

Cherokee County Soil Conservation District ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1973

FORWARD

A definite setback to the soil and water conservation program was dealt with the cancellation of the REAP cost-sharing program for conservation practices. Then in July 1973, Cherokee County received \$14,400.00 in State appropriations for 50% cost sharing on conservation practices of a permanent nature.

The Cherokee County Commissioners established priorities for use of this money as follows:

1. Terraces
2. Erosion Control Structures
3. Waterways
4. Diversion Terrace
5. Diversion Dam
6. Tree Planting
7. Critical Area Planting
8. Field Windbreak

Of the original \$14,400.00 in State funds allocated for conservation practices, less than \$1000.00 are left uncommitted at the end of 1973.

The Commissioners wish to express our thanks and appreciation for the cooperation received from the following businesses and organizations: Department of Soil Conservation, State Conservation Commission, ASCS, FHA, Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, Cherokee County Board of Supervisors, Radio Station KCHE, County Conservation Board, Cherokee Daily Times, Aurelia Sentinel, Marcus News, County Schools and any one else who had a part in furthering the soil and water conservation program in the county. Most of all, we wish to thank all the conservation minded owners and land operators who have chosen to farm their land the conservation way and have shown that conservation and living a good life can go together.



WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST TOM NEAL

The Iowa Conservation Commission provides assistance in planning wildlife habitat areas on private property throughout the State. The Wildlife Biologist for this area is Tom Neal; his office is with the Soil Conservation Service in Cherokee. There is no charge for the biologist's services, and



Gene Dorr and Larry Watts presented tire arms safety classes during the outdoor classroom sessions held for all fifth grades in Cherokee County in May, 1973.

PERSONNEL

THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Vere Corrington, Chairman Cherokee, Iowa
Max Mugge, Vice-Chairman Cleghorn, Iowa
Joe Dessel, Treasurer Cherokee, Iowa
Donald DeWitt,
Little Sioux Representative Washta, Iowa
Elmer Brehmer, Member Aurelia, Iowa

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Bernard Braband District Conservationist
Monas Nixon Conservation Technician
Duane Hollenbeck WAE (Part time)
Gladys Schroeder Clerk and Secretary

AREA PERSONNEL

Wallis R. Tonsfeldt Area Conservationist
Dick Hall Civil Engineer
Wayne Eberly Civil Engineer Technician
Guy H. Hempey Civil Engineer Technician
Margaret Walker Clerk

IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tom Neal Wildlife Biologist
Duane Bedford District Forester

no tax money is used. The entire budget comes from the sale of hunting, fishing and trapping licenses.

Mr. Neal provides technical assistance in developing wildlife habitat areas in five counties, including Cherokee. He is also responsible for the management of 23 State-owned hunting and fishing areas in the five counties, advises people on wildlife problems and conducts wildlife surveys. These programs are also paid for by hunters and fishermen.

The Conservation Commission attempts to coordinate its activities with other agencies for maximum benefit to wildlife and other resources. We believe that wildlife can exist in harmony with a modern, efficiently operated farm. If you would like to have more wildlife around your farm, stop at the SCS office and talk with Mr. Neal, or leave your name and he will contact you.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

	Unit	Fiscal Year	To Date
District Cooperators	No.	60	974
Conservation Plans	No.	30	777
Terraces	Ft.	158,915	3,230,630
Waterways	Ac.	40.7	1,654
Diversions	Ft.	2,480	64,089
Structures and Ponds	No.	3	239
Tile	Ft.	89,460	2,445,876
Windbreak	Ac.	14.8	1,384
Contour	Ac.	743	
Farms applying one or more practices	No.	169	



View overlooking in the foreground, one of the detention dams in the Grand Meadow Sub-watershed on the Robert Rawson farm. The building site is in the center of the picture.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Commissioners had twelve monthly meetings, two special meetings and two watershed meetings in 1973.

Two commissioner regional meetings were attended and representative attended the Little Sioux Committee meetings.

Conservation Education Committee was formed and the first meeting held in May. Commissioner Elmer Brehmer is serving as the District Representative Advisor.

Annual report was printed and distributed.

Trees and shrubs were ordered and distributed in April.

State and National dues were paid.

School field days for all county 5 and 6 graders held in May.

Stewardship Week was observed and booklets sent to all County Ministers in May.

A conservation tour, rural and urban group, was held in June.

The District sponsored a booth exhibit at the local fair in July and August.

The District entered both the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program contest and the Marc Cox Agriculture Conservation Program. Winners in the Iowa Soil



A group of fifth grade students with Bernard Braband, District Conservationist, studying soil conservation at the outdoor classrooms held at Martin Access.

Conservation Achievement Awards Program contest were Dale Smith, Carl Ostrum, Leo Alquist, Jr. and Ronald Schmillen. County winners in the Marc Cox Program contest were Tom Bindner, Dale Smith and Byrl Elliott. They were also judged Area Awards Winners for 1973.

Clerk attended the Annual Conference in Des Moines in September and two local meetings for Area I held in Cherokee in December.

F.F.A. field and office tours in April.

WATERSHEDS

Three landowners installed terraces in Railroad Creek Sub-watershed in 1973. They were Bob Lundquist, Lawrence Hanson and John Jaminet. Preliminary work planning of this sub-watershed has been completed. Directors in this sub-watershed are Marvin Zoch, Harry Hull and Ralph Paterson.

The Four Mile Creek Sub-watershed south of Quimby was newly organized in 1973. Directors of this sub-watershed are Verdean Bumann, Duane Hollenbeck and Bill Johnson. Verdean Bumann and Della Niles installed terraces in the Four Mile Creek Sub-watershed in 1973.

The Stratton Creek Sub-watershed is as yet in the land treatment phase of operations. No structure location plans have yet been started. Directors of this watershed are Don Greife and Jerry Peterson. The Clara Kissinger farm installed terraces in 1973. A shortage of contractors held up progress in this watershed this past year.

Additional land treatment is needed in all three watersheds before structural work is to be at all considered.



A dozer beginning work on push-up grassed backslope terrace construction on the Vernon Corrington farm near Washta.

Farmers in Cherokee County installed a near record amount of parallel terraces in fiscal year 1973. The fiscal year began on July 1, 1972 and ended on June 30, 1973. One of the factors which aided in the establishment of so many terraces was the amount of land still in diverted acres in 1972. This program opened up a number of acres on many farms on which soil and water conservation work could be done during the summer and fall months. This was in direct contrast to the first half of 1973 when conservation work could only be done prior to corn and soybean planting time. After planting time, very little land was available for conservation work. The greater part of the land set aside in the 1972 diverted acre program was returned to active crop production in 1973.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION COMMITTEE

In 1973, the Commissioners selected the following people to serve as a Conservation Education Committee. Members are: Mrs. Beverly Radke, Teacher at Roosevelt School in Cherokee; John Klever, Voc Ag Teacher in Aurelia; Mildred Smith, reporter for the Cherokee Daily Times; Elmer Brehmer, Commissioner and Gladys Schroeder, District Clerk.

FINANCIAL REPORT

July 1, 1972-June 30, 1973

The 1-M and 2-M Budgets are provided by the State of Iowa.

1-M Budget Allocation

Expenses:		\$ 700.00
Commissioners Expenses	\$ 179.93	
Office Supplies	72.21	
Printing	42.50	
Meeting Hall Rental	46.00	
Office Expense	101.24	
Released to Dept. of Soil Conservation	258.12	
	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00

District General Fund

Balance on Hand 7-1-72	\$1104.26
Income	658.00
Total	\$1762.26
Expenses	663.31
Balance on Hand 6-30-73	\$1098.95

2-M Budget Allocation

Clerical Salary, FICA, IPERS, Travel, and Insurance	\$6110.23
Released to Dept. of Soil Conservation	1.77
	\$6110.00
	\$6110.00

District Watershed Maintenance Fund

Balance on Hand 7-1-72	\$38,485.77
Watershed Maintenance Payments	1,509.96
Interest	1,809.54
Total	\$41,805.27
Refunds and Expenses	1,784.54
Balance on Hand 6-30-73	\$40,020.73

Joe V. Dessel, Treasurer