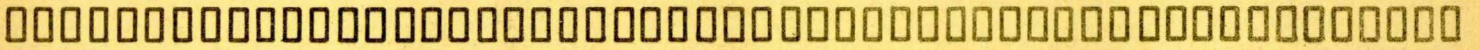


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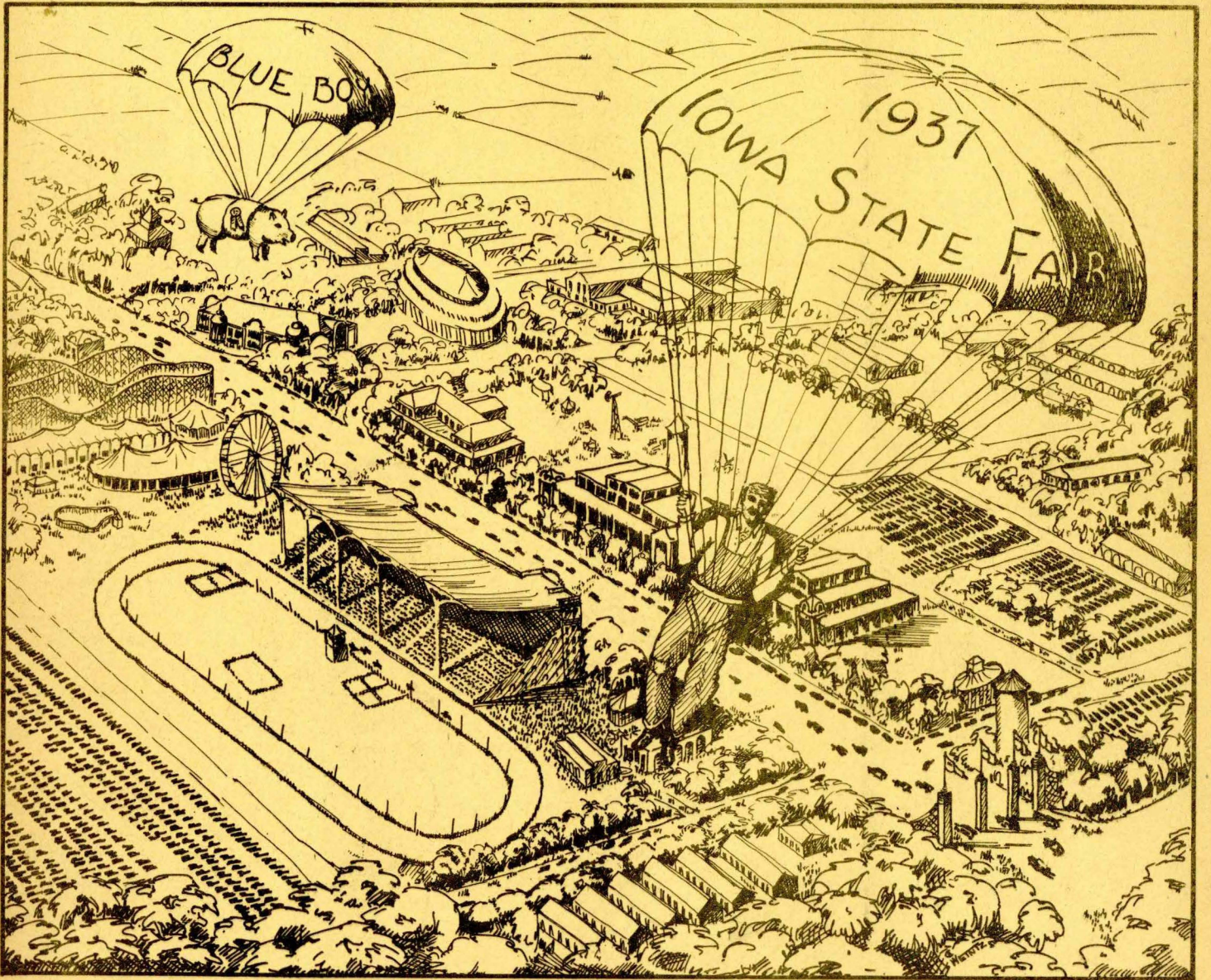
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PLANNING NEWS



Vol. 2 No 8

AUGUST 1937



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Des Moines Iowa



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PLANNING NEWS

Vol. 2 - No. 8

Des Moines, Iowa

August 1937

PLANNING AND THE STATE FAIR

Iowa's Agricultural Wealth on Parade; Future Prosperity
Dependent upon Preservation of Resources

The Iowa State Fair has been termed before the eyes of the world the finest the greatest agricultural exposition on earth. It certainly is one of the largest and finest of all the agricultural fairs in the world's greatest "bread basket," the middle-western United States.

Rightfully should the Iowa State Fair hold this distinctive position. Iowa boasts of 25 per cent of all the Grade "A" soil in the United States, or 25,000,000 acres of the best agricultural land known to man.

The Iowa State Fair well represents Iowa's wealth on parade, the title given to the inspiring cartoon drawn for the Fair by J. N. "Ding" Darling (reproduced on another page in this issue of Iowa Planning News).

For a century, the Iowa farmer has been planning and improving his methods and his products to reach the eminent position he now holds.

The Iowa State Fair is the exhibition ground where the Iowa farmer holds up

his planning and his work have produced. In this achievement, the Iowa farmer has had the assistance and guidance of

agencies which he himself has fostered and supported, the Iowa State College, the Iowa Farm Bureau, the Iowa 4-H Club program, the Iowa State Fair and many another program.

Occupying one of these auxiliary positions in recent years is the Iowa State Planning Board. It is not an agency attempting to teach the farmer better farming, nor one which is trying to make every farm a paradise.

The contribution of State Planning to Iowa's agriculture is in the field of preservation--the establishment of programs which will aid the farmer to preserve

the fertile acres he now tills, to maintain the level of agricultural prosperity which he worked for and won in former years, to continue to enjoy the social and spiritual advantages he has

PLANNING BOARD EXHIBIT

The Iowa State Planning Board will present an exhibit of its work in the Varied Industries Building at the State Fair.

A series of panels will present graphically some of the research and planning activities of the Board, such as its urban traffic studies, recreation planning, base map data, agricultural data, highway accident analysis, public health resources study, high school accessibility study, retail trade area studies, water resources studies, etc.

Sharing space with the State Planning Board will be the Iowa Housing League's exhibit, showing a model government-financed low-rent housing project.

been accustomed to enjoy.

The Iowa State Planning Board cannot accomplish these things by itself; it does not attempt to. State Planning looks ahead to the coordination of all agencies working in cooperation with each other toward those ends; it tries to show that through planning and ultimate action those valued assets of which agricultural Iowa boasts may be preserved and used profitably by future generations.

It is no secret that the prosperity of agriculture has been seriously threatened since the World War by national economic unbalance, drought and soil erosion. Many of the ills that have arisen because of all three of these destructive elements have been caused first of all by too concentrated farming activities, too great exploitation of natural resources

and too little attention paid to what the future might bring in the depletion of these assets.

The Iowa State Planning Board has been actively interested in statistical research for agriculture, sponsoring projects seeking information on homestead taxation, cropping practices, farm tenancy and the feasibility and desired form of a soil conservancy districts law. The last named project is a new one soon to be undertaken, while a further study of farm tenancy as the basis for proposed legislation is contemplated.

All Iowa is interested in seeing the agricultural industry of the state remain at the happy peak of world prominence which is so humanly and graphically portrayed in "Ding's" cartoon. The Iowa State Planning Board is one of the agencies directly concerned with this problem.

For it is through planning, then action in carrying out the plans, that agriculture will be safeguarded, soil depletion will be arrested and present unproductive areas will be restored to something of their original value and use.

The Iowa State Fair is the ultimate exposition of the finest that can be produced from the soil.

Planning in its purest interpretation, is the first element in the farm program which makes possible this annual exposition of Iowa's agricultural

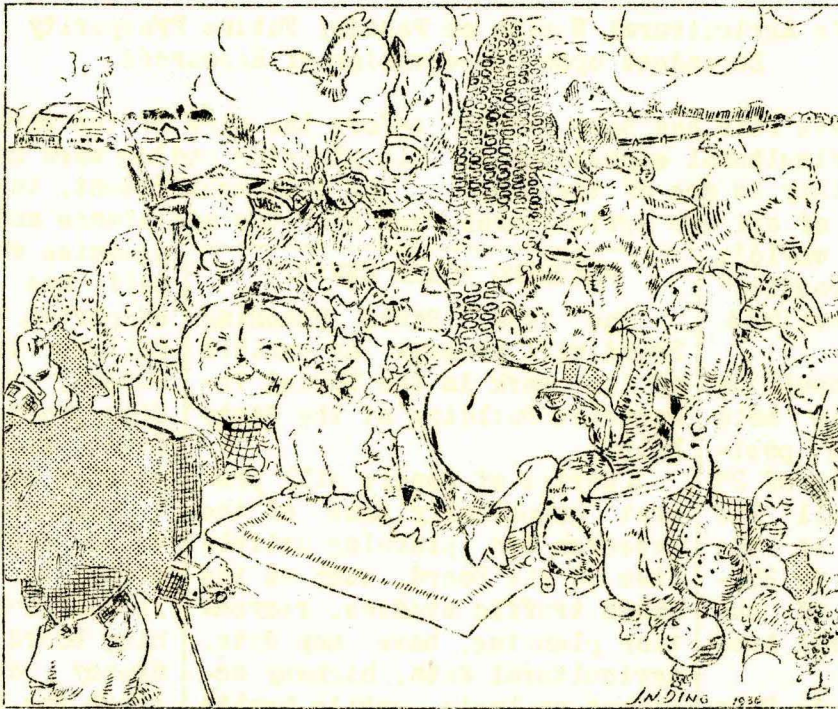
products with its present and former prestige.

* * * * *

"Selling" Planning

"There is no such thing as a continuing, popular interest in anything so impersonal and idealistic as the general improvement of the community," according to an eastern planning publicity adviser. He believes planning must be "sold" on its selfish personal merits, direct benefits to the individual citizen and taxpayer through improved surroundings and lower taxes.

Iowa Wealth Goes on Parade at the Iowa State Fair



DING 1936

DAY BY DAY AT THE STATE FAIR

Every Day

(Aug. 27 to Sept. 3)

Livestock Exhibition
 Iowa Corn and Small Grain Show
 Orchard and Garden Produce Show
 Apiary Exhibit
 4-H Club Congress Exhibits and Events
 Farm Bureau Project Exhibits
 Flower Show
 State Creamery Butter Contest
 Baby Health Contest
 State Women's Exposition
 Farm Equipment Show
 Industrial Exposition
 Home Equipment Show
 Mid-season Motor Show
 First Annual Mid-west Trailer Show
 Iowa Public Schools Exposition
 State Conservation Exhibit
 State Art Show
 Second Annual State Fair Photographic Exhibit
 Annual Farm Women's Hobby Exhibit
 Soil Conservation and Erosion Control Exhibits
 Other Governmental Exhibits
 Iowa Boys Model Airplane Building Contest
 (Daily Entertainment Features Listed in Day-by-Day Calendar)

Wednesday, Aug. 25
 Preparation Day

Thursday, Aug. 26
 Preparation Day
 4-H Livestock and Crops Championship Judging Contest

Friday, Aug. 27
 Official Opening of Fair
 Children's Day and Public School Day--
 (All children under 16 years of age admitted free)
 Children's Party -- 9:30 A.M.
 Old Fiddlers Contest
 4-H Livestock Judging
 National Circuit Auto Races--Afternoon
 Rodeo -- Evening
 Circus -- Afternoon and Evening
 Festival of Light -- Night Fireworks

Saturday, Aug. 28

World War Veterans Day--Veterans admitted free
 Old Fiddlers Contest
 Mid-west National Horseshoe Pitching Contest
 4-H Livestock Judging--Baby beeves
 Circus -- Afternoon and Evening
 National Circuit Auto Races-- Afternoon
 Rodeo -- Evening
 Festival of Light -- Night Fireworks

Sunday, Aug. 28

Safety and Thrill Day--Special Features
 Music Day -- Band Concerts
 Garden Clubs Day--Special Displays
 Mid-west National Horseshoe Pitching Contest
 Horse Show -- Afternoon
 Circus -- Afternoon and Evening
 Rodeo -- Evening
 Festival of Light -- Night Fireworks

Monday, Aug. 30

Farm Bureau Day
 Livestock Day -- Judging begins in all open classes
 Mid-west National Horseshoe Pitching Contest
 \$10,000 Harness Race Classic and Rodeo
 Horse Show -- Evening
 Circus -- Afternoon and Evening
 Parade of Stars -- Evening
 Festival of Light -- Night Fireworks

Tuesday, Aug. 31

Civil War and Spanish War Veterans Day
 Veterans admitted free
 Livestock Judging continues
 Mid-west National Horseshoe Pitching Contest
 Horse Show -- Evening
 Harness Races and Rodeo -- Afternoon
 Circus -- Afternoon and Evening
 Parade of Stars -- Evening
 Festival of Light -- Night Fireworks

Wednesday, Sept. 1

State Day -- State Officials Guests of Fair
 4-H Club Day--Members who have completed record work admitted free

Scandinavian Day
 Livestock Judging continues
 Team Pulling Contest
 Harness Races and Rodeo - Afternoon
 Circus - Afternoon and Evening
 Horse Show - Evening
 Parade of Stars - Evening
 Festival of Light - Night Fireworks

Thursday, Sept. 2

Industrial and Manufacturers Day
 Livestock Judging continues
 Team Pulling Contest
 Harness Races and Rodeo - Afternoon
 Circus - Afternoon and Evening
 Horse Show - Evening
 Parade of Stars - Evening
 Festival of Light - Night Fireworks

Friday, Sept. 3

Grand Finale Day
 Baby Beef and 4-H Pig Sale Day
 Baby Party - Announcing winners of Baby
 Health Contest
 National Circuit Auto Races - Afternoon
 Circus - Afternoon
 Fair Closes at 4 p.m.

* * * * *

EDITORIAL

One of the first functions of planning is to protect the public welfare against private interest which seeks special privilege for its own purpose without regard for the common good, or the soundness of its proposals in the long range view.

Such private interest, sometimes concealed behind a cloak of pretended public service, stops virtually at nothing to gain its ends.

The planning agency, comprised of public-spirited, intelligent citizens of the community or state, studies the proposals of promoters for their real value, without regard for personal or special interest. It approves what is considered in the best interest of the public welfare, disapproves that which is inimical to the common good.

The vitality of the planning agency meets its gravest test when in combat on a question of special privilege.

* * * * *

IS PLANNING ECONOMICAL?

"Planning seems to consist of finding more ways of spending more tax money." -- from editorial paragraph in the Marshalltown Times-Republican.

Below are listed a few results of the lack of planning back in those "cruel horse and buggy days" as the editor referred to it farther on in his paragraph:

30 billion tons of good Iowa soil lying at the mouth of the Mississippi River in the Gulf of Mexico, or in the bottoms of Iowa lakes.

A large majority of Iowa towns and cities caught without plans when emergency work programs suddenly provided the means for making plans effective. Ames and Des Moines are typical examples of cities which did have plans and made use of them at that time.

Many cities spreading out into new areas taking on new residential burdens of utility services, street improvements, fire and police protection, when other suitable areas inside the corporate limits remain undeveloped, usually because real estate promoters are anxious to sell cheap lots.

Many cities fighting against the spread of slum areas, which are a direct result of the lack of planning for adequate moderate cost housing. Slums cost money; they bring in a minimum of income from either rents or taxes; they present the greatest cost problems in fire, police and health protection.

Many cities finding gasoline filling stations, neighborhood groceries, shack lunch stands and other enterprises occupying choice spots in residential districts because of the lack of planning and zoning.

Many cities with inadequate provision for street extensions, boulevards or other means of cop-

(Cont'd on Page 12)

AGRICULTURE'S PLACE IN PLANNING

By F. F. Clark and E. F. Graff
 District Extension Agents, Iowa State College

(Mr. Clark and Mr. Graff discussed this subject in addresses given by them at the Gull Point State Park and Mason City Planning Conferences in June. This article was prepared for Iowa Planning News as a report of their talks.)

It is a significant thing that people in this country are talking about planning. It indicates that we are reaching a certain stage of maturity as a nation when we give so much time and attention to planning the many public activities that touch our daily lives. The program of the Iowa State Planning Board and various other organizations associated with it is broad and comprehensive.

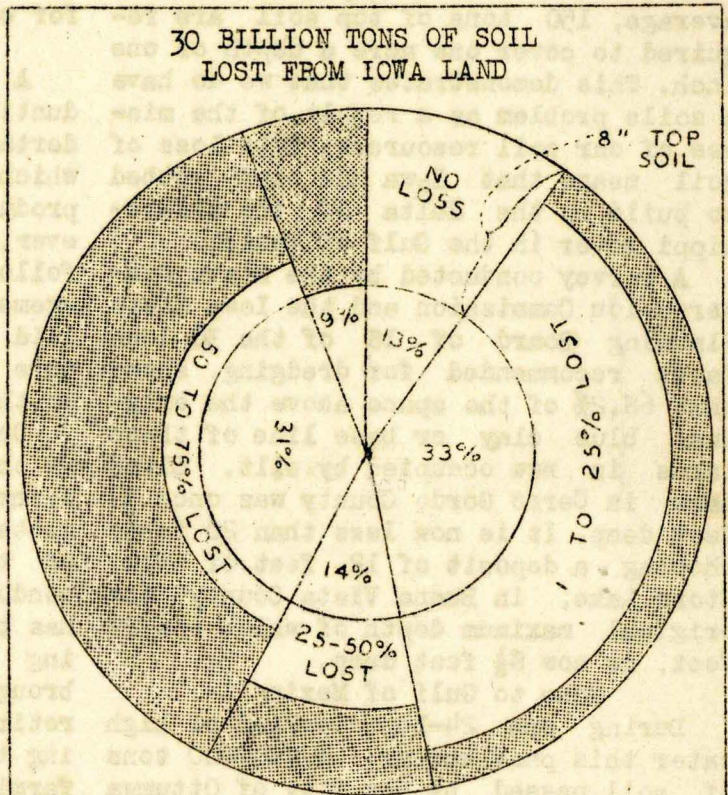
No doubt many of us will not live to see the results of the work of various planning groups. We are all optimistic and public-spirited enough to believe that it is our duty as citizens, however, to give thought and attention to planning for the future, so that those who will occupy our places here will be better off as a result of our activities.

Agriculture is spending considerable time in planning for the future. No one in Iowa should say that he is not interested in agriculture. We are all fundamentally dependent upon the welfare of the agricultural industry. We can plan our roads, our recreational areas, and all those things which tend to improve our surroundings. However, we must give attention to planning for agriculture because it is on agriculture that the welfare of all other planning depends.

Why is it necessary for agriculture to be interested in planning at the present time? In the United States as a whole, 64 per cent of

the land resources has suffered some erosion. We are apt to think that erosion is not a thing to worry about in many sections of Iowa.

But, each spring we see evidence of a large amount of sheet erosion in the more level sections of the state, as well as serious erosion in the more rolling sections resulting in gullies, which is the advanced stage of erosion. There are about 80 million acres of



Shaded area represents portion of top soil (to depth of 8 inches) lost by erosion.

- 13% of Iowa land has lost none
- 33% has lost from 1 to 25% of top soil
- 14% " " " 25 to 50% " " "
- 31% " " " 50 to 75% " " "
- 9% " " all its top soil

(Figures from Soil Conservation Service erosion survey)

land in the United States where sheet erosion causes severe losses to farmers. Around 250 million acres are subject to wind erosion. We have been painfully conscious of wind erosion during the past few years. Some 258 million acres in the country have been essentially destroyed on account of the ravages of erosion. This includes areas taken up by canyons, etc. that are not fitted for crop production.

Iowa Loses 30 Billion Tons

It has been estimated that since Iowa was settled, there has been a loss of 30 billion tons of soil through erosion. It takes Nature from 400 to 1,000 years to build one inch of top soil. On the average, 150 tons of top soil are required to cover one acre a depth of one inch. This demonstrates that we do have a soils problem as a result of the misuse of our soil resources. This loss of soil means that Iowa has been robbed to build up the delta of the Mississippi River in the Gulf of Mexico.

A survey conducted by the State Conservation Commission and the Iowa State Planning Board of 18 of the 30 Iowa lakes recommended for dredging, shows that 68.2% of the space above the original blue clay or base line of these lakes is now occupied by silt. Clear Lake in Cerro Gordo County was once 32 feet deep. It is now less than 20 feet, showing a deposit of 12 feet of silt. Storm Lake, in Buena Vista County, the original maximum depth of which was 22 feet, is now $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep.

Gone to Gulf of Mexico

During one 24-hour period of high water this past spring, 1,740,000 tons of soil passed by the City of Ottumwa in the Des Moines River. According to engineering estimates, this amount of soil would be sufficient to cover 11,600 acres of land with top soil to a depth of one inch!

The social and economic consequences of an inadequate program of soil conservation, or no program at all, would be disastrous. The situation pertaining to the soil resources of the United States cannot continue. Realization of this fact has brought about a speeding

up of federal and state activities along this line in recent years.

What is being done by the Federal Government? The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the various Land Grant colleges for years have given attention to the efficient management of soil. Virtually all of the research information that is now being used in other programs has come from the work of these institutions. The Bureau of Soils of the U.S.D.A. and its branches have been conducting research work to determine the extent of our soil resources and what the trend is. The Extension Services of the Land Grant colleges have endeavored to make people conscious of the need for conserving soil fertility.

Farmers Handicapped

A number of farmers have been conducting tests on their farms, and undertaking those recommended practices which conserve the soil and make it productive for farming operations. However, many farmers have not been able to follow an adequate program of soil management on their farms. The ground work laid by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and its associated organizations in the past has been valuable.

One of the movements which came out of the recent depression was the establishment of the National Resources Committee, in cooperation with which most of the State Planning Boards have been conducting their work. This committee has been calling attention to the wasting of our natural resources, and has brought out a program calling for the retirement of certain land areas, changing them into other uses than general farming.

Work of Resettlement

Another organization recently established is the Resettlement Administration. One of the main divisions of that agency is primarily interested in the purchase of submarginal land areas. We gave people living on areas which should not be used for farming. We must consider the future of those people in any submarginal land purchase program which may be carried out. The Resettlement Administration has the responsi-

bility for taking care of families involved in submarginal land purchase projects and the development of those lands into other uses.

Still another organization of recent origin is the Soil Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This agency is working in many sections of Iowa doing demonstration work on the control and prevention of soil erosion in cooperation with the farmers in the areas in which they are operating.

AAA Seeks Stable Farm Income

An organization which has loomed large in the soil conservation program is the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. The program of this agency at first was primarily that of bringing about a readjustment in the production of basic agricultural products in order to stabilize farm income. During the past two years, attention has been primarily in the direction of getting more of the cultivated crop land of the country into grass crops in order to bring about a better land use program and to stabilize farm income in that manner.

One of the significant things which has come from the work of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration has been the establishment of county agricultural planning committees. These committees were set up by the Extension Service in every Iowa county in 1935. They consist of prominent farmers in each township. Their purpose is to study the agricultural resources of their counties and by using the best information available make recommendations for the readjustment of agricultural production which will not only put farming on a profitable basis but also will result in soil conservation.

Work of County Committees

The county agricultural planning committees have been studying the land resources of their counties. The report of their activities for 1936 is contained in a published bulletin of the Iowa State College Extension Service. This report shows a composite picture according to the various farm areas of the state of the comparison of the num-

ber of soil depleting crops as compared with the number of acres of land in grass crops. A shift in the acreage of cultivated crops in any county naturally will have some influence on the live stock production of that county.

The county committees make definite recommendations regarding the percentage of acres of various soil types which should be devoted to different land uses, and aim to report quite definitely the influence that such a land use program would have on livestock production. Each committee made a study of some particular problem, such as farm tenancy, and presented the results of their deliberations.

Typical of a Democracy

It is a significant thing that a group of farm leaders should get together and discuss problems affecting the welfare of their industry.

It is stimulating to those who take part in the discussion, and from it come valuable contributions to the solution of those agricultural problems in which all Iowans are interested.

The county agricultural planning committee reports are being used by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration this year in planning the conservation program for 1938. Recently, when the various county agricultural conservation committees got together to make recommendations for the 1938 program, they called into their meetings members of the county agricultural planning committees and obtained from them valuable information.

Tama County's Program

In Tama County, the work of the Agricultural Conservation program under the AAA is based upon recommendations of the county agricultural planning committee.

It is our hope that the people of the state who are not primarily engaged in agriculture will understand thoroughly what is being attempted in these various programs pertaining to conservation of the soil. There should be a community interest and understanding of

(Con'd on Page 10)

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF PLANNING

Nation's Leaders Facing Problems of the Masses Sympathetically and Planning for Conservation of Human Resources

By The Right Reverend Monsignor J. M. Wolfe
Chairman, Dubuque City Planning & Zoning Commission
Superintendent of Parochial Schools, Archdiocese of Dubuque

(Father Wolfe, in addressing the Northeast Iowa Conference on Planning at Mason City, June 25, on the subject of City Planning in Dubuque, dwelt at considerable length on the general sociological implications of planning. The following article, based on his remarks at Mason City, was prepared by him for Iowa Planning News at the request of the Editor.)

Many problems which in recent decades have come before the minds of leaders have raised the issues and processes of planning. Men have always planned, but in recent years they have found that planning on a big scale in solving the many problems that confront humanity at large is an absolute necessity.

Some type of planning has always preceded great achievements and notable advancements. Planning is the rational process by which individuals and groups chart their progressive steps ahead with their best foresight. Planning is therefore reasonable, even though the rational processes may sometimes be found defective after the specifications and blueprints have been turned over to the workers in the practical field of enactment and construction.

In the field of thought, opponents of planning come from groups that constitute the classical economists and economic liberalists, both of whom emphasize the free competitive processes in which the equilibrium is kept through inter-action on the market of supply and demand.

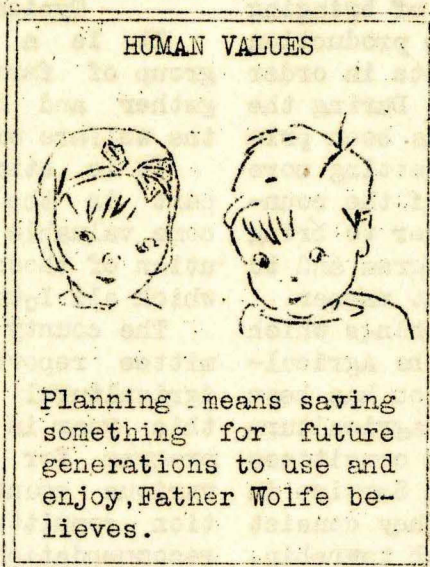
The idea of freedom is more an instinctive activity in this concept, in which an activity is right because the agent wants to do it. It is a process in which everyone is for himself and the devil takes the hindmost.

In the more recent decades, and especially since the economy of plenty has supplanted the economy of want, the idea of planning the use of the world's resources so that there may be conservation of the sources and distribution on a more equitable and human basis has gradually possessed the leaders of thought who face the problems of the masses sympathetically.

Instead of freedom of impulse, they seek an economy of freedom under the guidance of reason and regulated sympathies for all humanity. In this concept, an activity is ethical because it submits to good rational processes.

One who penetrates into the farther depths of the issues that confront groups and humanity can well appreciate that concerted planning has become a necessity. The note of necessity comes from the fact that all thinkers have become conscious that conservation of human and natural resources has become the big issue if the present generation or those who are immediately to follow are not to leave the earth barren, -- a dire symbol of man's abuse.

Conservation makes everyone aware of the fact that the continued abuse of all the earth's resources will sooner or later lead to depletion. The history of



man's use of the natural resources of the countries of the Near East reveals what marauding hands can do with the earth.

Cruel Fatalism

I cannot in any way agree with the mental processes or attitudes of those who express themselves in rather doubtful terms regarding accident prevention and other frailties, which have found expression in a sort of utter disregard for the value of human life. To face the problem of our annual death toll through automobile accidents and careless driving with the conviction that there are a certain number who are going to kill themselves anyway, or that casualties are the price humanity must pay for civilization and technical advancement, and that there is no way of rationalizing the causes and the results or of educating the public, would seem to me to be the cruelest fatalism.

The very idea of planning and conserving is based on the more fundamental concept that man is responsible for his acts, that he does have some control over the consequences of his behavior, and that he can plan to govern not only his own personal conduct but that of groups and even of states and nations. He can look forward and plan for a better and more resultful future than the present or the past have produced.

Purpose of State Planning

You people of the Iowa State Planning Board are organized to study and achieve some of the aims and ends of conservation and planning. The problem of conservation of natural resources in the State has been given excellent consideration and profound thought. A rational program by which the people of the State through council and government may conserve the natural and human resources that still exist has been attempted.

There is consequently the planning for soil and water conservation, so closely related to the preservation of human resources. The Creator endowed the earth with gifts and powers for sustaining and conserving life not only

for those of the present and of former ages, but also for those to come in the future.

When the inspired writer wrote "the earth is man's, and the heavens are God's," it was of all generations of men that he thought.

Human Resources Vital

I will venture still farther with the interpretation and say that he referred to a larger number in each generation than are now engaged in making a livelihood on the family-sized productive farm, because leaders have too long been concerned about the production of so-called transitory wealth, rather than with human conservation.

I am, of course, concerned about the problems for many reasons, but most especially for the religious. If planning charts a rational use of the earth's resources and the reasonable conservation of human resources, then it is eminently religious, because man cannot consistently rationalize his thoughts and conduct without acquiring religious attitudes, not only as they affect his own needs and ends, but also in respect to the common welfare.

Neither can man be truly religious without rationalizing his religious truths and practices in relation to his own personal conduct and his service to help satisfy the needs of others. Whatever his behavior, it becomes inconsistent when it disregards reason, because by his power of reason has been devised his way ahead in the world, ever impelled by noble sentiments and the choices of will to pursue the course that seemed best for himself and for all men.

Urban vs. Rural

Whilst my nearer interests are thus closely concerned about city planning and zoning, I would not raise the issues of antagonism as between urban and rural planning. That would only focus the attention of planners on the negative and destructive forces, rather than on the positive and constructive. Planning is positive and constructive in the sense that we all must think in terms of pres-

ent realities and the ideals that planning can achieve through rational use.

The resources of which we speak, both natural and human, concern both city and country dwellers. They affect people in common and in a general way. The philosophy of planning for the city and the country is the same.

Build City Around Homes

In Dubuque, our philosophy has been that the city is to build itself around its homes.

Those who plan for counties or the state must accept this fundamental principle as the guide: That the country is planned for the country home. In the home, whether in the city or the country, life, the greatest combined natural and human resource, is conserved and preserved.

Planners think first and foremost of conserving life and all the other forces and gifts that contribute to its conservation and amelioration.

The free plan of instincts and the ravishes that progressive greed have effected through the State and in the cities have brought to the consciousness of those who have surveyed conditions existing everywhere that not only individuals and groups but also states and the nation must begin to exercise rationalized control over the uses that are hereafter to be made both of the natural and the human resources of our country.

Education Must Come First

There must be pioneers in every great movement; the greater the movement the more must the pioneers in it begin by educating an increasing number. Rational planning is based on the right uses of the thought processes, and that is the primary outcome of right education.

The programs that are now being inaugurated by national, state and local governments will depend much upon the sympathetic understanding of the people. They will respond with their best reactions if the projects attempted are brought to their attention. They have every reason to know or to learn that

unless they have vision, they shall perish.

Planning is not visionary, but planners must be enthused by the contemplation of better things and better methods in the use of the gifts with which man has been endowed.

Blessed, then, is your planning and blessed be the planners who look back to what Iowa was before man began to exploit its richness, and who also look forward to a better Iowa which the present may pass on to the future.

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Fort Dodge Land Use Report

An urban land use study for Fort Dodge has been completed by the Iowa State Planning Board and a published report will be ready for distribution in that city and elsewhere before the end of August. The report contains maps and charts, and is similar in content to land use reports prepared for several other Iowa cities.

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AGRICULTURE'S PLACE IN PLANNING

(Cont'd from Page 7)

the fact that a real effort is being made to conserve our greatest natural resource and to bring about a better balance in the agricultural industry, which will naturally have a beneficial effect on the community at large.

Farmers are interested in the various activities of the Iowa State Planning Board. Recreational areas, safety campaigns, health programs, better schools, conservation of natural resources are of interest to every citizen.

Surely, we are all going to live to see concrete evidence of the work of the various organizations concerned with planning, supported by many public-spirited citizens who have made these things possible. Agriculture has a definite place in all planning, be it national, state, county or community.

* * * * *

CITIZEN INTEREST IN STATE PLANNING

Cooperation Means Progress; Kansas and North Dakota
Furnish Examples of Effective Group Action

By P. H. Elwood, Counselor
Missouri Valley Region, National Resources Committee

(Professor Elwood, Consultant for Iowa and one of the original organizers of the Iowa State Planning Board, on July 1 assumed his duties as Counselor for the Missouri Valley Region, comprising the States of Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas. He has made his first official tour of the newly created region, visiting all State Planning Boards, and has filed his first report with the National Resources Committee. Professor Elwood is serving full time for three months as Regional Counsellor, but will resume his duties as head of the Department of Landscape Architecture at Iowa State College in the fall, retaining his regional counselorship on a part time basis. -- Editor)

Founded first as an essential link in the emergency recovery program, the State Planning Boards of the Missouri Valley Region (N.R.C. Region No. 6) seem to be finding their more permanent places in a broader concept of government, dealing with the future in terms of present realities.

Many have learned that a state, to plan wisely, must not plan too well; otherwise the long-time plans themselves become as ill-fitting garments hanging loosely here and bursting elsewhere as changing factors and unknown combinations of forces alter the course of progress.

More than three years ago, the functions of a State Planning Board were summed up as: "A non-partisan, fact-finding, advisory body engaged in coordina-

ting the plans of various governmental agencies." Some descriptions included a Master Plan evidently in an effort to adopt the pattern of city, park and landscape planning to State Planning. As experience in State Planning is gained, the wisdom and even the possibility of anything closely resembling the rigidity of a Master Plan becomes doubtful.

However, with authentic facts, a State Planning Board is equipped with its most important tool for performing its essential advisory function, working with other state and local agencies which administer and execute the recommended programs.

Citizen Cooperation

In several states of the Missouri Valley Region, unique and valuable service in carrying out the outlines of procedure and recommendations of the State Planning Boards is being done by unofficial semi-private citizen organizations. Specifically, in Kansas it is the Kansas Chamber of Commerce which was and is still the working ally of the Kansas State Planning Board. This organization in a large measure sponsored the creation of the State Planning Board. It now works hand in hand with that body and the recently created Council of Government which deals with legal and legislative problems.

So closely together and honestly do these groups work that specially trained personnel is exchanged from time to time for more speedy and efficient operation. As one studies closely the situation in Kansas, the reason back of this effective collaboration is found in the high type of unselfish, non-partisan leadership. The Executive Secretary, Sam Wilson, of the State Chamber

of Commerce is also Consultant for the National Resources Committee to the Kansas State Planning Board. As the new State Planning Board becomes more firmly established, in order to expedite such a development, the sponsoring Chamber of Commerce withdraws from active participation to encourage healthy, independent growth of the State Planning Board in its special field of activity.

North Dakota's Program

In North Dakota is found another splendid example of leadership and high minded collaboration by unselfish, non-partisan groups. The North Dakota State Planning Board has provided much factual material and advice to the Greater North Dakota Association. This latter organization is really representative of the more enlightened business men of the State who belong to it and personally finance its activities without calling upon the State for either official status to justify its efforts, or funds for its operation.

It is, in short, an honest attempt to work with the North Dakota State Planning Board toward a Greater North Dakota. The Executive Secretary, M. O. Ryan, is a member and former secretary of the North Dakota State Planning Board.

State Planning Strengthened

With such practical ideals and high minded, intelligent and unselfish leadership as is found in the Greater North Dakota Association, under President Meyers and Executive Secretary "Bud" Ryan, the Planning Board of that State is greatly strengthened and its recommendations are carried to the many local, state and federal government agencies and private organizations for execution and administration.

As these groups are seen working together harmoniously, each in its own specific field, one's hopes and expectations for the future in these states are greatly strengthened.

Will other states in this region be able to follow or accompany planning programs with selling the plans? The

answer lies chiefly in the quality of leadership available. Similar organizations are at work in South Dakota and Montana.

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IS PLANNING ECONOMICAL?

(Cont'd from Page 4)

ing with their constantly growing urban traffic problems.

Many cities permitting streets to be built up close to the curb line, knowing that at some future time high prices will be paid by the city for these same frontages in order to widen the streets.

The plight of cities today trying to overcome the results of the lack of planning and foresight in former years is unimpeachable proof of the economy of planning.

Planning does not mean spending more money; it does mean that when money is going to be spent anyway, it will be spent more wisely, more economically, and that public improvements will fit into a comprehensive and coordinated plan.

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Marion's Interest Aroused

In Sac City, the city council has created a city planning commission of five members, men and women who have ideas and ideals for their town. They draw no salary and have no power, but are a means of expressing to the council the collect will of the city in the direction of possible improvements, reforms and changes looking to the city's welfare. The planning commission would help take some of the burdens off the back of the council, would get some of the glory for the things accomplished, and take some of the blame, if some of its plans went wrong. We might have such a planning commission in Marion. --from the Marion Sentinel.

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Largest Issue

This issue of Iowa Planning News, containing 16 pages, is the largest as yet produced since its birth in March 1936.

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AID HEALTH IN CHARITON BASIN

State Department Appoints Nurses in Four Counties;
Other Developments in Demonstration Area

Important developments have taken place within the past 30 days in the Chariton Basin Demonstration Project.

Perhaps of greatest importance is the inauguration of county health programs under the leadership of the State Dept. of Health in four counties, with the remaining two counties expected to be organized by the end of this month.

The health program follows issuance of a report by the Iowa State Planning Board on public health facilities within the Chariton Basin.

The State Department of Health has been represented in the area during the past month by C.E. Richey, sanitary engineer, and Miss Alice Rooney, public health nurse.

The four counties which now have health programs, and the names of the nurses assigned for full time public health service are:

Appanoose, Miss Agnes O'Leary; Clarke, Miss Gladys Bowery; Decatur, nurse to be selected this month; Wayne, Miss Mildred Reitz.

Dr. A. C. Trowbridge, State Geologist, has an extensive survey of the six-county area under way now to determine the location of limestone deposits which may possibly be developed for agricultural use in the area.

Walter E. Packard, Assistant Director

DEFINITION OF PROJECT

The Chariton Basin Demonstration Project, briefly stated, is a coordinated effort by planning agencies to bring about an effective application of the services and facilities of all governmental agencies, county, state and federal, within a specific area -- in this case the six counties touched by the Chariton River Basin in Iowa.

It is predicated, above all, upon the desire of the people within the area to receive the assistance and services of these agencies, hence the Chariton Basin Planning Board with its 250 committee members, all of whom reside in the area. Each sub-project undertaken will have first been requested by a committee, then by the Basin Planning Board.

While some additional funds may be procured in order to stimulate the operation of the demonstration project, it has been anticipated that effective results would be obtained under the existing programs of each of the several agencies concerned.

He spent a day and a half with Sam V. Carpenter, chairman of the Chariton Basin Planning Board, and L.W. Murray, planning engineer, inspecting various sections of the area. He addressed a public gathering in Corydon. Before leaving, he said he was very much impressed by the possibilities of the demonstration project.

Earlier this month, the forestation committee of the Chariton Basin Planning Board met with Prof. G.B. MacDonald, State Forester, to discuss the possibilities of assistance from the State Forestry Department, then adopted resolutions formally asking for a tree planting program.

The principle result this year is expected furnishing state nursery stock at an extremely low cost to farmers for delivery and planting next spring. Assistance in planting also may be possible, Professor MacDonald stated.

Under the auspices of the Chariton Basin Planning Board, six agencies interested in the demonstration project are to present exhibits at the Wayne County Fair at Corydon, August 23 to 25.

(Cont'd on Page 16)

LAND USE PROBLEMS IN IOWA

By H. H. Kildee

Chairman, Iowa State Planning Board
Dean of Agriculture, Iowa State College

The urgent need which exists for wise use and conservation of the human and physical resources of this great nation should be recognized by every American, regardless of his or her location, occupation or political beliefs.

Fortunately, definite steps have been taken in this country, not only to recognize but to do something about the exploitation and waste which attended much of our earlier development.

Presidential Precedents

Former President Theodore Roosevelt set up the first federal organization in America to study conservation problems. Arthur Hyde, Secretary of Agriculture under President Hoover, called the first national conference to consider problems of land utilization.

In more recent years, the Soil Conservation Service, largely in cooperation with individual farmers, has demonstrated effective methods of erosion control by actual example in the field.

The extension of this type of work through education and individual effort is not only desirable but highly probable.

Dr. Brown's Statement

In Iowa, of course, the number one natural resource is the soil itself. As the late Dr. P. E. Brown of Iowa State College pointed out:

"We do not have the extremes of land classes which are true of many other states. We have one-fourth of the Grade 1 land in the country, according to the National Resources Board report, and a relatively small amount of Grade 5. We can separate this Grade 5 land quite readily, and we gladly turn it over to the foresters or the park service.

Another Iowan, J.L. Boatman, Regional Agronomist for the Soil Conservation Service, has said that there are one million acres in this state that would

cost more than they are worth to rehabilitate for production of agricultural crops.

The classification of Iowa land made by the National Resources Board (now the National Resources Committee) is shown in the following table:

IOWA LAND CLASSIFIED
BY NATIONAL RESOURCES BOARD

Grade	Acres	Description
1	25,983,110	Excellent
2	6,906,158	Good
3	1,392,680	Fair
4	1,007,416	Poor
5	344,556	Essentially incapable of tillage
Total	35,633,920	

The high percentage of excellent crop land in Iowa must be interpreted not as a license to cultivate excessively but as a responsibility to utilize wisely in order to conserve a resource whose productivity is indispensable to the welfare of the nation. Over-cropping and soil washing lead to serious decline in soil fertility and to loss of soil itself.

It is pertinent to consider that many of our most fertile soil types are the most rapidly run down or depleted if not properly managed, and that only one acre in eight is not subject to erosion in Iowa, according to a survey made by the Soil Conservation Service. We must not, therefore, assume that the rich soil with which this state has been endowed in such generous amounts is an inexhaustible treasure whose quality and quantity require no effort to maintain.

Among the methods recommended by the Agronomy Department of Iowa State College to reduce soil depletion and ero-

sion are the growing of grass and the following of crop rotation plans on land where slope, soil type and other factors make continued cultivation an undesirable practice. These recommendations were included in the Second Report (April 1935) of the Iowa State Planning Board.

Land Management Defined

What are the best uses for Iowa's land resources?

Mr. Boatman states:

"It is my understanding that land management means using the land for the purpose for which it is best fitted -- using it in such a way that it can be conserved for future generations."

According to the National Resources Board's classification, land suitable for continued cultivation falls mainly in Grades 1, 2 and 3, with a small part of Grade 4 eligible under especially favorable conditions such as close proximity to markets.

Less Than 4% Poor Land

Less than four per cent of Iowa's land falls in Grades 4 and 5. Dr. Brown suggested that Grade 5 might well be devoted primarily to forestation and recreation.

Grades 1 and 2 and most of Grade 3 comprise the agricultural land which has brought world fame to Iowa as a land of corn, oats, livestock and other farm products.

For Grade 4 and perhaps a part of Grade 3, there exists a range of uses from forest and woodland pasture to permanent pasture, hay and other non-tilled crops.

Line Not Sharply Drawn

The line between use chiefly for cultivated crops and use chiefly for non-cultivated crops is not sharp. It may lie somewhere in Grade 4 or somewhere in Grade 3, depending on several factors such as economic demands and crop control programs.

In regard to the question of how much land might best be devoted to forest cover in Iowa, answers can be only tentative, because of the general nature of available information on soil erosion, land slopes, soil types and other factors.

Recommendations in the Second Report for national and state forest areas, even if carried out to the maximum degree outlined by forestry experts, would apply to less than three per cent of all Iowa land. (*)

These recommendations were for multiple use areas in the planning and development of which forestry, grazing, recreation and wild life conservation would all be included.

Pasture Demonstrations

Pasture demonstration areas have been established in southern Iowa as a result of recommendations by the Iowa State Planning Board. These areas, five in number, have been purchased by the federal government and are being supervised by the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station and the Agricultural Extension Service.

Eventually, after improvements to buildings and equipment are made, the areas will be under state jurisdiction for cooperative experiments in growing grass and pasture as a proper land use in the southern counties.

Thus the Iowa State Planning Board has been instrumental in forwarding a program for more grazing lands as well

(*) EDITOR'S NOTE: Recent misconstruction of this point, leading to statements that the Iowa State Planning Board wished to take all Iowa land in Grades 3, 4 and 5 out of agricultural production, was based apparently on confusion between the gross area of the forest purchase units and the net area recommended for actual purchase and development. Within a purchase unit, which is established for administrative purposes and only a part of which is expected to be acquired, may lie certain lands good enough for cultivation, other lands with which the owners do not care to part, incorporated areas and other areas which for one reason or another are not available for forest purchase. Thus, in the national forest purchase units established in southern Iowa, comprising a total of 829,000 acres, according to G.B. MacDonald, State Forester, the maximum amount contemplated for acquisition was about 300,000 acres.

as forestation in southern Iowa.

In any public program of land acquisition or land use, full consideration must be given to every individual concerned. For example, any program for forest purchase should make it optional for the land owner to sell, and should permit him to retain such buildings and acreage as he may wish to keep without interfering with actual forestation.

Basis of Recommendations

This is the basis on which land for federal and state forests recommended in the Second Report was to be obtained.

Any comments on the use of Iowa's greatest natural resource would be grossly inadequate without reference to the state and county agricultural planning committees which have set an excellent example, not only in the work for which they were organized but also as an effective combination of democratic representation, experience and technical skill.

The county committees, which include operating farmers from each township, have studied their own counties, adapting basic principles of sound land use to local conditions and suggesting necessary crop adjustments. Their work represents a most important and highly desirable step toward an effective land use program in which local initiative and responsibility are prominent.

Nucleus for County Planning

The Iowa State Planning Board has been working with these county groups, which in some instances have formed the nucleus of recently organized county planning councils which today have under consideration many other important phases of county development.

The best plans for the people are always made or approved by the people themselves; and the best plans for land use are being made right now by those who use the land. In the hands of the average county land use planning committee, these plans will lead Iowa ever forward in the direction of better use and conservation of all its land resources.

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AID HEALTH IN CHARITON BASIN

(Cont'd from Page 13)

Of special interest will be the demonstration of two newly designed terracing machines in a field near the exhibition buildings by the Department of Agricultural Engineering of Iowa State College. The agricultural engineering exhibit will be combined with that of the Soil Conservation Service which is planning an extensive display of its working program.

The other agencies which will have exhibits at the fair will be the Resettlement Administration, the U.S. Forestry Service, the State Department of Health and the Iowa State Planning Board.

In the publication in Iowa Planning News last month of the membership of ten of twelve committees selected by the Chariton Basin Planning Board, the title of one committee listed on Page 9 was inadvertently omitted. This should have read the "Recreation" committee.

Personnel of the last two of these committees was being completed this month.

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Third Water Resources Report

The third volume of a series of six covering reports of Iowa's water resources prepared for the National Resources Committee by the Iowa State Planning Board is completed. Volume III covers the resources of water basins in South Central Iowa, including the Nodaway, Thompson (Grand), Chariton, Tarkio Creek and Platte. The books were at the bindery and distribution was expected to take place about the end of August. The price is \$3.00 per volume.

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Regional Planning Office

Prof. P. H. Elwood, newly appointed counselor for the National Resources Committee in the Missouri Valley Region, has opened a regional office in Room 1026, Woodmen of the World Building, in Omaha.

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