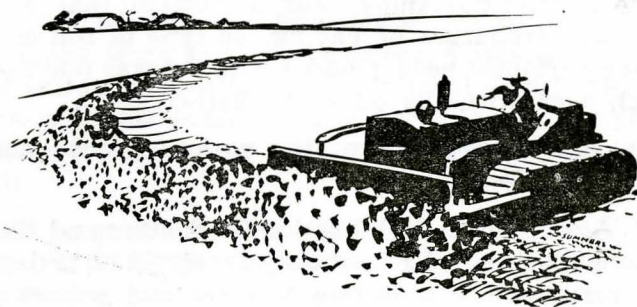


Mills County Soil Conservation District

P. O. 567

Malvern, Iowa

Phone 2321



OUR MOTTO FOR 1958

BEAUTY
AND THE
LAND
GO
HAND IN HAND



District Commissioners

Albert Washburn, Chairman
Hastings, Iowa

Dallas McGrew
Henderson, Iowa

Dale Lincoln
Glenwood, Iowa

Harold McCain
Malvern, Iowa

Myron Jones
Glenwood, Iowa

Lillian A. Campbell, Treas.
Malvern, Iowa

Soil Conservation Service Personnel

Dick France
Soil Conservationist

Gerald Bower
Conservationist Aid

Leo Van Fossen
Conservationist Aid

Lawrence Jones
Conservationist Aid

Donald Carlberg
Conservationist Aid

ANNUAL REPORT

The year 1957 has been another good year for your Soil Conservation District. The farmers in the District reaped a good crop, even though the harvest was hampered by high moisture in the corn and milo. Livestock prices were, in most cases, satisfactory and the combination of these factors meant that Mills County farmers were able to regain some of the ground many of them had lost during the last several years of droughty conditions.

We members of the District governing body recognize that a satisfactory and stable level of farm income is a prerequisite of having the type of soil conservation program that this area needs. We have certainly been pleased with the way our work accomplishments have maintained a high level, even with the adverse weather.

We wish to express our appreciation of the various groups and agencies which have assisted us in getting this work done.

The Mills County Agricultural Stabilization Committee and their staff has given us excellent cooperation. Through their Agricultural Conservation Program some 230 farmers have received financial assistance in installing terraces and waterways. In this day of narrowing profit margins this financial assistance has become increasingly important in making it possible for farmers to apply some of the more costly conservation practices.

The Mills County Board of Supervisors and the County Engineer continue their fine cooperation in seeking solutions to roadside erosion problems. They have installed several chutes which have provided a measure of stabilization for some rather severe gullies. There will also be some good fishing in the ponds formed above these chutes in the coming years.

The Extension Service has given us much valued assistance through their educational program. It is obvious that in order for a farmer to have a good land use program he must have a well balanced livestock program, and also be well informed as to the new techniques of insect and disease control, and fertilizer treatment. We feel that the District is fortunate in having such able personnel to assist us in carrying out this important phase of better land use.

Miss Amy Hammers, the Supt. of Schools, continues her good cooperation. The District has recently bought one-hundred and twenty workbooks on conservation of our natural resources which she plans to use in the rural schools of the county.

We have received assistance from many other groups. Among them are — The Fish and Wildlife Service, State Soil Conservation Committee, State Conservation Commission, The Malvern Leader, The Glenwood Opinion-Tribune, Mills County Churches, Civic Groups and many Commercial Organizations.

This brings us to the Soil Conservation Service which we have worked with over the years. Ray Jones is no longer with our District. He has taken a position as Soil Conservationist out of the Council Bluffs office where he is assisting in the development of watersheds under the Watershed program. Dick France is now in charge of the local SCS office, and we are sure that he and his staff will give whatever assistance they can in helping Mills County farmers in solving their soil erosion problems.

As you all know, the Mule Creek Watershed has been developed under the Pilot Watershed Act and we are rightly proud of the cooperation everyone has given this project. All the erosion control structures have been installed. We find, however, that we do have a big job cut out for us to encourage the farmers not to misuse their land and thereby cause excessive silting in these ponds. We have been very fortunate in obtaining such a project for Mills County. In order to take full advantage of this project it will be necessary for Mule Creek farmers to do a lot more terracing and waterway work.

The Agricultural Research Service is starting a study in Mule Creek Watershed which is an expansion of some work the Soil Conservation Service started. This study should help to inform all of us as to the effectiveness of this kind of an approach to our conservation problems.

Iowa State College is beginning a study of Spring Valley Creek Watershed which is

located between Mule Creek and the Mills-Fremont County line. We expect to cooperate with these groups in their work and we hope that it will give us new insights into the problems of this area. The farmers of Mule Creek and Spring Valley will be asked a lot of questions about their farming operations in these studies. We know that they will all cooperate in helping to get all the data together.

We have had several farmers in various watersheds express an interest in developing their watershed, however, we have not been encouraging this too strongly as we want to be sure that we will have the personnel in our District Office to properly develop any proposed project and maintain the work in the rest of the county at the same time. We do intend to assist in the construction of several erosion control dams this coming year. Due to lack of funds, there were no dams constructed in Mills County last year. However, because of the need for such practices in this area we believe that no year should pass without at least two dams being built.

The A. S. C. office and your District Commissioners have given tentative approval to the construction of erosion control dams on Donald Deitchler's farm, west of Mineola and on the Everett Anderson farm southwest of Silver City for the coming year. The Donald Deitchler site would control runoff on about a one hundred acre watershed. Before we install this structure we plan to build about two miles of terraces on two other farms which will mean that we will have about five miles of terraces above this structure.

This will complete the terraces required on this watershed and with the installation of the structure will mean that all the mechanical measures needed in this watershed have been installed. This appears to us to be a sound approach to our conservation problem. It is just good economic sense that a watershed should be well terraced before a structure is installed in it.

The Everett Anderson watershed drains about five hundred acres. Here again we plan to do considerable terracing (approximately four miles). This structure along with the one installed on the Albert Jens farm in 1956 may reduce runoff in this watershed sufficiently so that the county will be able to replace a bridge with a culvert which will mean a saving in road maintenance to the County.

Another development which we are watching with interest is the recently established Mills County Conservation Board. This Board has among its other responsibilities, the development and conservation of wildlife and their habitat in Mills County. We believe it is important that we work closely with this group on problems relating to lakes and ponds so that all the people can benefit to the fullest.

The Mills District also took part in the "Queen of the Furrow" contest, and were much pleased when Barbara Nyren and Carolyn Dashner (see front) were selected as representatives from the Mills District. Carolyn went on and won the District Contest at Atlantic and then to Ames to vie for honors there.

PROSPECTS FOR 1958

The conservation outlook is good. A number of farmers have already signed up to do terracing and waterway work. The only problem is the lack of ACP funds to provide cost-sharing for all the farmers who desire to apply conservation practices — and the fact that our District staff will be the smallest it has been for seven years. We recommend that every farmer who is interested in doing soil conservation work get in touch with the Mills County Soil Conservation District, so that we can attempt to obtain additional funds and personnel.



SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

	1957	To Date
District Cooperators,		
Number	35	513
Acres	9637	118,300
Farms Serviced, Number	301	
Soil Surveys, Acres.....	3362	201,238
New Contouring, Acres..	3933	88,350
Terraces Completed,		
Miles	165	2,519
Diversion Terraces,		
Miles	1.2	47
Open Ditches, Miles.....	2.0	107
Sod Waterways, Acres....	127	1,856
News Articles, Number..	10	256
Commissioners Meetings,		
Number	9	141
A.C.P. Referrals	236	

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

RECEIPTS

Balance on hand January 1, 1957 (Malvern Bank).....	\$ 206.71
Balance on hand January 1, 1957 (Mineola Bank).....	616.22
Land Owner Contributions.....	1,714.06
State 2-A Budget — (Personnel).....	3,819.00
State 1-A Budget.....	353.03
A.S.C. — (Personnel & Mileage).....	3,896.99
Total	\$10,609.01

DISBURSEMENTS

Rodmen—	State	\$1,194.00
	A. S. C.....	3,896.99
Total		\$ 5,090.99
Clerical—	State	2,625.00
	District	297.00
Total		2,922.00
District Operation—		
Office Supplies	\$ 43.41	
Postage	66.50	
Fuel & Utilities.....	576.04	
Dues & Subscriptions to Organizations.....	209.97	
Field Supplies & Equipment.....	48.16	
Printing	130.29	
Photographic Supplies	20.92	
Office Furniture	37.00	
Office Equipment	39.76	
Telephone	43.44	
Total		1,215.49
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		9,228.48
Balance Cash Dec. 31, 1957 (Malvern Bank).....		999.35
Balance Cash Dec. 31, 1957 (Mineola Bank).....		381.18
TOTAL		\$10,609.01

Mills County Soil Conservation District
Malvern, Iowa