

IDA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT 1961 ANNUAL REPORT

District Commissioners

Wm. Rossow, Chairman	Battle Creek
W. F. Buraw	Battle Creek
Henry Brueck	Battle Creek
Arnold Putensen, Secretary	Holstein
R. D. Bresnahan, Treasurer	Ida Grove

ASSISTED BY:

Soil Conservation Service Technicians

Kenneth H. Burnett, Work Unit Conservationist	Ida Grove
Charles (Pete) Bodholdt, Conservation Aid	Ida Grove

Other Soil Conservation Service Personnel Assisting

George E. Lamp, Area Conservationist	Sioux City
Wayne Ducommun, Area Engineer and His Staff	Sioux City
John R. Worster, Area Soil Scientist and Staff	Sioux City

State Personnel

Mrs. Gladys Thornhill, District Clerk	Ida Grove
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Commissioners' Funds

General Fund

(From Various Sources)

Balance — January 1, 1961	\$ 60.59
Receipts — 1961	7.69
Expenditures — 1961	17.69
Balance — December 31, 1961	\$ 50.59

Maintenance Fund

(Held in trust by the District for the maintenance of watershed structures.)

Cash on Hand, January 1, 1961	\$ 743.27
Receipts — 1961	* 4,229.16
Expenditures — 1961	* 4,875.00
Cash on Hand, December 31, 1961	299.43
U. S. Government Bonds on Hand	
(Purchase Price) December 31, 1961	10,345.00
U. S. Government Bonds on Hand	
(Surrender Value) December 31, 1961	11,741.00
* Low interest rate Government bearing bonds were sold and higher interest bonds were purchased.	

1-M Budget

(Received from the State of Iowa for Commissioners Expenses)

Office Supplies	\$ 81.36
Commissioners Expenses	170.10
Office Expenses	105.69
Printing	100.00
Rentals	23.00
TOTAL EXPENDED	\$ 480.15

2-M Budget

(Received from the State of Iowa for Clerk Salary and Equipment)

Equipment	\$ 0
Clerk Salary and Technical Assistance	3,138.62
TOTAL EXPENDED	\$ 3,138.62

Highlights 1961

The outstanding accomplishment of 1961 was the obtaining of a construction priority for the Pleasant Valley Watershed, 3,500 acres lying two miles southeast of Battle Creek. During the past four years, farmers in this watershed have installed thirty-one miles of terraces after having prepared soil and water conservation plans on twenty farming units. The work plan for this watershed is almost complete and construction should be started in the next twelve to eighteen months.

During the year, seven major erosion control structures were installed by District cooperators and others; one structure was unique in that it involved cooperation of Duane Lacey, an Ida County District cooperator, Emma Thul, a farmer in Crawford County and the County Boards of Supervisors of Ida and Crawford counties. This structure replaces a worn-out bridge that was a hazard to traffic and at the same time provides positive gully control on a 551 acre watershed.

Last year forty-four new District cooperators made requests for assistance on 7,709 acres of farm land, twenty-seven basic farm plans were prepared, covering 4,618 acres of land two old farm plans were revised.

The District has encountered the following problems during the last year:

1. As in years past the \$50,000 1M Budget allotment of District Commissioners expenses has been limiting. If more of this fund had been available to the District other worthwhile projects could have been undertaken.
2. Changes in farm ownership continue to undo much of the good conservation work started by previous owners.
3. Many farm owners indicate to us that they have difficulty in finding tenants who will carry on a good soil and water conservation program.
4. There has been a shortage of qualified technical help during peak periods of practice application. It is recognized that a permanent staff can not be maintained which is sufficient to handle the work load at peak seasons and then left under-employed during slack periods.

The District was represented at the Iowa Conservation Awards contest sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune by Norval Waller, operator, Holstein, Harry Endurkat, owner and John Baumann, operator of Holstein and Chester Burton, owner, Battle Creek.

In the Sioux City Permanent Agriculture Program our representatives were: Arthur Frandsen, Battle Creek, Chester Burton, Battle Creek and Bryce Vollmar, Holstein. Harold Schreiber, Battle Creek, a District cooperator in the Pleasant Valley Watershed furnished a part of the program for the Recognition Day, of the latter program, describing his conservation operations.

Ida County ASCS thru its A. C. Program continues to provide valuable assistance in getting farmers to install conservation practices. Without this assistance it is doubtful if there would have been nearly as much conservation applied in 1961.

The Ida County Extension Service has provided much information and counselling to District Cooperators and others on the values of sound conservation farming.

Radio Station KAYL, Storm Lake, continues to provide us with a monthly, six-minute spot for a broadcast delivered by our Work Unit Conservationist, to spread the word on soil and water conservation.

Considerable interest was shown in the District's Ida County 4-H Fair exhibit, dramatizing the amount of water required to grow a stalk of corn. The success of this exhibit indicates that we should continue this project another year.

Chester Burton planted two and one-half acres of trees this year. This is one of the first extensive tree planting projects in the District. It is also an experimental planting, carried out in conjunction with the Iowa State Conservation Commission and the Iowa State Extension Forester to help determine the adaptability of certain tree species in what was originally a prairie area.

The District has purchased a machine for the control of gophers. This will be rented to District cooperators and others as they desire, and the District will also provide a source for poison bait.

George W. Witters resigned from the District Staff in April to accept the position of Office Manager for the Ida County ASCS. He has been replaced by Charles (Pete) Bodholdt.

On August 8th the northwest corner of the District, near Washta, experienced a severe storm and flood, approximately twelve inches of rainfall in a short period. Flood damage to roads and railroads was extensive, two lives were lost. Of the erosion control structures in the high storm area, only one was damaged and this one had just been completed and was not yet sodded over. Terraces and waterways took the storm with a minimum of damage.

PLEASANT VALLEY WATERSHED COMMITTEE



From left to right: Bruce Goodnow, Harold Schreiber, Chairman, Rudy Chisholm and Art Gosh. Chisholm has since moved out of the watershed. These men are guiding the destiny of Pleasant Valley.

MAIN GULLY — PLEASANT VALLEY WATERSHED



This gully, averaging 75 feet wide and 30 feet deep, has already destroyed many acres of the best land in the watershed. Each year this gully continues to grow and consume more good land. After the watershed is installed this damage will be halted.

Accomplishments & Goals

	Accomplished in 1961	Accomplished Since 1945	Goals for 1962
New District Cooperators — Number	44	560	50
Acres	7,709	102,231	10,000
Basic Conservation Plan — Number	27	445	32
Acres	4,618	79,852	6,400
Revised Conservation Plan — Number	2	—	10
Acres	320	—	2,000
Follow-Up Calls — Number	212	—	200
Contour Layout — Acres	2,893	43,802	5,000
Contour Strip Cropping — Acres	30	1,595	100
Level Terraces — Miles	40	453	43
Parallel Terraces — Miles	1	4	2
Diversion Terraces — Miles	1	6	1
Tile Drains — Miles	5	61	3
Grassed Waterway Shaping — Acres	31	574	40
Gully Control Structures — Number	7	35	5

Acknowledgements

The District recognizes the assistance rendered by many groups and individuals. This cooperation has made possible most of the progress that has been made.

The District is ready and willing to help the land owners and operators of the Ida County Soil Conservation District solve their soil conservation problems.

Wm. ROSSOW, Chairman