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1954 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
DAVIS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

:The District Governing Body:

:COMMISSIONERS:

H. C. Baughmen, Bloomfield, Iowa
Dale Blackwell, Bloomfield, Iowa
P. W. Spilman, Bloomfield, Iowa

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1954 Annual Report

FOREWARD:

We, the Commissioners of Davis County Soil Conservation District, wish to take this opportunity to report to the people of Davis County the Conservation activities in which we are participating, as well as the conservation work accomplished through the District with the help of the Soil Conservation Service which is the technical agency assigned to the District to carry out the conservation program.

We would like at this time, to express our thanks to the agencies and groups who have helped promote Soil Conservation work this year. We especially want to thank the Extension Service, who has, through the County Extension Director, Lynn Fitsimmons, carried on an educational program of Soil Conservation, the Agriculture Stabilization Committee for their financial assistance and promotion of soil conservation, and the Vocational Agriculture Department in the local high school for their support of soil conservation through the teaching of our Future Farmers, the Bloomfield Republican and Democrat for their assistance through news items and pictures acquainting the general public with the Conservation Program carried on by the District.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

One of the District's major activity of the year was the sponsoring of the Farmers' Conservation School. These schools were held on four days. The 5th, 13th, 20th, and 28th of January with an average attendance of about 60. The first school consisted of a silage tour in the forenoon, visiting the following four cooperators' farms:

Cleo Rinkenburger
Eugene Grim
Pete Jessen
Lowell Wagler

At these farms, they inspected long grass silage, chopped grass silage, corn silage and silage being fed from a trench. The second school was on farm credit, the third on fertilizers and the fourth on pasture improvement.

The District Commissioners attended several meetings throughout the year. All three commissioners attended the National Association Soil Conservation Districts Commissioners' Convention, held at New Orleans Louisiana. Mr. Dale Blackwell, Commissioner, Served as judge in a District Plowing Contest held at Donnellson, Iowa.

The District, again this year, entered the Register & Tribune Soil Conservation Contest. This contest is sponsored each year by the Des Moines Register & Tribune, who award prizes on a State level. The Bloomfield Newspapers have been cooperating and awarding prizes to the winners of these contests in Davis County. The winners this year are as follows: Dewey Harper, Owner-Operator Division, Robert Singley and Myrtle Singley-Owner, Tenant Division, and Wendell Nicklin in the New Cooperator Division.

Dewey Harper was also the Regional Winner in this Contest and advanced to the State judging.

The District entered the Commissioners' Contest, sponsored by the Council Bluffs Nonpareil. Dale Blackwell was the contestant for the year. The Commissioners also entered the Forage Contest, sponsored by the Council Bluffs, Chamber of Commerce.

PRIZES, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS:

The District awarded a lapel pin to three farmers in the County who carried out a good Soil Conservation Program. The farmers receiving these awards were: Iles Heady, J. A. Baughman, and J. J. Carey. These awards, along with the Newspaper award plaques were presented at the Davis County Soil Conservation District Annual Meeting, held

in November

The Commissioners offered three scholarships, awards, and contests to the Teachers' Conservation School held at the Springbrook State Camp. The teachers that were awarded these scholarships were as follows: Mrs. Dorothy Evans, Glennis McCollough, and Mrs. Edith Gibson.

The Commissioners voted to sponsor and award to the outstanding 4-H Club and an outstanding 4-H Club member, for work in Soil Conservation this year. No member award was made, however, the Club winning the award was the Stiles Hustlers, with Lynn Carrier as their leader. The main activity that they carried on to earn this award was a Field Day held on the Herman Baughman Farm. At this Field Day, the 4-H Club members brought in their own equipment; shaped and seeded waterways for terrace outlets, filled in large gullies, built terraces and did some contour plowing

ANNUAL MEETING: (November 9, 1954)

The Annual Meeting was well attended by 150 cooperators and guests. An election for Commissioner was held the day of the Annual Meeting with Commissioner Baughman elected. The highlight of the Meeting was an address given by Mr. Frank H. Mendell on "Progress Made in Soil and Water Conservation". Mr. James Foster, of Albia, Iowa, member of the State Soil Conservation Committee was among the honored guests.

Commissioner Dale Blackwell gave a report of the activities of the District Commissioners. Commissioner P. W. Spilman presented the awards for the District winners and made complimentary remarks regarding conservation achievements. Keith Hawk, Editor of the Bloomfield Newspapers, presented the conservation awards for the press.

Mr. Jack Chamberlain, Conservation Aid, gave the report on progress made in planning, conservation surveys and establishment of conservation practices, both on SCS Cooperators and ACP farms. Mrs. Dorothy Evans, Rural School Teacher, gave an excellent account of the Conservation Course given at Springbrook State Park, in Guthrie

Center, sponsored by the State Conservation Commission.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Keeny, from Polk District, furnished the entertainment; Paul doing the singing and Mrs. Keeny at the Piano. The group attending the meeting would hardly let them go. They did a wonderful job.

The ladies of the Bloomfield Christian Church did them credit by serving one of the very best dinners of the year.

Harold Baughman, Commissioner was an outstanding Chairman, and as Jim Foster said, "It was the best Annual Meeting I ever attended."

ROCK QUARRY:

The District secured another 10 year lease on the rock quarry on the D. K. Nedrow Farm in Van Buren County. This quarry has provided a yearly income to the Davis Co. Soil District that is used to help carry on Soil Conservation Activities in the County.

PERSONNEL:

We want to report the changes of SCS and District personnel throughout the year. Mr. Leland A. McCord, Farm Planner for the past nine (9) years, left the Service and went with the State Department on Assignment to Bagdad, Iraq.

In October, Clay C. Barnett, Farm Planner, from Polk County, was named to replace him. Mr. Barnett was raised on a farm in Davis County.

In November, Burdette Stamps, who has been with the Soil Conservation District for the past $3\frac{1}{2}$ years left to take the position of Conservation Aid in Donnellson, Lee District.

Mrs. Shirley Gandy resigned as District Clerk, July 31, and LoRetta Jarvis was named to replace her.

Eugene Francis was hired as State Aid to help with the layout work in the rush season.

PERSONNEL CONTINUED, P. 4

Jack Chamberlain, Conservation Aid, the only permanent employee, outside of the part time of Leland McCord being present was the man who actually "carried the ball" for the District Commissioners in the year of 1954.

Mr. McCord was sick several weeks and he was also preparing for the Foreign Service in which he accepted and was transferred out of the District in June, of '54.

During that time, there was no Farm Planner "on the job". Jack did a swell job in servicing the cooperative agreements; actually developed 25 new Agreements and kept the Contractors busy in getting the job done for ACP. Without Jack Chamberlain, the District would have suffered during the 1954 Farming Season.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

We are listing below the main accomplishments of farm plans and Conservation Practices applied this year.

Contour Farming	2564Ac.
Strip Cropping	533 "
Past. Improvement	2250 Ac.
Drainage	459 "
Waterway Deveop.	27 Ac.
Wildlife Improve- ment	180 Ac.
Fishpond Improvement	10 No.
Drop INlet Strucure	2 "
Pond Construction	91 No.
Tile Drains	5575 Lin. Ft.
Dive sion Const.	4.5 Mile
Open Drains	4.4 "
Terraces	14. 2 "

There was about 10,000 acres that was soil surveyed in 1954, bringing the total acreage in the County up to 128 thousand; there was 25 Farm Plans written making a total of 335. Forty new cooperators who signed agreements during the year, making the total 440. In addition to the preceding, the technicians serviced 270 farms that were ACP Cooperators. This work included certifying the need of the practice, layout of practice and supervision of the practice. They also certified the performance.

DISTRICT OWNED EQUIPMENT:

The District purchased the three pieces of equipment that has been in use in the District for the last few years. These implements are the: Brillion Seeder, Whirlwind Terracer, and Hydraulic Scoop. They will continue to be for use to Davis County farmers for a small maintenance fee as in the past.

FINANCIAL REPORT

I-A BUDGET:

Amount:

Amount on hand, January 1, 1954 - - - - - \$229. 08
Amount allotted from State- - - - - 500. 00

EXPENSES:

From January 1, 1954 to December 31, 1954- - - - - \$356. 11

II-A BUDGET:

Total expended for Clerical and Technical salaries,
January 1, 1954 to January 1, 1955- - - - - \$3873. 55

Balance on hand January 1, 1955- - - - - -1350. 19

:COMMISSIONERS' FUND:

Balance on hand January 1, 1954- - - - - -\$1642. 86

INCOME:

Total income for the year- - - - - -\$3116. 46

EXPENSES:

Total expenses for the year- - - - - -\$3910. 81

Leaving a balance of - - - - - -\$1010. 58

LOOKING AHEAD - 1955

At the end of each year, a Work Load Analysis or Goal for the following year is made listing the amount of plans and applications that we hope to finish in the following year. These goals are listed below:

Cooperator Contacts	200
Farms Serviced	200
New Cooperators	60
Basic Farm Plans	40
Revised Conservation Farm Plans	40
Soil Surveys	9900 Ac.
Contour Farming	2400 Ac.
Strip Cropping	900 Ac.
Terraces	30.0 Mi.
Diversions	8.0 Mi.
Open Drains	3.0 "
Constructed Waterways	40.0 Mi.
Stock Ponds	90 No.
Drop Inlet Structure	4 No.

In addition to the above, the District is planning to hold their Annual Conservation School during January and February, complete their Progress Chart on the Goodyear Contest, to cooperate with the FHA, in developing farm plans for the FO Borrowers and hold 2 Pasture Demonstration Reseeding Programs with the Vocational Agriculture Class of Bloomfield High School. They will also promote 1 or more teachers to the Shortcourse provided by the Soil Conservation Committee at Springbrook State Park. They will revise their District Program and Work Plan. They will sponsor tours to the Clubs

of Bloomfield during Conservation Week and cooperate with the Bloomfield Newspapers in developing Conservation editions, Develop a policy working relationship with the Board of Supervisors. They will hold two (2) Contractors Meetings and other miscellaneous activities set up in the Program of Work for 1955.