

Soil, Conservation Week Being Observed

Governor Harold E. Hughes has set aside the week of June 20-27 as Soil and Water Conservation Week in Iowa. County Extension Director James Goode says this marks Iowa's twenty-eighth annual observance of conservation week — a time when special emphasis is given to conservation throughout the state.

Iowa was completely organized into 100 local soil conservation districts by 1952. The districts coincide with county boundaries, except for Pottawattamie County, where there are two districts.

The Hardin County Soil District was organized in 1944. Since that time more than 696 landowners and operators have become cooperators with the district and 484 agreements have been signed for development of complete soil conservation farm plans, according to Chuck McCarty, County Work Unit Conservationist. Some of the progress to date includes the construction of 246,856 feet of terraces, over 10,000,000 feet of tile drains, construction of over 590 acres of waterways, and establishing of 4,428 acres of strip cropping.

Over 75,000 acres of Hardin County farm land is covered with conservation plans to guide the operator in obtaining long time high level sustained crop yields while limiting soil loss to tolerances that will not affect future

productivity of the soil. Over 112,558 acres of farm land are covered with soil conservation agreements where some conservation practices are being applied to the land.

Since 1944, 233 concrete drop inlets have been built for purposes of grade stabilization. Four flood water detention dams have been constructed, as well as nine farm ponds.

Technicians of the soil conservation service in Hardin County are also responsible for the technical phase of establishing conservation practices through cost-sharing in the U. S. Government Agricultural Conservation Program.

Although work of the local soil Conservation District has piled up imposing figures on conservation accomplishments on thousands of acres of farm land, the unusually heavy rains of this spring show that much is yet to be done to prevent severe water and wind erosion, says Jim Goode. Many farmers in the county have failed to recognize the need, and to seek assistance through the local Soil Conservation District, which is the only organization in the county that can coordinate the work of all agencies involved in conservation, and to focus their efforts in helping all farmers solve all their conservation problems.