

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1957

of the

Cherokee
County
Soil
Conservation
District

Cherokee County, Iowa

BY YOUR COMMISSIONERS:

Vere Corrington

J. F. Ralston

Arthur Dorr

Let's Be Good Neighbors

Have you ever observed your neighbor rebuilding fence after a heavy rain? If you had done a better job of "holding the rain drops where they fall" could his fence repair job have been small or even eliminated?

Have you ever looked over your neighbor's corn field after a heavy rain and observed an acre or two of corn covered with silt, or perhaps noticed that his fence was covered with silt as high as the woven wire? Is it possible that, had you made more effort to hold the soil on your farm, he would not be faced with troubles such as these?

Does your neighbor have an active gully on his farm? Is it possible that the job of healing such a gully would be much simpler if you were to reduce the amount of water running off your farm?

Is your neighbor's bromegrass waterway built up in the middle to the degree that the water runs on both edges of the waterway? Was it your soil that caused this to happen?

These are only a few of the conservation problems that can best be solved by group or neighborhood efforts and when you work with your neighbors in solving problems like these you are not only being a "good neighbor" but are helping yourself at the same time.

This is the heart of the District's watershed program. Neighborhood action to solve problems that cannot be solved on an individual farm basis.

Cherokee's District Commissioners

Vere Corrington of Cherokee, J. F. Ralston of Washta, and Arthur Dorr of Marcus served as commissioners during 1957; Vere Corrington as chairman and, also, as Cherokee's representative on the Little Sioux Works Committee. L. C. Bengtson of Cherokee, serves the District as treasurer and Extension Director, Forrest Kohrt, serves as secretary.

Following are some of the activities your commissioners participated in during 1957:

- January 3, 1957 Meeting to discuss County ASC Program for 1957.
- January 22, 1957 Regular meeting of District Commissioners.
- February 22, 1957 Northwest Iowa Experimental Association Meeting at Primghar.
- February 26, 1957 Regular meeting of District Commissioners.
- March 7, 1957 Watershed meeting at Sioux City to discuss Public Law 566.
- March 12, 1957 Meeting of those interested in Railroad Creek Watershed.
- March 14, 1957 Railroad Creek Watershed meeting.
- March 18, 1957 Railroad Creek organization meeting.
- March 18, 1957 Meeting to discuss County ASC Program for 1958.
- March 21, 1957 Association of District Commissioners Meeting at Primghar.
- April 23, 1957 Regular meeting of District Commissioners.
- May 28, 1957 Regular meeting of District Commissioners.

- June 7, 1957 Dinner Meeting with Don Williams, Administrator of Soil Conservation Service, in Sioux City, Iowa.
- June 8, 1957 Little Sioux Works Committee Meeting.
- June 25, 1957 Regular meeting of District Commissioners.
- July 8, 1957 Field day at Sutherland Experimental farm.
- July 27, 1957 Regular meeting of District Commissioners.
- August 23, 1957 Organizing participation in Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture.
- August 27, 1957 Regular meeting of District Commissioners.
- September 2, 1957 Assist with judging of Sheldon Plowing Matches (J. F. Ralston).
- September 7, 1957 Assist with judging of Pilot Rock Plowing Matches (Vere Corrington).
- September 8 To 10, 1957 Annual Conference of Association of District Commissioners.
- September 24, 1957 Regular meeting of District Commissioners.
- September 28, 1957 Assist with judging of Buena Vista Plowing matches (Vere Corrington).
- November 6, 1957 Awards dinner in Sioux City for Sioux City Program participants.
- November 21, 1957 Meeting to discuss 1958 and 1959 County ASC Program.
- December 19, 1957 Regular meeting of District Commissioners.

Report of the Treasurer

L. C. Bengtson - - Cherokee, Iowa

December 31, 1957

CHEROKEE COUNTY COIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

GENERAL FUND

Cash Balance on January 1, 1957	\$ 427.86	\$
Received from State Soil Conservation Committee	87.99	
Received from Sioux City Chamber of Commerce (Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture)	100.00	
Cost of Treasurer's bond		17.50
Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners dues		100.00
National Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners dues		65.00
Stamps purchased		40.00
Film purchased and developed		13.80
Office Supplies		8.39
Material for exhibits		9.50
Pamphlets for Stewardship Week		8.50
TOTALS	\$ 660.85	\$ 262.69
Balance on Hand December 31, 1957		398.16
TOTALS	\$ 660.85	\$ 660.85

Report of Treasurer [Continued]

MAINTENANCE FUND

Cash Balance on January 1, 1957 \$7376.88 \$

Watershed Maintenance payments received in 1957:

Neil Warner	45.00
D. W. Simonsen	150.00
Ralph Robeson	65.00
Mrs. Elsie Conley	45.00
F. O. Mortenson	210.00
Mary Vollmar	121.33
Forrest Spencer	30.34
Henry Smith & Sons	125.00
P. M. Peterson	90.00
James R. Fee	45.00

Interest on funds on time deposits with
Farmers National Bank of Aurelia 52.24

Interest on funds on time deposits with Sioux
Valley Savings & Loan of Cherokee 46.13

TOTALS	\$8446.92	
Balance on Hand December 31, 1957		\$8446.92
TOTALS	\$8446.92	\$8446.92

NOTE: As of December 31, 1957, the \$8446.92 in the District maintenance fund is disposed of as follows: \$6,000.00 in Certificate of Deposit at the Farmers National Bank of Aurelia, \$1,572.43 is deposited with the Sioux Valley Savings & Loan Association of Cherokee and \$874.49 is deposited in a checking account at the Farmers National Bank of Aurelia.

The \$398.16 in the District General Fund is deposited in a checking account at the Farmers National Bank of Aurelia.

State Soil Conservation Committee

On the basis of a budget, submitted annually to the State Committee by the commissioners, state funds are allotted to each District to aid in promoting their soil and water conservation program.

Your commissioners have always felt that one of the best ways of using state funds available to our District is employing needed clerical help. Help that will relieve technicians of office chores and enable them to use their time where it will accomplish the most in getting more soil and water conservation practices on the land. Also, we can provide better service to Cherokee District farmers by having someone in the office at all times to provide information and schedule appointments.

State funds made available to the Cherokee District were expended as follows:

Office Supplies	\$ 78.49
Printing	74.75
Material for exhibits	9.50
Commissioners Mileage	153.61
Equipment purchased	59.40
Clerical help	2235.00
TOTAL	\$2610.75

Our District clerk, Mrs. Gladys Schroeder, reports that there were 1063 office callers during 1957 and 350 phone calls.

Soil Conservation Service

The District's technical staff needs are supplied by the Soil Conservation Service. These needs are determined by the size of the District's work load.

During 1957, the Soil Conservation Service supplied the following technical assistance:

Work Unit Conservationist	Harvey Lindberg
Conservation Aid	Glen Craft
Conservation Aid	Monas Nixon
Soil Conservationist	Wallis Tonsfeldt
Soil Conservationist	Roger Koster

We are taking this opportunity to give the folks listed above a big "thank you" for the fine work they have done and are doing. We think the Cherokee District has much to be proud of and it has been a pleasure to work with these men.

Wallis Tonsfeldt received a promotion and was transferred to Sioux City in June of 1957. Roger Koster, a recent graduate of Iowa State College, was employed to replace Wallis Tonsfeldt and joined the staff on July 29th.

Assistance from engineering, soils and agronomy specialists was made available to the District on a need basis by Area Conservationist, George Lamp, of the Soil Conservation Service.

District Cooperators

There are 641 Cherokee County farmers now cooperating with the District in applying soil and water conservation practices on their farm.

These 641 farmers are located in Cherokee's 16 townships as follows:

MARCUS 12	LIBERTY 29	CEDAR 28	SPRING 27
AMHERST 37	SHERIDAN 26	CHEROKEE 32	AFTON 29
TILDEN 44	ROCK 56	PILOT 55	PITCHER 46
GR. MEADOW 59	WILLOW 65	SILVER 65	DIAMOND 31

Summary of Conservation Progress During 1957

- 52.5 miles of terrace built.
- 7,456 more acres of row crop on the contour.
- 16,142 rods of contour field divisions established.
- 3 miles of gully shaped into waterways.
- 50 cooperators worked out complete soil and water conservation plans for their farms.
- 12,225 feet of tile drains surveyed and checked.
- 7,800 acres soil mapped for soil type, slope and degree of erosion.
- 19 plans revised for old cooperators.
- 382 Cherokee County farmers assisted with one or more soil and water problems.

Terraces

We are pleased to find that interest in terracing is continuing to grow. Almost as many terraces have been built in the last two years as were installed in the ten years previous to 1956. Also, 53 cooperators have already indicated that they are interested in building terraces in 1958 (26 of these are adding on to present terrace systems and 27 have no terraces at present).

One of the questions that comes up at our planning meetings is how to stimulate more interest in terracing. A review of the Cherokee County farms that now have terraces provides some interesting highlights.

29% of the Cherokee County farmers with terraces on their land have been district cooperators for 10 to 12 years; 23% have been cooperators for 8 to 10 years; and an additional 20% for at least 6 years. Only 11% of those having terraces have been cooperators for less than 3 years. On the average, all farmers with terraces on their land had contoured for at least 4 years before doing any terracing. To date, about 55% of those who built terraces have built more in succeeding years. Also, a dry year seems to stimulate more interest in both contouring and terracing.

Agricultural Conservation Program

In fulfilling their assigned responsibilities under this program, local Soil Conservation Service technicians serviced 136 requests for cost sharing assistance on soil and water conservation practices. Practices certified as meeting ASC requirements included 50 miles of terrace, almost 3 miles of waterways and over 11,000 feet of tile drains. The ASC office reports that cost sharing payments were made on 4,708 acres of contouring in Cherokee County in 1957.

We appreciate the efforts made by the Cherokee County ASC Committee to encourage the installation of permanent type conservation practices such as terracing and gully control.

Wildlife Conservation

The multiflora rose planting on the Arthur Dorr farm, section 19 of Amherst Township, is now a thick hedge averaging more than six feet in height. It is providing excellent wildlife cover; pheasants use it for both protection and as a travel lane and song birds nest in it.

As of this year, it is also serving as a living fence. This past summer, Art removed the fence along which the multiflora rose had been planted; the hedge has served successfully as a fence between his permanent pasture and cropland. It has successfully turned the large herd of milk cows kept on this farm. It also serves as an excellent snow trap.

This planting was made in the spring of 1952; a single row of the seedlings were set out. The planting was well cared for (cultivated and kept free of weeds) and an excellent stand obtained. It was established in cooperation with the Iowa State Conservation Commission; Conservation Officer Frank Starr making the necessary arrangements. Frank has worked with District technicians every year in planning and arranging for planting of wildlife cover areas and is a strong booster for the District's soil and water conservation program.

Stocking Fish

Fish were stocked in 10 farm ponds during 1957 (on district co-operators farms). These 10 farm ponds formed a total of $25\frac{1}{2}$ acres of water surface. The ponds ranged in size from $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to 8 acres.

A total of 2550 bass fingerlings and 510 adult bluegills were stocked in these ponds. Fingerling catfish were also stocked in a few of the larger ponds.

The stocking was done by the State Conservation Commission, after receiving and approving applications from the landowners. Frank Starr, Conservation Officer made the necessary arrangements, working with the District technical staff.

Since 1945, 23 erosion control or flood detention dams have been installed, on cooperator farms, that formed ponds of sufficient area and depth to warrant stocking with fish. The primary purpose of these structures is gully control and flood detention. However, livestock watering systems (with a tank below the dam) have been installed in many of them. These areas can also be developed into excellent recreation spots for picnics, boating, hunting and fishing.

Northwest Iowa Experimental Association

Membership in the Northwest Iowa Experimental Association now includes nearly 4000 farmers and businessmen from ten northwest Iowa Counties. Cherokee County farmers and businessmen have purchased 577 shares of stock in this association; your Soil Conservation District is one of the Cherokee stockholders.

The association now owns two small farms. One, 40 acres in size, is located nine miles south of Rock Rapids in Lyon County (in the Moody soil area). The other, 80 acres in size, is located just northeast of Sutherland, in O'Brien County, and is in the Galva-Primghar-Sac soil association area. The Galva soil type is found in every township in Cherokee County; the Primghar soil type is found primarily in the northwest part of the county.

The association has leased both of these farms to Iowa State College to serve as sites for the study of agricultural problems peculiar to this part of Iowa.

Operations were started on the Lyon County tract in the spring of 1956 and at the Sutherland location in the spring of 1957. Regular annual field days will be held to show the various lines of work in progress and a printed progress report will be distributed annually.

Some of the studies under way at the two locations are: soil moisture, planting to fit fertility and moisture, time and rates of phosphate application, effect of alfalfa on soil moisture, seedbed preparation methods for corn, tillage trials and crop variety trials.

Association directors from Cherokee are Whitfield Adamson and Bill Turner.

Sioux City Program For Permanent Agriculture

Sponsored by

Sioux City Journal-Tribune and Sioux City Chamber of Commerce

The sponsors of this program annually make awards to Soil Conservation Districts in the Sioux City Trade Territory (parts of Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Minnesota) for outstanding achievement in soil conservation work.

We take pride in the fact that the Cherokee District received one of the area awards for 1957. This is the fifth time our District has received this recognition since the program was started in 1947.

The team that represented our District and won the award this year consisted of Ralph Patterson of Cherokee, John Husman of Quimby and Herbert Peterson of Aurelia.

Previous area award winning teams were staffed by the following: Forrest Spencer of Washta, Bob Florine and Eldred Beeghly of Quimby, Cliff Chapman of Cherokee, Keith Fee and Harvey Harrison of Washta, Vere Corrington of Cherokee, Art Dorr of Marcus, Ralph Kludas of Cherokee, Herb Althaus of Pierson, Pete Carsten of Quimby and James Fee of Washta.

Of the 15 cooperators making up the 5 area award winning teams, Grand Meadow Township has supplied 4 of them, Willow has 3, Pitcher has 2, and Afton, Amherst, Cherokee, Pilot, Sheridan and Silver each one.

Since the start of this program, 33 county winners have been selected (a team of 3 for each year). Willow Township has supplied 7 of these men; Grand Meadow, 6; Pilot 4; Silver, 4; Pitcher, 3; Rock, Sheridan and Tilden, each 2; Afton, Amherst and Cherokee, each 1.

Goals for 1958

- 64 New District Cooperators
- 56 More farms with complete conservation plans
- 6,000 More acres soil mapped
- 8,000 More acres of contouring
- 75 Miles of terraces
- 50 Acres of gullies shaped into waterways
- 5 More erosion control structures
- 13,200 Rods of new contour field divisions

It is estimated that District technicians will furnish assistance to at least 350 farmers during 1958.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all individuals and groups who have helped us with the District's soil and water conservation program, the Soil Conservation Service, the Extension Service, the County Agricultural and Stabilization Committee, the County Board of Supervisors, and our schools and churches for their help and cooperation during 1957. Also, we would like to acknowledge the fine assistance we have received from the Cherokee Times and Courier in publicizing the District program. Contractors such as Jess Aiken, D. J. Scothorn and Roy Robinson have also played an important part in getting conservation on the land. Most important of all, the use that Cherokee County farmers have made of services available to them by the District has been very gratifying to us as Commissioners.

Vere Corrington
JF Ralston
Herbert Peterson

Vere Corrington
Ford Ralston
Art Dorr

Book for 1938

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