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Mondays and Thursdays

Hardin County Index

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Conservation Week Being
Observed In County

For Higher Corn Yields Increase Plant Numbers

Many folks can increase their corn yields in Iowa from 10 to 30 bushels per acre under good moisture and fertility conditions by increasing the number of plants per acre, says Agronomist Lloyd Dumenil of Iowa State University.

He says that though many farmers are doing management job by using conservation practices, fertilizer, manure and the like, they aren't getting maximum yields because of low stand levels. Iowa experiments show that corn yields can be increased up to 34 bushels per acre by increasing final stand level from

8,000 to 16,000 stalks per acre.

Increased stand levels also decrease soil and water losses by doing a better job of covering the soil surface. Weed growth is less because of the increased shading at ground level. Another advantage which high stand levels offer is an increased amount of soil organic matter put back into the soil.

However, Dumenil warns, increasing stand levels can decrease corn yields in a severe drought year. During average dry years increased stand levels don't decrease yields but neither do they in-

crease them, says Dumenil.

Considering all kinds of growing seasons, Dumenil says, increased stands will give you higher yields over a period of years in Iowa. He feels that high stands are a good risk where subsoil moisture and soil fertility are adequate.

Final stand levels should average about 14,000 stalks per acre with a range of from 12,000 to 18,000 stalks per acre in individual fields in most of the state, says Dumenil. However, in southern and western Iowa, final stand levels should average about 13,000 stalks per acre with a range of from 12,000 to 14,000.

You must plant 19,000 to 20,000 seeds per acre to get the final 16,000 stalk stand level needed for maximum yields, says Dumenil.

Today, stand levels average between 10,000 and 11,000 stalks in southern and western Iowa and between 12,000 and 13,000 in the rest of the state.

Parallel Terraces Combine Efficiency, Erosion Control

Parallel terraces combine the advantages of efficient farming and effective erosion control, reports, Agricultural Engineer Ted Willrich of Iowa State University. They increase field operating efficiency while reducing soil and water losses.

Increased efficiency is possible by eliminating the short point rows, Willrich says. This reduces the amount of non-productive turning of machinery. Willrich says parallel terracing means straighter rows, longer rows, faster permissible machine speed and less time and expense in producing a crop. This overcomes the major objections to contour farming, he says.

SHOP THE WANT ADS

Many Farmers Using Cost Sharing Conservation Plan

Early reports from all sections of the state indicate that more than a fifth of Iowa's farms will probably participate in 1960 in the federal government's agriculture conservation program (ACP) which is administered on the local level by the county ASC committees.

Nearly 14,000 requests to participate in the program this year were filed by Iowa farmers by March 31. By the same date, county ASC committees had approved requests for practices calling for cost-sharing totaling over 3 1/2 million dollars, or more than one third of the state's 1960 apportionment of \$9,680,000 from national ACP funds.

Since this heavy activity took place during a period when weather conditions were quite unfavorable for conservation work, it is generally believed that participation in the program this year may equal that of 1958, when cost-sharing practices were established on 23 percent of the farms in the state. A comparison with participation in the 1959 program cannot be made at this time because statistical reports for that year are not yet available.

Under ACP, the government shares with the farmer the cost

of establishing needed soil and water conservation practices on his farm. For most practices, the government's share is about 50 percent of the total cost, but for certain enduring or permanent-type practices such as terracing and dams to provide livestock water or prevent erosion the cost-share percentage is higher.

Twenty-three regular practices are included in the state list from which the individual counties select the ones which will be offered to their farmers. The practices include field terracing, diversion terraces, livestock water ponds, erosion control dams, sod waterways, contouring, contour stripcropping, seeding for vegetative cover, application of limestone, farm drainage ditches, tilling, planting of shrubs and forest trees, wells for livestock water, and eradication of brush on cropland.

An entirely new practice known as "cut and fill terraces" will be offered in 1960 in approximately 2/3 of the counties of Iowa. This type of terrace requires a certain amount of land grading, with cutting and filling through high and low areas. By this method, terrace lines can be made parallel for the most part.

County Tops 50% Of Savings Bond Quota In 5 Months

At the end of May, purchases of U. S. savings bonds in Hardin has climbed to \$895,789 for 54 per cent of the 1960 quota, it was reported this week by Robert W. Barlow, Iowa Falls, volunteer chairman for savings bonds activities in the county.

Sales during May amounted to \$86,117, putting the county over the half-way mark. National average for the five months was 42 per cent.

May sales for all of Iowa were \$9,771,860, giving the state a five-month total of \$69,823,007 for 45 per cent of goal. Among the eight mid-western states this region, Iowa was highest in dollar volume.

With terraces more nearly parallel and spaces accommodating multiples of four rows, the use of multiple row equipment is greatly simplified.

All farmers are eligible to file requests to participate in the cost-sharing program. Complete information may be obtained at any county ASC office.

lar volume and in per cent of quota attained.

The chairman reported that Iowa had the second highest dollar volume in the nation for Series H bonds, those whose owners receive interest checks by mail twice a year.

Five-month sales of E and H bonds and per cent of quotas reached are shown for other counties in this area: Grundy county, \$94,460 for 49 per cent; Marshall, \$1,386, 38 per cent; Franklin, \$1,495, 37 per cent; and Story, \$1,803, 38 per cent.

Soil and Water Conservation Law Now 2 Years Old

April 27, 1958 was the 25th anniversary of our national soil and water conservation program under special legislative authority.

On that day in 1935 Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Public Law No. 46, enacted by the 74th Congress without a dissenting vote. The Act declared soil and water conservation on farm, grazing, and forest lands of the nation to be a permanent policy of the Congress, and it established the Soil Conservation Service in the Department of Agriculture.

Forty present members of the Senate and the House of Representatives were members of the 74th Congress when Public Law No. 46 was enacted.