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1953

Annual Report

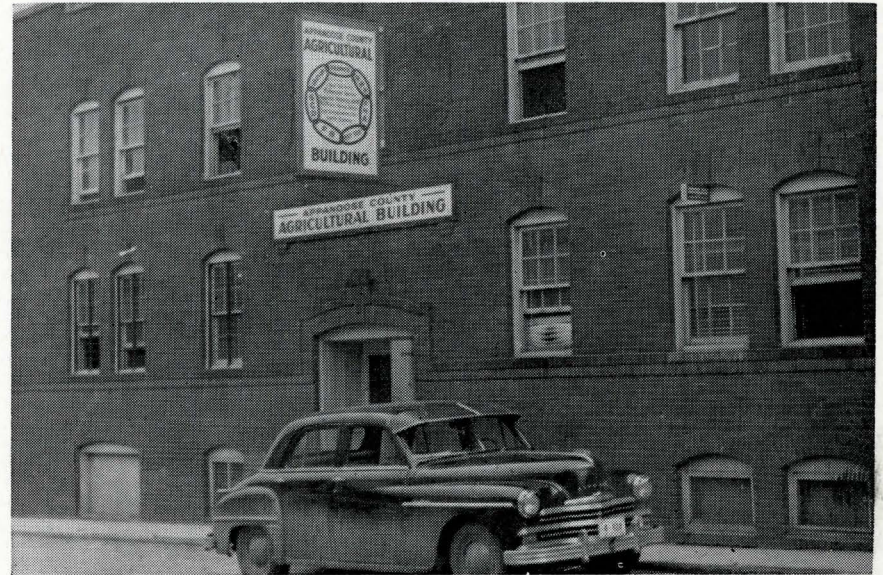


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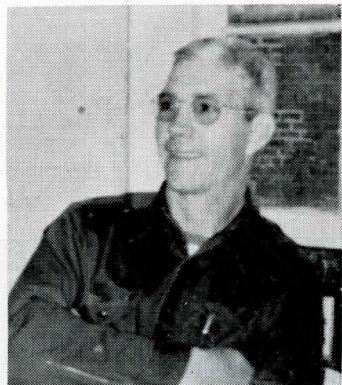
**Appanoose
Soil Conservation District**



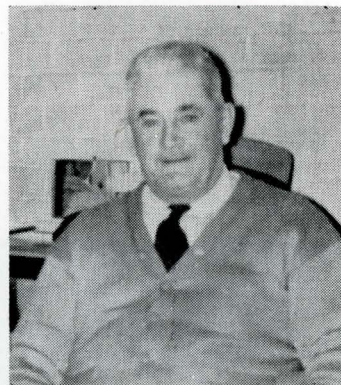
**Agricultural Building
Centerville, Iowa**



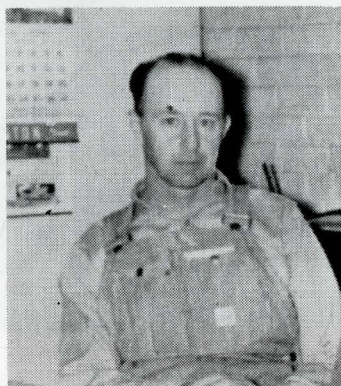
The Agricultural Building in
Appanoose County



Arthur M. Streepy



R. C. Wilson



George A. Scott, Chairman

COMMISSIONERS
Appanoose Soil Conservation District

Dear Fellow Conservationist:

We are happy to submit the following report to all who are interested in soil conservation. We are proud of this record but we feel that much more can and needs to be done. Soil conservation requires teamwork; first between the farmer, his soil and the weather, and secondly between the farmer and those upon whom he may call for assistance to do the more difficult jobs. The items and pictures of this report are a result of this type of cooperation.

Your district furnishes, through memorandums of understanding, educational assistance from the Iowa State Extension Service and technical assistance in any line of soil or water conservation work, from the Soil Conservation Service.

We hope that you will take time to study this report as it is the only means we have of letting you know the job your Soil Conservation District is doing for you.

Very truly yours,

George A. Scott, Chairman
Soil District Commissioners

Arthur M. Streepy, Commissioner

R. C. Wilson, Commissioner

1953 Personnel

Appanoose Soil Conservation District

State of Iowa

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

George A. Scott.....Chairman
 Arthur M. Streepy.....Commissioner
 R. C. Wilson.....Commissioner
 Fred G. LasleyCounty Extension Director
Secretary of Board of Commissioners

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

E. E. Smith, Jr.....Area Conservationist
 William E. Stark.....Work Unit Conservationist
 LaVern A. Whitaker.....Conservation Aid

STATE EMPLOYEES

Joe R. Luse.....State Technical Aid
 Cora Lee Widmar.....Clerk

DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

Bulldozer Operators.....Arthur Davis
Arthur Streepy
 Terracer Operator.....Wendell F. Pick



Soil Conservation Objective

"The basic physical
 objective of soil conservation
 activities in Appanoose County

Shall be

The use of each acre of agricultural land in the
 Appanoose District within its capabilities and the
 treatment of each acre of agricultural land in ac-
 cordance with its needs for protection and im-
 provement."

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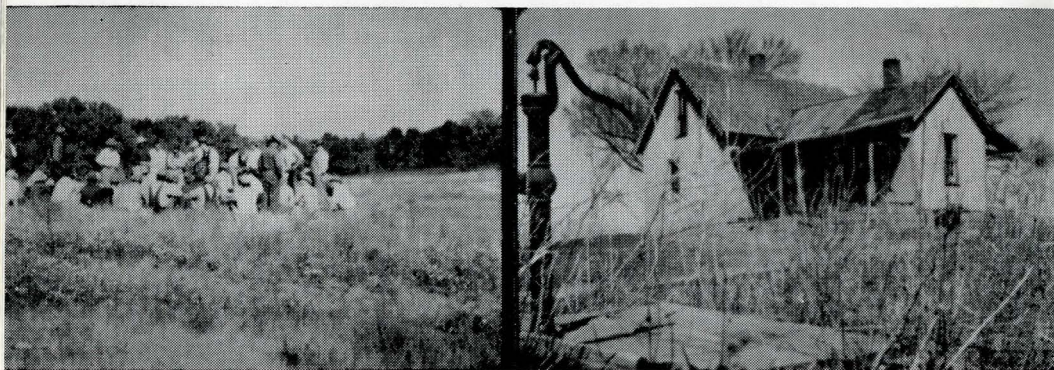
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Calendar of Events

JANUARY

On January 12, 1953, the District Soil Commissioners purchased a 160 acre, worn-out farm southwest of Centerville. The cost was \$8,000 plus interest. It will be financed through the work of the two district bulldozers and the donation of farmers and businessmen of Appanoose county. This farm was purchased to help show the public during a period of six years or more, how a worn-out abandoned farm can be transformed into a self-supporting family farm when soil conservation is established and maintained. Many of the neighboring farmers around the demonstration farm were interested enough to donate some of their time and machinery to support this district project.

The first Farmers Conservationist School of the year was held January 29, 1953. A discussion was held on credit for soil conservation practices.



The 54 PMA county and township committeemen walked over and inspected the SCD demonstration farm before any conservation work was begun.

The rundown condition of the demonstration farm's buildings without a tenant is a direct result of the eroded, weedy fields failing to support a family. Yes, the pump, like the soil will have to be primed.



No grass was available on the demonstration farm for an outlet for the terraces. This ridge outlet was constructed, fertilized, and seeded to reed canary grass.

This heavy disc pulled by a district bulldozer was needed to clear, smooth and prepare the eroded fields for seeding at the SCD farm.

FEBRUARY

The second and third Farmer Conservationist Schools were held on February 5 and February 12. On February 5, Dick Frevert, extension engineer, spoke on advancements in agricultural developments and Joe Stritzel, extension agronomist, spoke on fertilizers. On February 12, a long grass silage tour was held on the P. McElvain and E. Talbert farms with about 30 farmers attending.

MARCH

The Soil Conservation District held a meeting March 31 with dealers and blockmen of farm equipment companies. The purpose of this meeting was to ask their cooperation. The laws, program, and responsibilities of the district were explained; as a result they will back the commissioners 100 percent at field days, demonstrations, etc.

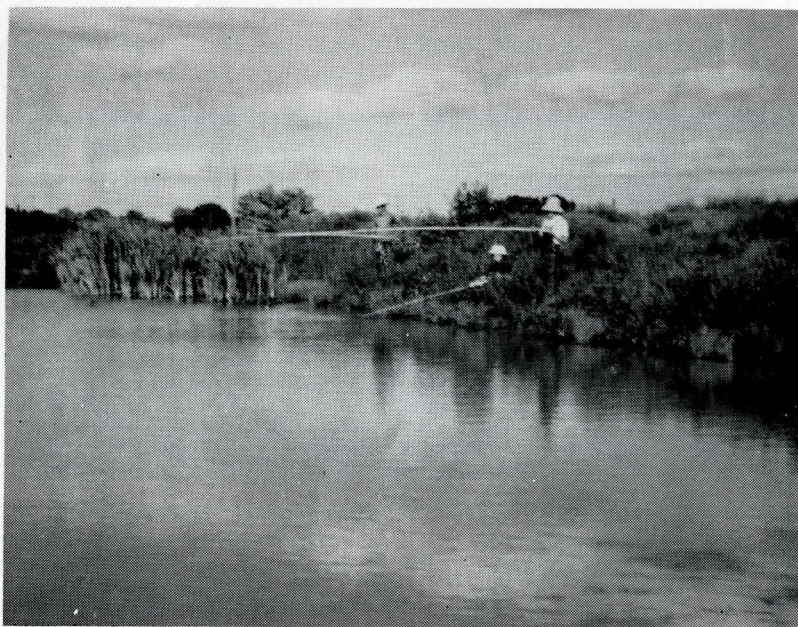
APRIL

A farm planning field day was held at the SCD demonstration farm on April 2. Lunch was served to the 60 or more in attendance. SCS technicians explained the soils capability, showed how the conservation plan was being made and where the practices would be on the land.

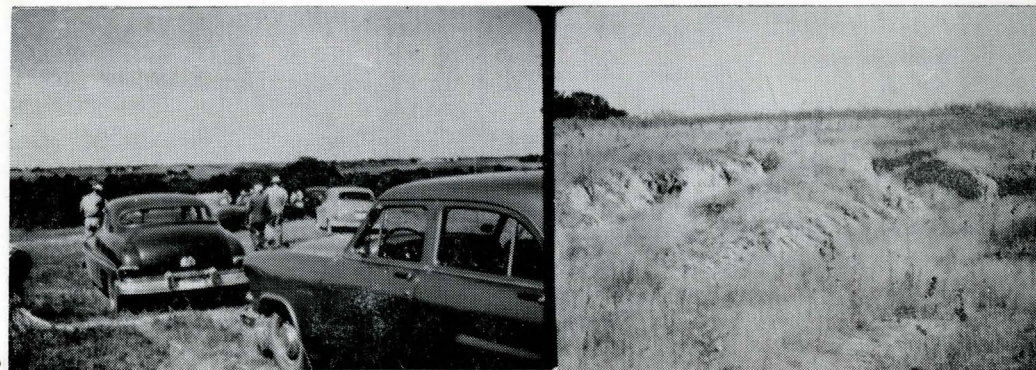
The Moravia F. F. A. boys spent one day planting 2,000 pine trees on the Commissioners farm.

MAY

The commissioners started work on their demonstration farm by bulldozing and leveling. On the west side of the main ridge, 25 major gullies were counted. This involved an area of only 12 acres.



Water conservation is part of the job. Here the farm pond of Forest Main, Moravia, Iowa, also serves as a recreational spot for his family.



Seeing what trefoil can do on thin steep land, these farmers had to walk part of the way at Jack Miller's farm, northeast of Centerville. Trefoil-conservation tour.

No topsoil here! It's going to be like growing hair on a billiard ball to get crops growing again on the subsoil clay at the SCD farm.

JUNE

A field day on trefoil and conservation was held June 26 on the John Mitchell, Jack Howell, and Jack Miller farms. There were 35 farmers who attended the tour.

Soil Conservation Week was observed June 15 to 20. During this week the commissioners made two radio broadcasts over radio station KCOG. News items were also written and featured this week.



Prof. Hughes of Iowa State College inspects legume mixture of sweet clover, birdsfoot trefoil, red clover, alsike, alfalfa, and ladino. Howell-Lindley farm, northeast of Centerville.

This hillside was once in timber-brush as in background. Pete Sidles, Jerome, now has Empire Trefoil well established, and is using it for hay, seed, and pasture.

JULY

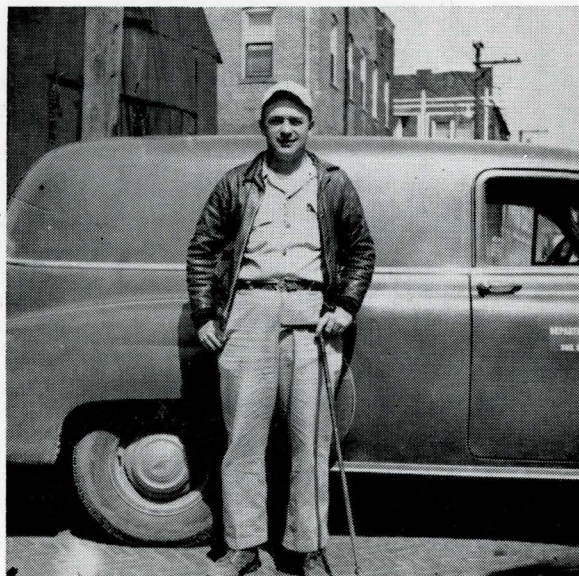
By Wayne Dietz, Soil Scientist

"Soil surveys have been made on nearly 149,000 acres or 49 percent of Appanoose farmland since 1944, when extensive survey work first started. 6,230 acres were surveyed in 1953. Several changes have been made in our soils legends since 1944, as we must constantly bring our soils information up to date to utilize the information we gain from year to year through research and experience."

AUGUST

A fair exhibit was prepared for the Appanoose County Fair. It consisted of showing metal containers filled with soil simulating corn fields of good, medium, and poor top soil on sloping land. Toy wagons and buckets were used to show the soil and water losses on these fields with and without conservation practices.

The District Commissioners of Appanoose county again cooperated with Davis and Monroe counties in making an exhibit shown at the Iowa State Fair.



Wayne Dietz, SCS Soil Mapper, makes the original soil survey for Appanoose District farmers when they ask for conservation planning assistance.



Wayne Dietz and Bill Stark, SCS technicians, showing farmers the Class VI land on 7 percent slopes at the district's demonstration farm southwest of Centerville.

SEPTEMBER

By Bill Stark, Farm Planner

"A little planning ahead pays off when the time comes to put the practice into effect.

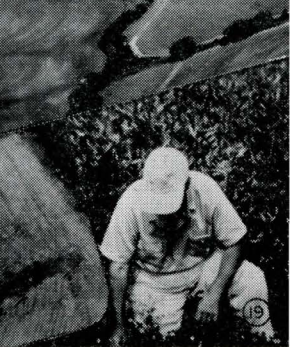
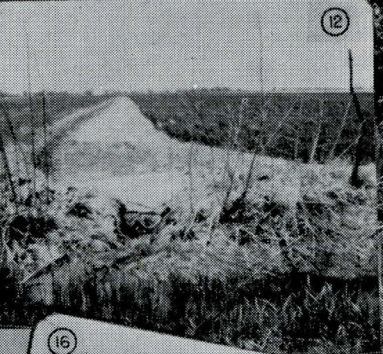
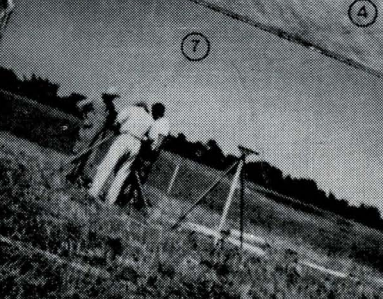
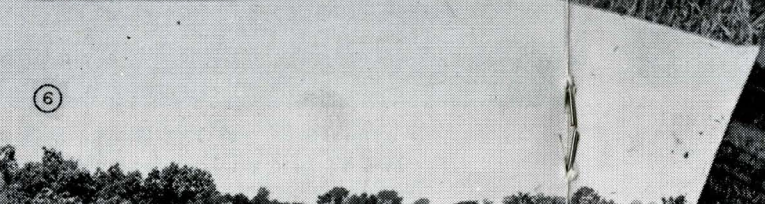
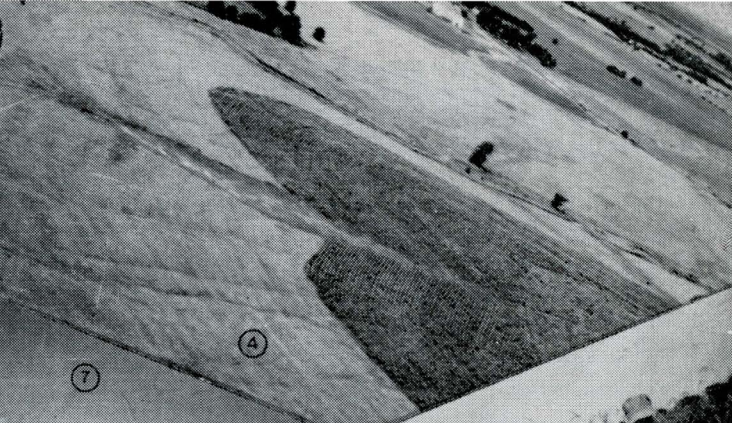
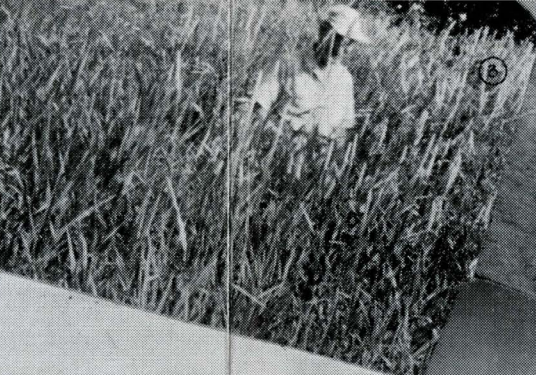
"Planning for soil conservation was stepped up considerably in 1953 in comparison to 1952. However, much more at a faster rate is to be desired. The 33 farmers who completed their plans have already started getting them into effect on the land. While the 93 who are in the process of developing a conservation guide will no doubt have one or more practices installed in 1954.

"The Soil Conservation Service technicians cooperate with many public and private groups interested in getting more soil conservation accomplished. Some of the activities under this are technical assistance to the ASC-ACP in the layout supervision and checking of permanent soil conservation practices; assisting the Extension Service in their program planning and 4-H work; assisting the FHA supervisor in the technical assistance needed on farms under his supervision; and further assistance to township Farm Bureaus, Boy Scouts, civic groups, and newspapers and radio by providing speakers, colored slides, or news items on soil conservation."

Hubert R. Morrow, Moulton, won the Iowa Farm Equipment Dealers Award for helping promote soil conservation demonstrations, and practicing soil conservation on his own farm.

Ernie Talbert, Centerville, Iowa, received honorable mention in the Register and Tribune Soil Conservation Award contest for the soil conservation work he has done on his farm.

See Page 23 For Guide
For Large Picture Mosaic



OCTOBER

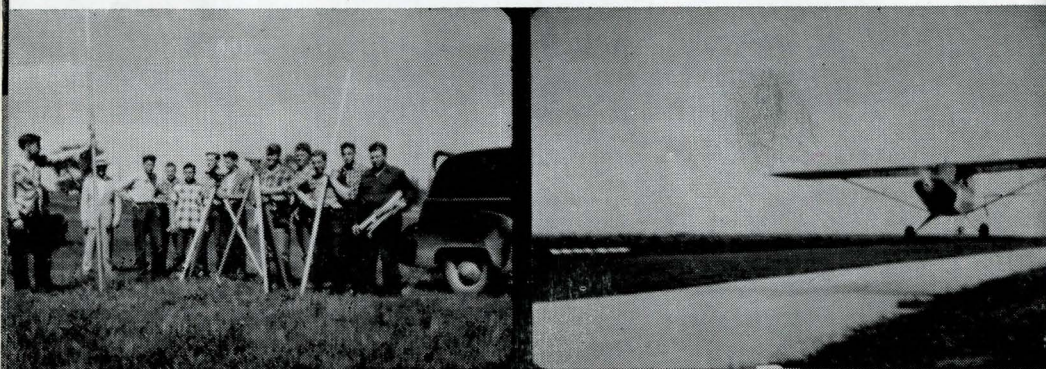
By Fred G. Lasley, County Extension Director

"In keeping with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the Agricultural Extension Service, the local extension office, including employed personnel and local leaders, have cooperated with the district in carrying out the educational program on soil conservation. In addition to the Soil Conservation Schools, Soil Conservation Week, and the annual Air Tour, forage and fertilizer tours of farms in the county were held. 4-H clubs of the county devoted two months of the year to the study of soil conservation on their home farms. Two delegates from the county were sent to Conservation Camp and reported back to their clubs and other meetings on their activities while at camp.

"The local Extension Director has served as secretary to the District Commissioners and has enjoyed fulfilling that position. It is hoped for, and believed, that the coming year will see greater achievement and progress in soil conservation on the farms of Appanoose county."

42 farmers of Appanoose county received bluegills ordered through the District on October 22.

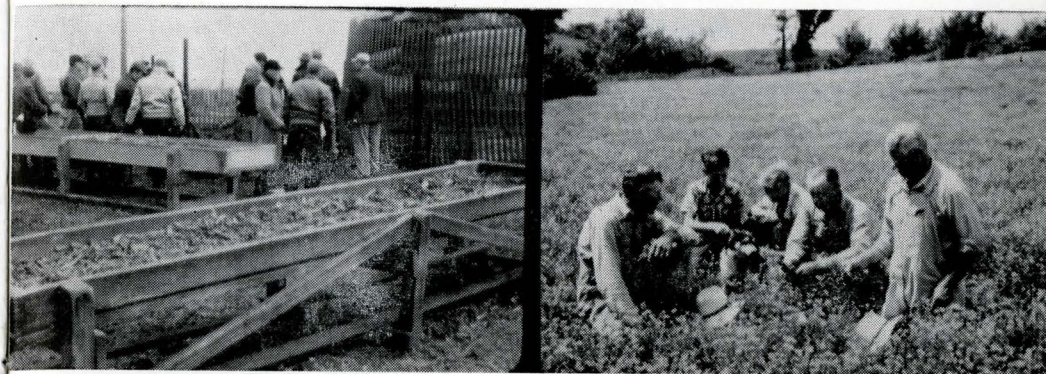
The annual Soil Conservation Air Tour was held Sunday, October 11, 1953. 80 farmers took the 40 mile tour. Many expressed themselves on how they enjoyed seeing so much soil conservation work in their locality. Five good, color, sound movies were shown in the hanger during the afternoon. At the same time the Centerville Gun Club held a skeet match adjacent to the hanger. The total attendance, who seemed to enjoy the afternoon and the opportunity to see for themselves, firsthand, the amount of soil conservation which is being done, was estimated at 300 farmers and their families.



Bob Dean's Voc. Ag. Class of Centerville High School getting ready to stake out terraces at the Centerville Airport. SCS technicians serve as instructors.

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For Large Picture Mosaic

S. T. Runkel, SCS, Ottumwa, takes off from the Centerville airport with Richard Gorden, Plano. Soil Conservation Air Tour, October 11, 1953.



Farmers gather around silage stacks and bunks at Rex Wells farm, northwest of Plano, while extension specialists point out the many features of silage operations.

Grover Kaster's Italian trefoil sown in 1948 on thin Lindley soil. Reseeding each year maintains the stand of this valuable perennial legume. Some winter kill is expected when pastured.

NOVEMBER

The annual Alfalfa Banquet was held November 19. The Soil Commissioners presented 8 farmers with a soil conservation award consisting of a framed scroll and pin. The farmers who received the award are as follows: Loyd Massman, George Sidles, Lyndon McDanel, Kenneth Coltrain, F. L. Sawyers, John Sutter, Carl Evans, and Burdette Stamps.

Arthur Streepy, commissioner, was selected to represent the Soil Conservation District as a member of the Albia Experimental Farm Advisory Committee.

DECEMBER

By Frank McCabe, County PMA Chairman

"Five percent funds are an arrangement co-ordinated by the USDA whereby the County PMA Committee could set aside funds not to exceed 5 percent of the total ACP allocation. These funds are used by the SCS to employ competent technicians to do the layout work on farms that do not have SCS farm plans.

"Under this agreement it enables the District to continue their soil conservation program in the county without having to use state funds appropriated to them for ACP work."

By Arthur M. Streepy, District Commissioner

"The district bulldozers (Caterpillar D7 and International Td18A) did the following work for farmers in the District. They built 43 ponds, spending 537½ hours, 370 hours clearing brush, 216½ hours doing drainage, 49½ hours building div.-terraces, and built 10 trench silos, spending 34½ hours."

Accomplished in 1953

By LaVern Whitaker, Conservation Aid

"The SCS serviced ⁸¹⁹319 farms in Appanoose county in 1953. On these farms the following amounts were laid out and completed.

	Laid out by SCS	Known to be completed by farmers
Contouring	2014 acres	5180 acres
Terraces	10 miles	7.51 miles
Diversions	4 miles	2.42 miles
Ponds	51 No.	43 No.
Waterways	2.65 acres	2.65 acres
Strip Cropping	115 acres	115 acres
Tile Drainage	1860 L. F.	1260 L. F.
Farm Drainage	142 acres	142 acres
Open Drainage	4.83 miles	2.05 miles
Land Clearing	376 acres	376 acres
Pasture Improvement		178 acres
Tree Planting		2 acres
Wildlife Area Imp.		6 acres
Pond Management		6 No.
Multiflora Rose		26,756 No.

The extreme dry weather accounted for some of the layout not being completed. The statistics show that more than half of the farmers can now lay off their own contours satisfactorily. It would have been of great help to our record keeping if all farmers would notify us as soon as possible after a job is completed.

Active Agreements This Year

Initial Agreements	58	12,763 acres
Advanced Agreements	35	6,622 acres
Basic Plans Prepared and Signed	33	6,037 acres

Active Agreements to Date

Initial Agreements	132	31,215 acres
Advanced Agreements	57	12,824 acres
Basic Plans Prepared and Signed	348	64,681 acres

Goals for 1954

SCD-SCD Assistance:

Initial Agreement	52
Conservation Farming Guide	40
Basic Plans	50
Basic Plans — Followups	52
Basic Plans — Followup Replans	
No change in ownership	20

Conservation Surveys	10,000
Contour	3,180 acres
Strip Cropping	210 acres
Terraces	18.0 miles
Diversions	6.0 miles
Tile Drainage	1,600 L. F.
Open Drainage	5.0 miles
Constructed Waterways	13.0 miles
Stock Ponds	62 No.
Structures	2 No.
Erosion Control Dams	2 No.
Planning — Group Organization	4 No.

376
376
752

Financial Report for 1953

Tractor Account

Cash on hand January 1, 1953.....	\$ 999.50
Cash Receipts — 1953	17,017.85
Bank Loans	4,000.00
Total Cash Receipts and Bank Loans.....	\$22,017.35
Tractor Repairs	\$ 2,399.00
Salary — Dozer operators	6 018.55
Insurance	60.00
Miscellaneous Expense	355.39
Gas and Oil Expense	2,095.55
Purchase of Trailer	300.00
Payments on Dozer	3,615.00
Payments on notes at bank	3,597.33
Payments on Demonstration Farm	1,000.00
Farm Expenses — (Seed, soil treatments and practices, labor)	2,337.69
Total Expenditures	\$21,778.51
Expenditures deducted	21,778.51
Cash on hand January 1, 1954	238.84
Accounts Outstanding (for dozer work)	1,839.60
Accounts Outstanding — (trans. to other Dist. acc'ts.)	612.29
Accounts Outstanding (Demonstration farm)....	3,337.69
	6,028.42
Debts Outstanding deducted	79.06
Total Assets	5,959.36
Inventory statement on the International Tractor and Dozer — Purchase price....	14,340.00
Caterpillar tractor and dozer — Purchase price	12,968.50
	27,308.50
Minus Depreciation	6,758.50
	20 550.00
Assets Added	5,949.36
Estimated Net Worth	\$26,499.36

Appanoose County Soil Conservation Field Day and Plowing Match Account

(Donations from 100 people, businesses, and organizations)

Cash on hand January 1, 1953	\$168.87
Cash Receipts — 1953	0.00
Gross Cash	\$168.87
Expenditures deducted (Refreshments for field days).....	38.14
Cash on hand January 1, 1954	\$130.73

Southern Iowa Experimental Farm (District Owned Shares)

Share value on hand January 1, 1953 (Incl. \$540 trans. from bulldozer account)	\$540.00
Share value on hand January 1, 1954	\$540.00

Rent Account (County Agricultural Building — District holds 5 year lease)

Cash on hand January 1, 1953 (Incl. \$72.29 trans. from bulldozer account)	\$ 104.22
Cash receipts — 1953	3,552.46
	\$3,656.68
Expenditures — 1953	3,600.00
Cash on hand January 1, 1954	\$ 56.68

State of Iowa and District Funds

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 1953

State of Iowa — 1-A Revolving Fund

(For office supplies, printing, soil conservation prizes, and demonstrations)

Cash on hand January 1, 1953	\$ 541.24
Allocation from Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee	500.00
	<u>1 041.24</u>
Unexpended 1952-1953 money turned back to State of Iowa June 30, 1953	133.14
	<u>908.10</u>
Expenditures:	
Commissioners salary	0.00
Commissioners mileage	135.23
Office supplies	241.79
Printing	128.98
Prizes for contests	26.17
Material for demonstrations	61.09
Office expenses	1.70
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 594.96</u>
Expenditures deducted	594.96
Cash on hand January 1, 1954	<u>\$ 313.14</u>

State of Iowa — 2-A Budget

(For salaries, mileage, and purchase of equipment)

Cash on hand January 1, 1953	\$1,474.82
Allocated from Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee	3,200.00
	<u>\$4,674.82</u>
Commissioners salary	0.00
Total Expended on State Clerical and Technical Salaries during 1953	2,533.31
Total Expended on Equipment and mileage	95.85
	<u>2,629.16</u>
Expenditures deducted	2,629.16
	<u>2,045.66</u>
Unexpended 1952-53 money turned back to State of Iowa June 30, 1953	335.61
Cash on hand January 1, 1954	<u>\$1,710.05</u>

Whirlwind Terracer, Scoop, and Oliver Tractor Account

Cash on hand January 1, 1953	\$188.76
Cash Receipts — 1953	438.72
Total Cash Receipts	<u>\$627.48</u>
Expenditures — 1953	171.12
Cash on hand January 1, 1954	<u>\$456.36</u>

Appanoose Soil Conservation District Demonstration Farm Account

Annual payment on farm, plus interest	<u>\$1,315.00</u>
Total Receipts — 1953	0.00
(Outstanding receipts not received)	
Improvements bought:	
Fences and wire	210.79
Operating Expenditures:	
Labor	433.50
Seed	198.05
Fertilizer	1,118.65
Soil Test	.75
Lime	280.51
Property taxes — last half of 1952	95.44
Total Expenditures	<u>\$2,337.69</u>
Payments due on farm plus interest	8,260.00
Total Indebtedness	<u>11,912.69</u>

Inventory Statement

Purchase price plus interest	\$ 9,260.00
Conservation Improvements	1,329.44
Estimated Net Worth	<u>\$10,589.44</u>

Conclusion

In closing, the Appanoose Soil District Commissioners wish to express their appreciation to Cora Lee Widmar, clerk, for her assistance in collecting and assembling the material for this report. We also wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the following groups and agencies in advancing our goal of good soil conservation in Appanoose county:

Farmers of Appanoose County
Soil Conservation Service
Extension Service
Production and Marketing Administration
Farmers Home Administration
County Board of Supervisors
State Conservation Commission
Federal Fish and Wildlife Service
Local newspapers and radio station
Local bank representatives
Appanoose County equipment dealers
Appanoose County businessmen

These are some excerpts from letters we received last year concerning our 1952 annual report.

"Particularly do I want to commend you three commissioners for the leadership which you are taking in developing and carrying out the program."

L. E. Clapp,
Extension Soil Conservationist

"You and the other District Commissioners are to be commended for the courage you have had in carrying out this extensive program."

H. Wayne Pritchard, Ex. Sec.,
Soil Conservation Society of
America

"I know that with the cooperation of the many agencies and local groups working in the Appanoose district you will no doubt make great strides in the near future. Let me congratulate you on the fine cooperation you have secured through your local businessmen and groups. I wish that all districts could secure the same amount of cooperation locally."

Othie R. McMurtry,
State Soil Conservation Com.

"It is one of the most noteworthy and effective district annual reports that we have seen. The pictures, along with the text, present a local tie-in that should be most effective in creating and maintaining interest."

Frank H. Mendell,
State Conservationist

"I was truly impressed with that fine annual report which you sent me last week. You did a very unusual thing in reporting District progress chronologically by months. That is an idea that other Districts about the country could certainly pick up and use to advantage."

Waters S. Davis, Jr., Pres.,
National Asso. of Soil Cons. Dist.

"I appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending me the report, and wish to congratulate all of you upon the accomplishments in your district."

Wm. S. Beardsley,
Governor

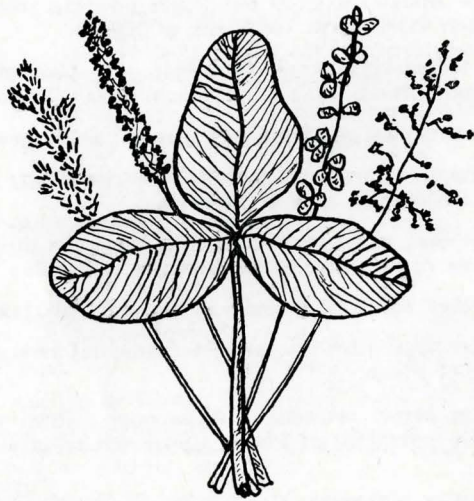
"The Appanoose District is one of about 20 districts in the State of Iowa that has extensively promoted the district program with heavy equipment, the purchase of a run-down farm for renovation on purposes (the only district to my knowledge to undertake a project of this type and to secure a building for all of the agriculture agencies to work out of)."

Allen R. Schroder, Sec.,
Iowa Association of SCD Com.

Legend for Large Picture Mosaic

1. Strip cropping on Pete Sidles farm, Jerome, Iowa.
2. Delmont Moffitt, northwest of Walnut City, in his grass-legume hay mixture.
3. Prof. Hughes, Iowa State College in a reed canary waterway sown by the late Bob Bear on the Jack Howell farm northeast of Centerville.
4. Air view of contour farming, Ernest Talbert farm north of Plano.
5. Moravia, Iowa, Voc. Ag. class which surveyed the diversion on the Sharp-Pettibone farm southeast of Moravia.
6. One of the Appanoose SCD bulldozers clearing trees and brush at the Wendell Oden farm southeast of Exline.
7. SCS soil technicians Stark, Whitaker, and Luse planning contour plowing match lands, Max Brown farm west of Unionville, Iowa.
8. J. Moser northwest of Plano in his reed canary grass waterway.
9. Second round of plow-built terrace construction by Billy Wilson on the John Dodd farm east of Moravia.
10. Leonard Wilson, southwest of Jerome, compares the fertilizer check strip on his farm with Chuck Greenlee, extension farm manager.
11. George Sidles, south of Jerome, in his year old Italian trefoil.
12. Surface drainage ditch on the wet Edina flat land of Bob Henderson, north of Plano.
13. Some of the oldest terraces in Appanoose district are at the Glen Bailey farm northeast of Plano. Upper terrace also serves as field boundary.
14. Contour farming in fields laid out according to the soils capability; John Sutter farm southeast of Seymour.
15. Pete Sidles, north of Jerome, inspecting the heavy forage production from birdsfoot trefoil and timothy.
16. Grover Kaster, southeast of Exline, inspecting hay yields on thin Lindley hillsides.
17. It took only one rain to do this! But this land east of Centerville is now farmed on the contour.
18. Plow furrows mark the contour guide lines on this hillside farm of B. Casady south of Moulton.
19. Prof. Hughes inspecting a field containing a mixture of all of our common forage legumes. Conservation and trefoil tour, Howell-Lindley farm northeast of Centerville.

USE **YOUR** LAND



BUT SAVE **OUR** SOIL

