

**POWESHIEK COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
40TH ANNUAL REPORT
1988 FISCAL YEAR**



These are the contractors, tilers and business firms that have contributed toward the publishing of this report. The Commissioners of the Poweshiek County Soil and Water Conservation District thank you for your support of soil and water conservation.

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FRONT ROW: L to R: Commissioner Curtis Ferneau; Assistant Commissioner Steve Hopkins and Chairman Ronald Clayton. BACK ROW: L to R: Assistant Commissioner Russell Winburn; Commissioner Kyle Montgomery; Commissioner Douglas Brown and Commissioner H.W. (Wally) Mathes.

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2. Department of Soil Conservation
3. County ASCS
4. County Extension Service
5. State Conservation Commission
6. Chemical dealers
7. State & National Assn. of District Commissioners
8. Grinnell Kiwanis Club
9. Newspapers
10. Radio and TV stations
11. County Board of Supervisors
12. Contractors
13. Vocational Agriculture
14. Farm equipment dealers
15. Banks
16. Public schools
17. County Farm Bureau
18. County Grange
19. County Conservation Board
20. FmHA
21. Professional & Business personnel
22. Izaak Walton League
23. Construction equipment companies and suppliers



THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT PERSONNEL (L to R)

Front row: Frances Schlesselman, Cooperative Agreement help; Carol Brown, Clerk; Richard Swanson, Soil Conservation Technician. Back row: Connie Mathes, Cooperative Agreement help; Jeanette Sebetka, Cooperative Agreement help; Curtis Fopma, Soil Conservation Technician; Dale Fopma, Cooperative Agreement help and David Kudej, District Conservationist.

ASSISTED BY

Kathy Pielsticker.....	Area Conservationist
Dean L. Pettit.....	Area Resource Conservationist
Thomas J. O'Connor.....	Area Resource Soil Scientist
John A. Lucassen.....	Soil Scientist (Party Leader)
Leland D. Camp.....	Soil Scientist
Susan M. Long.....	Civil Engineer
Kent O. Rice.....	Civil Engineer
Raymond L. Dake.....	Civil Engineering Technician
Ronald P. Wilson.....	Civil Engineering Technician
David R. Kennedy.....	Civil Engineering Technician
Gene A. Renken.....	Soil Conservationist
Suzette D. Betts.....	Administrative Management Assistant
Darlene G. Lauder.....	Area Secretary

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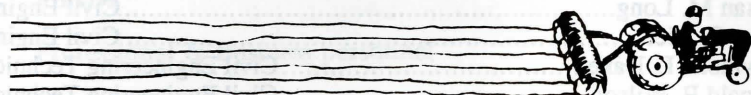
BAILEY CONSTRUCTION

RT. 2, BOX 41, GRINNELL, IOWA 50112

FIELD TILE

BACK HOE
WATER LINE

CONCRETE WORK
SEPTIC SYSTEMS



FARMERS, IT'S YOUR MOVE!--Stay eligible for
USDA programs. If you farm highly erodible cropland, you
must have a conservation plan by December 31, 1989.

GET A CONSERVATION PLAN NOW.

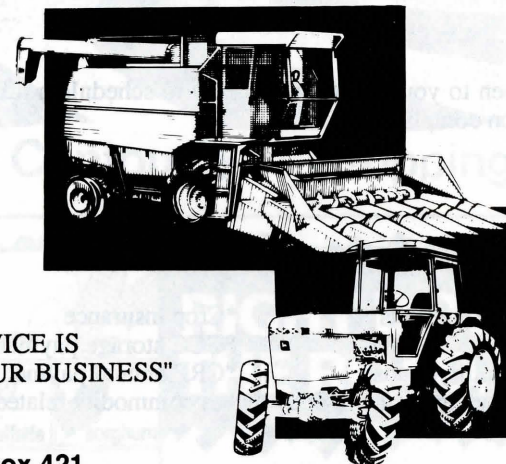
\$\$ COST SHARE FUNDS \$\$

The District has cost-share funds available at the present time for various soil conservation practices including terraces, structures, grassed waterways and sediment and water control basins.

Contact the office SOON if you are planning any fall conservation work. We will be receiving new funds after July 1.

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BERT ROSS

DEEP RIVER

PHONE: 595-2724

This Couldn't Happen to you, Could it?

Time is running out. Call us today.

It is January 1, 1990. You walk into the ASCS office to sign up for your USDA program benefits. The ASCS personnel checks the listing very carefully before stating, "I'm sorry, we can't help you because you did not develop your conservation compliance plan before December 31, 1989." "Well", you state, "the reason I didn't develop my plan was because I thought that the whole thing was just a big joke and that they would change it or do away with it all together." No", the ASCS person replies, "the 1985 Farm Bill Legislation is much alive today. The Bill was signed into law by the President of the U.S. on December 23, 1985 and gave farmers until December 31, 1989 to develop a conservation plan on all highly erodible fields." "I'm sorry, we can't help you. You don't have a plan developed."

This won't happen to you if you call us now to schedule a time to develop your conservation compliance plan.

USDA PROGRAMS AFFECTED:

- *Price and income supports
- *FmHA loans
- *Farm storage facility loans
- *Other programs under which USDA makes commodity related payments
- *Crop insurance
- *CCC storage payments
- *CRP annual payments

In order to remain eligible for USDA programs, you must develop your conservation plan by December 31, 1989.

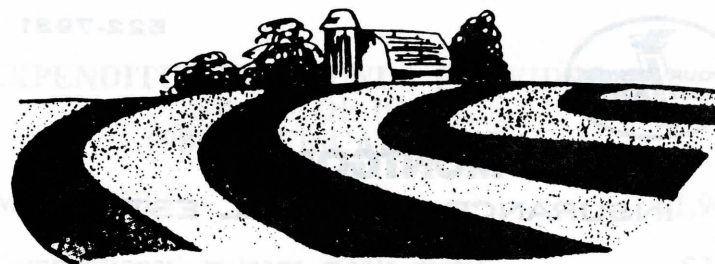
Many landowners are presently contacting us to schedule their conservation planning appointments. In most cases, we are able to meet with them to assist in their plan development within a relatively short period of time.

Since we know that you want to beat that last minute rush to get your plan, we request that you call our office to schedule your planning appointment now. We will schedule you for your appointment as soon as you contact us. Beat the rush! Call right now at 515-528-2065.

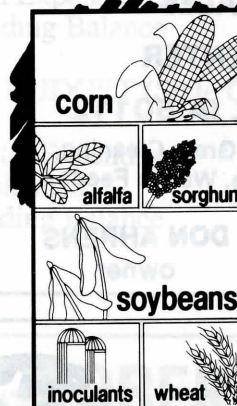
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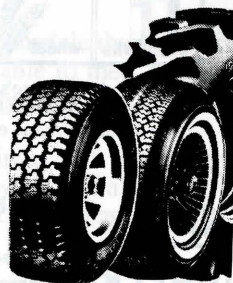
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EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS PROVIDED BY STATE OF IOWA 1988-89 FISCAL YEAR

1-M BUDGET	\$1,900.00
Commissioner's mileage, meals, motel	\$309.89
Office supplies	\$134.55
Printing	\$53.87
Total Expended	\$498.31
Ending Balance	\$1,401.69
3-M BUDGET (State Cost-share Funds)	\$100,139.41
Total Expended	\$46,540.72
Obligated	\$12,494.95
Ending Balance	\$41,103.74

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WILDLIFE FOOD PLOTS

The recent sub-zero temperatures with blowing and drifting snow along with it reminded many people that local wildlife populations need our help. A little known and little used practice that may be used on idled acres is a practice we refer to as Wildlife Food Plots. These food plots are for the sole purposes of providing winter food and cover for wildlife.

ACR (set-aside) acres -

Current ASCS regulations allow a farmer to have a total of 10 acres of Wildlife Food Plot on annual set-aside ground. We recommend a minimum of 3 acres when the plot is located next to good winter cover such as trees or brush. These plots can consist of corn, sorghum or forage sorghum.

CRP acres -

Wildlife Food Plots are also permissible in 1989 under the 10-year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Again, we recommend that corn food plots be at least 3 acres in size, and they cannot exceed 5 acres per field under the CRP program. Food plots must not cover more than 25% of a CRP field or be more than 10% of total CRP acres. Food Plots should be placed on the least erosive areas of each field. The plots can be located on the same area in subsequent years as long as tolerable "T" soil loss limits are not exceeded during any year. Corn and sorghum food plots may be left 2 years without reseeding.

Food plots can be very important in helping local wildlife populations survive these cold, snowy Iowa winters. If you have any further questions about establishing wildlife Food Plots on ACR, CRP or regular agricultural ground, contact your local ASCS or SCS office, or call me at 515-484-3752.

Bob Kurtt,
Wildlife Biologist
Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources



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Want to Stay Eligible?

If you have highly erodible land and have not yet completed a conservation plan with the Soil Conservation Service, your time is running out.

All owners and/or operators with highly erodible land on their farms must have a conservation plan completed and signed by December 31, 1989 to be eligible for USDA benefits in the 1990 crop year.

The conservation plan must be completely implemented by the 1994 crop year.



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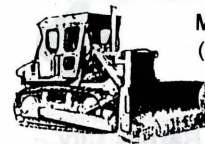
Gibson Savings Bank

Gibson
634-2460



Deep River
595-2133

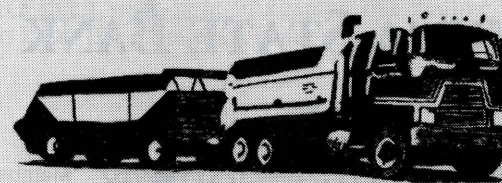
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- The Commissioners



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THERE'S MONEY IN TREES!

How much did you pay for your Christmas tree in 1988? In most markets, twenty-five dollars was not out of line for a well-sheared six to eight foot Scotch pine.

In Iowa, Scotch, white and red pine can be planted at a 6-foot spacing to yield 1,200 trees per acre. If you conservatively estimate an eight-year growing cycle, 1,200 trees per acre divides out to 150 trees for sale on each acre, every year. With only 100 marketable trees out of every 150, the gross return is still \$2,500 per acre per year.

But, you say, there is a lot of labor involved. And there is. It takes two to three hours to plant an acre by machine. It also takes three to five mowings per year, plus perhaps chemical grass control application. It might take a week each summer to shear 1,200 trees (shearing is needed every year after the third). Then the trees must be sold between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Perhaps the trees will also need spray for an insect or disease problem. It's easy to see that the gross potential can be whittled down pretty quick.

Unlike rowcrop farming, however, Christmas tree growing can be undertaken with minimal investment if you already own some land. The 1,200 trees needed for one acre can be purchased from the State Forest Nursery for \$147.00. Shearing tools need not cost more than fifty dollars. Three planting machines can be borrowed from your County Conservation Board. Remember, it's your labor investment and risk assumption that make Christmas trees economically attractive.

Poweshiek County needs more trees and could certainly support the production of several commercial tree growers. And wildlife would certainly appreciate both the nesting cover and winter protection offered by a 15-acre plantation of Christmas trees. Add two or three rows of border shrubs, and your plantation would be extremely high quality habitat.

For more information about tree planting or forestry in general, contact your District Forester, Box 681, Marshalltown, 50158, or phone (515) 752-3352.

Bob Hibbs
District Forester
Box 681
Marshalltown, IA 50158
PH: (515) 752-3352

MAXWELL TILING Water Management Specialists



Dave Maxwell
R.R. Box 21
Gibson, IA 50104



tiling - dozing - backhoe - terracing

515-634-2283



Food Plots Aid Wildlife

Wildlife food plots were introduced into the CRP to create food supplements for the wildlife. Specification for these plots will consider size, erosion control, maintenance, food plants, planting amounts and planting dates. Plot size must be more than 25% of any field or 10% of total CRP acres on a farm. Erosion control will be based on the percent slope with the most restrictive practices on the steeper slopes. Cultivation will be allowed to control weeds. Herbicides harmful to adjacent seedings will not be allowed. Plots that are discontinued or rotated must be reseeded and fertilized to CRP standards.

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ACCOMPLISHMENT SUMMARY FOR 10-1-87 TO 9-30-88

	No.	Unit of Measure
Individuals and Groups Assisted	2,269	
Individuals and Groups Applying Practices	134	
Highly Erodible Acres Planned	948	111,339 Ac.
Conservation Tillage System		257 Ac.
Contour Farming		547 Ac.
Diversion		5,400 Ft.
Grade Stabilization Structures and Ponds	7	
Terraces		50,130 Ft.
Water & Sediment Control Basins	115	

AGENTS

Helen Clausen - Grinnell
Eldred Cox - Grinnell

FARMERS 4 COUNTY COOP

Hartwick, IA 52232

PHONE: (319) 525-2311

Grain - Feed - Fertilizer - Chemicals - Drying
Fencing - Seed - Petroleum Products - Tires

Hartwick State Bank Hartwick

Member F. D. I. C.

Hartwick

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Brooklyn, Iowa

Ph. 522-9227

... Information

... Education

... Legislation

... Service to Members

... Group Health Program Through Blue Cross - Blue Shield

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE Family of Financial Planning Services

AGENTS

Helen Clausen - Grinnell

Eldred Cox - Grinnell

Ed Rasmussen - Grinnell

Kent Brown - Brooklyn

Kenny Smith - Montezuma

Denny Dumermuth - Agency Manager
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AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Poweshiek County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) administers the federal farm programs in the county.

All provisions of the various programs are carried out by regular and temporary employed personnel who administer the program policies established by the farmer-elected committee.

Processing of Price Support Loans, Grain Storage Program, Feed Grain Program, Conservation Reserve Program and providing information and funds for farmers participating in the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) are some of the programs for which ASCS has responsibility. The office phone number is (515) 528-4115.

The Poweshiek County ASC Committee consists of Warren Dee, Chairperson, Delmar Ford, Vice-Chairperson and Donald Sarver, regular member.

POWESHIEK WATER ASSOCIATION

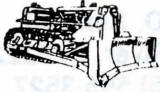
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DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

The Commissioners conducted 10 regular and one special meetings during the year.

Commissioners attended the Annual Short Course in January, the Spring and Fall Regional meetings and the Annual Conference in November.

A joint Contractor Meeting with Jasper County was held on February 25. Approximately 63 people attended. Commissioners assisted the District.

The District sponsored a booth at the Montezuma Ag Day, on February 26. There were 22 exhibitors and about 250 persons had lunch as guests of the sponsors. The show featured exhibits of agriculture related products by firms and individuals in the school district.

The Commissioners met with the County Supervisors in July to tour various construction sites around the county.

Approximately 3,500 Soil Stewardship inserts were delivered to 27 churches in Poweshiek County for Soil Stewardship Week.

AWARDS

JAMES McILRATH of Grinnell was the 1988 nominee from Poweshiek County for the Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award.

The DENNIS HARRIS farm located in Chester Township was selected Poweshiek County District winner in the Family Operated Division of the Iowa Conservation Awards Contest. The farm shows use of contouring, conservation tillage, no-till, grass waterways and conservation cropping systems to control erosion. Dennis was one of the first in Poweshiek County to start using no-till planting and continues to use it today.

The TOM and BILL MASON farm located in Chester Township was selected in the New Cooperator Division. The farm is operated by DOYL ALTEMEIER. Terraces, contouring, grass waterways and field border plantings have been started on much of the farm. Crops are planted using conservation tillage.

Both farms are good examples of farmers working toward proper use and treatment of their farms so they remain useful and productive for many years to come.



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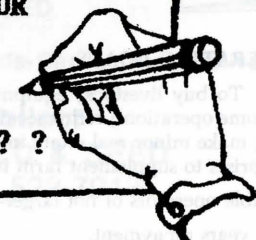
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HAVE YOU SIGNED YOUR

F.S.A.

CONSERVATION PLAN ? ?



FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

Farmers Home Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, makes loans to farmers, families of low and moderate income and rural communities. These applicants must be unable to get credit from conventional sources in order to get assistance. This general purpose credit service contributes in a variety of ways to the vitality and expansion of the rural economy. It provides financial assistance for the development of essential public services and the growth of rural communities. The programs that would be most commonly used in Poweshiek County are as follows:

INDIVIDUAL HOME OWNERSHIP LOANS:

PURPOSE: To buy, build, improve or relocate homes for farm service buildings; to buy building sites; to refinance certain debts.

FOR: Low to moderate income families who will occupy homes in rural areas.

RENTAL AND COOPERATIVE HOUSING LOANS:

PURPOSE: To build, buy, improve or repair rental or cooperatively owned houses or apartments for independent living by senior citizens and low to moderate income families.

FOR: Nonprofit corporations, cooperatives, municipal bodies, individuals, partnerships and corporations.

TERMS: 33 years repayment.

REPAIR AND REHABILITATION HOUSING LOANS:

PURPOSE: To make minor repairs for safety or to remove health hazards.

FOR: Very low income owner-occupants who cannot qualify for housing loans.

TERMS: 1% interest rate on 10 yr. loan.

FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS:

PURPOSE: To buy land; refinance debts; construct, repair or improve buildings; improve farmland; develop water facilities and establish farm-based business enterprises to supplement farming income.

FOR: Qualified persons who will get a substantial share of their income from farming.

TERMS: 40 years repayment.

FARM OPERATING LOANS:

PURPOSE: To buy livestock, equipment, feed, seed, fertilizer, birds or supplies for farm and home operations; refinance debts or pay interest on them; pay depreciation on equipment; make minor real estate improvements; improve forest lands; establish non-farm enterprises to supplement farm income.

FOR: Eligible operators of not larger-than-family farms.

TERMS: 7 years repayment.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION LOANS:

PURPOSE: To finance land and water development measures, forestation, drainage of farm land, irrigation, pasture improvement and related land and water use adjustments.

FOR: An eligible owner, tenant, leaseholder, partnership or corporation.

TERMS: 40 years repayment.

GUARANTEE FARM OWNERSHIP AND OPERATING LOANS:

PURPOSE: To allow bank to continue with a customer during periods of economic stress. To provide credit or refinance debt for farm purchases, farm improvement, breeding livestock, machinery and operating.

FOR: Eligible persons operating farms not larger than family size.

TERMS: Up to 40 years on real estate and 7 years on operating. Interest rate is current lenders rate.

SUMMARY

Individuals interested in obtaining information about loan programs can meet with the FmHA representative on Tuesdays between 9:30 A.M. and noon in the Malcom ASCS office. The Toledo FmHA office covers Tama and Poweshiek counties. Inquiries also can be made to the Toledo office on Mondays between 8:00 A.M. and noon.

Andrew Jones, Supervisor

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Sully, Iowa



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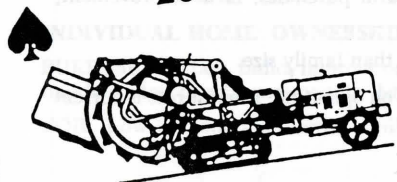


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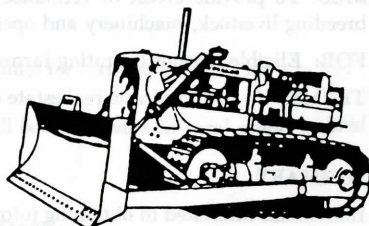
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