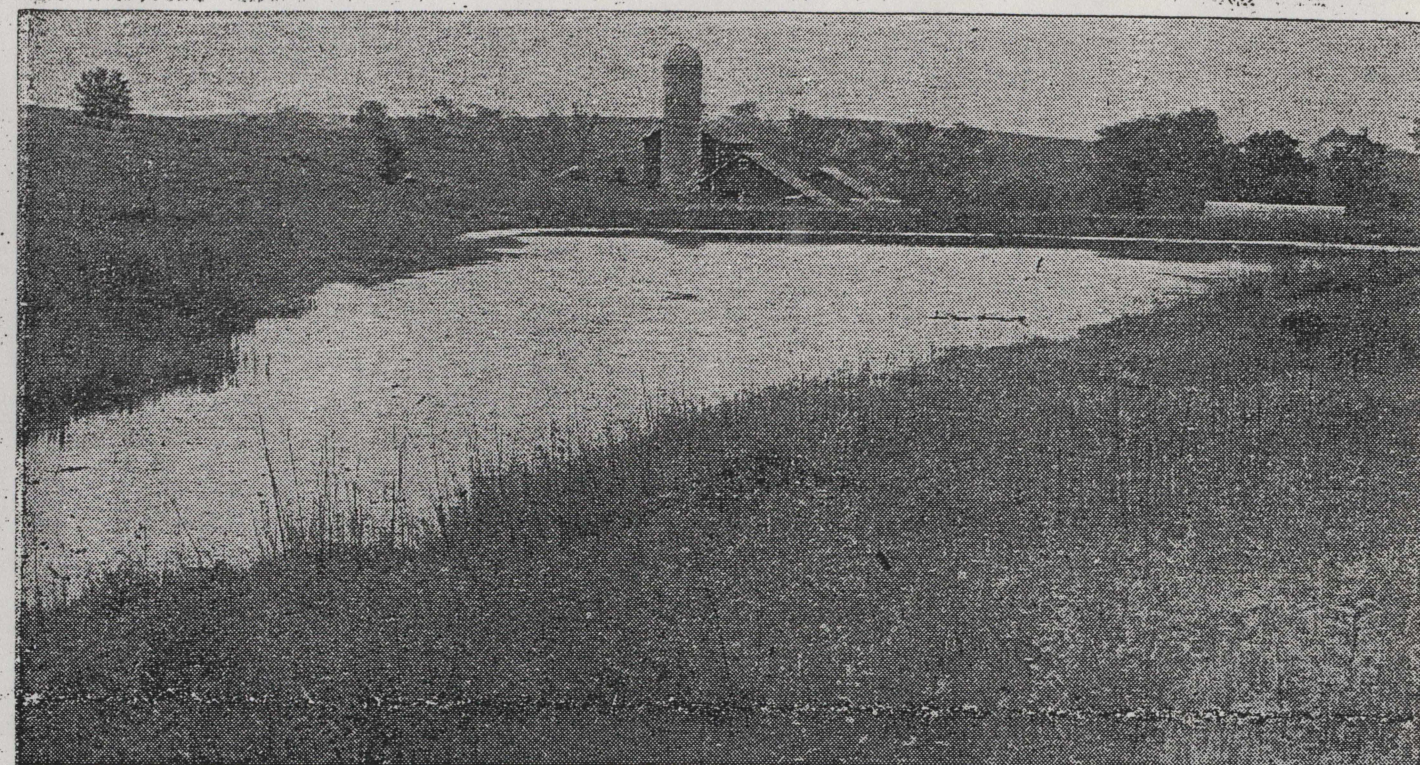


This Is Soil and Water Conservation Week in Iowa



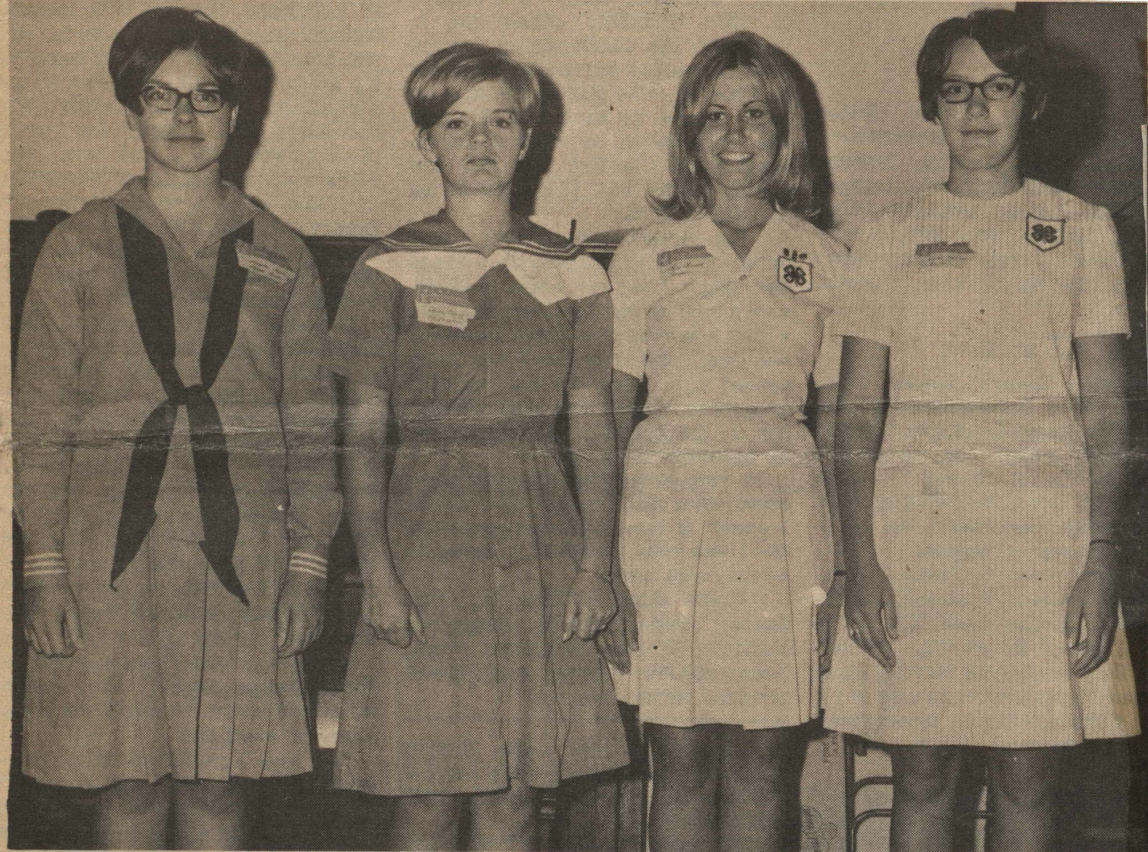
GOVERNOR HERSCHEL C. LOVELESS has proclaimed the week of June 16 as Soil and Water Conservation Week. The Manchester Rotary club held an advance observance of the event at their meeting last week by touring the Don Eibey farm near Manchester and seeing how a gully had been healed and contour strips established. George Carlson, right, of the Delaware county Soil Conservation Service, explains to the group how crop production and farm value have increased due to the conservation work practiced on the Eibey farm.

WATER IS A NECESSITY of life and only through conservation practices can we be assured of maintaining an adequate supply for our needs. Conservation practices also prevent the loss of irreplaceable topsoil. This pond on the John Batchelder farm near Delhi has a drainage area of 35 acres and ponds one-half acre of water. It is 14-feet deep at its deepest point and provides water for livestock, a fishing and recreation area and a water supply in case of a farm fire. Building the pond halted the action of a gully through the barnyard.



SCS PLANNERS use several methods to control water and prevent erosion. This hillside on the James and Tom Kelly farm near Hopkinton is an example of contoured strip-cropping. Alternating strips of corn and hay are being grown in the field this year. A grass waterway can be seen extending between the strips of hay. Other common conservation measures are buffer strips and terraces.

GULLIES ARE EASY TO HEAL. Examining a gully that was healed this spring on the Anthony Funke farm near Ryan are, left to right, Carlson, Funke, Chet McCarthy, Delaware county compliance supervisor, and Emil Fortman of Ryan. This waterway is 3,245-feet long and 50-feet wide. It also has a 600-foot lateral at its upper end. A total of 4,077 cubic yards of earth were moved to heal the gully.



Model Girls' 4-H Dresses

PAST TO PRESENT was represented by 4-H girls modeling 4-H dresses worn by members over the years. The girls are (from left): Linda Ham, the dress worn from 1924 to 1949; Donna Durey, the dress worn from 1950 to 1957, Lois Wendt, the dress worn from 1958 to 1968, and Linda Petlon, the 1968 dress.

Jack Troester Honored For Conservation

Jack Troester, Colesburg, an enthusiastic "conservationist" was interviewed as June Conservation Farmer by Robert E. Hall, extension director, and George Carlson, farm planner.

Jack, with his wife, Arleen, and son, Thomas, farm a 240 acre rolling farm in Colony township, just east of Colesburg. In addition to the "home place," Jack also farms an additional 140 acres in Clayton county.

His interview follows:

Q.—How long have you been farming Jack?

A.—I've been farming on my own since 1946 when I got out of the Service. This will be our ninth year on this place.

Q.—How much cropland do you have altogether?

A.—About 175 acres at home and about 90 acres in Clayton county.

Q.—What type of a cropping system is involved in your conservation plan, Jack?

A.—I use a straight four-year rotation of corn, oats and 2 years of alfalfa brome. I've got 80 acres laid out for contour strip cropping and the rest is all contoured.

Q.—What type of a livestock program do you have here, Jack?

A.—Well, primarily beef cattle and hogs. We raise about 400 market hogs a year and have a beef herd of 40 cows. We also keep a laying flock of about 600 hens. As far as dairy is concerned, we only have 8 milk cows and about 6 heifers now.

Q.—Do you feed out your beef calves?

A.—No, we sell them in the spring as feeders—short yearlings.

Q.—Jack, what got you started in conservation farming?

A.—Well, I guess I just couldn't stand to see the land go down the creek! I had observed the conservation work up around Garnaville and got started on Dad's farm in 1950. I bought the place in 1951 and started with contouring in 1952. We've been cooperating with the Delaware County

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CONSERVATION FARMER



THE JACK TROESTERS and their son pose for a picture at their farm near Colesburg. Troester was honored this month by being named Conservation Farmer of the Month, the award based on his successful soil and water conservation program.

Soil Conservation district since 1953 or 1954.

Q.—What conservation practices have you used here, Jack?

A.—Well, contouring of course, and contour strip cropping. Also some tile and waterway work in the draws. We've limed the entire farm since we've moved here so we could raise alfalfa. The alfalfa has really helped build up this farm.

Q.—Jack, just what advantages have you seen from your conservation program?

A.—Well, of course we hold the soil where it belongs. Then I know it takes less power—less fuel to farm on the contour. Some farmers think it is harder to farm this way; I know it is easier. The first year here we were in a hurry and plowed straight. I had to shift down to low on the hills. I'll never farm up and down hill again.

Q.—Jack, what problems have you run into?

A.—Well, really I can't think of too many. Of course with contour strips it is more difficult to use your meadow for pasture. I guess that's about the only disadvantage I can think of!

Q.—What about weeds, Jack?

A.—Weeds have been no problem. I spray for weeds in corn. Oh, quack bothers some folks, but I don't think it has lowered my yields any.

Q.—We've had both wet and dry years since you've been here, Jack. Any observation you'd make?

A.—Well, in the dry years you had the moisture where you need it. One year it had been dry all spring and then we had a real heavy rain—about 2 inches—just after the corn was laid by. I don't think a drop of it left the field. Another thing I've noticed—since we've been using alfalfa the wet side hill spots we used to have are dry. I think it opens

up the soil and lets the water through.

Q.—What have your yields been in the last 9 years, Jack?

A.—Well, corn was going around 30 bushel at first—now some of the fields will yield over 100 bushels. Hay yields are running about 3 tons or better from two cuttings.

Q.—You've done quite a bit of pasture improvement work, too, haven't you?

A.—Well, we cleared better than 25 acres of brush in the southeast part of the farm and re-seeded to birdsfoot trefoil and timothy and to trefoil and orchardgrass.

Q.—Jack, we get the impression you think conservation farming is a paying proposition. Is that right?

A.—Well, it has definitely paid for me!

Q.—Jack, why don't farmers adopt conservation practices more rapidly?

A.—I think it's just the idea of getting started. It seems I noticed more farmers getting started every year, though. Of course, it is a little slower on rentedland if the tenant doesn't know how long he'll be on the place.

One thing I'd like to say, though, I had the chance to attend G. I. farm school at Guttenberg for 4 years. It really did me a lot of good and got me interested in doing a better job of farming.

Q.—Any plans for the future, Jack, so far as conservation is concerned?

A.—Well, I'm thinking of the possibility of getting started building terraces this fall. Possibly a livestock pond eventually, too. Other than that, I don't for-