

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE
TAMA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1949

Fred K. Bruene, Chairman	Gladbrook, Iowa
John Norton	Tama, Iowa
George Kos	Toledo, Iowa
Lee Marsh, Secretary	Toledo, Iowa
G. Gress Rogers, CED	Toledo, Iowa

Soil Conservation Service Personnel
assigned to Tama District

Frank P. Reed	Work Unit Conservationist
Milburn E. Sevde	Conservation Aid
H. Howard Oak	District Conservationist
G. J. Bredimus	Work Group Clerk

Toledo, Iowa

We, the Commissioners of the Tama District, wish to present to the farmers, cooperating agencies and others interested in Soil Conservation, this report covering accomplishments for the year 1949 and the goals for 1950.

INTRODUCTION

Interest, generally speaking, precedes action. Interest of farmers in soil conservation precedes the actual practice of soil conservation on the farm. As we look back over the year 1949 in the Tama County Soil Conservation District, a pronounced increase in the general interest of farmers in conservation was very noticeable. This is widened first: by the larger number of people who called at the Soil Conservation office to discuss with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service personnel their problems and ask for advice concerning the solution of these problems. Second: by the interest of public schools in conservation.

Our County Superintendent of Schools, as well as Superintendents and Teachers in our Schools are showing their interest by a fine spirit of cooperation in carrying on an educational contest in the schools of the County. This, no doubt, will in turn arouse an interest in our boys and girls of school age, of the importance of taking good care of our soil, and will result in more conservation on farms as these boys and girls take over.

Third: by the fact that more farmers are on their own initiative, applying conservation practices on farms. Ditches in fields are disappearing, grassed waterways are taking their places, wet areas are being drained, etc.

We feel this aroused greater interest in Soil Conservation, is indicative of greater progress in soil conservation on the productive land in our county.

This, with the factual statement of our activities in the past year, we think, points to greater and more useful services by the Tama County Soils District to the people of Tama County in the year ahead.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

	Goal 1949	Actual 1949	Attendance 1949	Goal 1950
Conservation Education				
1. General interest meetings	8	9	363	4
2. News items	36	76	---	100
3. Training Schools	2	2	21	4
4. Demonstrations	4	3	162	6
5. Tours	6	3	48	2
6. Contests	1	0	0	2
7. Starting practice meetings new groups	-	1	7	3

	Goal 1949	Actual 1949	Attendance 1949	Goal 1950
Farm Planning				
1. Groups to be organized for farm planning	6	3	30	6
2. Neighborhood groups to be located		1	10	36
3. Number of applications for farm plans	36	35		30
4. Number of farm plans to be written	40	40		45
5. Number of acres to be mapped	Basic surveys completed - 460,800 acres			
6. Individual applications for farm plans	15	22		--
7. Farm planning meetings with neighborhood groups	18	14	102	15

Total farm plans to date 218 including 38,486 acres

COMMISSIONERS ACTIVITIES

	Goal 1949	Actual 1949	Attendance 1949	Goal 1950
1. Hold monthly meetings	12	12	35	12
2. Hold 4 joint meetings with district Commissioners in four districts	4	3	134	3
3. Hold annual meetings with cooperators	1	0	0	1
4. Conservation movies and slides	12	10	403	12
5. Meet with Civic Organizations	10	6	220	8
6. Commissioners meeting with Commissioners in other areas	6	3	7	3

CONSERVATION PRACTICES

	Goals 1949	Actual 1949	To-date	1949 Starting Practices	Goal 1950
1. Contouring (acres)	2,140	2,350	8,051	720	1000
2. Strip Cropping (acres)		38	251	--	100
3. Ponds		4	9		4
4. Tree Planting (acres)		4	9		
5. Terraces (miles)	8	3.1	5	1.5	4.5
6. Wildlife area (acres)	--	2	2		14
7. Field Diversions (mile)		1	1.5		--
8. Farm Drainage (acres)		116	301		--
9. Closed Drains (L. F.)	76,000	30,900	69,000	3400	25,300
10. Outlets and Farm Water- courses (L. F.)	34,260	28,450	280,239	9900	--
11. Open Drains	--	.4	.9	.5	2.5

MISCELLANEOUS DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

1. The District Commissioners, U. S. Soil Conservation Service and the Extension Service sponsored an Air Tour September 26th, 1949, for farmers. Twenty individuals participated in the air tour.
2. A terra cing demonstration was held September 27th on the Jack Norton farm, with an attendance of approximately 125.
3. The District Commissioners entered the Goodyear Contest sponsored by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. All we District Commissioners attended the Luncheon in Des Moines, September 6th, and wish to express our appreciation to this Company for their interest and efforts in promoting Soil Conservation.
4. The District Commissioners, County Extension Service, U. S. Soil Conservation Service, the County Superintendent of Schools are putting on a program of soil conservation training for the schools in the County. A work booklet has been developed as an aid in teaching soil conservation. These booklets will be used as a basis for a contest, which will be completed in May of 1950. To date, approximately 900 booklets have been put in the independent and town schools, and approximately 500 in the rural schools. This contest is for the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades.
5. The Tama District Commissioners were host to the four county group of District Commissioners in this work area, in the month of December. We feel that these four district meetings are beneficial to all concerned. It gives us a chance to exchange ideas with our fellow commissioners, which enables us to do a better job in conservation.
6. We are going to use during the year of 1950, the natural neighborhood group approach in the organization of groups for farm planning. We feel that this has a lot of possibilities.
7. Through cooperative efforts of the Tama District, U. S. Soil Conservation Service and the Iowa State Board of Control, the tiling project was developed and completed on the Juvenile Home Farm at Toledo, Iowa.

Agencies with whom we expect to cooperate during 1950 are:

State Soil Conservation Committee	Civic Organizations
State Conservation Commission	Extension Service
Local Conservation Officer	U. S. Soil Conservation Service
County Board of Supervisors	Tama County Farm Bureau
Production and Marketing Association	Implement Dealers
County Superintendent of Schools	Tama County Banks
and teachers	

We expect to continue our cooperation with the District Commissioners in the Grundy, Marshall and Blackhawk Districts in holding four District meetings for our mutual benefit.

TAMA
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

District Tama County Toledo Iowa

Period: January 1949 to December 31, 1949

Receipts (By Source)

1. Balance brought forward	\$87.24
2. E. L. Hagedorn	
a. Ladino Clover	15.00
b. Grain Drill rent	17.50

Total receipts \$119.74

Expenditures

1. Newspaper rats	14.58
2. Ladino Clover Seed	27.00
3. Spade	2.70
4. Canary Grass Seed	1.30

Total expenditures 45.58
\$ 74.16Balance carried forward \$74.16

CONCLUSION

In concluding this report, we wish to personally thank members of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, Tama County Extension Service, the Tama County P. M. A. Committee and the County Superintendent of Schools, for the excellent cooperation in carrying on our conservation program during the year 1949.

In our last report we suggested that the State empowering bodies should give consideration for some financial relief, to permit state funds being granted the Soil Conservation Districts. We are very grateful to the State Legislature for providing funds for District operations, and for the employing of additional personnel.

Through the use of these funds we feel that the conservation of our natural resources will be speeded up to a considerable extent.

Signed:

/s/ Fred K. Breune
Chairman, Tama Soil Conservation
District Commissioners.