

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd)

SOIL STEWARDSHIP: The Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District again sponsored the yearly Soil Stewardship Week, May 15-22.

Soil Stewardship Week 16-page 4-color booklet and a copy of the litany was sent to all churches in Douglas County. The theme for 1977 was "When We Care".

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WINNING FARMER: Emil Nack, an Orange Township dairy farmer was named Douglas County's Conservation Farmer of the year.

Mr. Nack has been working closely with the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District for 16 years and has a 240-acre farm located in the northwest corner of Orange Township.

To combat wind erosion on his flat land, Mr. Nack farms in narrow strips between field windbreaks. He generally farms on a five year rotation system of two years of corn, one year of oats and two years of alfalfa hay. On all of his fields, Mr. Nack lets the stubble stand over the winter, plowing in the spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Nack attended the State Soil and Water Conservation Convention at the Marriott Inn in Bloomington on November 28th and 29th.

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WATERBANK PROGRAM: The Waterbank Program began in 1972 in Douglas County. To date, 152 landowners have placed over 5,700 acres of land into the program.

A Waterbank agreement consists of a 10 year contract in which the landowner agrees to conserve and improve his prime waterfowl habitat. A Waterbank area must be at least 10 acres of which 2 acres are wetland. Cropland offered must be fertilized and seeded to a permanent type vegetation. The agreement is based on a conservation plan for the entire operating unit which is developed by the landowner and assisted by the Soil Conservation Service.

We are receiving increased numbers of farmers putting their entire farm in Waterbank. The District purchased 8,000 lbs. of Tall Wheat-grass and provided it to landowners for seeding down their cropland for their wildlife cover.