

The Annual Report of the Cedar County Soil and Water Conservation District

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE TIPTON CONSERVATIVE AND ADVERTISER • FEBRUARY 28, 1996

Conservation District Celebrates 50 Years

by Mark Fehseke
District Conservationist

In the archives of the Cedar County Conservation District one can read the first annual report and the meeting minutes from 1946. The pages have yellowed considerably, but the words are still legible. So is the mood of this earlier community. The war had finally ended and there must have been a rebirth of the vigor we all get from time to time. . . that desire to build, to create, to improve, to set good into motion. One can sense from those yellowed pages that there was a desire to work together for really worthwhile endeavors.

The names and organizations that came together for the purpose of creating a soil conservation district are written all over those pages. Cedar County Farm Bureau stressed soil conservation in their 1945 educational program. They took action in 1946 to organize a soil conservation district. Floyd Fawcett and Carl Mitzner and other members of the Cedar Soils Committee were much involved. The Agriculture Extension Service was active as well. Hy Von Muenster and the local AAA did a great deal of leg work to obtain the petitions needed to get the referendum granted. That was important because the State Soil Conservation Commission would only grant a referendum if they believed the community really supported the creation of a district. They did . . . landowners voted 326 to 28 to create the Cedar County Soil Conservation District March 11, 1946.

Familiar names made up the first Board. Arnold Meier of Clarence, Amos Suchomel of Solon and Robert Kelly of Clarence were elected to the new board. They elected Arnold Meier as chairman and Howard Hamilton as secretary. Howard was the county extension director for Cedar county. Amos resigned later that year due to illness and Floyd Fawcett was appointed to take his place.

Developing the District program and work plan was the first item on the agenda. The board immediately requested assistance from the Soil Conservation Service. The district became eligible for technical assistance and

other services from the SCS on Sept. 20, 1946. "The attitude of the farmers, businessmen, and press, etc. is very favorable and they have given their wholehearted support in carrying on activities to date," writes Arnold Meier in the 1946 Annual Report.

Energies were mostly focused on education in the first 12 months. An educational program to prepare landowners for farm planning was conducted using township Farm Bureau meetings. The Agriculture Extension Service provided outstanding leadership for this educational program. The commission began promoting research work concerning the nutritional value of crops raised. Local leaders of high schools like M. Z. Hendren had students testing the quality of crops grown on good vs poor land. And Ralph Gruenwald at the Tipton School Institute met with the board to discuss various phases of conservation that should be addressed in the upcoming year. Contour layout demonstrations were planned for William Wartzbarger, the Bowsted, Eiselstein, Furgerson, Albaugh and Alba Gaul farms.

The first District Conservationist was Harland Backhaus. In 1947 Philip Poland became the first Work Unit Conservationist, spending much of his time writing farm plans. He resigned in 1948 to start farming and was replaced by Don Williams. Melvin Bird, Conservation aide from 1949 to 1952, also resigned to farm. Clarence Beyer replaced Melvin and worked well into the 80's as a Soil Conservation Technician. Part-time clerks between 1951 and 1955 included Jo Ann Smith, Donna Wulf, Gloria Yock, Lucille Farnum and Kathryn Jensen.

The following issue of "Williams Wanderings" dated Dec. 15, 1955 was a weekly column published in local papers by Don Williams:

"The Cedar County Soil Conservation district commissioners held a joint meeting with the County ACS committee to discuss the ACP program for 1956. They decided to put emphasis on the building of terraces and structures this year. The ACP payment can be a big help if you are going to build terraces or install a structure, particularly since cost sharing has been raised to 60% on these two



Can you name that Commissioner? Who are these gentlemen reviewing this 1965 farm plan? The District is offering a \$10 reward to the first person who comes into the office and correctly names all 3 of these past Commissioners.

practices. If you have not already done so, better see Arnold or Bill about those terraces and a structure if you need it.

"The commissioners also approved conservation farm plans for the following: Darrel Brown, West Branch; Mrs. Forest B. Witmer, Tipton; and Kenneth Slach, West Branch.

"We are indebted to Darrel Brown of Gower township, or maybe we should say to Mrs. Brown for allowing us to hold a neighborhood group meeting in her home last week. Soil types, erosion and soil and water conservation practices were discussed. After the meeting, we were pleasantly surprised with refreshments. The pecan pie was delicious. "The soft snap is one thing that doesn't grow on the farm."

"I checked a watercourse last Monday which Reid Hunt completed on his Linn township farm late this fall. Although the grass has not had a chance to form the dense sod that we would like to see, a straw mulch which Don Dawson applied should be a big help in holding the waterway until the grass can become better established next spring.

"While on my way back from looking at the waterway, I noticed the wide row corn which Victor Gaul has been experimenting with this past summer. I stopped and asked Vic about it and he said that the seeding while not as good as he would like, is fair considering the hot, dry July and August we had. It is at least good enough that Vic is going to give it another try next year. He plans to seed the grass earlier in June next year."

The following summary of accomplishments provides some history of ac-

tivities the district was involved with in its first decade:

Accomplishments	1955	1946-1955
District cooperators	63	462
Basic cons. plans	36	265
Contour farming	3,133A.	18,869A.
Strip cropping	136A.	1,244A.
Pasture planting	274A.	1,294A.
Hederok planting	120rods	40,220rods
Wildlife area improvement	13A.	38A.
Structures (complete)	8	13
Farm Ponds	3	12
Tile drainage	303,718 LF	1,001,075LF
Terracing	5 miles	12 miles
Watercourses	28 A.	164 A.

The district owned a whirlwind terrace back in 1955. It was made available to Cedar county farmers on a rental basis of \$1.50 per hour.

The first 10 years were only the beginning. The many pages of minutes representing the past 50 years tell of the people and their ethic that has conserved our soil and agriculture. Reviewing the archives is good, but it isn't the best way to realize the impact that this community has had on the land. One really needs to take a drive down any of the county roads. Take that drive this spring. Watch the fencelines for concrete, rock and aluminum structures. Notice all the residue that covers the rich soil. Watch for the greening of the numerous waterways that criss-cross the landscape. Then applaud this community and its conservation ethic, your neighbor and yourself for being a part of history.

Weihs Receive Izaak Walton League Award

by Pat Kroemer

Ron and Joyce Weih, Bennett, recently received the 1995 Izaak Walton League award for an outstanding windbreak.

The Weih family constructed a new home south of Bennett in 1977. The house was built with an open field on the west so they immediately began planning how to protect that side. In the spring of 1978 they put in a windbreak that includes 2 rows of Norway Spruce and one row of Arborvitae.

Weih has had very few problems with the windbreak and only remembers losing 2 trees. The seedlings were purchased from Scotch Grove Nursery with instructions to water each tree with 5 gallons of water a week.

"My kids got awful tired holding the hose out there all summer," Ron said. "But, I'm sure that's what gave our windbreak such a good start."

The Weihs were told to plant the trees

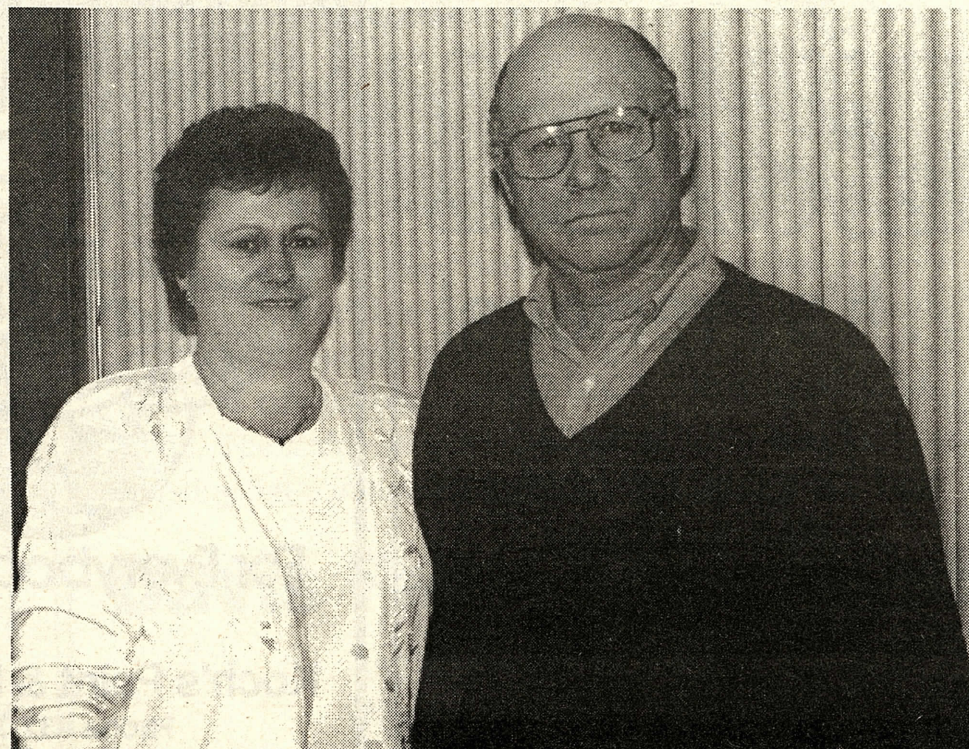
16 feet apart. When Ron asked if he should measure and mark the 16 foot spots he was told not to bother, since the individual putting in the trees would step it off. When Ron checked the trees after planting he found all of them were planted within 2 inches of the recommended 16 feet.

"I guess when you plant trees for a living you know what you're doing," he said.

"The windbreak makes a world of difference," Weih said. "We've had deer, birds and other wildlife in it. I have no regrets about putting it in. I'd do it all over again."

Ron said his wife Joyce used to mow around each tree, but now the trees have bushed out and grown too close together for mowing.

"We've had a lot of compliments on the windbreak," he said. "We spent a lot of time on the trees the first years, but looking at it now you can see it was well worth all the effort."



Joyce and Ron Weih, Bennett, received the Izaak Walton League Windbreak award. Their windbreak, located in Inland Township, is 17 years old.

-1995 District Activities-

JANUARY

Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners met for their organizational meeting Jan. 3. Officers elected were Rita Mays, chairperson; Randy Mather, vice-chairman; Jerry Long, secretary; and Lora Schmidt, treasurer. Assistant commissioners appointed were Steve Leazer, Richard Zenishek, Millicent Zenishek, Joel Brown and Kevin Kelly. Other commissioners on the board include Richard Kreinbring, Michael Walter and Randall Shaull.

The office received 5 additional Emergency Wetland Reserve Program applications.

Richard Kreinbring took his Oath of Office.

Kevin Kelly attended the Forestry Shortcourse in Ames Jan. 6 and 17.

Mark Fehseke and Kevin Kelly attended the RC&D meeting in Maquoketa Jan. 12. They received '94 accomplishments and discussed the goals for '95 and future years.

There was a Commissioners Short Course Jan. 17 at the ISU Center, Scheman Building, Ames.

Mark Fehseke attended the Eastern Iowa Hay Producers meeting in DeWitt Jan. 10 and 20 to discuss EIHP Annual Meeting and Seminar. The annual meeting was scheduled for Feb. 23.

The Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show was held at the Five Seasons Center in Cedar Rapids Jan. 24 and 25. The commissioners assisted at the registration booth.

FEBRUARY

Warren Johnson, coordinator, RC&D, spoke of the activities and projects that were initiated or completed for '94. Some of the projects - Dry Hydrants, installed by Maquoketa Volunteer Fire Department; proposal of a Cottonwood Timber Bridge and cottonwood sand/salt storage facility in Cedar County; Maquoketa Waste Treatment Facility and a sludge treatment facility to comply with new E.P.A. regulations.

Pre-Annual Conference Balloting on Resolutions was sent to the Commissioners.

The Environmental Education Committee was reactivated. Mark Fehseke contacted Vickie DiBona, Naturalist for the Cedar County Conservation Board.

The District held its Annual Awards Banquet in conjunction with the Corn & Soybean Awards Banquet held Feb. 18 at St. Mary's Hall in Tipton. Chairperson Mays presented no-till land soil conservation awards. Chairperson Mays presented a \$500 check to Pheasants Forever for a no-till drill.

Judy Hagen attended Technician's Meetings Feb. 8, 23 and 24.

The District's Annual Report was published in The Tipton Conservative Feb. 16.

A meeting on Integrated Farm Management was held Feb. 16 at the Extension Service.

Mark Fehseke attended the Eastern Iowa Hay Producers in Maquoketa Feb. 23. Discussion was on hay preservatives and alfalfa seed.

MARCH

Kevin Kelly attended the RC&D Forestry meeting in Maquoketa at the Jackson County Fairgrounds March 2.

Mark Fehseke and Randy Mather attended the 1995 Spring Regional meeting which was held March 8 at the Longbranch in Cedar Rapids.

The Commissioners entered the Good Year contest. The District won the grand award in 1992.

Mark Fehseke distributed "Wetlands" pamphlets. Subjects presented were: how determinations are being made; facts; and what can be done on wetlands.

Mark Fehseke discussed the streambank stabilization project at Clear Creek near Coralville where cottonwoods were planted on the bank.

The Board reviewed an application for JTPA employment.

The Commissioners sponsored a poster contest. They gave two Savings Bonds for \$50 for the overall winners and \$5 for first place winners in each grade.

The staff attended an All Employee meeting in Iowa City March 21.

APRIL

The Commissioners sponsored a scholarship competition. Two \$200 scholarships were given in Cedar county.

Cedar SWCD provided Bur Oak seedlings to all 3rd graders in Cedar county in observance of Arbor Day.

Randy Mather picked up the District trees at Cascade April 13. District trees were distributed at the Cedar County Fairgrounds April 14.

Environmental Education Committee held a meeting April 5 at the Cedar county courthouse.

Soil Stewardship Week was observed April 30 through May 6. Materials were provided to local churches.

MAY

Bruce Trautman, Area Conservationist, attended the Commissioners' meetings and briefly discussed a variety of subjects.

Wetland Reserve Program sign-up was scheduled for May 30 - June 30, 1995.

Randall Shaull resigned as Commissioner.

JUNE

The Board hired Ed Crock and Mike Moes Jr. to fly them over the county for the soil conservation board nomination sites. The Commissioners nominated Bev Brown for Owner-Operator, Helen Reynolds and Mark Mays for Landlord-Tenant and David Owens for the New Operator.

JTPA employee Melissa Kunde began summer employment June 12.

Mark Fehseke and Judy Hagan attended Floodplain permit training at the Cedar County Extension Office June 28.

The State secretary position, held by Lora Schmidt, was increased from half-time to full-time June 30.

Bud Lyons from the Association visited with the Commissioners concerning the importance of their support to the Association.

JULY

The Memorandum of Understanding between NRCS and Cedar SWCD was reviewed.

Mark Fehseke reviewed Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act with the SWCD board.

Izaak Walton League Windbreak award winner is Ronald Weih. Clarence Beyer assisted Mark Fehseke in selecting the winner.

Mark Fehseke reported on the Environmental Education Committee.

Terri Parry, State Aid, will be assisting the Tipton Field Office.

James Gulliford, Director of IDALS, accepted Randall Shaull's resignation and Mike Moes, Jr.'s appointment until the '96 general election.

Kathy Walter, State Aid, attended the EIHP Field Day at Long Grove July 12.

AUGUST

Doug Morningstar, Area Engineer, attended board meeting to discuss Waste Storage Ponds.

Mark Fehseke attended the 50th Annual Meeting of the Soil and Water Conservation Society Aug. 6-9 in Des Moines.

Mark Fehseke and Kevin Kelly attended the RC&D meeting and picnic Aug. 30.

SEPTEMBER

Mark Fehseke attended CRP training Sept. 6.

Richard Kreinbring, Michael Walter and Mark Fehseke attended the Annual Conference in Des Moines Sept. 7 and 8.

Mark Fehseke reported on the CRP sign-up. Sign-up was Sept. 11-22.

The Board toured the county Sept. 14 on projects completed in previous years. The projects visited were: ponds, aluminum drop structures, terraces, ag waste pits, windbreaks, tree plantings, gabion structures and tree plantings.

The '96 Plan of Operations was discussed at the Board meeting.

Mark Fehseke and Kathy Walter attended the Cedar County Corn and Soybean Growers Field Day Sept. 13. The District's booth highlighted the new CRP program. The ISU Extension Service's booth focused on existing CRP and provided pamphlets answering a wide array of questions. The District held a drawing for 3 oak trees donated by Kelly Tree Farm for the purpose of education.

OCTOBER

Mark Fehseke attended a tile design meeting in Washington Oct. 23.

Mark Fehseke met with North Cedar Middle School on their nature site development.

Mark Fehseke attended a RC&D meeting in Maquoketa Oct. 25.

Mark Fehseke attended a meeting on ISU's Electronic Showcase at the Extension Office Oct. 31.

NOVEMBER

The Board nominated Bev Brown for the Iowa Forage and Grassland Council Award Program.

The office received a new program for assisting with conservation plans called FOCS.

The Staff attended a Native American Heritage meeting at the University of Iowa Nov. 15.

The District will sell trees for raising funds again this year. Tree sales began in November and will end March 1, 1996.

Mark Fehseke reported on CRP sign-up. We had 81 applicants. Fifty-two standard bids were made totaling 2,404.6 acres and 29 environmental priority bids were made with acres totaling 186.7 acres.

The 1996 poster contest information was sent to the local school districts.

Lora Schmidt sent information to the guidance counselors for the 1996 scholarship competition.

DECEMBER

Bev Brown received the Forage/Livestock Producer award from the Iowa Forage and Grassland Council in Des Moines Dec. 7.

No-till award winners for the yield contests are corn on bean: Robert Regennitter 175.17 bu.; Kevin Hartwig 163.19 bu.; Victor Kimberling 160.60 bu.; and bean on corn: Robert Herring 65.54 bu.; Kevin Hartwig 60.13 bu.; and Robert Regennitter 55.31 bu.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk



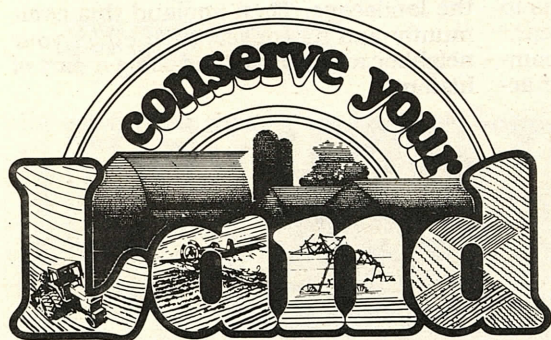
This Land Is Our Land-
Protect It, Preserve It And
Its Riches Will Be Ours.

YOU CAN **Bank** ON US!

AMERICAN
TRUST AND SAVINGS BANK

Lowden, Iowa

Member
F.D.I.C.



.. It's Precious!

Your land needs good care
just like your livestock
and we salute the farmers
for their fine efforts.

**Jack's Feed
& Grain, Inc.**

Hiway 30, Stanwood, IA • Ph. 945-3321

We support and practice
CONSERVATION



For Everybody's Sake

Koch's Paint & Lumber Co.

Phone 432-7213

105 W. Cedar - Mechanicsville

Pheasants Forever Chapter Helping Local Landowners

Many farmers who are seeding CRP this year will be planting a prairie grass mix thanks to the local PF chapter. The local Pheasants Forever chapter contributes 100% of their budget for the purposes of wildlife habitat development and conservation education. Projects have included land purchases, wildlife shrub plantings, food plots, prairie plantings and the education of local youth and adults.

The chapter saw the benefits of offering prairie grass seed to participants planning to seed CRP land. Many landowners were more than willing to establish prairie, but obtaining small quantities of prairie seed can be expensive due to distant supply locations. So the PF chapter opted to buy the seed in bulk and distribute it locally. The PF chapter also offered \$25 per acre to CRP participants to offset the cost of the seed.

The advantages of planting prairie versus brome or reeds canary grass are noteworthy. A prairie planting consisting of big bluestem, Indian grass, switchgrass and side oats gramma offers a diverse stand for birds to use for nesting. It also provides runways for the birds since prairie species grow in clumps instead of the matted cover that one sees in brome and reeds canary stands. Birds use the runways between the clumps when predators are in pursuit. Yet, the biggest advantage is the fact that the prairie, a native of Iowa, is made to stand throughout the winter months, even in heavy snow like we saw here this year. Unlike the brome and canary, the all prairie will hold up under the weight of the snow providing insulated cover in the dead of winter.

The Cedar-Wapsi Pheasants Forever Chapter will be celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. The chapter's banquet is March 30 and will be held at Hi Way Gardens in Stanwood. For additional information contact Rick Rouse at 886-6930.

County Bids New Land Into CRP

Cedar county land accepted into the 1995 CRP included 120 acres of filter strips, 26 acres of grassed waterways and 109 acres of whole fields. Total acres accepted were smaller than in the past but the large number of filter strips was significant. The increased interest in filter strips was due in part to a 10% incentive offered to landowners who would seed down 66 to 99 foot strips along

streams. As a result, approximately 40,000 linear feet of stream edges in Cedar county will be seeded to grasses.

Filter strips along creeks and rivers are very effective in filtering sediment from storm runoff. A tall grass planting along a flooded stream tends to act like an air filter on a gasoline engine. The moving water is cleaned as it flows through the grass. This results in cleaner water moving downstream.

Filter strips also help stabilize eroding stream banks. Grasses used in strips send deep grass roots into the soil. Tall grasses are capable of transpiring large quantities of soil moisture. These 2 factors provide dryer, more stable soil, capable of handling wild stream flows. For streams with unstable banks, filter strips make good sense, especially if eligible for the CRP.

Other features are just as important. Strips provide protection from spraying applications and of course, filter strips provide a good alternative to cropping right up to the bank. Wildlife is benefited, too (see Pheasants Forever article).

The future of CRP is still unknown. Rules on expiring contracts and future sign-ups have not been received. However, it certainly sounds as though additional sign-ups will be offered.

CRP participants should look for an upcoming CRP meeting this spring. The District is planning to present some interesting statistics from speakers who have experience in converting grassland to crops and pasture.



Virgil Schmidt, ISU extension field specialist, scouted one of 9 alfalfa plots on the Mike Pacha farm near Long Grove during the Eastern Iowa Hay Producers' Field Day July 12.

Windbreaks Can Benefit Those In Country Or Town

The term windbreak brings to mind a large tree planting, snugly wrapped around the farmstead. Rows of trees, growing ever denser as the branches entwine to form a snow stopping barricade, slow the force of the winter wind. But folks in town can benefit from a backyard windbreak as well. Just a few evergreen trees planted on the north and west sides of the property can do a lot to

Page 3 Soil Conservation February 28, 1996 protect the homeowner from the winter chill.

Song birds use evergreens for winter shelter. The branches also provide a secure nesting site. Bird feeders located near the trees make for hours of bird-watching pleasure.

Shrubs planted in a row parallel to the trees add flowering beauty in the spring. Shade trees included in the landscape provide relief from the summer heat and reduce air-conditioning needs.

Planting a backyard windbreak adds to the beauty as well as the value of any property.

We Encourage You to...

Reap the Profits of Good Soil Conservation Practices

It makes sense for you and for the generations to come.



Serving you for 121 years

West Branch State Bank

127 West Main, West Branch • Phone 643-5344

MEMBER F.D.I.C.

GET On Classified Advertising SOLD

NOW GET NO-TILL ABILITY WITH CASE INTERNATIONAL DRILL TECHNOLOGY



The Case International 5400 no-till drill utilizes a heavy-duty caddy that's brawny where you need it: big hydraulic carrying cylinders, heavy hubs and spindles, factory-assembled coulter brackets and a unique underslung front hitch. The caddy is available separately to upgrade your existing 5400 mulch-till drill.

Davis Farm Equipment

102 Cedar Street, Tipton
Phone 319-886-6175

© 1994 CASE CORPORATION
Case IH is a registered trademark of Case Corporation.

CASE IH

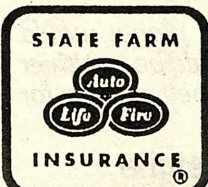
WEATHER THE STORM with State Farm Crop/Hail Insurance



Trust Me For Your Insurance Needs!

Gordon Olseen,
Agent and Staff

200 East 5th St., Tipton
Phone: (319) 886-6120



Like a good neighbor,
State Farm is there.™

State Farm Fire and Casualty Company • Home Office: Bloomington, Illinois

-1995 Annual Report-

1995 Annual Report

IM BUDGET

1995 Allocation		\$2500.00
Supplemental allocation	\$1200.00	
Office supplies & expense	2640.76	
Commissioner expenses	951.68	
Returned to DSC	107.56	

IOWA FINANCIAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM

1995 Allocation		\$37,585.00
Amount Spent	\$34,221.18	
Amount Obligated (unspent)	2,000.00	
Released to DSC 12/31/95	1,363.82	

RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT & PROTECTION (REAP)

REAP WATER PROTECTION PRACTICES

1995 Allocation		\$6266.00
Amount Spent	\$3,860.50	
Released to DSC 12/29/95	2,405.50	

REAP FORESTRY NATIVE GRASS

1995 Allocation		\$1,464.00
Amount Spent	\$1,223.99	
Released to DSC 12/29/95	240.01	

ORGANIC NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

1995 Allocation		\$11,221.00
Amount Spent	\$9,370.00	
Released to DSC 12/29/95	1,851.00	

1995 NEW COOPERATORS

John Poduska, Leon Achey, Stephen Person, Orin

Prairie Talks Get Organic Library Grant

In response to a growing interest among producers and consumers to learn more about organic agriculture, Prairie Talk, a local group of farmers and consumers applied for, and received a grant to purchase videos, books and audiotapes on organic farming methods. This special collection will be housed at the Solon Public Library and will be available via interlibrary loan to public library patrons throughout Iowa.

Funding for the collection came from Shared Visions, which is supported

in part by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Shared Visions is a collaborative effort of Practical Farmers of Iowa, Iowa State University Extension and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. The purpose of Shared Visions is to develop community-based groups in Iowa that will provide the support and teamwork needed to encourage the acceptance and use of farming systems that are financially and environmentally sustainable.

Prairie Talk along with area businesses will be sponsoring an open house at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 12 at St. Mary's Auditorium in Solon. Press

Wallick, Richard Hall, Robert Brewer, Howard Siegl, Lucille Kirk, William Penningroth, Al Meier, Steve Hudrik, Fred Horstman Jr., Herbert Bain, Durwood Dircks, Lloyd Hein, Lyle Beaver, LaVerne Fogg, Charles Jones, Leland Smith, Leonard Hoffman, David Ows, Harlan Howe, Myron Walker Jr., Verne Folkmann, James Dodds, Betz Trust, June Eiler, Arlene Ross, John Werling, Denny Hulse, Fobian Bros. c/o Kenneth, Ronald Mohr, Darrell Yutesler, Glenn Pedersen, John Dane, Mike Melchart, Scott Worrell, Carol Smith, Adeline Mowry, Delano Berg, Marie Shaull, R.K. Williams, J. David Tripp, Rebecca Penningroth, Wesley Miller, David Tatman, Harry Hoot and Karen Arensdorf.

FIELD OFFICE STAFF

Mark Fehseke District Conservationist
Judy A. Hagan Soil Conservation Technician
Lora Schmidt District Secretary
Eloise Manning Green Thumb Inc.
Brenda Turley Soil Conservation Aide
Kathy Walter Soil Conservation Aide
Terri Parry Soil Conservation Aide

COOPERATING AGENCIES

Jerry Long ISU Extension Director
Steve Swinonos District Forester
Tim Thompson Wildlife Mgt. Biologist
Alan Schmidt FSA CED Director
Dustan Svoboda Farm Credit Manager
Rick Rouse County Conservation Board
Wayne Fischer U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

1995 DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Randy Mather Gower Township

and public are invited. A panel of area farmers will discuss opportunities in organic farming and Prairie Talk's organic farming library collection will be available for public viewing.

Tree Seedling Bundles Offered For Sale

The SWCD is offering tree seedlings for sale to rural and town landowners. The proceeds are used in Cedar county to help fund conservation education programs, such as poster contests, scholarships, 3rd grade tree distribution, Soil Stewardship materials and conservation activities.

The seedlings are sold in bundles of 25 and are hardy, bareroot stock. Varieties available are Red Cedar, American Arborvitae, Blue Spruce, Norway spruce, Scotch pine, White pine, White ash, Hackberry, Lilac, Red oak, Bur oak, Pin oak, White oak

and Walnut. Also offered are 2 packages--Shade Tree (15 trees) and Wildlife food (12 trees).

Trees are obtained through a local nursery.

For more information call the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District at 886-6214. The deadline for ordering is March 1.

Name District Award Winners

Each year the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners award two \$200 college or vocational scholarships. These are awarded to county seniors that will be pursuing an education in agricultural or environmental related fields.

The 1995 winners were Michael Yearous and Teresa Mathias. Michael, the son of Dennis and Barbara Yearous, Mechanicsville, is attending Northwest Missouri State University and majoring in wildlife biology or environmental studies. Teresa,

Michael Walter Cass Township
Richard Kreinbring Springfield Township
Randall Shaull Red Oak Township
(resigned in May)
Rita Mays Farmington Township
Mike Moes Jr. Red Oak Township
(began in May)

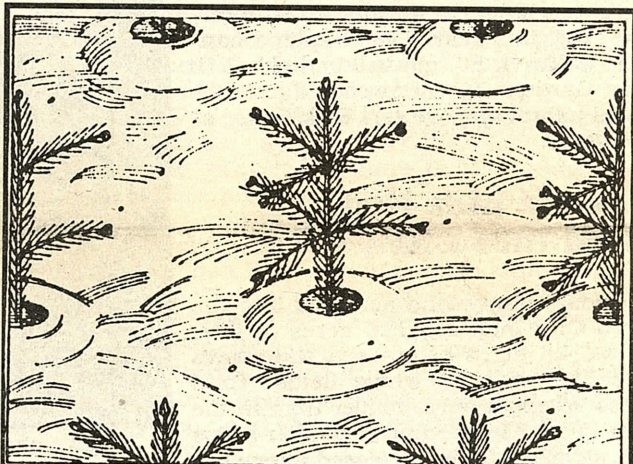
1995 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Millicent Zenishek Fremont Township
Richard Zenishek Fremont Township
Steve Leazer Farmington Township
Joel Brown Pioneer township
Kevin Kelly Center Township

FISCAL YEAR 1995 SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New District Cooperators 48 no.
Land Users Assisted 857 no.
Land Users Reporting a
Conservation Practice 206 ac.
FSA Plans Revised 12,379 ac.
Cropland Erosion Reduced 17,601 tons
Conservation Tillage 11,313 ac.
Contour Farming 3,159 ac.
Contour buffer strips 444 ac.
Water and Sediment Control Basins 5 ea.
Wildlife wetland structures 1 no.
Terraces 1,590 ft.
Ponds 5 no.
Grassed Waterways 47 ac.
Ag Waste Structures 4 no.
Waste Utilization Plans 4 no.
Streambank Erosion Control Plantings 1 no.
Tree Plantings 15 ac.
Windbreaks 26 no.

Crime Stoppers 886-6618



"Insure" our future -
Practice environmental conservation.
Niermeyer Ins. Service, Ltd.
624 Lombard, Clarence
Phone 452-3905

BE AN EARTH PROTECTOR

**Rex Feed &
Elevator**

Lowden

LATTA

Well & Pump

- Well Drilling
- Pumps
- Water Systems
- Repairs and Service

Call: 732-3721
Wilton, Iowa

or 1-800-354-3161

**What do you think
would happen if each
and every one of us:**

Planted a tree? • Turned off an unnecessary light? • Reused products instead of buying new? • Refused to use plastic shopping bags? • Recycled! • Or 1001 other things that would help improve the environment?

The answer is simple. Our planet would thrive, our environment would be healthier and the world would be a better place for us and our children.

**Mechanicsville
Trust and
Savings Bank**

Locally Owned Ph. 432-7291 Member F.D.I.C.

Conservation
PROTECTS OUR GOOD EARTH

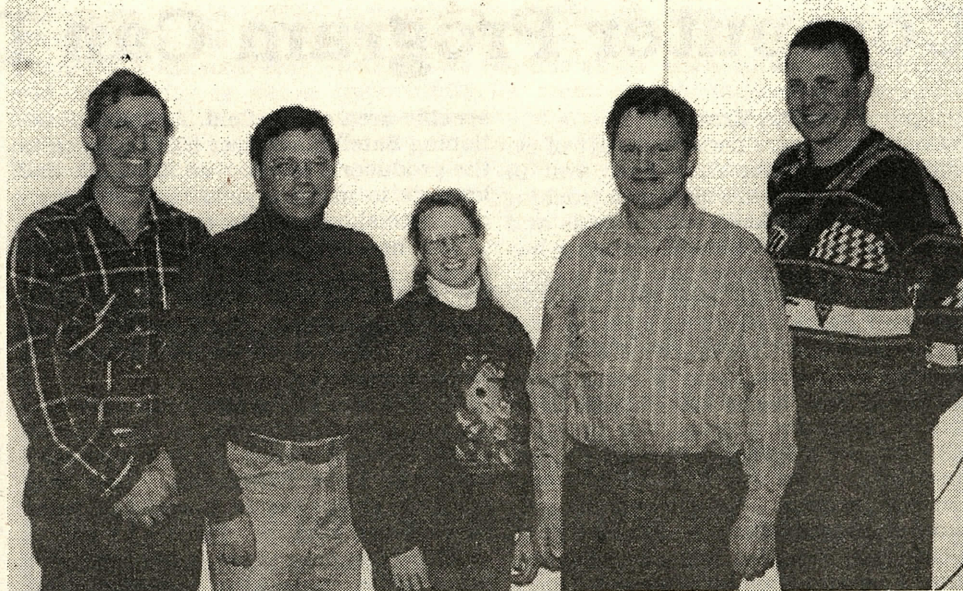
We thank the SCS and area farmers for their commitment to conservation practices.

Bring us your dreams.
HAWKEYE BANK
OF TIPTON

MAIN OFFICE • 102 E. Fifth Street • 886-6181
MOTORBANK • 100 E. Ninth Street



Cedar County Soil and Water Conservation District staff members are, front row, 1-r, Eloise Manning and Brenda Turley. Back row, Mark Fehseke, Lora Schmidt and Judy Hagan.



Cedar County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are, 1-r, Richard Kreinbring, Michael Walter, Rita Mays, Michael Moes Jr. and Randy Mather.

Announce Poster Contest Winners

"The Living Waters," was the theme for the District's 1995 Annual Poster Contest. Students from area schools participated in de-

signing a poster that fit the conservation theme.

Travis Kepler from Lincoln and Amy Rogis from Clarence-Lowden were awarded \$50 Savings Bonds as 1st place winners. Winners in second

place were awarded a \$5 check from the District. They were Adam Sauer and Jennifer Meyer, Lincoln; Wes Schott, Tipton; Matt Drewelow, Rachel Thompson and Ben Ruth-er, Clarence-Lowden.



The Cedar County Soil and Water Conservation District awarded, 1-r, Bev Brown, West Branch, Outstanding Owner/Operator Cooperator; Helen Reynolds, Lake Shore, Minn. and Marks Mays, Wilton, Outstanding Cooperators in the Landlord/Tenant Division and David Owens, Cedar Rapids, absent, new Cooperator.

The Tipton Conservative

The Best Sports Coverage In Any Field

Care for Your Land...

...By using, not abusing our wealth of natural resources. The land should be treated with respect, so that we all may benefit from its rich supply of food, fiber and minerals. As a farmer, you can see to it that what we take from the land is given back... by replenishing and conserving... rotating crops and irrigating... using the land to its fullest, yet leaving time and space for regrowth. As a farmer, you can provide a vital contribution to the future of this nation... by keeping our precious land thriving for generations to come.

The Future Is In YOUR Hands! Practice Farm Conservation And Reap The Rich Rewards!

Cedar Soil Conservation District

TREES • TREES • TREES

- ◆ Reforestations
- ◆ Yard & Farm
- ◆ Wildlife
- ◆ Windbreak • Design & installation

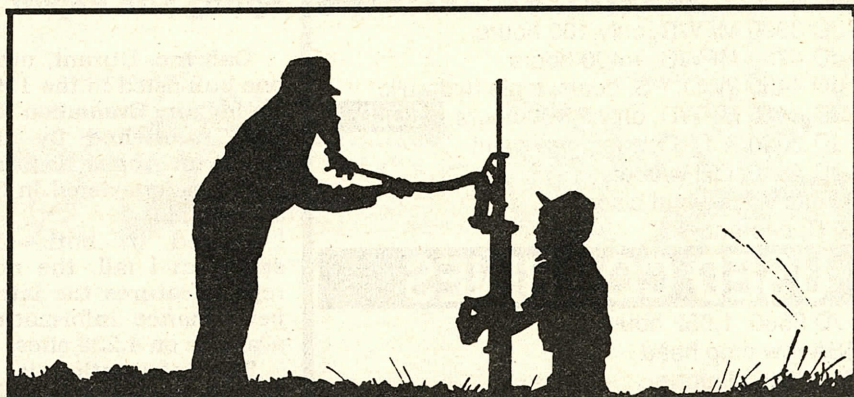


"A Person Never Regrets Planting Trees, They Just Wish They Had Done It Sooner"

Call for our FREE Tree & Windbreak Catalog

KELLY TREE FARM

Tipton
886-2995



Drawing On Today's Strengths To Preserve Tomorrow's Dreams-FS.

The image of the family farm has changed dramatically in recent years. But its heart hasn't. Take crop input management, for example. Your FS Crop Specialist knows that simply prescribing the right fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides isn't good enough. That's why he used the Green Plan to develop a program that maintains a

careful balance between Mother Nature and your bottom line profits.

To learn more about the FS Green Plan® and how we can work together for a better tomorrow, talk to your FS Crop Specialist.



Good Products, Good Service... And Good People.

New Horizon FS Inc.

Lowden • 944-5367
Bennett • 893-2292 Mechanicsville • 432-7231

Computer Program Can Digitize ASCS Field Maps

by Pat Kroemer

Computers have become a part of everyone's life. Computers keep you in touch with others, are used as a teaching tool for children, keep vital records and even balance a check book. Farming has come into the computer age with a computer program to aid area grain farmers with their yields.

The Clarence Cooperative Co. has a program that allows them to take a farmer's ASCS field maps and digitize them onto a computer screen. The program will show the differences in soil samples, breaking it down into 2 to 20 acre section grid samples. This will give the producer an idea of what the soil needs.

Grid soil samples will give the producer a picture of problem areas within a field and what is needed in specific spots. Fertility levels may vary throughout the field.

The cooperative will also be able to process information from yield monitors. The yield monitor in the combine will gather data on yield and moisture. Information from the monitor and soil samples will help explain the yield in a

specific area of the field. A Global Positioning Satellite receiver (GPS) pinpoints the producer's position on longitude and latitude to make a yield map and color code it to show how the field yielded.

The new technologies will allow the producer to determine if he has a problem with a variety of seed, topography, moisture, herbicide, Ph or fertility. Yields and soil tests will be used as a basis for recommendations.

"Sometimes the ground can only produce a certain amount, so there is no need to over fertilize," says cooperative employee Dave Krogmann. "This may justify to the producer it would be feasible to tile an area."

"Good common sense is needed," says Steve Stolte, cooperative employee. "This won't be for every producer at this time."

"We have this available so we can help each operator at his own pace," Krogmann said. "This is still new to us. Technology is changing every day."

The coop says to do this right a producer will someday have to use a yield monitor in the combine and the GPS receiver. Many producers will begin with

just the yield monitors, which will give them a fair idea of what is going on in their fields.

"You want to collect the data and build your data base for a couple of years," Krogmann said. "This will allow us to use the field history to diagnose problems."

"There is a cafeteria of services available and the operator can pick what he wants to do," Stolte said. "This will allow each operator to find his own comfort level."

"Every operator knows of an area in his field where the yield is different,"

Krogmann said. "Now we have the tools to try and pinpoint problems through grid sampling and monitors."

They both agreed the operators need to put their money where they will get the most economical return on their investment. This will vary from operation to operation.

"This is not a new farming tool every operator is going to want," Stolte said. "We have it available and are trying to get all the information we can to help the operators make a decision."

How Fit Are Your Finances?

How fit are your family's finances? Are they in shape or are there some extra bulges? To determine your financial fitness, score yourself on the following checklist. For each item you check, give your family one point.

- We have written financial goals and plans for reaching them.
- We plan for how much we spend each month in specific categories of the budget and for occasional expenses (holidays, birthdays, etc.)
- We know how much of our income is committed to debt payment.
- We have a good system for keeping personal financial records.
- We consult at least 3 sources when making financial decisions.

- We have an updated will.
- We have updated insurance policies for changes in family composition, income, assets, employment, debt, etc.
- We have an updated listing of the location of valuable papers, real estate and personal property, financial and legal advisors, etc.
- We pay ourselves first. Savings and investing are a regular budget item.
- We always pay our bills, including credit payments, in full on or before their due date.

How did you do? Add up your points. If you are not quite a "10," you can improve your score by contacting your local county ISU Extension office for information to help you get your finances in shape.

Pesticide Applicators Education Meeting

Private pesticide applicators are advised to attend the one of the last Cedar county continuing education credit sessions to be held at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. March 7. The sessions will be held in the Hawkeye Bank meeting room in the basement.

Over 300 private applicators have attended the continuing education credit courses for certifying and recertifying their pesticide application permits, according to Jerry Long, Cedar county extension director. The continuing credit courses provide an opportunity for farm applicators to update their knowledge on the practices of farm chemicals in their crop production. In addition, gray leaf-spot disease of corn, water hemp weed control and soybean cyst nematodes

have been addressed during the pesticide update sessions.

Any private pesticide applicator needing the credit or license renewal should contact the Extension office (319-886-6157) for reservations at either of the two sessions. The attendance at this meeting will provide the certification credits needed for the 1995 year. For the applicators who have permits that expired in December of 1995, they have the option for renewing their permit for another 3 years by attending a recertification session or by taking a test. Both recertification and/or the test will renew for another 3-year period.

For additional information or registration for the meetings, call the extension office.

Area Angler Will Receive Print Award

Craig Kling, New Liberty, has been invited to receive the 1995 Trophy Fish Print Award at the Eastern Iowa Sports, Boat, R.V. and Vacation Show in Cedar Falls March 9-10 in recognition of the trophy fish caught in Iowa waters and registered with the DNR in 1994.

"Trophy Fish" awardees will receive a 4 color, signed and serialized print commemorating the 1995 Trophy Fish they caught in Iowa waters. In previous years, the award has been a one color print.

GET SOLD

On Classified Advertising

USED TRACTORS

1995 JD 8300 MFWD, only 100 hours
1993 JD 4760 MFWD, 1,400 hours
1988 JD 4450 2WD, PS, duals, triple hydraulic
1987 JD 4450 MFWD, only 2,400 hours **SOLD**
1980 JD 2640 & 146 loader, new paint
1979 JD 4640, QR w/duals
IH 560 gas w/load and blade
IH 806 D, overhauled

USED COMBINES

1992 JD 9500, 1,052 hours
JD 653A row crop head
JD 13' cutting platform
2 JD 643 corn heads - low tin
1981 JD 444, low tin
1980 JD 6620 sidehill
1977 JD 7700 turbo hydro.

USED PLANTERS

JD 7200 12-row 30" (used 2 years)
JD 7000 4-row (3)
Dry fertilizer for JD 7000 6-row

MISCELLANEOUS

Used JD 450 spreader
Used RM-630 JD cult.
Krause 6-30" min till cult.
Krause 15' one pass tool
IH 133 4-row C-shank, cult. rolling shields
JD 722 12' mulch finisher **SOLD**

Strackbein's, Inc.

Lowden - 944-5393
Tipton - 886-3181



Tom Schwarz - 944-5219
Wayne Deerberg - 886-6108 • Ed Noel - 374-1328

Durant Angus Breeder Has Bull In Spring Sire Report

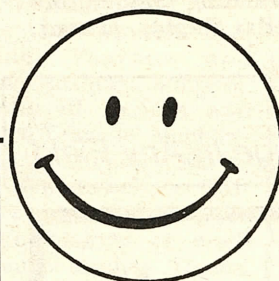
Oah Inc, Durant, owns one bull listed in the 1996 Spring Sire Evaluation Report published by the American Angus Association, headquartered in St. Joseph, Mo.

Issued in both the spring and fall, the new report features the latest performance information available on 4,236 sires.

The information is in the form of Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs). It is compiled from Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) submitted by breeders to the American Angus Association.

"EPDs are excellent indicators of the genetic merit animals have for specific traits," says John Crouch, director of performance programs for the American Angus Association. When using EPDs with high accuracy values, cattle producers can depend on EPDs for predicting performance.

Traits for which EPDs are available include birth weight, weaning weight, milk, yearling weight, mature daughter size and scrotal circumference. Available carcass traits including marbling, rib eye area and external fat thickness are also listed in the report.



FOR RENT

JD 750 no-till drills 15' grass seed \$8.50/acre
JD 30' conventional drill, real acre-eater
Discounts for early confirmed bookings and volume acres

FOR SALE

JD 7000 4, 6, 8, 12 row planters
IH 800 8-30 planter
10 KINZE SB push units
JD 750 no-till drill 13000
JD 8300 12' 1 press, GS
JD 8300 w/press wheels
IH 5100 12' w/press wheels
JD Van Brunt 12' w/GS
New Dawn, Martin & Yetter planter attachments
New Westendorf loaders
New M&W & Rhino equipment
For All Your Planting And Tillage Needs Contact

BOWIE EQUIPMENT

Hwy 38 North, Tipton, IA
319-886-6946

All Kinds of Conservation Work

Clearing & Site Work

Crees Construction

Everett Crees - 649-2247
John Crees - 649-2597
Neal Crees - 946-2794

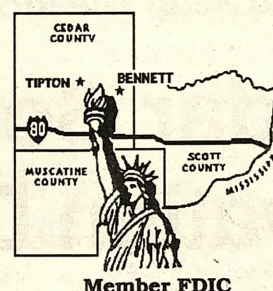
You know us -
We know you

...that's what really matters.



We're not much for using superlatives - always someone out there who has a better this or that... but we'd

go nose to nose with anyone when it comes to quality of our personal service and community commitment.



BENNETT STATE BANK

Bennett • 893-2272
Tipton • 886-6092

Member FDIC

No-Till Contest Winners Named

Robert Regennitter and Robert Herring had the top yields in the 1995 Cedar County Soil and Water District No-till contest.

The District sponsors the no-till contest each year. Winners receive \$25 for first place, \$15 for second and \$10 for third place in the corn and bean categories. Producers can enter a field in the contest throughout the growing season.

The contest is similar to the Master Contest, except that residue measurements are not required. There is no entry fee and any no-tiller is eligible to enter.

The results of the 1995 contest are as follows: Corn on bean yields, Robert Regennitter, 175.17; Kevin Hartwig, 163.19 and Victor Kimberling, 160.60. Bean on corn yields, Robert Herring, 65.54; Kevin Hartwig,

60.13 and Robert Regennitter, 55.31.

New Dividend Hail Insurance Program Offered

Iowa corn growers have the opportunity to protect their crop revenue against hail damage by participating in a new innovative and progressive form of hail insurance this year. The Iowa Corn Growers Association (ICGA) and IGF Insurance Company of Des Moines have teamed up with local independent agents throughout Iowa to provide ICGA members with a new dividend hail insurance program to protect their corn, soybeans, oats and other eligible

crops.

Today's producer operates a large business that should be able to take advantage of some of the same benefits previously extended to manufacturers, contractors and other professionals," said Glen Moeller, ICGA President. "The basic premise behind HAILPLUS PROTECTION is to provide Iowa crop producers with the same benefits that other professions and businesses have when it comes to group insurance programs.

"The benefit of this hail insurance policy is the expanded coverage and the dividend that would be paid at the end of the year if losses from hail are low," said Moeller a corn grower

from Davenport.

ICGA members that participate in HAILPLUS PROTECTION, will receive a dividend if the total year-end loss ratio is below 50%. Additional insurance coverage provided in HAILPLUS PROTECTION includes vandalism, substitute crop provisions, additional replant options

and more.

"Farmers need to work cooperatively in programs like this to be more competitive. We see this as an opportunity for members to save money and another reason to join the ICGA," said Moeller. To be eligible for this policy, producers must already be a member of or join the Iowa Corn

Growers Association. The policy is written by IGF Insurance Co. of Des Moines and is available from more than 400 participating local independent crop insurance agents throughout Iowa. For more information on HAILPLUS PROTECTION contact IGF Insurance Co. by calling 1-800-638-6835.

FAX Transmission

If you need to send or receive copies on a facsimile machine... we can help.

The Tipton Conservative

Call 886-2131 for more information.

Soil Conservation is Important to Our Future!

The Liqui-Grow Program adapts well to Soil Conservation.

- ❖ Split Nitrogen ❖ Banded P & K
- ❖ Special Conservation tillage starter fertilizers
- ❖ Pop-Up starter fertilizers
- ❖ Injected N & P & K

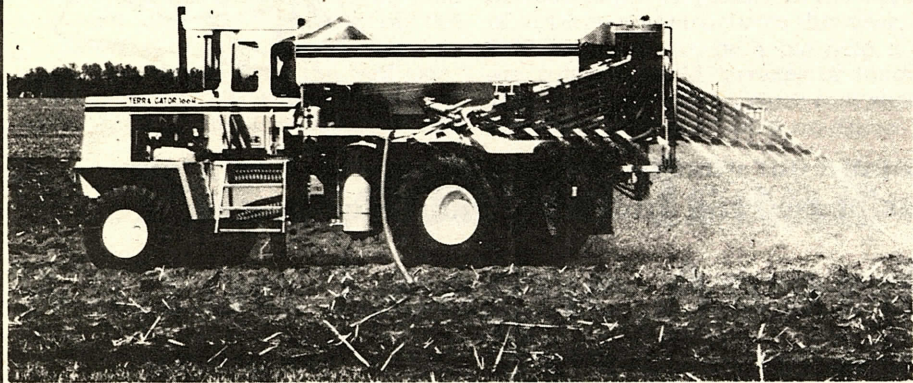
Liqui-Grow.
BALANCED FERTILIZERS

Larry Reed, Manager Gary Burke
Ken Harding Lori Crook Lori Lett

TIPTON, IOWA
319-886-3200

We proudly support Conservation.

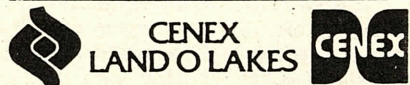
**Get An Application Job
You Can Depend On**



The environment is important to everyone. It is, after all, our source of both income and enjoyment.

At your local cooperative, we can help you profitably grow crops while protecting the environment. It requires a careful balance of production inputs, experience and Best Management Practices.

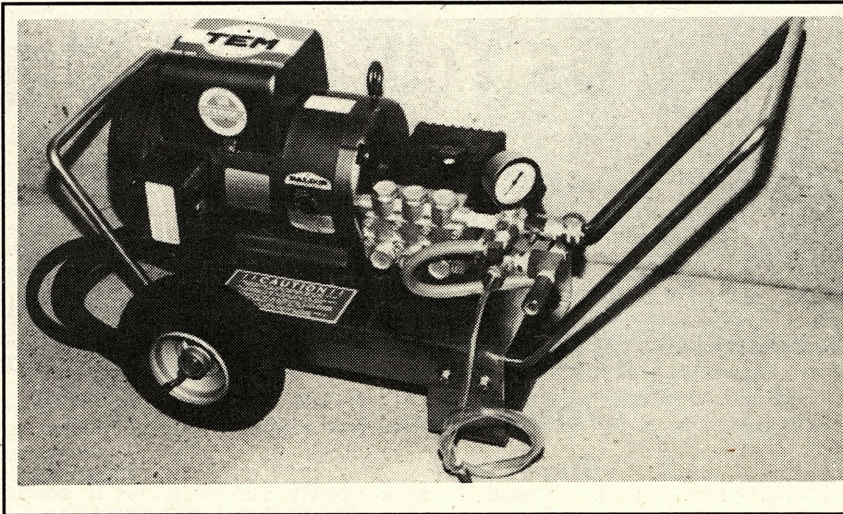
Let's work together to protect our priceless resources - for generations to come.



Clarence Cooperative Co.

Serving Area Farmers Through 8 Locations In Eastern Iowa

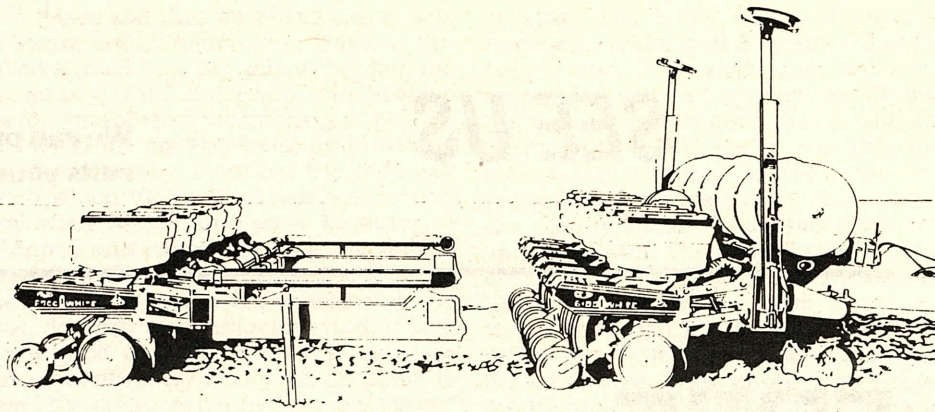
Conserve Your Equipment and Facilities, Too. KEEP THEM CLEAN with a TEM Pressure Washer!



CALL NOW!

Tipton Electric Motors
107 W. 2nd, Tipton • Phone 886-3134

Just Back, Attach And Plant Narrow Rows

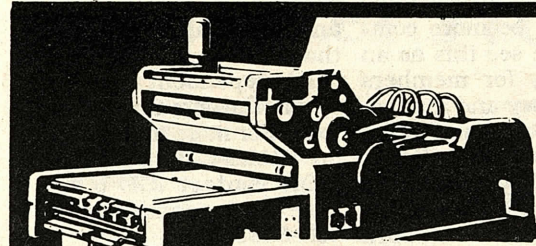


*Get the canopy advantages of a drill
with the accuracy and precision of a planter.*

- Go from wide (40" to 30") rows to narrow rows (20" to 15") simply by adding our narrow row attachment.
- Just a few simple steps and you're ready to plant.
- Easy-to-fill, big, 2-bushel seed hoppers.
- Uses the same time-proven positive air metering system as our base planters for accurate seed spacing and precise depth control.
- Select solid or skip row, mounted or semi-mounted for White pull-type air planters.
- Choose 3-, 5-, 7-, 9- or 11-row attachments to fit your base planter.
- 9- and 11-row attachments fold like our 12-row planter.
- Interchangeable seed discs available for soybeans, corn, sweetcorn, popcorn, sorghum, milo, acid delinted cotton, sugar beets and others.
- Ask about competitive financing plans.

Hunwardsen Equipment
Clarence, Ia. • Ph. 452-3246

WHITE
BY WHITE-NEW IDEA



QUALITY PRINTING

at reasonable prices!!

“Our Business Is Built On Service And Quality”

Make Us Your “One Stop” Press Center

Business Cards

Letters

Wedding Announcements

Price Lists

All Office Forms

Time Cards

Menus

Letterheads

Brochures

Business Machine Forms

No-Carbon Forms

Tickets

Posters

Envelopes

Books

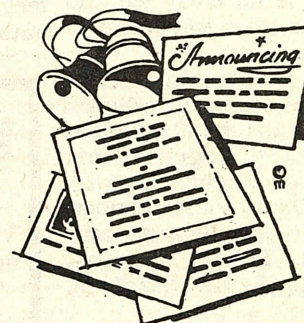
Typesetting

Snap-Apart Forms

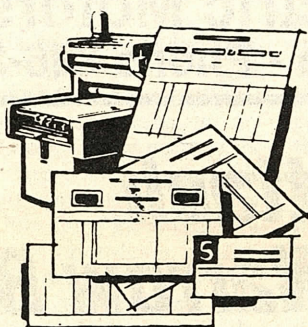
Cards

Labels

Sale Bills



Or whatever your printing needs may be

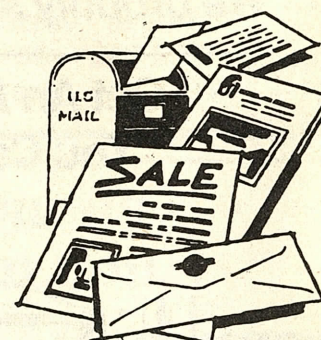


Before You Order
Register Forms
or Business Forms



SEE US

We can provide you with the form that
suits your exact need at reasonable prices.



FREE
ESTIMATES

Call us, compare our quality, prices and service. You'll join
the many businesses and private individuals we now serve.

The Tipton Conservative

Phone 886-2131