

Revised
PROGRAM AND WORK PLAN
(October 1962)
Ida County Soil Conservation District
Iowa

ORGANIZATION

The District was organized in 1945 under the Iowa Soil Conservation Districts Law. A referendum was held November 1944. The charter of organization was issued by Secretary of State Wayne M. Ropes February 19, 1945. The District boundaries are the same as those of Ida County, Iowa.

PURPOSE:

The District was organized to help local people in taking action to provide for better use and management of soil and water and other natural resources of Ida County. Under the District program the efforts of federal, state and local governments and private organizations and individuals may be coordinated to carry out conservation work in which they have common interests.

DISTRICT DESCRIPTION:

Location: The District is located in the fourth tier of counties from the north and the second tier from the west of the State of Iowa.

Size: The District includes a total of 275,840 acres; 266,430 acres are in farmlands; 9,410 acres are in urban areas, public roads, railroads, rivers, etc. There are 1,272 farm units averaging 213 acres per unit.

Principal Drainages are:

Maple & Little Sioux Rivers	226,720 acres
Soldier River	49,840 "
Boyer River	4,280 "

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS:

- A. Mean annual rainfall for Ida Grove - 28.26 inches
- B. Mean temperature - January - 16 degrees
July - 74 "
- C. Mean date last killing frost - May 5
Mean date first killing frost - October 3
Mean growing season - 152

PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES:

The main crops grown in the District are corn, soybeans, popcorn, oats, hay and pasture. Livestock enterprises include feeding of cattle and hogs, pure bred livestock, dairying and some feeding of turkeys.

SOIL DESCRIPTION OF EACH SOIL ASSOCIATION AREA:

Bottomlands (approx. 28,800 acres)

These soils lay along the major streams of the District. They are level (0 - 2%). Some are poorly drained and many are subject to frequent flooding. The principle soil types are Wabash, Judson, Hornick.

Galva-Primghar-Sac-Marcus (approx. 87,000 acres)

Undulating to gently rolling (2 - 8%) soils derived from deep to shallow calcareous loess over Iowan till. Waterways are frequently poorly drained. Principle problem is sheet erosion.

Monona-Ida (approx. 89,000 acres)

Gently rolling to rolling (5 - 20%) soils derived from deep calcareous loess over Kansan till. Sheet and gully erosion are the principle problems.

Marshall-Monona (approx. 71,000 acres)

Gently rolling (5 - 10%) soils derived from moderately deep calcareous loess over Kansan till. Sheet and gully erosion are the main problems. Some waterways are poorly drained.

LAND USE CAPABILITIES:

Class I Land

This productive level to nearly level land - well drained - can be used for rotations with a heavy percent of clean tilled crops.

Class II Land

This is productive land with gentle to moderate slopes subject to slight erosion which needs supporting practices, such as contouring, terracing, grassed waterways.

Class III Land

This land is productive but has moderate to steep slopes subject to moderate erosion and will need both supporting conservation practices and a rotation including more meadow than is needed on Class II land.

Class IV Land

This land is suitable for only limited cultivation and then only when the best erosion control practices are followed. Usually only one (1) clean-tilled crop will be grown followed by grain, seeded to a grass-legume mixture.

Class V, VI, VII Land

This land should not be in crops. It should be permanent pasture, meadow or woodland.

PRINCIPAL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROBLEMS:

- A. The principal problem of all but the bottomland farmers of the District is sheet erosion. This problem is aggravated by the lack of mechanical control and the substandard crop rotations generally practiced.
- B. Another problem is excessive run-off. This results in lower crop yields, flooding of crops, drowning of livestock and extensive flood damage in Ida Grove and other urban centers.
- C. Gully erosion is doing extensive damage to farm lands.
- D. Erosion of roads constitutes a major maintenance problem. Control of washed out bridges and culverts would present a large saving in county road maintenance costs.
- E. The use of bulldozers to clear trees and brush from farm land presents a threat to the already diminishing amount of land available for wildlife cover.

FACTORS AFFECTING CONSERVATION PROGRESS:

- A. Lack of information, coupled with apathy in some cases, on the part of the general public and farmers in particular presents a problem that must be overcome before soil and water conservation will be a generally accepted way of life.
- B. The present cost-price squeeze confronting farmers makes it difficult, and sometimes impossible, to achieve adequate soil and water conservation. ACP cost shares are helping to alleviate this to some extent.

DISTRICT OBJECTIVES:

- A. Determine fertility, erosion, drainage and flooding and related problems of the District.
- B. Set up a program designed to correct soil and water management problems and to promote establishment and protection of woodland and wildlife areas and to promote development of recreational facilities.
 - 1. Promote the use of land in accordance with its capabilities.
 - 2. Promote woodland, wildlife and biology practices on areas best suited or dedicated to these purposes.
- C. Carry on information and educational activities to acquaint local people with soil and water conservation problems of Ida County, and to inform local people of conservation practices which are recommended to alleviate such problems; also to inform local people of types and amounts of technical and other aid which is available under the District program.

D. Provide technical and other assistance to individuals and groups in planning, applying and maintaining farm conservation and watershed programs; also provide technical information and counsel to owners of urban properties.

E. Promote changes in land use and adoption of mechanical and other soil and water conservation practices as follows (Reference - Conservation Needs Summary, Ida County SCD):

1. Recommended changes in land use

	Present Land Use (1959)	Planned Land Use (1975)
Cropland	227,723	241,178
Pasture	31,834	15,356
Woodland	42	42
Other (includes farmsteads, wildlife areas, public roads, railroads, etc.)	16,241	19,264

2. Summary of conservation practices recommended for the District:

Type of Practice	Practical Needs	Applied to date ('62)	Remaining job
Contouring (Ac.)	106,640	47,097	59,543
Pasture Improve. (Ac.)	7,689	200	7,489
Pasture Planting (Ac.)	2,481	645	1,836
Wildlife Area Treat. (Ac.)	653	103	550
Tile Drainage (Mi.)	1,033	62	971
Structures (No.)	1,105	55	1,050
Terraces (Mi.)	13,215	491	12,724
Waterways (Ac.)	8,459	629	7,830
Diversions (Mi.)	27	7	20

DISTRICT'S POLICIES FOR ASSISTING INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS:

It is the policy of the District to provide technical and other assistance to all interested groups and individual land owners and operators insofar as District's facilities will permit; the District will provide technical information and counseling to owners of urban properties, when the District receives special requests for such assistance and available facilities will permit. Interests and ability to make effective use of help will be considered in establishing priorities for assistance. Other factors being equal, the District will provide technical and other assistance as follows:

First priority - Organized watershed groups.

Second priority - Individual land owners and operators requesting assistance for planning and applying basic farm conservation plans.

Third priority - District cooperators (without basic farm plans) will request assistance for planning and installing

- a. Terraces
- b. Contouring and contour listing
- c. Waterways and diversions
- d. Erosion control structures
- e. Other conservation practices on individual farms.

Fourth priority - Owners of urban properties who request technical information and advice.

The District will execute cooperative agreements, easements and other instruments as determined to be desirable and necessary to arrange for the District or District representatives to plan, apply, assist with maintenance and observe performance of farm conservation and watershed programs.

The District will provide watershed assistance within the authorized area of the Little Sioux River in accordance with policies and procedures that have been set up by the Little Sioux Works Committee and have been adopted by the District.

The District will promote 566 watershed projects

The District will promote multiple purpose projects designed to benefit groups of property owners and the public as a whole; such projects include dual-purpose erosion control improvements on public roads, watershed projects designed to protect urban and flood plain areas, detention dams especially designed to permit practical development of recreation areas, and etc.

The District will use its available resources to cooperate in projects or programs set up under the Rural Area Development program of the federal government, and will participate in carrying out other federal, state and local programs which will aid the District in accomplishing its soil and water conservation objectives.

The District will coordinate its yearly activities with programs of federal and local agencies in order to make the best practical use of facilities of all agencies concerned. In this instance the District will plan its yearly programs to make the best possible use of the ACP cost-sharing program of the

Ida County ASCS.