

ANNUAL REPORT
THE TAMA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
STATE OF IOWA

January 1, 1946 to December 31, 1946

INTRODUCTION

Our District has been organized and operating for nearly five years. Progress has at times been satisfactory while during other periods forward movement has been negligible. During 1946 it became evident that some action had to be taken to speed up the rates of farmer application for farm conservation plans. We Commissioners feel that there is a general recognition of need and interest. The job to be done is to further arouse this interest to a point where farmers will recognize the need of and will apply for assistance in preparing Farm Conservation plans. With this thought in mind we submit this brief report of District Operation for the year 1946.

OPERATIONS

The goal in number of farm plans for 1946 was 50. Because of a lack of applications for farm plans only 18 were written. As of December 31, 1946 only three applications were on hand. These were located in areas where it was thought planning groups might develop and as a result were held over. We have 120 active plans in operation in the District to date.

The District in cooperation with the Extension Service and the AAA held a series of eight contour application demonstration meetings for those farmers wanting to start contour operations. This program was carried on in much the same manner as in previous years, on a group basis and resulted in the following:

59 Farmers Contoured 1467 Acres

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

General Soil Conservation education continued to receive attention in 1946. Excellent cooperation was received from newspapers, civic groups, and other governmental groups and agencies.

A meeting held in the Spring of 1946 at Traer, Iowa, Tama County, with District Commissioners from adjoining counties, and Miss Ivah Green, Rural School Supervisor of the State Department of Public Instruction aided materially in the State Department adopting and recommending to rural schools a course of study in Soil Conservation. Commissioners Fred Breunert had an active part in this meeting.

The Tama County Rural Schools are following the course of study and of special interests has been the efforts of E. S. Simmons, Tama County Superintendent of Schools. A summary of his work and activities is attached to this report.

A contour plowing contest sponsored jointly by the Marshall, Grundy, and Tama County Districts, and the Tama County Livestock and Fair Association, was held near Gladbrook, in Tama County in August 1946. The attendance at the match was about 2000 and general interest was evident.

The District, working with the Iowa Bankers Association, was here to a District Bankers meeting on Soil Conservation in September, 1946. A cooperating farm was visited. Following the visit a luncheon and a discussion period were held.

Several civic organizations had Soil Conservation as a topic at one of their meetings during the year, and Township Farm Bureau devoted at least one meeting to Soil Conservation activities.

EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES

The District cooperating with the Iowa State and Soil Conservation Service Experimental Stations continued their studies on yields from Direction of row plots, mulch culture and methods of tillage. Some of these experiments have been carried on for a number of years and it is planned to continue them during 1947.

We wish to call particular attention to Earl Lyons and J. D. Hayes for their public spirited cooperation in making available plots on their farms in the mulch culture and tillage studies.

Some of the results of obtained from the studies are indicated in attachments to this report.

SEED PRODUCTION

The fact that seed of adopted varieties of Brome Grass, have not been available in sufficient quantities to meet the needs in the District prompted the Commissioners to cooperate with the State Soil Conservation Service Nursery in production of quantities of certified Brome Grass Seed. District Cooperators were asked to aid and three 5 acre plots were established on the farms of D. V. Wells, Joe Kucera and William Kremenak. The Wells plot was established in 1944 and the Kucera and Kremenak plots in 1945. Because of excellent growths of alfalfa economical harvest was not possible on the Wells and Kremenak areas. The Kucera plot was harvested this year but as a result of combining difficulties the seed could not be certified. It is hoped that in 1947 a relatively large amount of seed may be obtained.

COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS

The District aided in establishing two commercial fertilizers plots in Tama County. One plot was on oats and one on corn. The complete results have not been tabulated to date but the information desired is for both quantity and quality determinations regarding commercial fertilizer applications to these crops.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 1947

1. Further develop conservation thinking in farmers, on a group basis, to increase demands for farm conservation plans.
2. Maintain a widespread application program and increase it when possible through continued AAA and Extension Service cooperation.
3. Continue experimental studies to give further aid to local farmers in developing their conservation program.
4. Maintain effective relationships with all groups, agencies and individuals, that may have a part in maintaining and increasing District Activities.
5. Continue bringing general information to all regarding needs for Soil Conservation.
6. Continue the fine start of Soil Conservation Education in Rural Schools.

REMARKS

The District's program and how it functions depends upon effective leadership at all levels. Our District received a severe loss in this regard during 1946 with the untimely passing of Chairman Robert Lyon.

Bob was an effective, conscientious, and untiring leader in Conservation, as well as in the many other agricultural activities in which he had a hand. He was a guiding light in the Tama County District's organization and he continued to lead the way in carrying on the District's program following organization.

His illness and subsequent passing, undoubtedly had much to do with the slowing down of the District's Progress during 1946. It is the hope of the present Commissioners that we will be able to carry on in a manner that will live up to the beginning made possible largely through Robert Lyon's leadership.

To fill the vacancy, Clifford H. Ryan of Chelsea, was appointed by the State Committee in December, 1946. Mr. Ryan has made good use of conservation measures on his own farm and brings to the District the respect and high regard of his community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wm. J. Kremenak
Chairman, District Commissioners

Date 2-3-47

Commissioners:
Wm. J. Kremenak, Chairman
Fred Breune
Clifford H. Ryan

Soil Conservation District

ANNUAL REPORT OF RECEIPT & EXPENDITURES

DISTRICT Wana County Telele, Iowa
 (Name) (Supervisor's Headquarters) (State)

Period January 1 19 46 to December 31 19 46

RECEIPTS (BY SOURCE)

1 Balance Brought Forward

\$ 25.50

2 None

3

4

5

6

7

8

TOTAL

XXXXXXXXXX

25.50

EXPENDITURES (CLASSIFIED)

XXXXXXXXXX

1 Parts for Grain Drill

9.97

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

TOTAL

XXXXXXXXXX

\$

9.97

BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD

\$

15.53

TAMA COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ernest P. Simmons
Superintendent

John Weiler, Traer
Mrs. Robert Wilson, Toledo
Anna Wieland, Gladbrook
Charles Gary, Montour
Charles Hill, Dysart
J. R. Reid, Tama

TAMA COUNTY
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
TOLEDO, IOWA

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Mildred Emerson
Deputy

December 28th, 1946

Mr. William Kremenak, Commissioner
Tama County Soil Conservation District
Toledo, Iowa

My dear Mr. Kremenak:

The rural schools of Tama county have attempted the following in cooperation with the Tama County Soil Conservation District:

- 1)- One hundred per cent cooperation with the Tama County Soil Conservation office to promote conservation of the precious Iowa soil.
- 2)- All rural schools and instructors have been given many copies of the latest booklets on Conservation as furnished by your organization and that of the State and National government and districts.
- 3)- Slides are being shown in the schools visited by the county superintendent for better farming by conservation of our top soils. Some of the slides are Tama county projects and conditions.
- 4)- Instructors have been urged and are giving special lessons in conservation and the best methods of saving our top soils.
- 5)- Each rural school is requested to prepare a booklet for their room on Conservation containing, the name of the school, the instructor, the names of the pupils, the names of the school directors on the front page. Each pupil is to prepare an essay on Conservation and same to be a part of the school book on Conservation.
- 6)- Prizes of a blue, red and white ribbon will be awarded for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd booklets for each township. Local and district conservation offices to act as the judges. Awards to be given at the annual eighth grade graduation at Toledo on Friday, May 23rd, 1947.

We hope this report will be of interest and we are glad to have the privilege of being of some service in the worthwhile effort. We are ever,

Very, very sincerely,

Mildred Emerson
Deputy

/s/ Ernest P. Simmons
County Superintendent of Schools