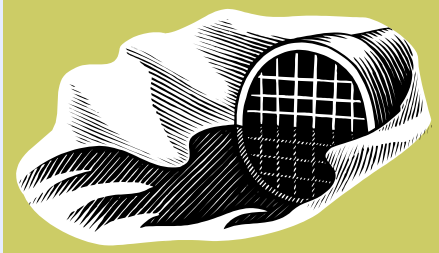
Important things to consider continued…

DRAINAGE



There are 100 plus drainage districts in Story County. The property owners within the drainage district's boundaries are the actual owners and they are financially responsible for the tile and the ditches in the district. The Drainage District clerk is located in the Story County Auditor's Office and is responsible for taking minutes at drainage district meetings and maintaining the County's drainage district maps and records. Story County's Secondary Roads Department performs small repairs and maintenance work on drainage districts when schedules allow. The work performed by the Roads Department is then charged to the district. More expensive repair and maintenance work may be completed by private contractors.

To report an issue or problem concerning a drainage district, please contact the Story County Engineer's Office at 515-382-7355.

If you have a drainage district ditch running across your property, there is a good possibility that the owners of the ditch have the right to come onto your property with heavy equipment to maintain the ditch or tile. Check with the Story County Engineer to review drainage district maps. It is important not to build or plant trees over a drain tile. The right-of-way (including both ditches) is controlled by the county, **mowing is the only thing permitted in the right-of-way.**

- The topography of the land can tell you where the water will go in case of heavy precipitation. When property owners fill in ravines, they have found that the water that drained through that ravine now drains through their house.

- A flash flood can occur, especially during the summer months, and turn a dry waterway into a river. It is wise to take this possibility into consideration when building.

- Spring run-off can cause a very small creek to become a major river. Some residents use sandbags to protect their homes. The county does not provide sandbags, equipment or people to protect private property from flooding.

Also keep in mind…