Soil and Water Conservation Week Special

6-24-65

Erosion By Water Problem To Mills County Farmers

Erosion by water is the dominant problem on over 100,000 acres of our county's cropland, according to Albert Washburn, chairman of the Mills County Soil Conservation District.

Many of our soils are losing from 10 to 40 tons of soil per acre per year. These losses may not always be readily visible to the casual observer. The soil may move off in a sheet with only small rills occurring which are readily covered up by the next plowing.

Washburn was quick to point out the loss of applied fertilizer, organic matter, soil moisture, and eventual loss in fertility and crop production. He says, "The problem of the soil loss on this land does not stop here. The movement of this soil downstream creates many, many problems on lands and water areas below.

"Problems of siltation on adjoining lands, siltation of farm ponds, drainage systems, lakes and rivers are very much in evidence. This usually results in damage to our fish, wildlife, and recreational resources.

"In many instances the moving silt and added volume of running water creates costly gullies which void our lands, causes increased maintenance to roads and bridges, and increased taxes. Gullies do not enhance the rural beauty of Iowa."

Although our conservation farmers have made substantial progress in conserving soil on over 110,000 acres of cropland, it can be seen we have a long way to go.

Water control is an important part of our conservation program. We know that contour farming and terracing can reduce soil losses to only a few tons per acre. Our new modern terrace systems are the most effective conservation practice we have in controlling water, soil losses, and erosion.

These new terrace designs are not only effective in erosion control, they also permit the utilization of modern, multi-row, high-speed equipment and an actual reduction in slope. All this, with good management, permits more intensive cropping, maintenance of and/or increasing crop yields with a minimum of equipment costs and maintenance.

Farmers interested in the new terrace design with improved alignment may obtain assistance by contacting the local Soil Conservation office.

District Commissioners

Pictured here are the Mills County Soil Conservation District commissioners. They are, left to right: Myron Jones, Dale Lincoln, and Albert Washburn, chairman.

Soil Exhibit At County Fair

The U. S. Soil Conservation Service and Mills County Soil Conservation District will co-sponsor a soil survey exhibit at the Mills County Fair in August.

The exhibit consists of 32 enlarged color photographs that explain how soil surveys are made and the many ways they are used in rural and urban areas alike.

As far as the SCS knows, it is the only exhibit of its kind in the U. S. and they would like for everyone to take this opportunity to see it.

Eighty per cent of the farmers in Mills county are cooperators with the Mills County Soil Conservation District.

Pasture Management Important For Forage

Proper management of pastures must be followed to obtain high yields of quality forage throughout the grazing season, according to Keith Glandon, SCS work unit conservationist.

A balanced pasture program consists of (1) permanent, (2) rotational, and (3) supplemental pastures to provide grazing during the pasture season.

After proper liming and fertilization has been carried out in establishing a pasture, it is essential to follow this with regular top-dressing applications. For most soils in this county, top-dressings should be made every two years. Phosphate and potash applications will increase legume growth, while nitrogen stimulates the grasses.

Increased yields can be realized by using rotational and controlled grazing on all types of pastures, with the possible exception of unimproved bluegrass. Yields of forage from alfalfa-grass mixtures can be increased as much as 25 per cent by using three or four rotated areas within a field. Increased yields can also be expected from trefoil-grass when rotational grazing is used.

Clipping at the proper stage of weed and forage growth will help eliminate weeds and stimulate uniform growth of forage. Iowa pastures need clipping at least twice during the grazing season. The first clipping should be made when early weeds are in bud or blossom and the pasture grasses are beginning to head. A later clipping is needed just before the "ragweed and goldenrod" season. Weeds may also be controlled in grass pastures (no legumes) by using a well planned chemical spray program.

When legume-grass mixtures become unbalanced in species, it is usually best to completely improve the pasture by applying lime and fertilizer according to needs and reseed to the desired species. Experience has shown that when reseeding it pays to prepare a new seedbed rather than use a "shotgun seeding" on the existing pasture. Reseeding can be delayed in legume-grass mixtures after the legume has "gone out" by using nitrogen fertilizer on the grass.

Forage must be utilized by livestock to be of value. Pasture cost and return data indicates that profitable pastures are those which produce high yields of quality forage which in turn is fully utilized by high producing livestock. Proper management practices, including the livestock program, aid in getting optimum production and the most profitable returns from any type of pasture.

Broom corn is a grass from which brooms and clothes brushes are made.

Girls Invited To Try For Queen Of Conservation

The sixth annual queen of conservation contest will be held this summer with an Iowa farm girl being crowned as Iowa's "Queen of Conservation" in September.

The 1965 "Queen of Conservation" contest is again being co-sponsored by the Farmers Grain Dealers Association of Iowa (Cooperative) of Des Moines and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Iowa.

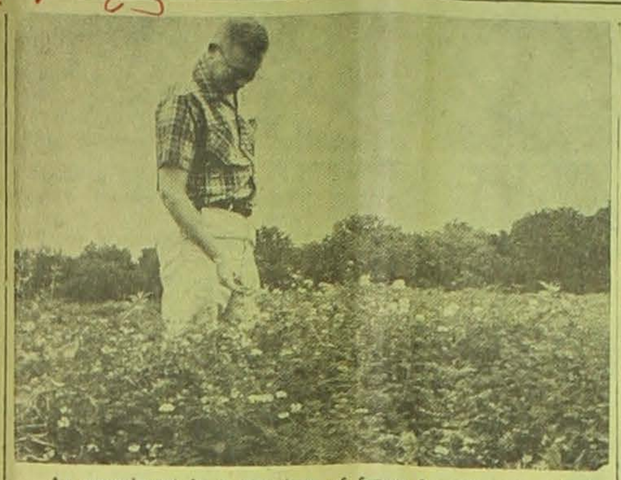
The contest is open to all single Iowa farm girls between the ages of 16 and 21 who will not be over 21 prior to the state contest September 9. The queen will be chosen on the basis of poise, personality, intelligence, ability to converse and personal attractiveness. She will also be required to have a general knowledge of soil conservation, farmer cooperatives, and agriculture in general.

The Mills County Soil and Water Conservation District will hold its contest Wednesday evening, July 28, and the winners will be announced during the Mills County Fair. Two girls will be chosen to represent Mills county in the regional contest at Clarinda on August 5. The regional winner will then compete with girls from Iowa's eight other regions for the title of Iowa's "Queen of Conservation."

The two winners from each district will receive attractive charm bracelets. Each regional winner will receive a ladies wrist watch and the state winner a check for $250.

The first official duty of the 1965 queen will be to serve as hostess for the Iowa Soil and Water Conservation District Field Day and State Contour Plowing match to be held at Corning on September 9 and 10.

Official entry blanks for the local contest can be obtained from the Mills County Soil Conservation District office or the Mills County Extension office in Malvern. All entries must be returned to the Soil Conservation District office by Monday, July 19.



An experiment in a new type of forage for this area is being conducted at the Myron Jones farm six miles southeast of Glenwood. Pictured here is Keith Glandon, work unit conservationist for the Mills County SCS, looking over some Emerald Crownvetch which is ideal for permanent pastures. Advantages of this legume plant are that it does not cause bloating in cattle and it is hard to over-graze. The SCS is hoping to harvest seed from this particular patch since the plant is rare in this area and seed costs about five dollars a pound. O-T Photo

Plan To Harvest Seed Of Emerald Crownvetch

Emerald crownvetch seed will be harvested later this summer from a plot located on district commissioner Myron Jones' farm. This 2½-acre plot was planted last year, was fairly well established last fall and has made good growth this spring, reports the Soil Conservation office.

Seed plots such as the one on the Jones farm have been started throughout the state to help increase the supply of seed available and in turn reduce the cost of seed from its present level of $3 to $5 per pound.

After several years of observation, the U. S. Soil Conservation Service and Iowa Agricultural Experiment station selected Emerald as the variety best suited for use in permanent pasture on areas unsuitable for Birdsfoot Trefoil. Present indications are that this hardy legume is well adapted to the high lime drouthy soils of western Iowa.

Crownvetch is an early starting, rapid growing legume which thrives on a highly permeable, calcareous soil with good fertility. While not adapted for use as a hay crop due to its rank growth, preliminary research shows that cattle readily graze the legume and maintain normal daily gains in beef cattle and normal levels of milk production in dairy animals.

Under proper pasture management, crownvetch will withstand grazing better than alfalfa. No cases of bloat or animal losses have been reported from grazing this plant.

A broker was originally a retailer of goods belonging to another.

Gov. Proclaims Conservation Week

Governor Harold Hughes has signed a proclamation designating the week of June 20-27 as Soil and Water Conservation Week in Iowa. The proclamation follows:

"WHEREAS, the development of Iowa land and water resources through soil and water conservation, flood prevention, and wise land use, is essential to maintain agricultural income and protect the economy and tax base of this State; and

"WHEREAS, the State of Iowa and the one hundred soil conservation districts within the State are coordinating and carrying forward a constructive program of soil and water conservation and flood prevention work; and

"WHEREAS, it is imperative that we continue to advance our cooperative efforts in soil and water conservation work, particularly in small watersheds, where opportunities are presented to further this important work:

"NOW, THEREFORE, I, Harold E. Hughes, Governor of the State of Iowa, in order to call attention to the importance of this work, do hereby proclaim the week of June 20 through 27, 1965, as SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION WEEK in Iowa, and respectfully urge organizations and citizens of our State to participate in the programs in order that we may place even greater emphasis on this important work."

A Passing Thought

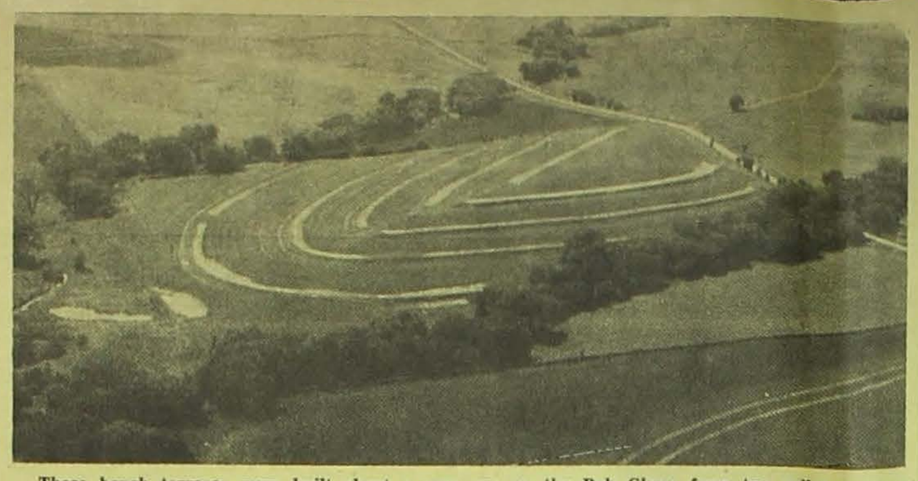
By Keith Glandon

In this day of science and technological advancement we often tend to take our only means of survival for granted; namely our soil and water.

We tend to think of the earth's surface as a vast garden that cannot be depleted of food or fiber.

Actually, the earth's surface consists of 33 billion acres of which less than three billion acres produce crops. Ninety-three per cent of this area is used to produce edible crops of which 71 per cent is grain. Most of the 7 per cent in non-food crops is planted to fibers—mostly cotton.

You may think of finding new cropland (but not economically to produce food for us in the future, but what is really happening is that we are loosing more acres down our rivers than we are finding.



These bench terraces were built about a year ago on the Bob Glynn farm two miles northeast of Tabor. O-T Photo

Bench Terraces Proving Successful In Third Year

In 1963, only one farm in Mills county was experimenting with bench terraces. Frank Schoening's farm, four miles north of Glenwood on the telephone road, was used as an experiment by the Mills County Soil Conservation Service.

Seeing that bench terracing is successful on hilly ground, more Mills county farmers are leaning toward this method of halting erosion while at the same time making farming more convenient.

Bench terraces are built from the bottom side of the slope and are more suitable for fields that have a 10 to 16 per cent slope, says Paul Jacobson, state soil conservation engineer.

The conventional system of building terraces uses earth from the top side of the slope for construction. This system has the effect of increasing existing slopes by about four per cent. On land over 10 per cent slope this would make difficult farming even more difficult.

When terraces are built from the bottom side in a level bench design, erosion and cultural practices eventually create a nearly level bench of land. The steep downhill slopes between the level benches are seeded to permanent vegetation.

Jacobson suggests that farmers will find that they can work the level benches more easily with less wear on the equipment. Terraces will also reduce the amount of crops being destroyed by downhill sliding of equipment. The terrace spacings are adjusted so that the multiple of rows will fit four-row equipment as the bench of land is formed.

The terraces are built parallel so nearly all point rows can be eliminated. Because of the cut and fill needed and the benching effect, the topsoil must be relatively deep so cuts as deep as two feet can be made without exposing infertile subsoil, Jacobson says.

As the bench becomes level the soil moisture held by the terrace spreads evenly over the leveled area. Most of the runoff water can be stored in the soil after a rain. This raises crop yields in areas of low rainfall.

One advantage of terraces is that row crops can be used more often in a rotation. A normal conservation rotation for a 14 per cent slope without terraces is one year of corn out of six, a year of oats and four years of meadow.

In areas of low rainfall four years of meadow may deplete subsoil moisture reserves to the extent that not enough moisture is available for corn the next year. With a developed level bench terrace, a more intensive rotation including a high percentage of row crops can be grown.

Although about 40 per cent of the bench terraced cropland is in permanent vegetation, more income can be obtained from the remaining level cropland than from the steep slopes before terracing. Jacobson suggests a rise from an annual income of $10 per unterraced acre to over $23 when the bench terraces are developed.

SCS Is 30 Years Old

The Soil Conservation Service is 30 years old. On April 27, 1935, Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Public Law 46, enacted by the 74th Congress without a dissenting vote. The Act declared soil and water conservation on farm, grazing, and forest lands of the nation to be a permanent policy of the Congress, and it established the Soil Conservation Service in the Department of Agriculture.

Minimum Tillage Helps Combat Soil And Water Loss

Minimum tillage can offer real advantages in controlling soil and water loss in row crop production, says Frank Schaller, extension agronomist at Iowa State University.

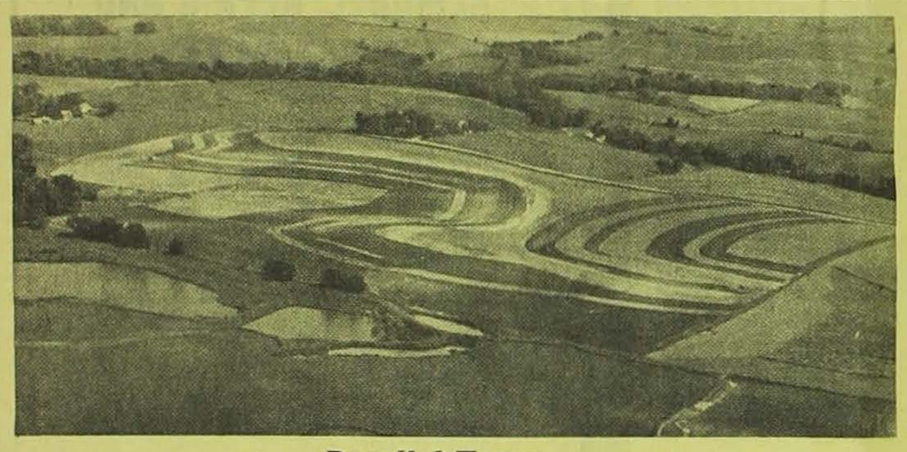
Corn Belt experiment stations report that water runoff is frequently cut in half and soil loss is cut to one-third by using minimum tillage as compared with conventional methods. Corn yields for both systems of tillage were about the same. In seasons where moisture is especially limited, somewhat higher yields may be expected from minimum tillage.

With minimum tillage, the loose, cloddy surface between the rows contains large numbers of pits and depressions which hold rain water. In addition this rough soil surface resists sealing over or crusting and allows water to enter the soil at a faster rate.

The loose soil prepared by minimum tillage can store more water than the more compacted soils which usually result from conventional tillage. Less rainfall is allowed to run off, and more is available for plant growth.

Farmers who use the conservation practices of terracing and contouring will generally find that minimum tillage is especially suited to their farming operations, says Schaller.

Those farmers interested in minimum tillage equipment no longer need to make their own. The equipment is available from most farm implement dealers and has been demonstrated at several sites throughout the state.



Parallel Terraces

Completed just this spring were these parallel terraces on the Clyde Aistrope farm two miles north of Tabor. O-T Photo

Iowa Watershed Work Is Progressing Rapidly

Iowa's watershed projects have progressed rapidly since passage of the Small Watershed Protection Law in 1954, according to State Conservationist Frank H. Mendell.

The law allows landowners, counties, cities, towns and state and federal governments to cooperate in planning and carrying out complete conservation programs on any natural drainage area.

Under this program, over 1½ million acres of Iowa farm land are in some stage of watershed development. Over 6,000 farmers are applying conservation treatments. Fourteen watershed applications for 363,508 acres have been approved by the State Soil Conservation Committee and are awaiting priority for work plans.

Seven of Iowa's 61 watershed projects have been completed. Three of these, known as pilot projects, are Honey Creek in Lucas county, Mule Creek in Mills county and the Floyd River Tributaries in Plymouth and Sioux counties.

Four other completed projects are Harmony Creek in the Harrison County Soil Conservation District, and Simpson Creek, Hamburg and Hound Dog Watersheds in the Fremont County Soil Conservation District. Construction is now under way in 21 watersheds covering 300,000 acres.

Iowa's watershed story would be incomplete without mentioning the 113 farmer-organized sub-watersheds of the Little Sioux Flood Prevention Project covering 1.7 million acres of northwest Iowa. There, 4,500 farmer-district cooperators in seven soil conservation districts are applying soil and water conservation measures.

Terracing and contour farming, says Mendell, are the most effective land treatments in Iowa's watersheds. Landowners and operators in organized watersheds have installed 8,860 miles of terraces and are contour farming 500,000 acres.

Both research and lay people, adds Mendell, have wanted to study water behavior and soil loss on a fully terraced watershed. Such a project began in 1961 near Macedonia. Cooperating in the project are the eight landowners in the watershed, the East Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District and five governmental agencies.

About 26 miles of terraces have been built in the watershed and one-half mile of old terraces reworked.

Gauging stations since 1962 have recorded rainfall, water runoff, soil loss and other information. Other instruments measure and record gully movements. Wells drilled at the sides of gullies provide information on ground water table levels.

This small "guinea pig" project, says Mendell, not only provides needed watershed research, it illustrates the teamwork approach of federal and state agencies and landowners and operators to effectively achieve needed soil and water conservation.

Waubonsie Progressing On Conservation Plans

David Breitbach, soil conservationist with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, reports that good progress has been made during the past year in the development of basic conservation plans on farms in the Waubonsie Creek Watershed.

A basic requirement which must be met before an area can qualify for planning and assistance under the Watershed Act—Public Law 566, is that a minimum of 50 per cent of the total land area within the watershed must be under a basic conservation farm plan.

Several meetings were held at which the conservation farm plan and planning process was explained to landowners and operators from within the watershed by Breitbach and other Soil Conservation personnel. Following the meetings, a plan was developed on the farm with each individual expressing an interest.

The results of these meetings have been very rewarding. In this area, where large amounts of upland conservation work has been carried out or is under way, we now have approximately 9,500 acres of the 17,000 acres of the watershed in Mills county under basic conservation farm plans. While this will meet the minimum requirement for the upper end of the watershed, more area under farm plan will increase the planning priority.

The success of these planning meetings can only be credited to the efforts of the watershed board —Raymond Yates, chairman; Harold Tackett, Ben Jackson, Carl Lorimor and Morris Bateman; and the fine cooperation of the landowners and farmers in the watershed.

At a large park a conservationist guide wound up his lecture by pointing suddenly at no one in particular and shouting, "What did you ever do to preserve our forests?"

One startled tourist blurted, "I —I shot a woodpecker when I was a boy."

Mills County SCS Staff

Serving Mills county from the Soil Conservation Service office at Malvern are the following: Front row, left to right—Dave Breitbach, soil conservationist; Mrs. Lentz Powles, secretary; Keith Glandon, work unit conservationist. Back row, left to right—Leo Van Fosson, conservation technician; Gerald Stevens, state aid; Gerald Bower, conservation technician. O-T Photo

Changes Given For Iowa Soil Classifications

A new Iowa State University publication summarizes recent classification changes of Iowa's major soils.

The publication, "Principal Soils of Iowa," has information for farmers, soil conservationists, land appraisers, real estate personnel, soil scientists and others interested in Iowa soils.

Many changes have taken place in agricultural land use in recent years, says senior author William R. Oschwald. More alternatives are now possible because of increased fertilizer use, wider use of chemicals to control weeds and insects, use of large farm machinery, improved tillage practices and better erosion control methods.

Also, our growing population demands more land for housing, industry, highways, recreation and other non-agricultural uses.

Soils vary in their response to technology and in their suitability for various uses, Oschwald states. Thus, we need precise information about soils and their properties. It is important to know, for example, if a soil is suitable for level or grade terraces, irrigation or tile drainage. Or, if a soil is suitable for houses, large industrial buildings or highways.

The publication includes percent of slope, land position, parent material, erosion hazard, natural internal drainage, and water holding capacity of selected soil types in 20 major Iowa soil association areas. Land use, fertility levels and corn production potentials also are given. Maps, tables, and diagrams supplement the text.

"Principal Soils of Iowa" can be purchased through your county extension office or from Publications Distribution, Morrill Hall, Iowa State University, Ames.

The FFA Chapter from Glenwood Community High School is combining conservation with a money-making project. The group planted 1500 pine trees of the Austrian, white, and Virginia varieties on the Tom Davis place one mile east of Glenwood. After five years, the trees will be large enough to sell for Christmas trees and will also provide protection for the hillside. Planting trees were (front, left to right): Steve Bomer, Larry Hurst, Larry Lincoln and Art Florian. Middle: Dale Hindman, John Jens and Rodney Robertson. Back: Stephen Felos, Gary Thieschafer, Howard Schwehr and Tim Kuhl. O-T Photo

Tree Planting Increases As Conservation Project

Tree planting in Mills county took a big leap this year when eight landowners planted 13 acres of various species of pine trees and walnuts.

Keith Glandon, work unit conservationist with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, said that the increased interest in tree planting can be attributed to Ben Howells, the new district forester with the State Conservation Commission.

Most of the plantings made this year are on "odd" areas which are not suitable as cropland. Even though they are planted on the poorest areas, trees should still be considered and cared for as a crop.

Most important is controlling weed competition and thinning the stand when needed. Thinning can be accomplished at intervals by cutting Christmas trees, posts, poles and eventually lumber.

Farmers planting trees this year were Jack Lenz, five acres; Eliot Thomas, one-half acre; Dennis Downing, one-half acre; Reuel Harmon, 1½ acres; M. L. Scheffel, one acre; Otha Wearin, one acre; Tom Davis, 1½ acres, and Marjorie Cozad, 2½ acres.

Anyone interested in planting trees should contact either the Soil Conservation office in Malvern or Ben Howells, Box 152, Red Oak.

Plan Conservation To Fit Your Needs

There's no one plan you must follow to conserve soil and water on your farm.

Rather, says Bill Oschwald, extension agronomist at Iowa State University, many types of plans can be used, each designed to effectively meet soil and water conservation problems. A good farm plan is a production program designed within the capabilities of the soil.

Oschwald says the rule-of-thumb is as simple as this: "The more serious your erosion problem, and the more intensively you use row crops, the more you will need to use mechanical soil conservation practices such as terraces, contouring or grassed waterways."

As an example, Oschwald says a Tama soil with moderate erosion, a 10 per cent slope and a 200 foot slope length can be treated in any of the following ways:

(1) If terracing is used, erosion can be held within safe limits with a corn-corn-oats-meadow rotation. (2) Use stripcropping—a less intensive conservation practice—and you must add a year of meadow to make a 5-year corn-corn-oats-meadow-meadow rotation to hold erosion to safe limits. (3) Using contouring alone, a rotation of one year corn, one year oats and three years meadow will do the job. (4) Use no mechanical practices, you can safely grow one year corn, one year oats and five years meadow—a 7-year rotation.

Oschwald says that any of the preceding combinations are equally effective in controlling erosion. The rotation-mechanical conservation practice combination you would choose depends on your goal—whether you want a high intensity of grain production or a high intensity of forage production.

Hold Those Raindrops

The most important features of watershed programs are the practices which hold the raindrops where they fall. These practices such as terracing, contour farming, grassed waterways and stripcropping retard water runoff to protect the soil.

Attempting To Combine Conservation, Recreation

A first in Iowa's outdoor recreation projects was started last year when the State Conservation Commission joined with three soil conservation districts and the Madison county board of supervisors to incorporate a recreation area into the Badger Creek Watershed complex.

The Badger Creek Watershed is the first attempt to combine recreation and watershed projects in Iowa, according to E. B. Speaker, state conservation commission director.

Erosion control, flood protection, water conservation, reforestation, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation are just a few of the benefits to be derived from the project.

Located in Warren, Madison and Dallas counties, the watershed covers a total area of 34,346 acres. It was originally designed as a flood and soil erosion control project in 1960.

The idea of incorporating a recreation area was proposed after federal cost-sharing for recreational developments in watershed programs became available in 1962.

Consequently, recreation was included and the Conservation Commission became a co-sponsor with the Madison, Dallas and Warren county soil conservation districts. The Soil Conservation Service is cost-sharing the recreation project with the commission and will administer the program. The target date for completion of the program is 1969.

A 276-acre lake will be the main attraction of the Badger Creek recreation area. It will serve as both a water "playground" and a flood control device. From the recreation standpoint, the lake will provide fishing, boating and other water sports such as swimming. Boat ramps, bathing beaches and bath houses will be built at various points around the lake.

Adjacent land will be required to provide land forms of outdoor recreation. Camping and picnic grounds are planned. Wildlife areas will be developed, and hunting will be allowed in certain zones. Recreation extras such as water and sanitary facilities, park benches, shelter houses and fireplaces will also be included.

Recreation facilities mentioned so far might be considered intensive or "high use" facilities, Speaker said. He pointed out, however, that extensive or "low-use" areas will also be set aside. These will provide hunting, nature study or just a place to "get away from it all."

The location of the Badger Creek Watershed, a 20-minute drive from Des Moines, will make it available to a large number of people.

Speaker continued that Iowa is badly in need of recreation land. Much of the state's rich, fertile soil is too expensive to use solely for recreation.

To provide the facilities Iowans demand, recreation must be combined with other land uses, he said. Speaker feels the success of the Badger Creek Watershed will lead to a better and more extensive variety of outdoor recreation for all Iowans.

4-H NEWS

SILVER CLOUDS

The meeting of the Silver Cloud Jr. 4-H Club was held at the home of Christy Mickelson June 1. Six members answered roll call with "Guess the Price of a Dress or Sweater."

Talks were given by Christy Mickelson on "Removing Stains From Garments," by Linda Barber on "How to Wash Clothes" and Mary Beth Costello on "The Overall Patch." —Mary Beth Costello, reporter.

CENTERETTES

The regular meeting of the Centerettes 4-H Club was held with Tamara Thieschafer May 12. Mrs. Alfred Johnson, club representative, was the guest of the evening.

Tamara gave a demonstration on "Gatherings." Barbara Blackman gave a talk on "Undergarments" and Carolyn Hilton gave a talk on "Buymanship." —Carolyn Hilton, reporter.

AMBITIOUS ANDIES

The Ambitious Andies 4-H Club held its regular meeting May 8 at the Booster Station Hall. There were 18 members present.

Members discussed the trip to Omaha July 1. Jewell Warren gave a talk on "Stretching Our Wardrobe." Muffy Cheney gave a demonstration, "Securing Buttons" and Kathy Paul gave a talk on "Needles and Threads."

Team demonstrations and better grooming contest will be held June 25. —Jayne Warren, reporter.

JUNIOR FARMERS

The monthly meeting of the St. Mary's Junior Farmers was held May 24 at the home of Diane Schroeder. Roll call, "My 4-H Project for This Year," was answered by five members.

Diane Schroeder suggested the club clean the Wall cemetery. The club discussed the 4-H picnic and tour to be held at the Glenwood Lake Park at noon June 27.

Beth Nansel gave a talk on "Know Your 4-H Organization." David Schroeder gave a talk on "How to Recognize Hard Seeds." —Diane Schroeder, reporter.

LOYAL LASSIES

The regular meeting of the Loyal Lassies 4-H Club was held May 8 at the Silver City Methodist Church.

A talk was given by Cathy Burgoin on "Altering Patterns." Carol Goos gave a talk on "Scissors and Shears." Linda Kirlin gave a talk on "The Care of Shoes and Carol Maddocks gave a talk on "Stretch Material.

A better grooming contest was held on "elbows." Phyllis Robertson and Linda Janulewicz were hostesses.

The next meeting will be held June 4. —Linda Janulewicz, reporter.

FUTURE FEEDERS

The regular meeting of the Future Feeders 4-H Club was held at the home of Craig Bateman May 3. Roll call was answered by 14 members. Also attending the meeting was Bob Christensen, chairman of the Mills county extension council.

Business discussed was that of the club's delegates and alternate to State Camp at Madrid, Iowa. Delegates chosen were Chris Cozad and David Swett. The alternate is Myron Morrical.

After the meeting, demonstrations and talks were given by Donald Angus, Robert Johnson, and Larry Stouder and David Swett. —David Swett, reporter.

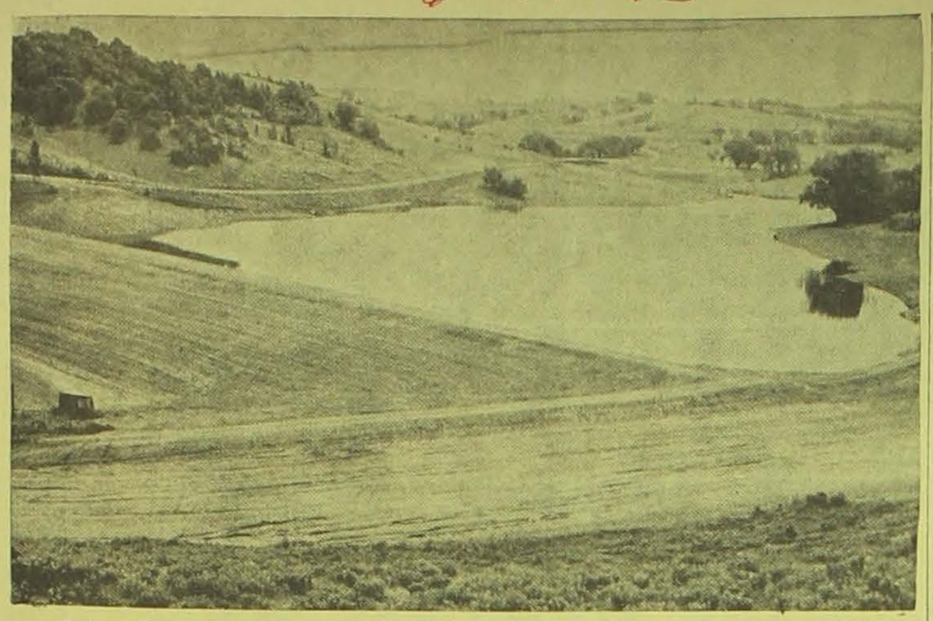
BUSY BEES

The Busy Bees 4-H Club held its meeting at the home of Genene Maher. Fourteen answered roll call with "Shoe Size."

Carol Wolfe was elected to run for queen at the Teen Club Carnival June 5. Talks were given by members who had attended Junior 4-H Camp at Madrid.

An individual demonstration, "Care of Comb and Brush" was given by Susan McKern. Genene Maher gave an individual demonstration on "Lay-out Pattern." "Washing and Setting Hair" was the team demonstration given by Nancy and Sarah Crocker. The 4-fold discussion topic was given by Virginia Angus.—Marcia Wolfe, reporter.

6-24-65



Latest addition to a series of lakes being developed in the Pony Creek Watershed is this 28-acre beauty located on the farms of LaVern Mendenhall and Eliot Thomas, three miles west of Glenwood. The lake was completed in May and will provide recreation facilities as well as helping to halt erosion. O-T Photo

Pony Creek Work Right On Schedule

The last structure in Pony Creek Part II located on the Mendenhall farm was completed in May. Heavy spring rains nearly filled the pool area before construction was completed.

Seeding of the three structures in Pony Creek Part II is complete. These structures are located on the Vohs, Salistean and Mendenhall farms.

At the present time, no contracts have been let for further construction, but it is expected that Part IV will be let sometime in July. This contract will include the following structures: (6) Shaver and Millsap; (7) Millsap, Nelson, Clower and Pitzer; (15) Pitzer; (17) Chute and Prell; (20) King.

Efforts are continuing to obtain a structure above highway 275 in spite of reports that such a site is not feasible.

The seedings made last fall seem to be coming along fairly well in spite of the severe winter weather. An evaluation will be made this fall to determine where more work will need to be done.

Bass, bluegill and channel catfish have been ordered from the federal hatchery to stock several of the pool areas sometime this summer. Persons receiving fish will be instructed as to when and where they are to pick them up.

First known use of roller bearings is on the wheel hubs of a wagon made in south Germany in the first century B.C.

'Project Simpler' Launched By ASCS

Instead of relaxing efforts already yielding results, the Mills County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee and the office staff aim to intensify their search for simpler and more economical ways to give even better service in the farm programs.

This is the objective of the nationwide ASCS "Project Simpler," now being launched, according to R. G. Burgoin, chairman. A district meeting at Harlan May 24 for 22 counties, kicking off the project locally, was attended by the county committee.

"Although we've been doing this right along, we intend to restudy every form, procedure, and operation in carrying on these programs for our farmers," said Burgoin.

"With a bigger workload in the county," said Burgoin, "we've managed by simplification and increasing efficiency to get our manpower use down. Nationwide, the use of manpower in counties is 22 per cent less than in the peak year, 1958, and ASCS last year had the fewest full-time employees —5,861—since 1954, although programs increased and farmer participation grew.

"That's not going to keep us from continually asking ourselves, as President Johnson recently requested: 'What is it costing to do this work? Is there a way to do it as well or better that would cost less?'"

Besides asking all ASCS employees to suggest practical simplifications in their own work, Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman has invited farm and business organization leaders throughout the country to make suggestions.

The Iowa ASCS State Committee is following this up with invitations to leaders of state organizations. The Mills ASCS office welcomes such suggestions from the farmers and others it serves.

An example of economic work simplification already effected in the county office was cited, such as, "Formerly, a farmer who had, say, 10,000 bushels of grain and wanted to put only 2,000 bushels of it under CCC loan at first, but decided later to add another 2,000, had to go through the whole procedure for the second, and any following, lots. Now he can list the whole 10,000 bushels, and quickly get a loan on any part of it at convenient times, with scarcely any new paper work." It saves him—and ASCS—time, work and money.

A dry wine is one in which all the grape sugar has been fermented out.

Sod Bank Grass Being Developed For Pony Creek

A plot of dwarf reed canary grass is being established in the Pony Creek Watershed area for use as a sod bank. The original root stocks for the plot located on Dennis Downing's farm were issued by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

David Breitbach, soil conservationist with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, described dwarf reed canary grass as a dense sod grass suitable only for fertile wet areas.

The sod develops from rhizomes into a thick mat which controls erosion and gully cut backs even in areas where water flows most of the year. Dwarf varieties differ from the tall species in that it does not develop the rank growth. This characteristic makes it desirable for use in wet waterways.

Rhizomes or other vegetative parts of the plant are the only ways to establish this plant. The seeds produced from the dwarf plants revert back to the parent stock and produce the tall species.

After the sod bank becomes established it will be used to repair waterways and watershed structures in the Pony Creek Watershed that are too wet for alfalfa and bromegrass.

The Iowa soil conservation district program is a relatively young program in term of years. The first district was organized in 1940 and the last in 1952, making a total of 100 districts for the state.

Protecting Resources Is Important To Everyone

By William H. Greiner, Director State Soil Conservation Committee

Urban citizens can no longer assume that conservation of land and water resources is of interest only to farmers and ranchers. Protecting our natural resources concerns everyone and is an important factor in maintaining America's prosperity.

Currently, the American housewife spends less out of her total budget for food than her counterpart in any other country. And Americans enjoy a higher standard of living and a better diet than people of any other country. Much of this is attributed to our productive soil and technological developments in American agricultural and industrial productivity.

The American public expects this trend of low-cost food to continue. Nevertheless, demands on the nation's land and water resources in the next few decades will be staggering.

Experts predict within the next 15 years this country's population will increase from 190 million to about 245 million persons. And by the year 2,000, there will be more than 330 million Americans.

At the same time, there will be even less cropland available. Over one-million acres of land are diverted to non-agricultural uses each year.

The population explosion and our dwindling land resources raises the question "Can the United States, over the balance of the 20th century, count on enough natural resources to maintain its high standard of living?"

A recent study by Resources for the Future, Inc., a foundation devoted to the study of resource affairs, answered this question with a qualified "yes." Whether or not the people of the United States will, however, depends on how hard and well they work at it.

With these thoughts in mind then, the logical question that arises from urban dwellers is "What role can we play in the conservation program though we do not have control over land on which we might practice conservation?"

All citizens have a voice in public affairs, both locally and on a state and national level. This can be a mighty force in implementing good conservation measures.

We can demand that steps be taken to eliminate pollution from lakes, rivers and streams. We can also familiarize ourselves with the soil conservation program, its meaning and purpose, and lend our support and encouragement to those directly charged with this responsibility.

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "We cannot afford to curtail soil conservation, either in the East or West. It is vital to the future of our farm areas and, though we may live in a city, what happens to the land of your country touches you as closely as if you were a farmer."

4-H NEWS

AMBITIOUS ANDIES

The Ambitious Andies 4-H Club held its regular meeting May 8 at the Booster Station hall. The club discussed the trip to Omaha July 1. It was voted that the club would pay the fee.

Jewell Warren gave a talk on "Stretching a Wardrobe." Muffy Cheney gave a demonstration on "Sewing Buttons." Kathy Paul gave a talk on "Needles and Thread."

Demonstration run-offs and the better grooming contest will be June 25. Ronda Wilkinson and Marlene Gage served lunch. —Jane Warren, reporter.

AMBITIOUS ANDIES

The regular meeting of the Ambitious Andies 4-H Club was held April 17 at the Booster Station. Roll was answered by 21 members with a way to take better care of clothing. The club voted to donate to the state conference fund, to the IFYE and to the cancer drive.

Shirley Duysen and Mary Jo Bolton gave a demonstration on "Efficiency As a Seamstress." Talks on care of clothing were given by Cindy Carlstedt, Marlene Gage, Ronda Wilkinson, Debbie Bolton and Mark Kudron. Beverly and Shirley Aughe gave a demonstration on "Laundering Clothes." —Jayne Warren, reporter.

HENDERSON HORNETS

The Henderson Hornets 4-H Club held its meeting at the Legion Hall May 12. Roll call was answered by 17 members.

Charles Haack and Mack Taylor gave a discussion on "Hazards of Farm Equipment." John Scherle and David Boileau gave a demonstration on "Highway Safety for Farm Equipment." Paul Haack and John Paul gave a talk on "Weather and Corn."

Charles Paul and Rick Morris had entertainment. Lunch was served by Marjorie Haack and Pauline Cool. —Randy Morris, reporter.

INDIAN DEERETTES

The Indian Deerettes 4-H Club met May 22 at the home of Marilyn Wax with 12 members, two leaders and two guests present.

Pat Johnson led a discussion on "The Importance of a Spiritual Life of a 4-H Girl." Mary Anderson gave a talk on "Working With Plaids." Connie Parker and Pat Johnson were elected delegates to Senior Camp.

Plans were made for the demonstration run-off and better grooming contest June 22 at the home of Arlene Lindburg and the achievement show July 21. —Joan Lindburg, reporter.

SILVER CREEK GO-GETTERS

The Silver Creek Go-Getters 4-H Club met May 17 at the home of Bill Baer. After a short business meeting, the club held a good grooming contest to decide two delegates for the county contest.

Jack Sell and Gary Dunsdon were chosen for the juniors, Mark Babbitt and Dan Bell for the intermediates, Bob Bell and David Newell for the seniors.

Tim Adams had a demonstration on "Seed Germination." Bill Baer had a talk on care of the flag, and Gary Dunsdon had a talk on care of livestock. —Mark Babbitt, reporter.