

The Annual Report of the
Cedar County
Soil Conservation Service

A Supplement To The Tipton Conservative and Advertiser • January 23, 1991



CONSERVATION

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Ditch Becomes Beautiful Pond

by Pat Kroemer

It wasn't only a desire to have a pond that prompted Jim Bixler to build one on land he farms southeast of Clarence. Bixler was tired

of watching the soil erode away, forming a big ditch. Value of the surrounding land was also being hurt by the erosion. "It was just a ditch full of

junk and undergrowth that needed to be removed," he said. "There was no other alternative, there had been too much erosion."

After Bixler purchased the property in March 1990 he decided to do something about the erosion. He designed the pond he wanted to build, but after discussing his ideas with the staff at the Soil Conservation Service office, his original plans were changed.

"I planned to build the pond a different direction," he explained. "And I had not intended to take any of the crop ground out of production. I'm glad I listened to their suggestions. Now I have a very nice looking property."

Things went fast when the SCS got involved. Bixler purchased the property in March, applied for funds in April and received approval in July. Work was begun Sept. 12. The project, which took 7 days, used 3 pieces of equipment and moved 7,200 cubic yards of soil.

Judy Hagan of the SCS office designed the 3.5 acre pond and oversaw all the work. Dan Nietfeldt, Wheatland, was contracted for the grading job.

The pond is 110 feet wide at the base and should be 14 feet deep when full. A berm was added to control

wave action which could erode the dam. Over 70 feet of overflow pipe was laid.

The area was surveyed before construction, 3 times during construction and again when the work was completed.

"There were no problems during construction or filling," Bixler added.

The design the SCS made took 4.5 acres of crop ground out of production, but Bixler says he can understand how this design is better than the one he drew up.

After construction, Bixler, with the recommendations from the SCS, reseeded the area himself. There is an alfalfa strip seeded between the pond and the remaining crop ground to control any other erosion problems.

The pond cost \$7,500 and the SCS funds 75% of the costs up to \$3,500.

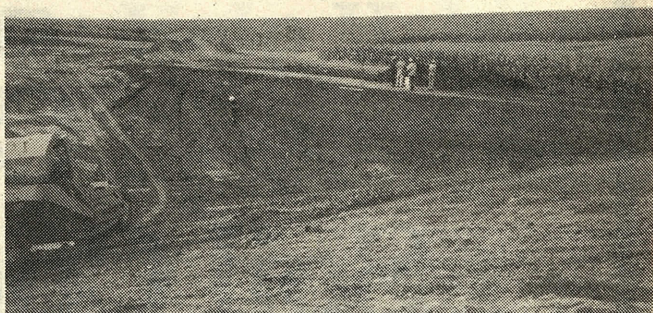
"The pond, which is fed by a spring and 34 acres of watershed, has 6 feet of water already," he added. "The area has also been used for sledding and skating."

Bixler said the pond could be stocked with fish later, but he has no immediate plans for that.

"I want to make it an attractive area," Bixler said.



A large piece of equipment sits idle while 70 feet of overflow pipe is checked before being backfilled.



A 14 foot deep pond designed by the Soil Conservation Service was built last September on the Jim Bixler farm southeast of Clarence. The pond was built to stop erosion of land into a useless ditch.



There was a lot of grading to do on a 3.5 acre pond Jim Bixler built in September. Dan Nietfeldt, Wheatland, was contracted for the grading. The project moved 7,200 cubic yards of soil.

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Cedar SWCD Tree Sales

The Cedar SWCD tree sales price list is now available. Bare-root trees can be purchased in bundles of 25 and used in any kind of planting.

Varieties available this year are: American Arborvitae, Red Pine, Scotch Pine, Blue Spruce, Norway Spruce, Green Ash, Pin Oak, Red Oak, Silky Dogwood, Lilac, Walnut and a native nut tree package.

Trees are obtained through a local nursery. Funds raised from the tree sales program are used to sponsor environmental education programs, such as poster contests and youth leadership camps, scholarships, 3rd grade

tree seedling distribution and soil stewardship materials.

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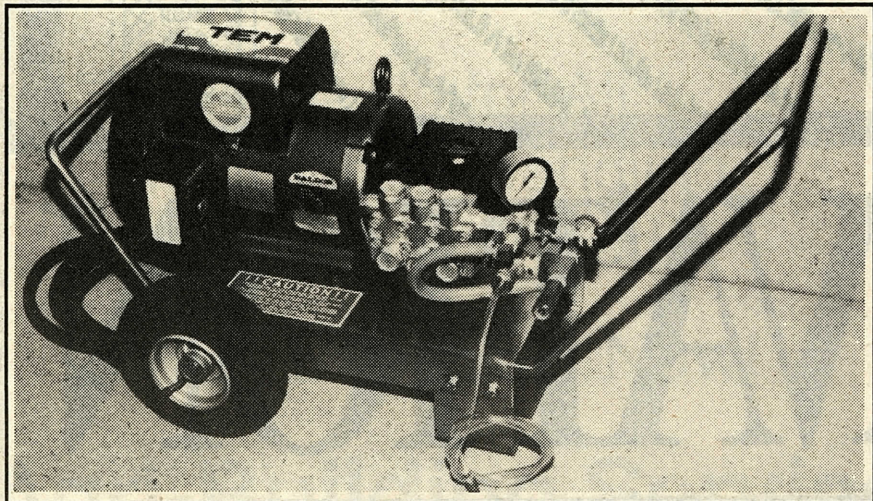
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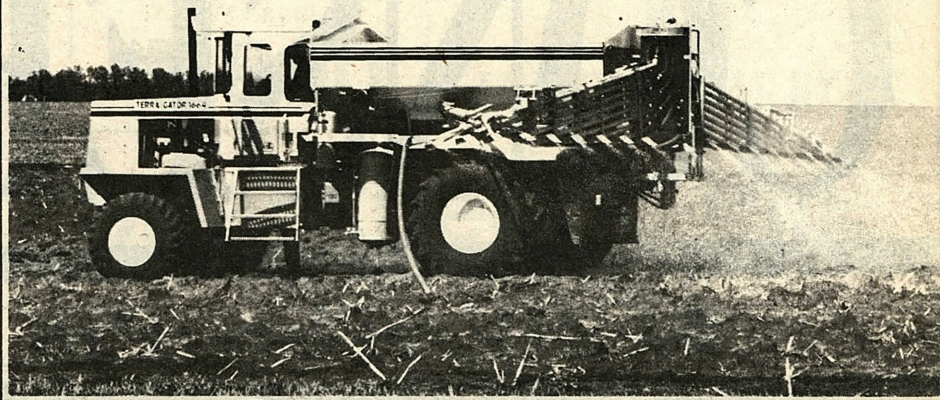
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Krall Is 1990 Outstanding Owner-Operator

A family tradition of conserving the land is being carried on north of West Branch.

Chuck Krall is the recipient of the 1990 Outstanding Owner-Operator award for 1990 from the Cedar County Soil Conservation District.

His father, Richard, won the same award back in the 1950's.

Chuck remembers the plaque his father had on the wall after winning the award and he says conservation was "something that was drummed into our heads." He said, "Use it well and pass it on."

Back in the 50's the Kralls were among the first farmers to use terraces, contour farming and crop rotation.

"It's something you learn as you grow up," Chuck said. "It was 2nd nature to try to do as much as you could. I doubt if I'm measuring up, I still have a lot to do in conservation."

Chuck and his wife, Barb, have 2 children, Dan and Gina. Dan works on the farm and has a job in town, but will be going back to college in the fall.

The Kralls own 425 acres of farm ground and rent another 400 acres. They also have a 150 head cow herd.

"We keep pretty busy," Chuck says. "My wife helps and she is also the administrator at the Cookson retirement home."

Half of the ground is in crops, while the rest is in hay, pasture and government programs. "We have quite a bit of rolling pasture ground, I guess that's why we have the cows," Chuck said.

He uses long term rotation on the ground in the conservation program.

Chuck says he is not big on trying to win conservation awards, speculating that the conservation service was looking for someone "who is not farming fence row to fence row."

"We have set up an extensive fencing and rotation schedule for our cow enterprise. We want to save soil and use the ground in the best way we can."

The Kralls moved to the farm north of West Branch in 1974. They planted windbreaks and then in 1978-79 they put in a pond on a 5 to 6 acre area.

With trees planted around the pond and farm buildings, the Kralls have tried to establish areas for wildlife to thrive and for family recreation.

Adding trees to the farm is a yearly family project.

Chuck farmed with his father for 7 or 8 years starting in 1966 and has been on his own since 1974.

He would like to do more conservation work on the farm, but says that some proposals are very expensive, such as new terraces.

"We use strip cropping, fencing, buffer strips and grass waterways. There is not a lot of extensive terracing, but we have tried to do what we can."

Because the tree planting has been a family project, Chuck laughs when he says his son and daughter may never plant another tree.

The Soil Conservation Service has helped the Kralls with their conservation projects and Chuck says he appreciates their expertise and financial help.

Looking ahead, Chuck says farmers will have to be more concerned about the environment.

"One problem I have is that some farmers will back off if programs are not mandated, because the farm is not in the federal programs. Some will just disregard it."

Because some people simply do not like to do conservation work, Krall says there will always be problems with erosion, especially without incentives to participate.

"Some farmers need those incentives, while others will naturally do some of these things."

On the Krall farm, it's a matter of tradition and in passing on farmland that has not been abused.



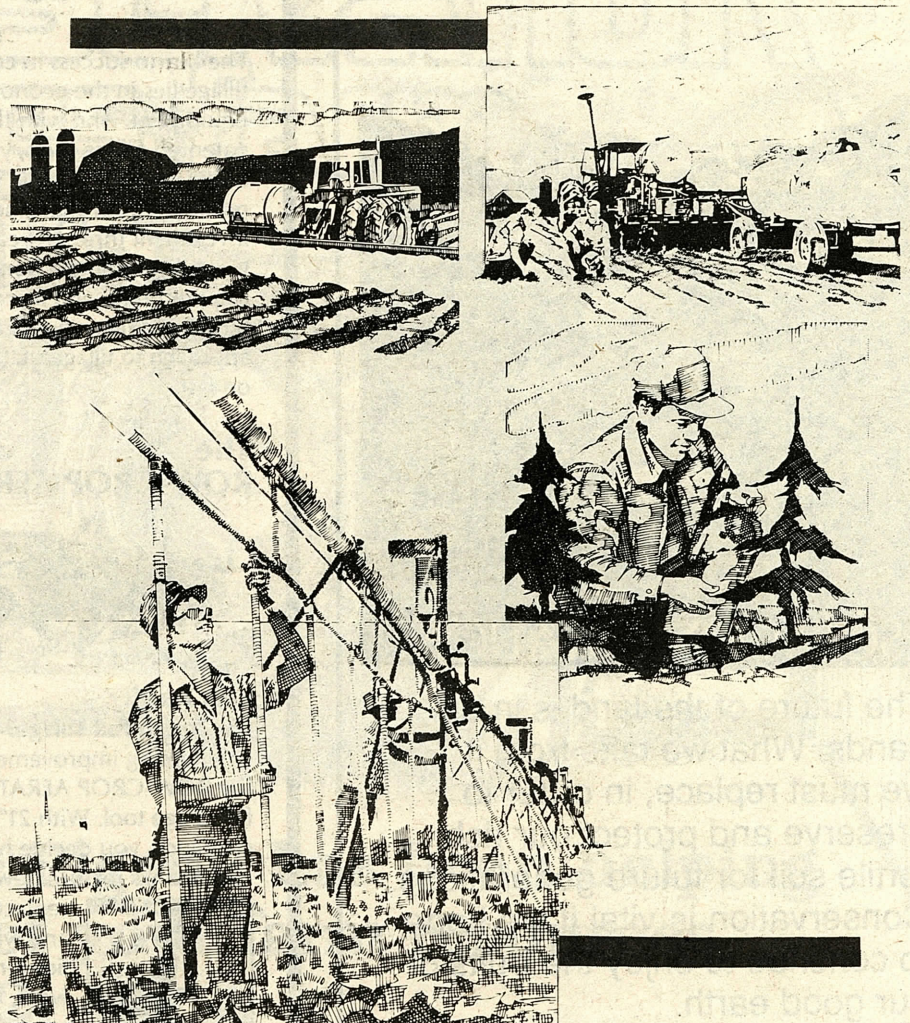
Chuck and Dan Krall keep busy on the family farm north of West Branch. The Kralls own or rent over 800 acres of land and also have a 150 head cattle herd. Chuck Krall is the 1990 Conservation District Owner-Operator of the Year.

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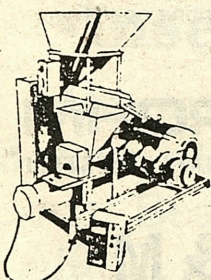
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District Long Range Plan Process Begins

The Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District will hold a public meeting at 7:15 p.m. Feb. 6 in the Cedar county courthouse. The purpose of this meeting is to identify problems and issues regarding soil, water and mineral resources, along with land management practices.

"From the list of issues and problems developed at the meeting the commissioners will develop objectives and goals for the Resource Conservation Long Range Plan," said Richard Kreinbring, district chairman of Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District.

"Public input is important," says Kreinbring. "The District wants to know what the public perceives are the problems and issues we should address in the next 5 years."

Topics the district will be asking for public input on at the meeting are:

- 1) What are the most

important issues or problems in Cedar county related to soil resources?

2) What are the most important issues or problems in Cedar county related to water resources?

3) What are the most important issues or problems in Cedar county related to Cedar county's recreational and wildlife resources?

4) What are the most important issues or problems in Cedar county related to mineral resources?

5) What are the most important issues or problems in Cedar county related to land management practices?

6) What types of educational activities should the district be completing?

7) Other problems or issues the district should address?

After this meeting the district commissioners will meet in a work session Feb. 12. They will use the ideas from the meeting to prepare their long range objectives and goals.

Refreshments will be served at the Feb. 6 meeting.

1990 Annual Conservation Report

1990 ANNUAL CONSERVATION REPORT

1M BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 1990

1990 Allocation	\$3,200.51	
office supplies & expenses		\$2,482.92
Commissioner Expenses		717.59

3M BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 1990

1990 Allocation	\$46,231.00	
Amount Spent		\$7,968.75
Amount Obligated		4,200.00
Released To DSC 12/31/90		34,062.25

NEW DISTRICT COOPERATORS

Lee Kurtenbach, Harry Hegarty, Lee Eberly, M & L Ralston, Craig and Dennis Pearson, David Prasil, Mark Humphrey, Kelly Cedar Farms, Brooks J. Haesemeyer, K & J Mather Corporation, Cristy Pilcher, Robert Wood, Brown Farms Inc., Daisy Wingert, Elmer Kunde, Leonard Schwitzer, Reggie Farms Inc., David Morgan, Elmer Hack, Midwest Land & Cattle, Wilma Belitz, Keith Bell, Francis Donohoe, Joan and Tim Robertson, Robert Hass, John Pence, David Offerman, Dr. & Karen Thornton, Marilee Oldorf, Steve Maurer, Dennis Oldorf, Delbert Weber, Dianne O'Connell, Richard Daniels, Thomas Hearst, West Liberty Oil Co., Otto & Dave Kruse, Ruth Cigledy, Michael Moes Sr., Michael Moes Jr., Norman Grunder, James Wheeler, Ed Dykstra, Rix Fair Field Inc., Don Holladay, Jerry Mays, Helen Hartman, Doug Schnetzler, Deanna Lear, Robert Schroeder, Devin Schroeder, Don Holladay, Marvin Wilkerson, Lee Beine, Sterling Benz and Paul Glenn.

1990 DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Robert Niermeyer.....Fairfield Township
Millicent Zenishek.....Fremont Township
Steve Driscoll.....Cass Township
Randall Shaul.....Red Oak Township
Richard Kreinbring.....Springfield Township

1990 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Mike Walter.....Cass Township
Joel Brown.....Pioneer Township
Richard Zenishek.....Fremont Township
Steve Leazer.....Farmington Township

FIELD OFFICE STAFF

Kurtis F. Hoeft.....District Conservationist
Edwin C. Andrews.....Soil Conservationist
Judy A. Hagan.....Soil Conservation Technician

Erika Larsen.....Tipton
Rick Rouse.....Cedar Co. Conservation Board
Francis Abel.....West Branch
Elaine Behrens.....Durant
Joan Morehead.....Durant
Mike Schultz.....Bennett

FY90 Soil Conservation District Accomplishments

New District Cooperators.....58 no.
Land Users Assisted.....917 ac.
Land Users Applying a Conservation Practice.....363 no.
FSA Plans Completed.....7,100 ac.
FSA Plans Revised.....20,560 ac.
Cropland Erosion Reduced.....12,113 ac.
Pasture Protected (CRP).....2,840 ac.
CRP.....2,840 ac.
Conservation Tillage.....10,678 ac.
Contour Farming.....1,730 ac.
Grade Stabilization Structure.....1 no.
Stripcropping Systems.....58 ac.
Terraces.....3,900 ft.
Windbreaks.....9 ac.
Ponds.....7 no.
Grassed Waterway.....8 ac.
Water & Sediment Control Basins.....12 no.
Pasture Management Systems.....38 ac.
Critical Area Seedings.....51 ac.
Tons Soil Saved.....101,447 tons
Melanie B. Schott.....District Secretary
Thomas O. Spear.....(part-time) Soil Conservation Aid
Donna L. Schroeder.....(part-time) Soil Conservation Aid
Brooks J. Haesemeyer.....Volunteer

OTHER AGENCIES

Kenneth Muller.....ISU Extension Service
Steve Swinonos.....District Forester
Bob Middendorf.....Fishery Biologist
Tim Thomsen.....Wildlife Management Biologist
Al Schmidt.....ASCS Co. Executive Director
Ben Espenscheid.....FmHA County Supervisor

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

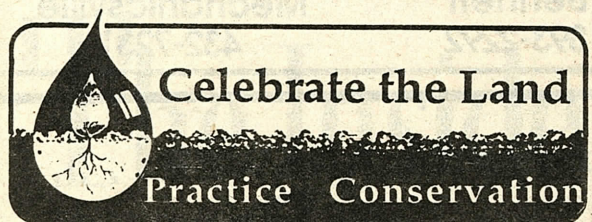
Kenneth Muller.....Extension
Kurtis F. Hoeft.....SCS
Melanie B. Schott.....Cedar SWCD
Margeret Sadeghpour.....Lincoln
Cindy Buck.....Clarence-Lowden
Kathy Beck.....Clarence-Lowden

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Clearing & Site Work

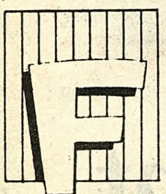
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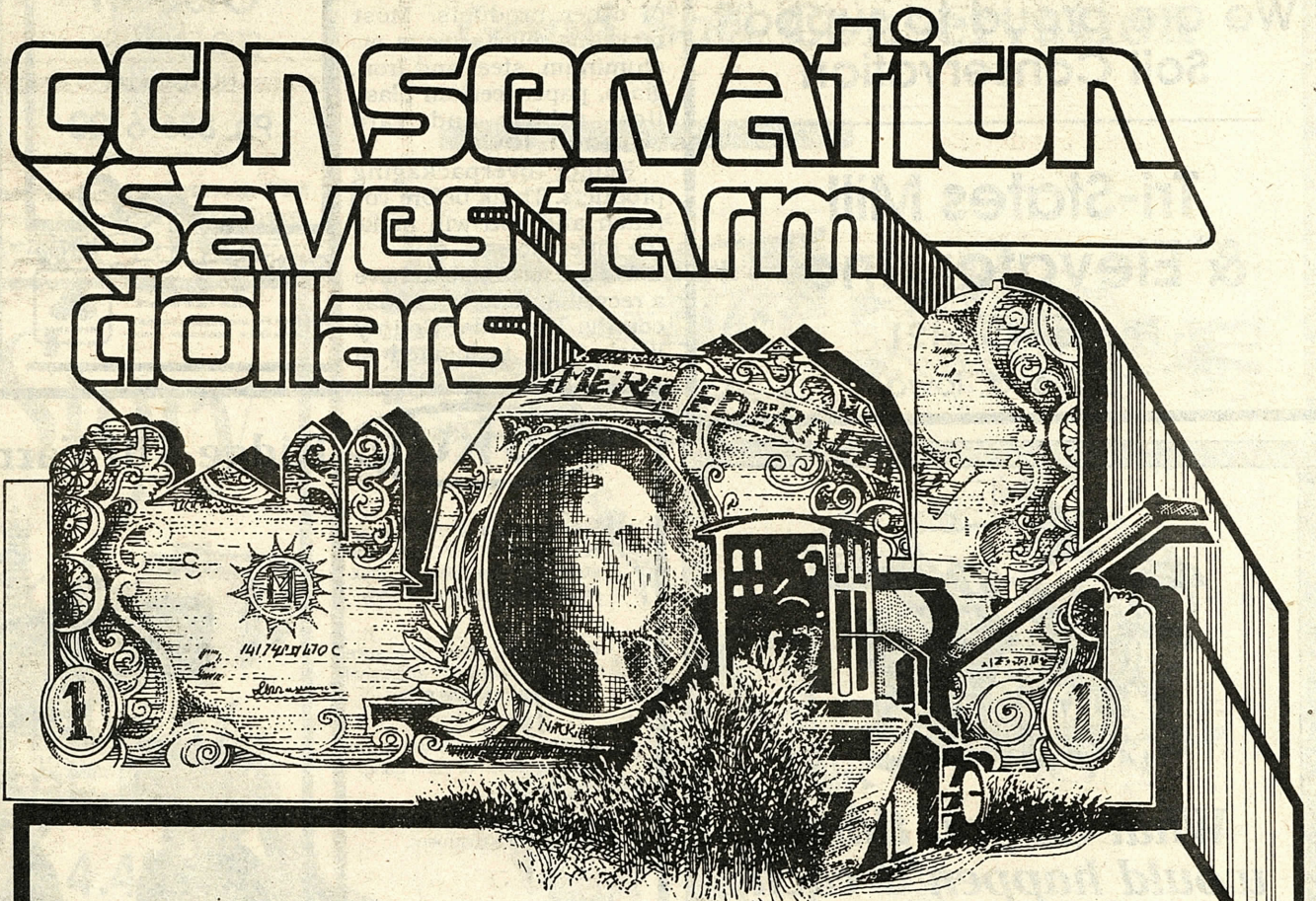


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Commissioner Randall Shaull made the district interseeder available to local landusers.

JUNE

June 1 - Nitrate testing was held at the extension service.

Cedar SWCD commissioners met for their regular meeting June 5. Pilots Ed Crock and Mike Moes flew commissioners around the county to view soil conservation award nominee farms. Cooperators nominated for awards were Chuck Krall for Owner/Operator Division and Arnold Hennings/John Zaruba for Landlord/Tenant Division.

Cedar SWCD collected multiflora rose control bills for cost-share purposes with Cedar county.

Assistant Commissioner Joel Brown attended several county REAP meetings and a regional REAP meeting.

Melanie Schott attended computer training in Muscatine June 27.

JULY

Extension service and Cedar SWCD sponsored a farm tour July 10. The tour was held in the northwest part of the county to view tillage, well plugging, multiflora rose control and REAP tree planting.

Cedar SWCD commissioners met for their regular meeting July 11. Assistant Commissioner Joel Brown discussed current REAP affairs. Brown was elected a delegate to the State Congress.

DC Hoeft and Commissioner Randall Shaull attended a resource conservation planning meeting in Muscatine.

AUGUST

District commissioners met for their regular

meeting Aug. 1. The Memorandum of Understanding with SCS and ASCS was reviewed. The Annual Plan of Work was also discussed and needs reviewed.

District Poster Contest winners were sent to Des Moines to be displayed at the State Fair.

State office and area office personnel visited Tipton Field office Aug. 22.

The Practical Farmers of Iowa Association held a field day Aug. 28. Mark Mays (Farmington Twp) and Assistant Commissioner Steve Leazer participated in the tour.

Cedar SWCD sent out the District Newsletter with the ASCS newsletter.

SEPTEMBER

Cedar SWCD commissioners met for their regular meeting Sept. 4. Commissioners reviewed REAP 5 Year Plan and Annual Plan of Work.

A soil erosion exhibit was displayed at the Annual Corn and Soybean Growers Field Day Sept. 12. Cedar SWCD sponsored a "tons soil loss guessing contest."

The environmental education committee met Sept. 19 and toured the Work Activity Center to view the recycling projects.

Commissioner Robert Niermeyer and DC Hoeft attended the fall regional meeting at Amana Sept. 19.

OCTOBER

Cedar SWCD commissioners held their regular meeting Oct. 9. The Annual Plan of Work was finalized.

Clarence Beyer, retired soil conservation technician, assisted in windbreak nomination and site reviews. Bob and Verna Lee Rix were nominated for the Cedar County 1990 Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award.

Cooperators participated in the Cedar SWCD No-Till Corn and Soybean Yield contest.

NOVEMBER

Mike Walter (Cass Twp) and Randall Shaull (Red Oak Twp) won Cedar Soil and Water Conservation district commissioner election in the general election.

District commissioners met Nov. 13 for their regular meeting. The Board reviewed Chapter 22 rules for development of Soil and Water Resource Conservation Plan.

Commissioner Richard Kreinbring and DC Hoeft attended Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show planning meeting Nov. 20.

Commissioner Millie Zenishek and Assistant Commissioner Dick Zenishek attended the IASWDC Annual Conference in Des Moines Nov. 26 and 27. Millie accepted the 1990 Goodyear Conservation Honor Award for Cedar SWCD.

DC Hoeft attended a Sub-Area meeting Nov. 29.

Cedar SWCD newsletter was sent in conjunction with ASCS newsletter.

DECEMBER

The county conservation implementation team attended a proposal meeting held at the extension service Dec. 4.

SC Andrews held an area pilot project meeting for women landowners and producers Dec. 5. The meeting program included: how to read conservation plans and explanation; benefits and soil saving statistics of structural practices; review tax benefits of installing soil erosion control structures by Phil Benge, CPA and ASCS farm programs by Devalyn Ohrt, Cedar County ASCS.

Eastern Iowa Hay Producers Association held a meeting and hay judging Dec. 6.

Commissioner Millie Zenishek, Assistant Commissioner Mike Walter, DC Hoeft and Melanie Schott met to plan a county annual scholarship competition

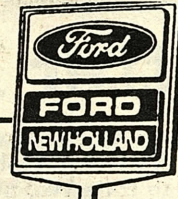
1991 SWCD Poster Contest

Cedar SWCD is sponsoring a Poster Contest again this year. This year's theme coincides with the National Wildlife Week theme, "Frigid Frontiers."

Criteria for the contest include: Students in grades 4-8 are eligible to enter. Poster must be made on 12"x18" or 14"x22" construction paper. Posters can be made from markers, colored pencils, magazines, construction paper, pencil, etc. Originality is preferred. Students are encouraged to develop slogans on posters.

Prizes awarded will be: 1st place in each grade per school is \$5. 1st and 2nd place over all schools is a \$50 Savings Bond.

Posters must be completed and submitted to the Cedar SWCD office in Tipton by 4 p.m. Thursday, April 4. For more information call 886-6214.



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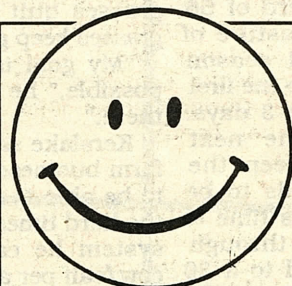
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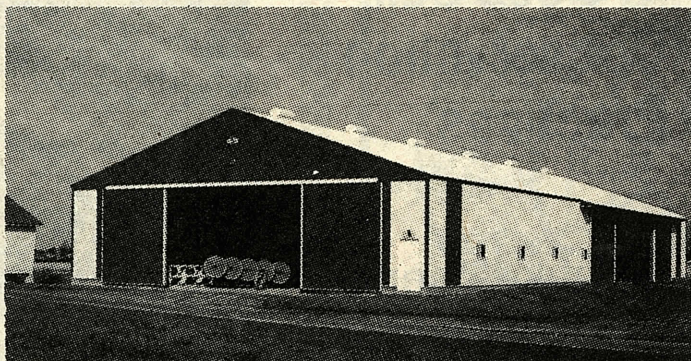
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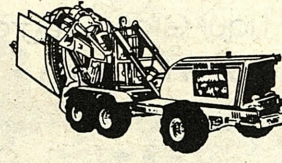
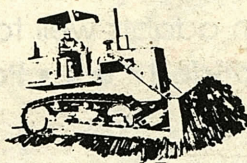
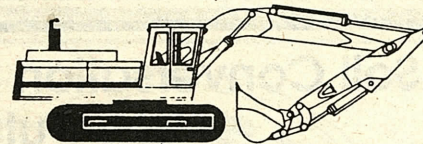
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Better Pastures = Better Conservation For Kerslake

by Pat Kroemer

Allen Kerslake, Lisbon, has decided it's time to conserve, utilize and manage our lands better. For Kerslake this means managing his pastures better. He is trying a system of cell grazing, which although a new idea in the U.S., has been used in Europe and Australia. This system uses the best cool season grasses possible. Grasses are selected to perform all season.

The Soil Conservation Service in Tipton and Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, helped with information on the type of grasses superior to blue grasses.

Last year Kerslake divided 20 acres of his 60 acre pasture into 5 paddocks of 4 acre sections. He seeded switch grass in the first section and big blue/Indian mixture in the second, noting that the grasses work very well together. Big blue produces a lot of foliage for the first grazing and Indian comes back better during the next grazings. Switch grass is best seeded alone, as it is too aggressive to mix. The remaining blue grass sections will be torn up and planted to superior grasses 2 sections at a time in later years.

In the spring, Kerslake's herd of 56 stock cows begin in a large pasture of permanent bluegrass, a cool season grass. The herd is then moved to the first paddock where they graze 2 to 3 days. They are then moved to the next paddock. Kerslake says to keep the grasses growing the herd needs to be moved often to give the grasses time to rest and grow. In late June through August the herd will be moved to a 30 acre field of warm weather grasses. Electric fences divide the grasses in this area into switch grass, big blue/Indian, brome and alfalfa. These warm season grasses lay dormant until it gets hot. With root systems 8 to 10 feet deep they are able to survive when others don't.

"My paddocks look like a golf course," he said. "The weeds are gone and the clovers are beginning to return."

"You must be able to mechanically

harvest some of the grasses," he added. "Any excess grasses will be baled or put into silage. These will be fed in the winter."

He also warned that the weather determines if there will be an excess or a shortage of grasses.

"I don't see running short of pasture," he said. "We won't overgraze the area. The key to the system is not to overgraze. The grasses come back better if grazed a little and left to rest."

In previous years Kerslake said he grazed 40 cows on 60 acres and was always running out of pasture. With the paddock system he is sure they won't run out of feed.

"Grasses given a time to rest produce 30% better," he added. "To be sure your cattle get prime eating you can't let the grasses get old and tough."

"Generally, cattle will go to the grass that tastes best and ignore the rest," he explained. "In the paddock system they eat and lay down, they don't roam over several acres trampling the grasses."

Kerslake also seeded an Australian brome grass which produces more tonnage during a dry season. This grass comes on early but when most brome grasses quit producing the Australian grasses keep going.

"My goal is to find the best grasses possible," he said. "I know they are out there."

Kerslake said he is gearing the family farm business to the bad times. He plans to be able to make money even through the hard times. He feels with the paddock system he can realistically graze one cow/calf per acre.

"Last year was our first year and there were many expenses starting up," he said. "As we plan to begin our second season our expenses should be minimal."

One of Kerslake's greatest expenses was building fences to separate the paddocks. "I think the paddock system is going to be the thing to do," he added. "We see this as a way to stay in the cattle business. We are looking to seeding our farm to pasture and increasing our herd

to 100 head by the year 2000.

"I feel if something is not profitable don't do it," he said. "There is something out there that is profitable. We think we found it."

Kerslake said the grasses looked good last year. Now all he can do is wait and see what comes back this spring. He added that they were lucky to get the rain last year giving the grasses a good strong start.

"This system makes a farmer look at his herd each day," he said. "It establishes good management of the herd. This takes a lot of management and time and if you're not willing to spend the time this is not for you."

"I feel that many U.S. farmers don't utilize the land to the fullest," he added. "Machinery is so expensive that I can let the cattle do the work. If managed properly there could be more money in cattle than in row cropping."

The Kerslakes also row crop 100 acres

of corn and beans and 50 acres of hay.

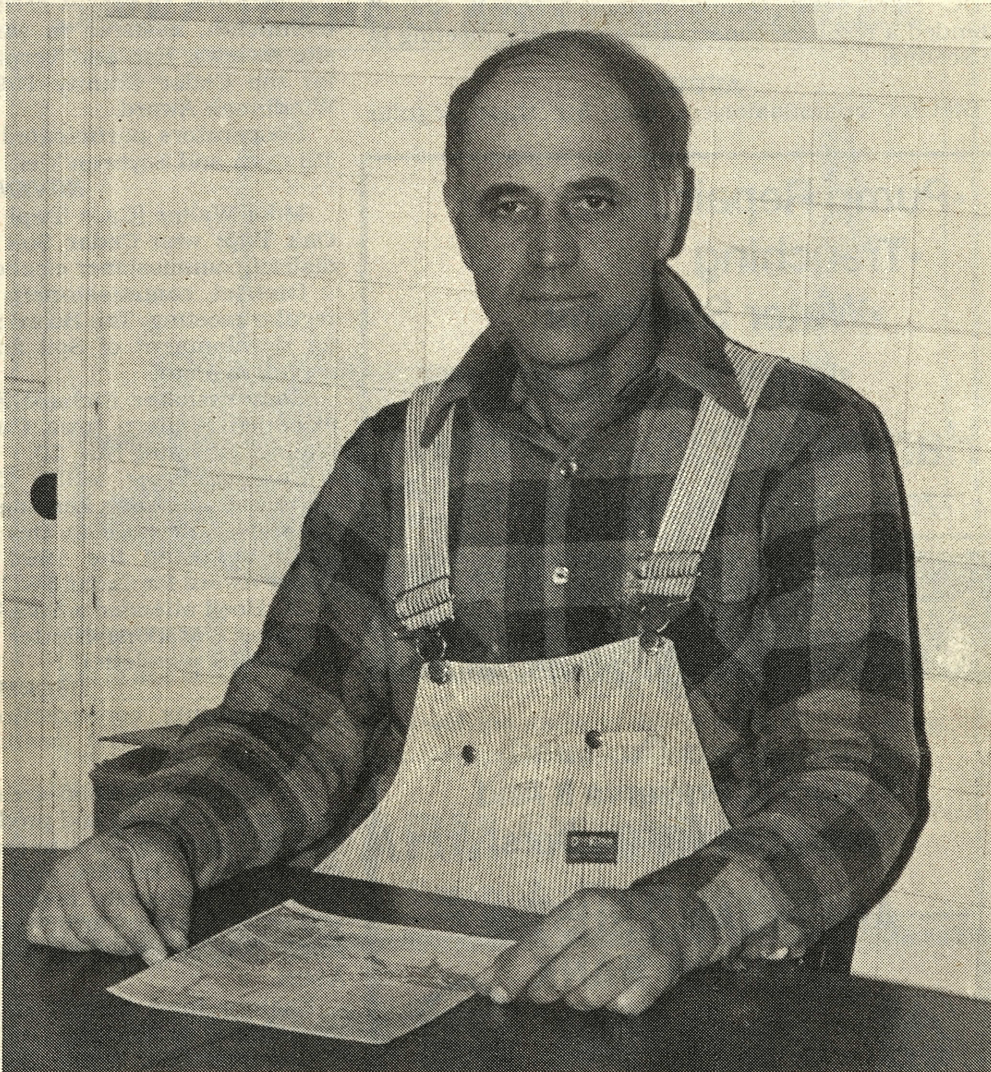
The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) paid 75% of the cost of the seeds, fertilizer and lime. They also paid a portion of the cost for the fences needed. To qualify for SCS funds land has to be kept in pasture for different lengths of time depending on the program entered into.

Allen Kerslake and his wife, Martha, have 4 children--Mark, 20, attends Iowa State; Vicki, 19, attends Kirkwood and Sarah, 13 and Rebecca, 9, attend school at Lisbon Community.

The Kerslakes also operate a 10 acre vegetable/fruit business. They sell in the Tipton, Mt. Vernon, Anamosa and Iowa City areas.

Kerslake hopes to have his paddocks fully established in 3 years and can't see all the paddocks going bad the same year.

"I'm really excited," he said. "We are bringing more land into production and making it profitable."

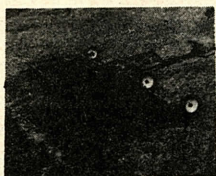


Allen Kerslake thought for years he had a poor piece of land. He now feels he has found a treasure. Kerslake divided the area into a paddock system for grazing his cows and sees this as a new way to farm.

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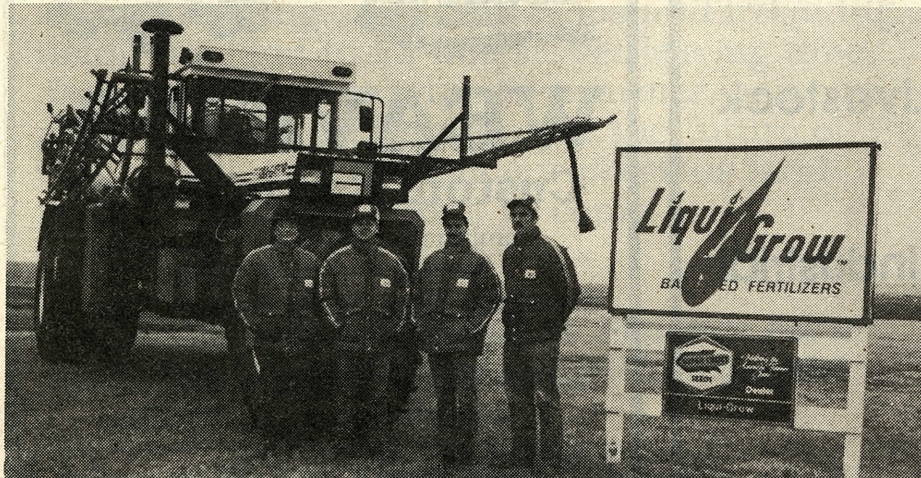
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Conservation Practices

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Paul Blinks - no-till
Curtis Blinks - no-till
Pat Kistler - no-till & multiflora rose control
Lee Kurtenbach - no-till & multiflora rose control
Delmar Kohl - windbreak & multiflora rose control
E. E. Fisher - multiflora rose control
Brooks Haesemeyer - tree planting, pond & multiflora rose control
Robert Hass - multiflora rose control
John Thornton - multiflora rose control
Ken Jilovec - multiflora rose control
Vern Svoboda - multiflora rose control
Forest Johnson - multiflora rose control
Dan Kohl - multiflora rose control
Jean Netolicky - multiflora rose control

FREMONT

Dennis Pearson - no-till

DAYTON

Larry Hasselbusch - windbreak
Clarence Miller - windbreak
Melvin Klein - multiflora rose control
Eugene Weiland - no-till
Cristy Pilcher - windbreak

MASSILLON

Donald Meier - windbreak
Mo-Star Farms - tree planting

LINN

Carl Achey - no-till
David Prasil - no-till
Ciha Farms - windbreak
Allen Kerslake - planned grazing

RED OAK

Micheal Moes, Sr. - tile outlet terraces
Michael Moes, Jr. - tile outlet terraces
Sterling Benz - multiflora rose control
Martin Fay - multiflora rose control

FAIRFIELD

Robert Schroeder - windbreak renovation
Devin Schroeder - no-till
Ronald Robinson - windbreak
Dennis Oldorf - waterway & structure
Jim Bixler - pond
Doug Schroeder - no-till
Merlin Geadelmann - multiflora rose control
Rodney Daehn - multiflora rose control

SPRINGFIELD

Louis Hillmann - waterway
Gaylord Wilson - windbreak
Lafrenz Farms - windbreak renovation
Donald Walter - multiflora rose control
Robert Rowald - multiflora rose control

CASS

Thomas Schott - waterway

CENTER

William Schwitzer - no-till
Lloyd Hein - no-till
Wm. VanDorn - wildlife pond
Maurer Estate - waterways & structure
Robert Thede - no-till
Robert Schott - tree planting
Arlin Esbaum - multiflora rose control
Keith Bell - multiflora rose control
Wilma N. Belitz - multiflora rose control
Sherrie Farkers - multiflora rose control
Donald Rosenow - multiflora rose control
Maureen Bowie - multiflora rose control
Lloyd Meyer - multiflora rose control
Kelly Cedar Farms - multiflora rose control

Greiner & Wendler - multiflora rose control
Rocking M Farms - multiflora rose control
Daisy Wingert - windbreak

GOWER

Brent Donohoe - waterway
C. Daniel Barnhart - pond
Robert Zimmerman - pond
James C. Barnhart - multiflora rose control
Francis Donohoe - multiflora rose control
Alfred Worrell - multiflora rose control
Scott Worrell - multiflora rose control
Goose Farms Ltd. - multiflora rose control
Dale Slach - multiflora rose control
Charles Krall - multiflora rose control
Richard Krall Sr. - multiflora rose control
Dale Hein - multiflora rose control

INLAND

Leroy Moeller - field windbreak
Eric Storjohann - contouring
David Dahl - multiflora rose control

SPRINGDALE

Scott Brooke - pond
David Sickles - windbreak
Ken & Ray Slach - windbreak

IOWA

Dean Wilkerson - waterway
Lynch Farm Trust - waterway
Reggie Farms Inc. - no-till
William Furnish - pond
Roscoe Millett - structure
Cecil Carlisle - multiflora rose control
Harold Kline - multiflora rose control
Ray Clemmens - multiflora rose control
Robert Wertzbaugher - multiflora rose control
K & J Mather - tree planting
Mark Humphrey - timber stand improvement

ROCHESTER

Hilbert Marolf - windbreak
Kent Tholen - no-till

Ray Schwitzer - multiflora rose control

Cedar Co. Historical Society - multiflora rose control

SUGAR CREEK

Otto E. Kruse - tree planting & multiflora rose control

FARMINGTON

Mark Mays - windbreak renovation
Raie Reeve Trust - tile outlet terraces
Richard Porstman - windbreak
Steve Leazer - waterway

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Cindy Buck Named Educator Of The Year

by Pat Kroemer

Cindy Buck has been named Cedar County Educator of the year by the Soil Conservation Service for her work with children in recycling and conservation. She teaches 4th, 5th and 6th grade science at the Clarence-Lowden elementary.

Last year her classes collected returnable beverage cans. With the money earned the youngsters adopted an injured redtail hawk at the Macbride Nature Center. This fall the adopted hawk and an owl were brought to the school for a program.

"Adopting the redtail hawk made the children very aware of the need to take care of our wildlife," Buck explained. "The kids are already asking about collecting cans again this year as a project."

In other projects the youngsters cleaned the ditches near Lowden, the school grounds and planted flowers at the Lowden City Park.

"The kids were very surprised at all the junk they found in the ditches," she said. "They seem more aware of the what they

throw away now."

They have also held classes with conservationists at Massillon park and attended classes conducted by the University of Iowa at Lake Macbride.

Every 2 years the 5th and 6th grade classes attend a fall retreat at Camp Wyoming, where they hold a variety of nature classes.

"Our environment is important to the kids and myself," she said. "It's up to us to take care of our land."

"Recycling is a good lesson for them to learn now," she added. "These kids are so eager to help save recyclable items. It's a lesson I hope they will continue through their adult lives."

Buck has been a member of the Cedar County Conservation Education committee for over 8 years. The committee is made up of a teacher from each Cedar county school district.

Buck will be recognized at the annual spring banquet of the SCS, which is held in conjunction with the annual Corn and Soybean Growers banquet.



Cindy Buck, Clarence-Lowden science teacher, has been named Cedar County Educator of the Year by the Soil Conservation Service. Buck is shown with a box the C-L Extended Learning Program youngsters are using. Many classes at the Lowden elementary school are getting into recycling and conservation.

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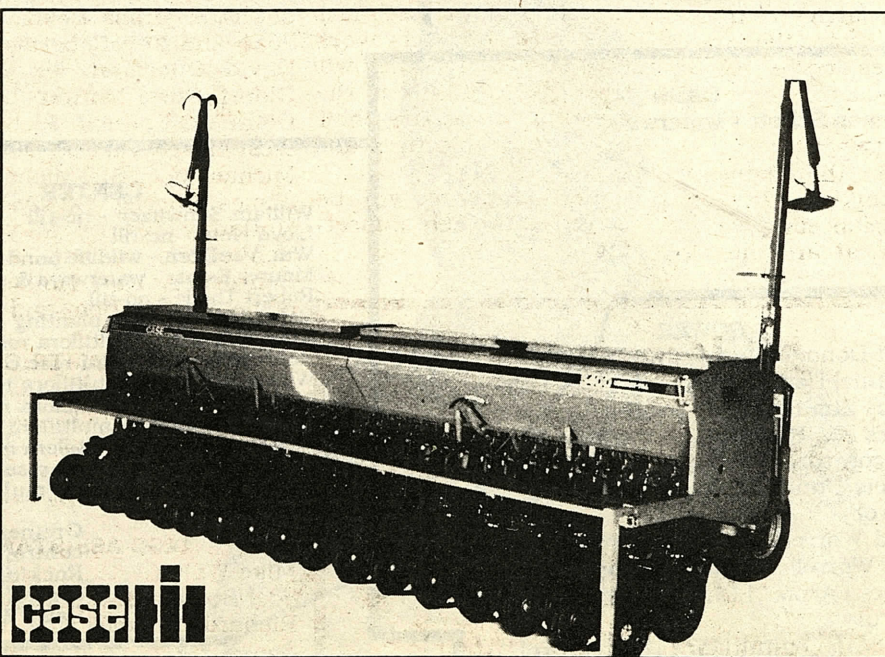
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District Long Range Plan Process Begins

The Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District will hold a public meeting at 7:15 p.m. Feb. 6 in the Cedar county courthouse. The purpose of this meeting is to identify problems and issues regarding soil, water and mineral resources, along with land management practices.

"From the list of issues and problems developed at the meeting the commissioners will develop objectives and goals for the Resource Conservation Long Range Plan," said Richard Kreinbring, district chairman of Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District.

"Public input is important," says Kreinbring. "The District wants to know what the public perceives are the problems and issues we should address in the next 5 years."

Topics the district will be asking for public input on at the meeting are:

- 1) What are the most

important issues or problems in Cedar county related to soil resources?

2) What are the most important issues or problems in Cedar county related to water resources?

3) What are the most important issues or problems in Cedar county related to Cedar county's recreational and wildlife resources?

4) What are the most important issues or problems in Cedar county related to mineral resources?

5) What are the most important issues or problems in Cedar county related to land management practices?

6) What types of educational activities should the district be completing?

7) Other problems or issues the district should address?

After this meeting the district commissioners will meet in a work session Feb. 12. They will use the ideas from the meeting to prepare their long range objectives and goals.

Refreshments will be served at the Feb. 6 meeting.

1990 Annual Conservation Report

1990 ANNUAL CONSERVATION REPORT

1M BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 1990

1990 Allocation	\$3,200.51	
office supplies & expenses		\$2,482.92
Commissioner Expenses		717.59

3M BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 1990

1990 Allocation	\$46,231.00	
Amount Spent		\$7,968.75
Amount Obligated		4,200.00
Released To DSC 12/31/90		34,062.25

NEW DISTRICT COOPERATORS

Lee Kurtenbach, Harry Hegarty, Lee Eberly, M & L Ralston, Craig and Dennis Pearson, David Prasil, Mark Humphrey, Kelly Cedar Farms, Brooks J. Haesemeyer, K & J Mather Corporation, Crispy Pilcher, Robert Wood, Brown Farms Inc., Daisy Wingert, Elmer Kunde, Leonard Schwitzer, Reggie Farms Inc., David Morgan, Elmer Hack, Midwest Land & Cattle, Wilma Belitz, Keith Bell, Francis Donohoe, Joan and Tim Robertson, Robert Hass, John Pence, David Offerman, Dr. & Karen Thornton, Marilee Oldorf, Steve Maurer, Dennis Oldorf, Delbert Weber, Dianne O'Connell, Richard Daniels, Thomas Hearst, West Liberty Oil Co., Otto & Dave Kruse, Ruth Cigley, Michael Moes Sr., Michael Moes Jr., Norman Grunder, James Wheeler, Ed Dykstra, Rix Fair Field Inc., Don Holladay, Jerry Mays, Helen Hartman, Doug Schnetzler, Deanna Lear, Robert Schroeder, Devin Schroeder, Don Holladay, Marvin Wilkerson, Lee Beine, Sterling Benz and Paul Glenn.

1990 DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Robert Niermeyer	Fairfield Township
Millicent Zenishek	Fremont Township
Steve Driscoll	Cass Township
Randall Shaul	Red Oak Township
Richard Kreinbring	Springfield Township

1990 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Mike Walter	Cass Township
Joel Brown	Pioneer Township
Richard Zenishek	Fremont Township
Steve Leazer	Farmington Township

FIELD OFFICE STAFF

Kurtis F. Hoeft	District Conservationist
Edwin C. Andrews	Soil Conservationist
Judy A. Hagan	Soil Conservation Technician

Erika Larsen	Tipton
Rick Rouse	Cedar Co. Conservation Board
Francis Abel	West Branch
Elaine Behrens	Durant
Joan Morehead	Durant
Mike Schultz	Bennett

FY90 Soil Conservation District Accomplishments

New District Cooperators	58 no.
Land Users Assisted	917 ac.
Land Users Applying a Conservation Practice	363 no.
FSA Plans Completed	7,100 ac.
FSA Plans Revised	20,560 ac.
Cropland Erosion Reduced	12,113 ac.
Pasture Protected (CRP)	2,840 ac.
CRP	2,840 ac.
Conservation Tillage	10,678 ac.
Contour Farming	1,730 ac.
Grade Stabilization Structure	1 no.
Stripcropping Systems	58 ac.
Terraces	3,900 ft.
Windbreaks	9 ac.
Ponds	7 no.
Grassed Waterway	8 ac.
Water & Sediment Control Basins	12 no.
Pasture Management Systems	38 ac.
Critical Area Seedings	51 ac.
Tons Soil Saved	101,447 tons
Melanie B. Schott	District Secretary
Thomas O. Spear	(part-time) Soil Conservation Aid
Donna L. Schroeder	(part-time) Soil Conservation Aid
Brooks J. Haesemeyer	Volunteer

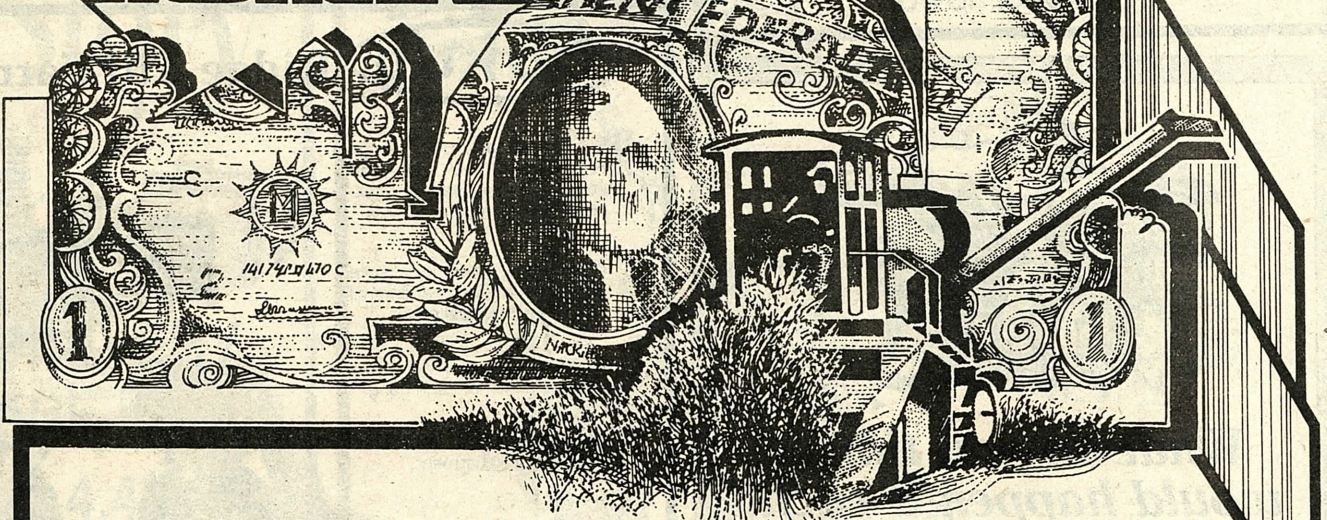
OTHER AGENCIES

Kenneth Muller	ISU Extension Service
Steve Swinonos	District Forester
Bob Middendorf	Fishery Biologist
Tim Thomsen	Wildlife Management Biologist
Al Schmidt	ASCS Co. Executive Director
Ben Espenscheid	FmHA County Supervisor

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Kenneth Muller	Extension
Kurtis F. Hoeft	SCS
Melanie B. Schott	Cedar SWCD
Margaret Sadeghpour	Lincoln
Cindy Buck	Clarence-Lowden
Kathy Beck	Clarence-Lowden

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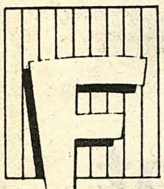


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Pictured is Commissioner Millicent Zenishek receiving the Goodyear Conservation Honor District Award for the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District. The award was presented by Gary Nigon at the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual conference held in Des Moines Nov. 26 and 27.

Practice 5 R's To Protect Air, Land and Water

by Millie Zenishek
As an environmental
shopper, practice the 5 R's:
Reduce, Reuse, Repair,

Recycle and Reject.
Reduce packaging trash
by purchasing products
that are not excessively
wrapped. Reach for prod-
ucts packaged in recy-
clable materials of paper,
cardboard, glass and alu-
minum. Look for the
recycling symbol of the 3

arrows in a circle, indi-
cating the package is recy-
clable, or made of recy-
clable materials.

Reuse anything you can.
Paper bags can be returned
to the store to hold
additional purchases.
Clothing and household
items can be given to
charity. Buy only what you
need and if you have
leftovers share with a
friend or neighbor.

Repair rather than
dispose of broken small
appliances or toys. Pur-
chase items with a longer
lifespan that are repair-
able.

Recycling involves basic
steps:

Separating reusable
products from other trash.

Processing them so they
can be substituted for
virgin raw materials at
processing plants.

Returning them to
commerce, usually as part
of other products. Most
recycling efforts focus on
aluminum, steel and iron,
glass, paper, certain plas-
tics, rubber and yard
wastes.

Reject overpackaging
products. Think before you
reach and you will make
the difference.

We are fortunate to have
a recycling center in Cedar
county. The Cedar County
Work Shop is located at

Heavy Rains Damage Cedar County Waterways

by Judy Hagan
Soil Conservation Technician

The heavy rains this past year have
been hard on our waterways. Where we
used to have one waterway we now have
3 waterways or where we had a nicely
shaped and seeded waterway we now
have something that might resemble a
small Grand Canyon. When looking at
doing some work on these areas some
things should be taken into consid-
eration before the work is done.

The width and depth of a waterway is
determined by the drainage area that
comes down the waterway. If a waterway
is made too small, then the water will
run out of the banks and will give you 3
waterways instead of one. If it is made
too large the water may not run fast
enough and may deposit all the silt in
the middle. Any waterways with 6 acres
and under drainage area should be at
least 20 feet wide and .8 feet deep. Any
waterway over 6 acres should be at least
30 feet wide and 1 foot deep.

The shape of your waterway is
another thing that needs to be con-
sidered. Most contractors are building
parabolic waterways which have round
bottoms to them and are shaped in a sort
of a half moon. The other type is called a

trapezoidal, which has a flat bottom and
shaped sideslopes. Either type of
waterway is acceptable and it is up to
personal preference as to what type is put
in.

Once your waterway is shaped you
need to get a good seeding established as
soon as possible. The best dates for put-
ting in a permanent seeding would be
either March 1 - May 15 or Aug. 1 - Sept.
15. If you are doing your seeding at any
time other than the above mentioned
dates, it is advisable to put in a tem-
porary seeding of oats or rye until a
permanent seeding can be established.
The seeding that is used on your
waterway is also an important part in
the success of your waterway. A recom-
mended seeding for dry or tiled water-
ways would be 15 pounds of smooth
bromegrass, 10 pounds of tall fescue and
2 pounds of timothy.

If a waterway isn't tiled and has a
tendency to be wet then some reeds
canary grass should be added to the
mixture. Prepacked waterway mixtures
are not recommended because they
contain a high percentage of timothy.

If you have any questions about a
waterway that you are looking at doing
some work on, call 886-6214.

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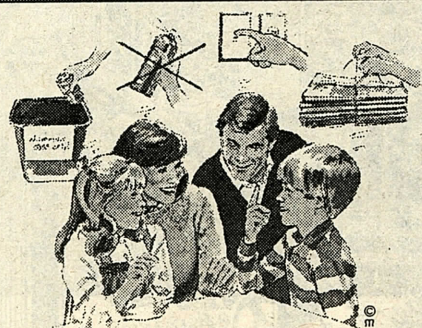
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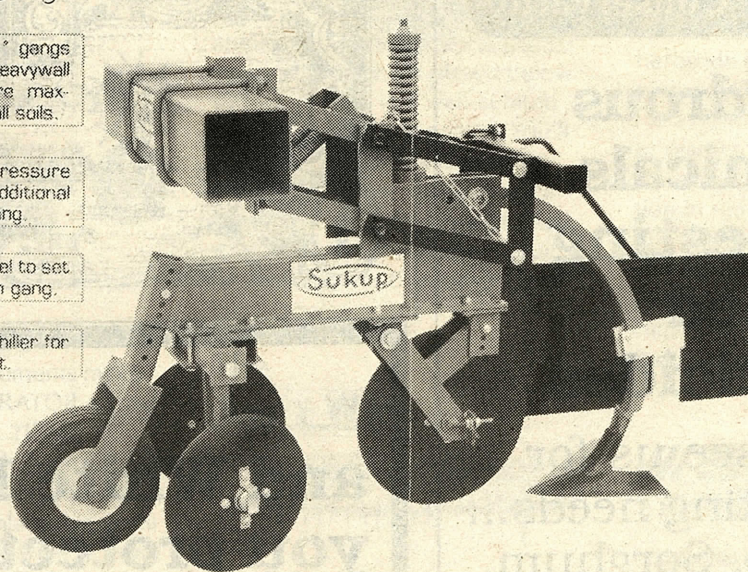
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Cedar County SWCD commissioners are, front row, l-r, Millicent Zenishek, Mike Walter and Randall Shaul. Back row, Richard Kreinbring, Robert Niermeyer, Steve Leazer (assistant) and Dick Zenishek, assistant.



Cedar County SCS staff members are, l-r, Kurt Hoeft, district conservationist; Ed Andrews, soil conservationist; Melanie Schott, district secretary and Judy Hagan, soil conservation technician. Absent, Tom Spear, WAE.

Tillage Show Next Week

The 1991 Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show is set for Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 29 and 30 at the Cedar Rapids Five Seasons Center. "This year's show is loaded with new technology to help today's farmer maximize profit and improve the environment," says Greg Brenneman, show chairman.

Agrisystems International, a new company with roots in New Zealand, will exhibit the cross-slot planter. This planting unit has seen consistently higher stand counts compared to the present disk opener planters.

Researchers are discovering that earthworms can have a positive effect on crop growth. Ed Berry, USDA Entomologist at the National Soil Tilth Lab, will tell how to increase earthworm populations.

Biotechnology, the process of changing cells to improve plants and animals for agriculture, will be discussed by 2 speakers, Anthony Mills of Monsanto Corp. and Bruce Werner of Biotechnia of Lisbon.

The new chief of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, Bill Richards, will discuss the 1990 Farm Bill and how it will affect Iowa farmers. Both corn and soybean commodity group leaders will speak about their crop and ways to grow

it to meet conservation plan needs. Jack Kintzle, Coggon, National Corn Growers president and Marlyn Jorgensen, Garrison, chairman of American Soybean Association, will be featured speakers.

About 60 different exhibits will feature several makes of no-till drills, guidance systems, sprayers and planters. A new innovation to adjust nitrogen rates on-the-go according to continuous testing of soil will be exhibited by Soil Doctor.

Five farmers with extensive experience in no-till and ridge-till will speak about how they are maximizing their profit while conserving soil and water. They include Terry Schneider from McClellenn County, Ill.; Mike Reicherts, Chickasaw county; Paul Hemingway and Tom Wall, Johnson county and Jim Kullmer, Benton county.

Doors are open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Jan. 29 and 30. There are two 2 hour program sessions each day.

The show is sponsored by USDA agencies in 10 counties in east central Iowa.

In August, the show received a national merit award from the Soil and Water Conservation Society in Salt Lake City.

Admission to the show is free.



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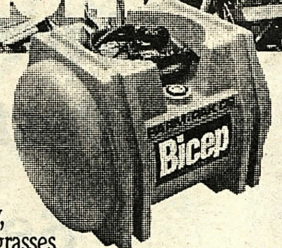
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Windbreaks Provide Many Benefits; Help Habitat

Windbreaks should become an integral part of the farm landscape because of their positive effects on the environment, according to Paul Wray, Iowa State University extension forester.

"All Iowa farms and rural homes can benefit from windbreaks because they reduce chill effects during winter, reduce some pollution because of the trees' air filtering characteristics, enhance wildlife habitat and provide many other benefits to humans and farmstead livestock," Wray said.

Other windbreak benefits include decreased home heating costs, improved feed conversion in livestock, increased property value through beautification and reduced wind erosion, he said.

Iowa soils most susceptible to wind erosion will benefit greatly from shelterbelts. Rows of trees placed 500 to 1,000 feet apart will reduce wind speed enough to keep soil in place, rather than blowing into roadside or drainage ditches, Wray said.

Trees also provide habitat for birds

and other desirable wildlife. In dryer parts of the country, windbreaks trap snow, providing the soil with additional moisture. Windbreaks can have a positive effect on crop yields by reducing the amount of water lost during the hot, dry stress periods of crop growth.

Normally, shelterbelts consist of 2 to 3 rows of hardwood trees planted in a pattern to provide protection from prevailing winds during spring and summer. Row spacings vary from 12 to 20 feet, with 8 to 15 feet between trees within a row. Several different species can be used, including green ash, silver maple, hackberry, oaks, walnut, basswood and cottonwoods or hybrid poplars.

Wray said the expansion of the trees' root system into adjacent fields is a major complaint because it results in crop yield reduction. However, cutting the tree's root system at the edge of the shelterbelt with a deep tillage implement every 2 to 4 years can reduce or eliminate yield losses.

Following are some general rules to

follow for planning farmstead windbreaks.

The minimum windbreak in Iowa should consist of 2 rows of conifers and a row of shrubs usually planted on the outer edge of the windbreak. Increase protection by adding rows of trees. A better windbreak consists of 3 to 6 rows of conifers, 2 rows of shrubs and one to 2 rows of large hardwood trees.

For conifers, plant at least 2 rows on the north and west side of the farmstead and plant at least 2 different species. Always choose species that will adapt well to the planting site Wray advised.

Smaller conifers (arborvitae and eastern red cedar) may be planted as close as 10 to 12 feet apart. Large hardwood trees are typically planted 12 to 20 feet apart. Shrub spacing varies depending on the species, but usually ranges from 3 to 6 feet.

To reduce snow drift problems, leave 50 to 100 feet between the windbreak and critical farmstead areas, according to Wray.

Conifer species commonly used for farmstead windbreaks include Scotch, white and red pines; white, Black Hills, Norway and blue spruces; white fir; eastern red cedar and arborvitae. Common shrub species include ninebark, dogwoods, lilac, amur maple, spirea and viburnums. Some of the large hardwood trees used include silver maple, ashes, hackberry, cottonwoods and hybrid poplars.

Many Iowa counties have cost-share funds available for windbreak establishments. Contact the local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office for cost-share information. For more information on windbreaks, contact the local county extension office.

Wetland Notifications To Begin In February

Landowners in Cedar county will soon be receiving information on wetlands and/or potential wetlands identified on their farms. The notices to landowners will begin in February and be completed by October.

All land in Cedar county was inventoried for wetlands by a wetland inventory team. This team, using ASCS slides, the soil survey and cropping history, identified areas that meet the 1985 Food Security Act requirements for wetlands. Approximately 25% of the tracts of land in Cedar county were identified as having a wetland or potential wetland.

Landowners will receive in the mail a map outlining the areas of wetlands or potential wetlands on their farm. The landowner has one of 2 choices to make once he receives the inventory.

The landowner can disagree with the inventory. He should contact the SCS office to discuss the inventory in detail. Landowners are encouraged to bring any

records of tile or ditching completed prior to 1986 on these areas. This will assist SCS staff in determining if the area has adequate drainage of the wetland area. A final wetland determination will be completed after this meeting.

The swampbuster part of the 1985 and 1990 farm bills was designed to discourage farmers from draining wetlands to convert to crop production.

The 1990 farm bill has a major change concerning wetlands. Prior to Nov. 28 landowners receiving USDA benefits could drain a wetland area as long as they did not plant an annual crop on the wetland. Now the act of draining, filling, dredging or altering a wetland is a swampbuster violation. This violation can affect eligibility for USDA program benefits.

As in the past, the undrained wetlands can be cropped if weather conditions permit.

Contact the Soil Conservation Service for additional information.

SWCD Scholarships

The Cedar SWCD is sponsoring an annual scholarship competition. Two scholarships will be given to high school seniors that reside in Cedar county. The scholarships are \$200 each.

Scholarships will be awarded to vocational or 4 year degree students and will be sent directly to the scholarship winner's designated college.

District commissioners will select applicants based on the following criteria: interest, need, courses taken, service and agriculture background or agriculture-related education interests. From applications submitted several

applicants will be selected for interviews.

Scholarship application forms are available at the Cedar SWCD office, 1201 North Avenue, Tipton or by calling 886-6214. Applications must be submitted to Cedar SWCD by Feb. 1.

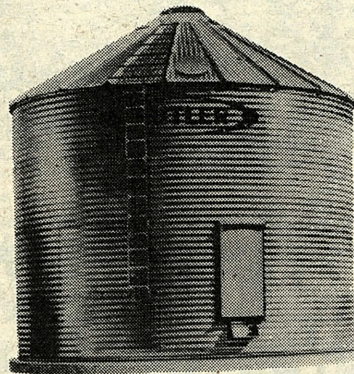
The top applicant will be sent to regional competition for the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners Auxiliary. Three scholarships will be given on the state level through IASWCD Auxiliary at \$500, \$300 and \$200.

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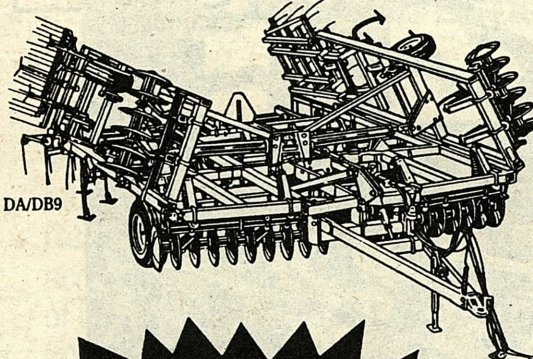
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