ignored the programs.

Criticism

Both the Soil Conservation Service and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service came in for criticism. SCS is guilty of taking "a passive approach" toward its duties of assisting farmers to develop and



carry out conservation measures, the GAO said. Many of the plans developed by SCS were never even carried out by farmers.

ASCS, which runs the Agricultural Conservation Program, has spent money on such things as drainage tiling, application of limestone, and irrigation systems, practices which the GAO said "benefit farmers financially" by stimulating crop production but are "not urgently needed for effective erosion control."

"If the United States is to continue to meet its domestic food needs and help alleviate world food shortages it must maintain its topsoil — a basic requirement for crop productivity," the study said.

Another source of wind and water erosion in the West is the continued overgrazing of about 150 million acres of rangeland by cattle and sheep. Most of these lands are owned by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management, and the low fees it charges for grazing privileges make it attractive for ranchers to graze their animals there.

The GAO sharply criticized the bureau in a report last year, charging that the agency has permitted serious "deterioration" of its rangeland, to the point where forage has been destroyed on millions of acres of land.

Bureau officials have not halted destructive grazing for fear of affecting the financial condition of the ranchers, and have seldom penalized those who violate bureau grazing regulations, GAO said.

Volume Leader

The congressional watchdog agency followed up its studies on soil conservation and grazing with another study on non-point source pollution, and determined that federal clean water goals never will be met unless agricultural pollution is drastically curtailed.

"In volume, the major pollutant is sediment from soil erosion," and "the principal contributor is agriculture," GAO investigators said. Erosion from farms, carrying soil, animal wastes, pesticides and fertilizers into rivers and lakes, pollutes the water, covers fish feeding and spawning areas, and contributes to flood hazards, they said.

As a state, Iowa does better than most in trying to deal with soil erosion, but even in Iowa, government cost-sharing to eliminate erosion that impairs water quality would cost about \$1.7 billion, the GAO said.

Nationally, "the 1983 interim water quality goal of fishable and swimmable waters cannot be achieved in many regions because of non-point pollution," the agency said.

Congress has embarked on efforts to clean up agricultural pollution. It has enacted a Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act, under which the Agriculture Department will appraise the condition and quality of American soil and water, including a new nationwide inventory of soil erosion.

Many experts expect the study to show that erosion now exceeds the nine million tons per acre estimated earlier this year by the U.S. Water Resources Council.

Assistant Agriculture Secretary Rupert Cutler has declared even that level of erosion to be "unacceptable" and has said that 42 percent of U.S.

cropland is not receiving adequate soil erosion treatment.

Water Program

Congress also has created the Rural Clean Water Program to pay farmers up to half the cost of erosion control measures they install on their land.

The program will supplement existing conservation programs, and the aid will go only to farmers in areas that state and federal environmental agencies have designated as having crucial farm-caused pollution problems.

Political maneuvering and the failure of the Carter administration to propose any money for the program make its immediate implementation somewhat shaky, however.

Iowa Senators Dick Clark and John Culver, both instrumental in creating the Rural Clean Water Program, are pressing for funding of the effort.

Clark first proposed a federal cost-sharing program to help farmers meet new federal water quality standards, but was unable to push his bill through a recalcitrant Senate Agriculture Committee to get it enacted.

Culver Plot

Culver took up the idea, got it attached to the federal clean water law, and secured a two-year, \$500 million authorization, almost before opponents of the plan knew what had hit them.

"Soil conservation is our most underrated national priority," Culver said in a California speech earlier this year to soil conservation district officials. "The truth is that farmers and certainly the general public do not recognize the urgency of the need."

Culver said "the total amount spent for soil conservation for the entire country is only a minuscule fraction of the billions the Pentagon routinely spends on a single weapon system. Yet, when it is budget-cutting time in Washington and the state capitals, soil conservation programs are among the most vulnerable."

Clark Disappointed

Senator Clark called Carter's budget proposals "a great disappointment."

Davis, administrator of SCS, conceded that many of the federal programs "have not been aimed at long-range soil and water conservation. I can't disagree with the GAO reports."

Davis agrees that soil conservation programs and national farm production policies often have worked at cross purposes. He favors creation of a "cross-compliance" system, in which crop adjustment programs, crop insurance, and soil conservation would all be made compatible. Under such a system, for example, a farmer could be ineligible for crop insurance if he plants on land deemed unsuitable, from a soil conservation standpoint, for cultivation.

"What happened in 1972 and 1973,

with our production policies, caused several million dollars worth of conservation practices to be plowed up," said Davis.

Price-Support Ties

Thomas Barlow, a staff member of the Natural Resources Defense Council has been urging members of Congress to tie the farm price-support payments to conservation.

Under Barlow's proposal, the secretary of agriculture would establish maximum soil losses per acre on cropland and would designate "best management practices" to insure conservation. A farmer would have to install the conservation practices in order to be certified as eligible for production assistance payments, such as loans, target-price payments, and crop insurance.

"We must halt the mining of our topsoil that now is taking place across the nation," said Barlow. "You're not required to take government payments, and you're not required to participate in conservation programs. They're both voluntary. Why not marry two voluntary programs?"

So far, Barlow has met with little response from Congress. "People tell me it's a nice idea, but that it will never pass," he said. "I'm disappointed that most of the conservation and environmental organizations haven't paid more attention to the soil erosion issue. It bears directly on water quality, fish, wildlife, and other things they're concerned about."

William H. Greiner, executive vice president of the Soil Conservation Society of America, said, "We've never really had a national commitment to soil conservation, like we've had to space and other programs."

"Earl Butz [former secretary of agriculture] really hurt us when he said we were going to plow out to the fence rows. During that period of time, we really lost ground."

Joseph A. Krivak, chief of the non-point pollution sources branch at the Environmental Protection Agency, said members of Congress and others are horrified at estimates that cleaning up agricultural pollution could cost the federal government \$10 billion or more in aid. But the government has obligated nearly three times that amount already for municipal waste treatment.

Neil Sampson, executive vice-president of the National Association of Conservation Districts, believes that professional conservationists are partly to blame for disillusionment with conservation programs.

Conservationists have "sold" their efforts as being a "product," with success measured by numbers of dams and miles of terraces constructed, said Sampson. What has been overlooked is that a conservation system has to be "maintained properly and kept on the land," and

that conservation is in reality a "service" program, he said.

Incentives Proposed
Sampson proposes creation of a "conservation incentives program," similar to that advocated by Barlow. Farmers and ranchers who follow a conservation program would be given a "green ticket" each year by their local conservation district, certifying their eligibility to claim incentive benefits from Agriculture Department programs, said Sampson.

Then conservation would become "an essential, continuing national program of care and maintenance for natural resources, rather than a one-time shot of money and manpower that produces miles of asphalt or tons of soil moved," he said.

WEDNESDAY: Chemical agriculture and the environment.

the HAWK EYE

EDITOR & PUBLISHER: John McCormally
 NEWS: Jim Hitch COMPOSING: Don Close
 ADVERTISING: Nelson Showalter PRESS: Ken Howard
 CIRCULATION-BUSINESS: Dick Weiss
 Burlington, Iowa Page 4 September 18, 1978

Iowa's real peril

The Russians are coming! The Russians are coming! The old war cry of the 1950s echoes across the state as Ronald Reagan campaigns for right-wing Republican Senate candidate Roger Jepsen.

And, like the 1950s, anyone who isn't as single-mindedly frantic about the Red hordes as they, is suspect of — well, of — thinking Commie thoughts.

Out of one side of their mouths they want to cut federal spending by a third or a half. Out of the other they call for spending hundreds of billions for neutron bombs, B1 bombers, MX missiles and anything else the military industrial complex can dream up. Meanwhile, you don't hear a word about the real peril, about how Iowa is on the way to becoming as barren a wasteland, as if a hundred Russian nuclear bombs had scorched it.

Agriculture — the practices of the farmers and the demands of the consumers which spur the farmers on — is destroying Iowa as surely and as permanently as any nuclear attack would do.

The Des Moines Register's Pulitzer Prize winner James Risser has written a series of articles on the ruination of farm land which is more chilling to read than any CIA report on a foreign enemy. It is all the more chilling because the destruction is so gradual, so unnoticed, few people are aware enough to care. No one is rattling any sabres about it.

Erosion, irrigation, fertilizer, pesticides, insecticides, over-cropping, all are destroying the land. Half of Iowa's topsoil has disappeared in 100 years. As much as 13 tons per acre is disappearing every year. Two bushels of soil are being destroyed to produce one bushel of corn.

What is true of Iowa is even worse elsewhere in the country. In Kansas, the water table is dropping out of reach as irrigation pumps suck the earth dry. In the Mountain states, irrigation water, running back into the Colorado river, carrying salty soil, is turning that once sparkling stream to sea water.

If there is to be some sort of test for true citizenship, it ought to apply to those who are the custodians of the soil, as well as to those who cultivate political ideologies.

And if we are to spend billions more to save ourselves, we should be spending it to stop this certain self destruction, rather than piling up more overkill in an exaggerated worry about military destruction.

It matters not how bravely we defend the land of the free if there is no land to feed us.

Thoughts . . .

Tell me what company you keep,
 and I'll tell you what you are.
 CERVANTES

Southeast Iowa Farm News, Mediapolis
 10-5-78



Ralph Dewey, left, co-ordinator of the Geode Wonderland RC & D, and Howard Bright, right, district soil conservationist, hold a conversation at the pig roast Thursday, September 21, at the Doug Cling farm, rural Mediapolis. The pig roast followed the no-till tour sponsored by the Des Moines county Soil Conservation District.



Doug Cling's no-till plot was included on the no-till tour September 21, and although it suffered some wind damage the prospects were good for this year. The no-till tour was the largest ever for Des Moines county, with 50-60 people attending.

By Bob Sogard



the
Ag
Bag

Hawk Eye, Burlington, 9-24-78

SCS officers moving like musical chairs

It's musical chairs time again in the Soil Conservation Service.

Sid Mais, 26, soil conservationist trainee here for the past 10 months, will be going to Sac county as district conservationist later in the year.

Oren Champ, conservation technician, will retire soon and Bill Baugh is slated to come down from Wapello to replace him.

Sid is a 1976 graduate of Western Illinois university, Macomb, in agricultural sciences. He was looking forward to a good season of rugby with a Quad Cities team but that outlook was

dimmed when he dislocated his left shoulder when blind-sided in a tournament at Madison, Wis. earlier this month.

He has the arm in a sling and said he will have to look forward to snow skiing, his second love.

Baugh, 33, has been with district conservationist Jim Ranum at Wapello since February 1977. He started with the SCS in Ottumwa in 1965 and moved to Northwood in 1968, then was in West Union before going to Louisa county.

Ray Pilling, long-time soil district commissioner, made it to Doug Cling's place, on crutches. He is recovering well after suffering a fractured pelvis in an elevator accident on his farm July 25. Ray said he can stand okay, but his leg and back muscles have deteriorated while he was in a hospital bed.

Incidentally, Doug likely will be a soil commissioner after the Nov. 2 general election. He and James S. (Sam) Jennison, US 61 north, are the only ones who have filed nomination papers. If elected, they will succeed Dwight Stucker, New London, and Clyde W. Scherer, Rt. 1, who didn't seek re-election.

Curt Eisenmayer, Henderson county extension farm advisor, has a reputation as a premiere performer with a steak or chop and a grill.

For years, I've watched him work with everything from a barrel, with a few coals in it, to the long, asbestos-walled grills which prepare a thousand or more pork chops at once. The Chamber of Commerce Farm Barbecue is an example of the latter.

He was in especially good form a couple weeks ago when the Farm Outlook meeting was held at Union high near Biggsville, Ill. Using what he described as an "old, secret family recipe," he marinated, then grilled, a batch of pork chops that was savored by a goodly crowd that included yours truly.

Importuned to reveal his secret, Curt wrote:

"I hear that you were wanting to know the old secret family recipe that was used to marinate the pork chops last Monday night. Now I hope that you realized that these old family recipes, such as this one, date back centuries ago and are never written down.

"They are passed from generation only by word of mouth. But, being that you are a friend of mine, I will break this old family tradition and share this old secret family recipe with you. In fact, I'll even write it down so you won't forget any of the important ingredients. You may have trouble finding some of these unusual ingredients, but just remember, persistence pays off. Keep looking."

There was a conflicting report, also attributed to Curt, that the recipe came from an Illinois Pork Producers Assn. publication. If that's the case, I think they must have cracked the Eisenmayer code. Curt said the chops were in the marinade from Wednesday to Monday; the outcome was worth the wait.

At the risk of fracturing an old friendship, I'll pass the recipe along:

MARINADE

For 1,000 boneless chops or 700 bone-in chops:

1 gal. Open Pit BBQ Sauce

1 gal. Kraft BBQ Sauce

Seven 46-oz. cans pineapple

juice

1/2 cup Worcestershire Sauce

1/2 cup garlic salt

2/3 bottle liquid brown sugar

Marinate three to five days.

"Now I agree that this is a large recipe, but scale it down for whatever amount you want to do," said Curt.

He also warned that the paper on which the recipe would self-destruct within five minutes after the envelope was opened. I'm glad I memorized the ingredients, because I can't find that note anywhere!



CRIPPLED WING of Sid Mais, right, won't keep him from flying to a promotion in Sac county within the next few weeks. Doug Cling, pig roast host on last week's no-till tour, hears that Mais is in line for the district conservationist post in Sac City. Mais is conservationist-trainee in the Des Moines county SCS office. He sustained a shoulder separation in a rugby tournament in Wisconsin recently.

the HAWK EYE

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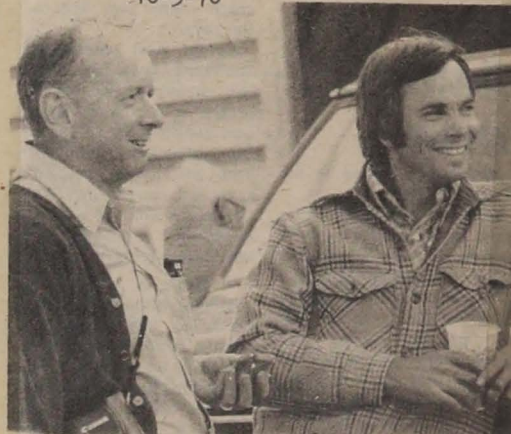
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Hawk Eye, Burlington, 9-24-78

SCS officers moving like musical chairs

It's musical chairs time again in the Soil Conservation Service.

Sid Mais, 26, soil conservationist trainee here for the past 10 months, will be going to Sac county as district conservationist later in the year.

Oren Champ, conservation technician, will retire soon and Bill Baugh is slated to come down from Wapello to replace him.

Sid is a 1976 graduate of Western Illinois university, Macomb, in agricultural sciences. He was looking forward to a good season of rugby with a Quad Cities team but that outlook was

dimmed when he dislocated his left shoulder when blind-sided in a tournament at Madison, Wis. earlier this month.

He has the arm in a sling and said he will have to look forward to snow skiing, his second love.

Baugh, 33, has been with district conservationist Jim Ranum at Wapello since February 1977. He started with the SCS in Ottumwa in 1965 and moved to Northwood in 1968, then was in West Union before going to Louisa county.

Ray Pilling, long-time soil district commissioner, made it to Doug Cling's place, on crutches. He is recovering well after suffering a fractured pelvis in an elevator accident on his farm July 25. Ray said he can stand okay, but his leg and back muscles have deteriorated while he was in a hospital bed.

Incidentally, Doug likely will be a soil commissioner after the Nov. 2 general election. He and James S. (Sam) Jennison, US 61 north, are the only ones who have filed nomination papers. If elected, they will succeed Dwight Stucker, New London, and Clyde W. Scherer, Rt. 1, who didn't seek re-election.

Curt Eisenmayer, Henderson county extension farm advisor, has a reputation as a premiere performer with a steak or chop and a grill.

For years, I've watched him work with everything from a barrel, with a few coals in it, to the long, asbestos-walled grills which prepare a thousand or more pork chops at once. The Chamber of Commerce Farm Barbecue is an example of the latter.

He was in especially good form a couple weeks ago when the Farm Outlook meeting was held at Union high near Biggsville, Ill. Using what he described as an "old, secret family recipe," he marinated, then grilled, a batch of pork chops that was savored by a goodly crowd that included yours truly.

Importuned to reveal his secret, Curt wrote:

"I hear that you were wanting to know the old secret family recipe that was used to marinate the pork chops last Monday night. Now I hope that you realized that these old family recipes, such as this one, date back centuries ago and are never written down.

"They are passed from generation only by word of mouth. But, being that you are a friend of mine, I will break this old family tradition and share this old secret family recipe with you. In fact, I'll even write it down so you won't forget any of the important ingredients. You may have trouble finding some of these unusual ingredients, but just remember, persistence pays off. Keep looking."

There was a conflicting report, also attributed to Curt, that the recipe came from an Illinois Pork Producers Assn. publication. If that's the case, I think they must have cracked the Eisenmayer code. Curt said the chops were in the marinade from Wednesday to Monday; the outcome was worth the wait.

At the risk of fracturing an old friendship, I'll pass the recipe along:

MARINADE

For 1,000 boneless chops or 700 bone-in chops:

1 gal. Open Pit BBQ Sauce

1 gal. Kraft BBQ Sauce

Seven 46-oz. cans pineapple

juice

1/2 cup Worcestershire Sauce

1/2 cup garlic salt

2/3 bottle liquid brown sugar

Marinate three to five days.

"Now I agree that this is a large recipe, but scale it down for whatever amount you want to do," said Curt.

He also warned that the paper on which the recipe would self-destruct within five minutes after the envelope was opened. I'm glad I memorized the ingredients, because I can't find that note anywhere!



CRIPPLED WING of Sid Mais, right, won't keep him from flying to a promotion in Sac county within the next few weeks. Doug Cling, pig roast host on last week's no-till tour, hears that Mais is in line for the district conservationist post in Sac City. Mais is conservationist-trainee in the Des Moines county SCS office. He sustained a shoulder separation in a rugby tournament in Wisconsin recently.



Inspecting their project a week after the first rainfall are Arlene Hale, Marvin Miller, Tim Miller and Carroll Reid.

TOP SOIL IS TOP PROJECT

by Colleen Callahan

Who says Iowa is flat? A person from Wisconsin may think so. But to Marvin Miller of rural Mediapolis, Iowa has gentle rolling slopes - gentle enough to cause harsh, costly problems. "Every year I saw more and more clay dirt. I knew the top soil was getting away." The land he farms (owned by Arlene Hale of New London) sits at the bottom of one of Iowa's gentle slopes.

Sheet erosion is a serious problem in Des Moines

County, according to Howard Bright of the SCS office. Up to an inch of top soil can be lost in only two years. So Marvin decided to initiate a soil conservation program.

In addition to technical assistance and money, Marvin needed the co-operation of the neighboring farms. Last November Clarence Reid, Ruth Ogg, Cora Miller and Arlene Hale (owners of the farmland involved) and Carroll Reid, Ned Hunger, Terry Miller

and Marvin Miller (operators of the respective farms) met to discuss the project.

Since Ruth Ogg's and Clarence Reid's farms are in Henry County, a pooling agreement was reached between the two counties. Special funds from the state provided a 50 percent cost share plan with \$10,000 limit per person instead of the usual \$2,500.

After the planning stage was completed, work got under way last June. In a few weeks, 9,660 feet of tile were laid (3 lanes) by Nickelson Bros. The tiles ranged 2 - 5 feet deep. Then

in late August, Frank Woodall of New London terraced the land. Each of the nine terraces is designed to control a 4-inch rain in 20 minutes--a possibility perhaps, but an unlikely occurrence in Des Moines County where rainfall averages 40 inches in a year.

The cost of such a program, covering approximately 65 acres, was estimated at \$38,000. But due to good weather and the easy moving of the dirt for terracing, the actual amount totaled only \$30,000.

Now each farmer receives the full benefit of a rainfall - whether his acreage is on the top or bottom of an incline. Instead of running off, the water is retained by the terraces and an intake pipe directs it underground. Any excess water is then channeled through the tiling system. By keeping the water, one keeps the top soil.

A follow-up program is recommended to continue the effectiveness of the terracing and tiling. Whether it be plowing across the incline or no-till farming, continued soil conservation practices are necessary.

The long range effect is what counts to these farmers. If you are thinking about planning a soil conservation program, contact your county SCS office.

Land to be leased

IAAP could become major no-till experiment

By BOB SOGARD
Farm Editor

Making bullets and grenades doesn't require all of the 19,000 acres in the

Iowa Army Ammunition Plant reservation.

Between the munitions buildings and on the perimeter are at least 7,000

acres of land, leased to farmers for farming and grazing.

Those 7,000 acres could be one big no-tillage experiment by 1984 if an

idea of the Des Moines county soil district commissioners is successful. And it will start with about one-fifth of the land NOT going under the plow next year, IAAP military authorities agree.

Executive officer Capt. Maurice Peterson said he, plant agronomist Winston Cooper and the commanding officer, Col. Donald Reinhard, all agree that securing approval of the plan shouldn't be difficult.

"We're kind of excited about it," he added. "After all, while we want our leaseholders to do well, we don't have to make a lot of money on this land.

"We're pretty confident we can sell this to Development and Readiness Command (DARCOM). We'll rewrite the tract management plans, submit them to Rock Island for approval and then to Omaha where the Corps of Engineers handles the actual bid lettings."

Leases are for five years; 1,100 to 1,600 acres are up for bids each year. Field development work, such as culverts and driveways, fertility programs and conservation projects are written into the tract plans prior to each letting. Peterson said the last terracing project on the schedule was completed last year.

The commissioners adopted a proposal last week, recommending that all leases on land at the plant specify no-till practices. This means that plows, disks and harrows would be "out." Specialized planters, sprayers, and pasture interseeders would be "in."

Sam Jennison, one of the commissioners, said that no-till cropping is the most promising way to save soil and moisture, especially since the Soil Conservation service only gets about \$16,000 per year to use for cost-sharing funds to help build terraces. The ACP program allocation, administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), is \$49,490 for 1979. It permits terrace construction and compares with \$59,900 allotted last year.

No-till should have a full-scale test, he said, and all that land at the IAAP would be an ideal place. Most tract

plans at the ordinance plant call for crop rotation, so corn can only be grown two or three out of five years.

But with no-till, it may be possible to go to continuous corn/soybeans which would make the leases more attractive to bidders. Usually, only four or five farmers are successful in bidding for the tracts.

"I will see Dean (Lee) Kolmer at Iowa State university the middle of March. If we could get ISU to do a real study of the operation, then we'd have something to go on," Jennison said. Kolmer is dean of the ISU college of agriculture.

Jennison has talked to Prof. H.L. Self, who's in charge of outlying farms for ISU and he said Self was enthused at the project's potential.

Bids on six cropland tracts totaling 1,087 acres and one 67-acre tract for grazing cattle will be opened at 1 p.m. Mar. 5, in the IAAP recreation hall. These will be five-year leases, expiring April 1, 1984 and will permit the practices used in the past.

Howard Bright, SCS district conservationist, will talk about no-till farming before the bid opening, to inform next year's potential bidders of the special techniques needed and the advantages.

Two of the commissioners, Joe Beckman and Doug Cling, have experience with no-till farming. So does Horace Sutton, long-time commission treasurer, who planted corn in two 20-acre fields north of Burlington, even though they had a hip-high stand of alfalfa.

The Sutton fields, planted June 10 and 11, were harvested late, but produced 143 bushels an acre, Bright said. Cling said he planted 84 acres "in the trash" of the 1977 crop and yields ranged from 100 to 150 bushels per acre. His father, Roger, planted about 40 acres in no-till.

Commissioner Rex Troute said he left a plot unplowed last fall and plans to experiment with some no-till corn this year. "I don't know how I can push conservation tillage if I don't do it myself," he said.

Also last week, agriculture and con-

vention committees of the Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce met with Bright and Jennison to consider the potential of the IAAP land use plan.

The committee members voted to support the no-till demonstration project, with the idea that "we need to get Iowa State university interested in this as a research program."

Also cited was the possibility of bringing the National Farm Progress Show here in 1983. The agricultural and agribusiness show was in Illinois last year, will be in Indiana next fall and will be in Iowa in 1980. It's slated for a Story county site and is sponsored by Wallace's Farmer.

The soil commissioners also supported an effort to convert the county farm to no-till. Beckman and Cling will meet with the county farm advisory committee and county supervisors and try to convince them to require the leaseholder to convert to no-till, starting in 1980.

The supervisors also will be asked to use \$20,000 in revenue sharing funds to start a project to eliminate roadside ditch sedimentation. The erosion control program would mean using a no-till planter, pasture interseeder and associated equipment to provide services for farmers who want to try no-till.

Cling and Bright will see whether the Mediapolis career tech program participants supervised by vo ag instructor Jim Howell would like to take charge of the equipment, if the county approves.

Cling said he had information about a Future Farmers of America chapter in Pennsylvania that planted between 2,000 and 3,000 acres of no-till crops as a class project.

Troute looked at Bright and said, "If this (no-till program) goes over, what do we need you for?"

The conservationist grinned and said that in such an event, he thought he would find something else to do.

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