

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1962

of the

Cherokee County
Soil Conservation
District

Cherokee County, Iowa

BY YOUR COMMISSIONERS

Vere Corrington

Arthur Dorr

Donald DeWitt



CHEROKEE'S LAND RESOURCES

353,126 Acres

53,978	No hazards -----	21,443 Acres
	Needs drainage -----	15,253 Acres
	Drouthy -----	1,632 Acres
	Floods periodically -----	15,650 Acres
178,521	Moderate erosion hazard ----	147,114 Acres
	Needs drainage (plus moderate erosion hazard) -----	21,092 Acres
	Drouthy (plus moderate erosion hazard) -----	3,497 Acres
	Floods periodically -----	6,818 Acres
82,349	Severe erosion hazard (1,568 acres also drouthy and 1,993 acres also needing drainage)	
10,539	Very severe erosion hazard	
27,739	Most desirable land use is permanent hayland, pasture or timber	



Current Land Use in Cherokee District 353,126 Acres

Cropland: 78½ %

34,269	acres-0 to 1% slopes	
	No hazards -----	19,225 Acres
	Needs drainage -----	11,289 Acres
	Drouthy -----	1,066 Acres
	Floods periodically ----	2,689 Acres
154,533	acres-2 to 4% slopes	
	Moderate erosion hazard -----	131,077 Acres
	Needs drainage (plus moderate erosion hazard) -----	16,292 Acres
	Drouthy (plus moderate erosion hazard) -----	2,421 Acres
	Floods periodically ----	4,743 Acres
70,796	Acres-5 to 8% slopes	
	Severe erosion hazard --	69,452 Acres
	Drouthy (plus severe erosion hazard) -----	1,344 Acres
9,230	acres-9 to 13% slopes	
	Very severe erosion hazard	
7,890	acres-over 14% slopes	
	Should be taken out of cultivation	

Pasture: 16%

With needed drainage & soil conservation practices, about half of this acreage could safely be cropped (when and if the need arises).

Woods: 2½ %

Other: 3%

Need for Conservation Practices Greater than Ever

During the last few years, Cherokee farmers planted row crops on about 65% of their cropland acreage; the remainder has been used for small grain (20%) and meadow crops (15%).

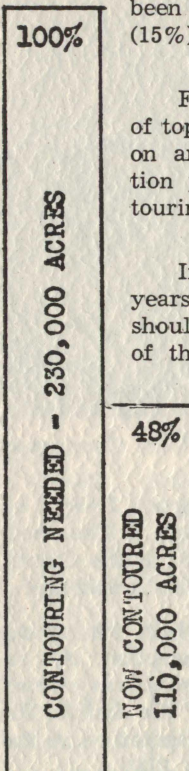
Farming with this type of cropping pattern, the loss of topsoil by erosion cannot be held to a safe minimum on any slope over 2% without the use of conservation practices. The primary practices needed are contouring and terracing.

If this type of cropping pattern is followed in the years to come, about 230,000 acres of our cropland should be tilled on the contour and about 100,000 acres of this should also be terraced.

Real progress can be noted, in the Cherokee District, in the application of the practice of contouring. There are 110,000 acres of cropland now being tilled on the contour; almost 50% of the 230,000 acres that need to be tilled in that manner.

An increased rate of progress in the construction of terraces is imperative if our soil losses are to be held within reasonable bounds. To date, about 6,000 acres of our cropland is terraced. It is hoped that the improvements in the type of terraces being built, plus the use

of parallel terraces, will help increase the rate at which this practice is applied.



YOUR DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS



Donald DeWitt

Arthur Dorr

Vere Corrington

Commissioners now serving the district are Donald DeWitt of Washta, Arthur Dorr of Marcus and Vere Corrington of Cherokee. Vere Corrington continues to serve as chairman and as the Cherokee district representative on the Little Sioux Works Committee.

Ford Ralston's term as commissioner expired in the spring of 1962 and he was not a candidate for re-election. At an election held on June 14th, Donald DeWitt of Washta was elected to fill the post. Don has been a cooperator with the district for over 12 years and was a Cherokee district representative in the Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture in 1961.

Ford served the district as a commissioner for 12 years and contributed much to the advancement of the district program. He is a pioneer in soil and water conservation in Cherokee County and was the first landowner to cooperate with the Cherokee County Soil Conservation District.

Listed below are some of the activities engaged in by your district commissioners during 1962.

12 business meetings during 1962.

- 1-16-62 Met with O'Brien County district representatives to discuss the possibility of a jointly sponsored flood control project in Burr Oak Creek watershed.
- 3-16-62 Attended the regional conference of district commissioners at Primghar.
- 4-4-62 In company with O'Brien district people went over Burr Oak Creek area to evaluate water and erosion problems and discuss possibilities of watershed development.
- 4-17-62 Inspected the seven completed watershed projects in our district and listed maintenance needs
- 5-17-62 Conservation tour for Marcus and Grand Meadow schools.
- 5-27-62 Furnished brochures to all churches in district for Soil Stewardship Week.
- 6-5-62 Sub-Committee on Priorities (Little Sioux Works Committee) visited new watersheds recommended for work priorities.
- 6-11-62 Little Sioux Works Committee meeting at Cherokee.
- 6-12-62 Employed Joe Werthman to make needed minor repairs on completed watersheds.
- 6-14-62 Election of commissioner-Don DeWitt elected.
- 6-17-62 Publicity for Soil and Water Conservation Week.
- 7-16-62 Assisted Buena Vista district in selecting their representatives in Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture.
- 7-23-62 Buena Vista Commissioners helped select our representatives in Sioux City Program.

- 7-31-62 Jess Akin completed contract to replace structure in Robeson watershed. District accepted work.
- 8-23-62 Check on completion of needed minor repairs in completed watersheds.
- 10-8-62 Tour of new and completed watersheds by Marcus Garden Club.
- 11-20-62 Meeting of Little Sioux Works Committee at Sioux City.
- 11-20-62 Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture awards dinner at Sioux City
- 11-27-62 Meeting of landowners in Pilot Rock watershed to discuss proposed treatment measures in this small watershed.

DISTRICT COOPERATORS

Landowners cooperating with the District, in applying soil and water conservation practices, now number 795. Their farm acreage is 44% of the land area of the Cherokee District.

Shaded areas show the percent of the acreage of each township owned by District Cooperators.

Marcus 11%	Liberty 36%	Cedar 28%	Spring 44%
Amherst 41%	Sheridan 36%	Cherokee 48%	Afton 24%
Tilden 52%	Rock 53%	Pilot 65%	Pitcher 48%
Grand Meadow 61%	Willow 57%	Silver 58%	Diamond 39%

CONSERVATION PROGRESS--1962

- 52 New district cooperators
- 42 Basic conservation plans completed.
- 30 Miles of terraces built on 32 farms (almost 12 miles were parallel).
- 2,738 Acres of new contouring on 67 farms.
- 1,765 Acres of contouring re-established on 47 farms
- 31½ Acres of grassed waterways shaped and seeded on 22 farms
- 18 Miles of tile drains surveyed and checked on 46 farms.
- 9 Dams completed (7 for erosion control and 2 for stock water). 3 of these were concrete drop spillways and 6 were earth fills with pipe spillways. Ponds of sufficient size to stock with fish were created by 3 of the dams.
- 7½ Acres of trees and shrubs planted for wildlife cover.
- 3,500 Feet of multiflora rose hedge planted on 2 farms.
- 4 Acres of border plantings around established windbreaks on 6 farms
- 5,260 Acres soil mapped.
- 520 Farmers requested and received assistance from district technicians during 1962.
- 5 Risers on county road culverts (to stabilize waterways and serve as tile outlets); designed by the Soil Conservation Service and approved by the County Engineer and Board of Supervisors.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The technical staff supplied to the District by the Soil Conservation Service is the backbone of district operations. The services made available have made the district program a sound "on the land" program. We deeply appreciate the efforts put forth by our Soil Conservation Service staff members.

During 1962, the following staff was furnished the Cherokee District:

Work Unit Conservationist	Harvey R. Lindberg
Soil Conservationist	Duane Fredricksen
Conservation Technician	Glen Craft
Conservation Aid	Monas Nixon

Additional technical assistance was made available, upon request to Area Conservationist George Lamp of Sioux City, in the fields of engineering, agronomy, wildlife and soils.

LITTLE SIOUX FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAM

Plans for the 2,370 acre Pilot Rock watershed, named after Pilot Rock which is located right on the north boundary of the watershed, have been completed and presented to the land owners. As soon as arrangements for maintenance have been completed this project will be ready for contracting. Construction should be under way in the spring of 1963.

The Cherokee district has seven small watersheds in which work was completed prior to 1962. These watersheds are inspected every spring for maintenance needs and needed repairs are then made. To date, expenditures for maintenance have totalled \$3,491.24. The major expenditure being the replacement of a drop spillway dam in the Robeson watershed. The first watershed was completed in 1950.

Money in the maintenance fund is invested in time savings certificates and Series H bonds. To date, these investments have yielded a total of \$1,796.94 in interest. This return has increased every year as more watersheds were completed and the amount of money in the fund increased. The first small watershed was treated in 1950.

Agriculture Stabilization & Conservation Service U. S. Department of Agriculture

The district takes this opportunity to express its thanks to the Cherokee County A.S.C.S. Committee for its interest in and the support it has given to soil and water conservation. Louis Bengtson, Bryan Campbell, Harold Clark and office manager Cliff Chapman are all practicing conservationists and conservation boosters.

208 requests for cost sharing assistance were approved, by the County A.S.C.S. committee, for the establishment of practices for which the Soil Conservation Service has technical responsibilities. S.C.S. technicians assigned to the district services these requests as follows:

47 for terraces—36 completed and 1 partially completed

39 for sod waterways—22 completed and 3 partially completed

22 for erosion control dams—13 completed and 3 partially completed.

1 stock water dam—partially completed

93 for drainage—51 completed and 5 partially completed.

2 for drainage ditches—none started.

4 for planting trees and shrubs—4 completed.

Also, the following requests (issued in 1961 and partially completed in 1961) were completed during 1962: 4 terrace systems, 1 sod waterway, 1 erosion control dam, 4 stock water dams, 2 tile jobs.

District cooperators requested 91% of the terraces, 82% of the sod waterways, 87% of the dams, 75% of the tree planting, 50% of the open ditch drainage and 40% of the tile drainage.

Wildlife Conservation

Cherokee farmers secured the following trees and shrubs from the State Conservation Commission nursery in the spring of 1962: 26,700 multiflora rose, 6,750 honeysuckle, 3,000 pines and 250 russian olive. All planting was done with a tree planting machine owned by the Izaak Walton League which was made available on a rental basis. Conservation Officer Frank Starr made all necessary arrangements. Local Boy Scouts under the direction of Frank Starr, did the replanting on the Vic Carlson farm. The cover that will be provided by these plantings is another important step in providing a better environment for our wildlife population.

3 farm ponds were stocked with fish supplied by the State Conservation Commission with Frank Starr again making the necessary arrangements. This brings the total of ponds stocked to 33. All those stocking fish the past two years report good survival and phenomenal growth.

Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program

Sponsored By
Des Moines Register & Tribune

Selected as Cherokee District representatives in this year's program were: Ralph Patterson of Cherokee (owner operator division), Herbert Gehrts of Washta and Mrs. Marguerite Whiting (landlord tenant class) and Harry and Robert Nelson (most progress in the past year). All of these received certificates of merit from the Des Moines Register and Tribune.

Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture

Sponsored By
Sioux City Journal-Tribune and Sioux City Chamber of Commerce

With Buena Vista district commissioners serving as judges, Luverne Gustafson, Duane Hollenbeck and Lawrence Hohback were selected to represent the Cherokee District in the 1962 permanent agriculture program. These men were awarded certificates of merit at a banquet in Sioux City on November 20th.

In addition, this team of three won for the Cherokee District, an area award for outstanding achievement in soil and water conservation. The District received a plaque commemorating this award plus a check for \$100.00 (to be used in promoting the district soil and water conservation program).

This is the sixth time that the Cherokee district has been honored with an area award. The honor roll of farmers winning this award for the district now includes:

James Fee
Peter Carstens
Herbert Althaus
Vere Corrington
Arthur Dorr
Ralph Kludas
Clifford Chapman
Harvey Harrison
Keith Fee

Eldred Beeghley
Forrest Spencer
Robert Florine
Ralph Patterson
Herbert Peterson
John Husman
Luverne Gustafson
Duane Hollenbeck
Lawrence Hohback

Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee

State funds allotted to the Cherokee district, by the State Soil Conservation Committee, were expended as follows in 1962:

Commissioners expenses (mileage and meals) -----	\$ 130.70
Office Supplies -----	34.65
Printing district annual report -----	95.80
Office Expense -----	53.50
Tuition (2 local teachers to Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp) -----	84.00
Sub-Total -----	398.65

Clerical help employed by the district (includes social security and state retirement) -----	\$ 3,518.64
Total State Funds Expended -----	\$ 3,917.29

Funds provided by the General Assembly of Iowa to assist soil conservation districts in their local programs make an important contribution to the district program; especially in that employment of clerical help makes possible keeping the office open at all times and relieves the technical staff of clerical duties; it also provides for better service to our cooperators. Over 1200 callers stopped at the office during 1962; over 700 telephone calls were handled at the district office.

Watershed Maintenance Fund

Cash Balance on January 1, 1962 ----- \$15,565.54

Watershed maintenance payments received in 1962:

Harold Clark -----	70.00
Mrs. Elsie Conley -----	45.00
James Fee -----	45.00
Robert Mortenson -----	52.50
Walter Mortenson -----	157.50
Mrs. Ruth Nelson -----	87.00
Perrin & Sons Fur Farm -----	343.80
Clarence Pennington -----	70.00
Mrs. Ralph Robeson -----	65.00
D. W. Simonsen -----	150.00
Ralph Simonsen -----	48.50
Donald and Leland Smith -----	125.00
Forrest Spencer -----	30.34
Mary Vollmar -----	121.43
Neil Warner -----	45.00

\$ 1,456.07 1,456.07

OTHER INCOME:

Interest from time certificate

Farmers National Bank -----	286.44
Interest on H Bonds -----	80.00

\$ 366.44 \$ 366.44

Expenditures:

Shea Sand and Gravel Co. -----	\$ 13.90
Rock Island Lumber Co. -----	11.65
Reinert Machine Shop -----	20.00
Jess Aiken (structure replacement) -----	3,000.32
Joe Wetherman (labor on repair work) -----	82.41
Lundell Construction Co. -----	31.25

Totals -----	\$17,388.05	\$ 3,159.53
Balance on hand December 31, 1962 -----		14,228.52
	\$17,388.05	\$17,388.05

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WATERSHED MAINTENANCE FUND (Continued)—

NOTE: As of December 31, 1962, the \$14,228.52 in the district maintenance fund is held as follows: \$2,000 in H bonds, \$9,834.54 in Certificate of Deposit at the Farmers National Bank and \$2,393.98 in checking account at the Farmers National Bank of Aurelia, Iowa. L. C. Bengtson, district treasurer.

DISTRICT GENERAL FUND

Cash Balance as of Jan. 1, 1962 -----	\$100.61	
Received from State Soil Conservation Committee -----	172.15	
Received from Sioux City Chamber of Commerce -----	100.00	
Expenditures:		
Postage -----		30.00
Soil Stewardship Week Material -----		8.00
Office Supplies -----		9.15
Office Expense -----		3.75
Bond for Treasurer -----		35.00
Tuition for 2 teachers for conservation summer camp -----		84.00
	\$372.76	\$169.90
Balance on Hand, Dec. 31, 1962 -----		\$202.86
	\$372.76	\$372.76

Note: The 202.86 in the district general fund is held as follows: \$116.61 in checking account at Farmers National Bank at Aurelia and \$86.25 in cash.

Louis C. Bengtson, district treasurer

