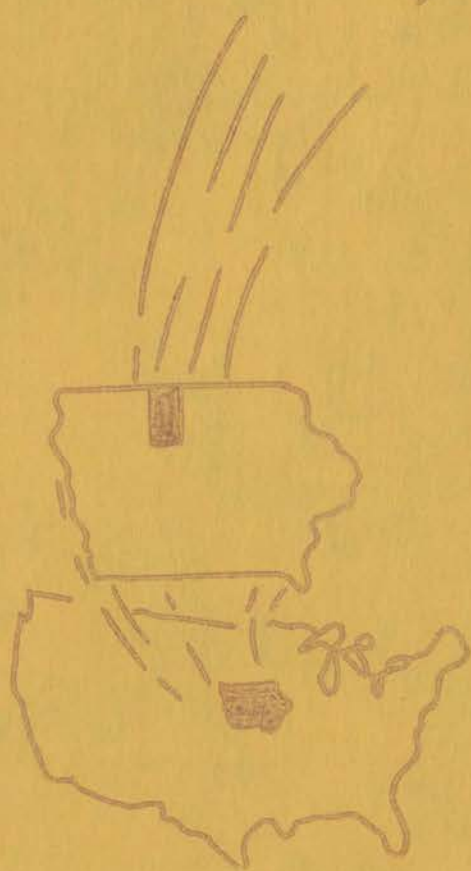


Kossuth County
Soil Conservation
District



Annual
Report

1977

FORWARD

The narrative portion of this report covers the 1977 calendar year (January-December). Because the Department of Soil Conservation (DSC) operates on a different fiscal year, the financial report covers the period of July 1, 1976, through June 30, 1977.

The 1977 Annual Report was released to all local newspapers. Copies available to the public are on file at the District Office.

1977 PERSONNEL DIRECTORY

DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY:

Claude Seely, Chairman
Wendell Christensen, Vice-chairman
James F. Antoine, Commissioner
Kenneth Brones, Commissioner
Luther Kinne, Commissioner
John Reding, Assistant Commissioner
John Ley, Extension Director, Secretary to the Commissioners

FIELD OFFICE STAFF:

Lyle R. Riedinger, District Conservationist
Loren B. Bishop, Conservation Technician
Carolyn Marshall, District Clerk
John Skilling (WAE,DSC,CAF)
Bill Manske, Jr. (GETA) (March-April)
Allan Voss (GETA) (June-August)
Timothy Heldt (GETA) (June-August)
Myron Baer, Soil Conservationist Student Trainee (June-Sep.)
Laurie Williams (GETA) (started in September)
Douglas Johnson (GETA) (started in September)

SOIL SURVEY STAFF:

Robert Jones, Party Leader
Richard Lensch, Soil Scientist
Willie Bragg, Soil Scientist
Robert Wilson, Soil Scientist

1977 ANNUAL REPORT

An annual review of the District's program shows a significant accomplishment of conservation practices during 1977. Six farm ponds were constructed at various locations in the county: Dixon Young, Plum Creek Township; Hardman and Hoenk, Union Twp.; Duane Jensen, Harrison Twp.; David Hazms, Burt Twp.; John Ludwig Sons, Prairie Twp.; and, Richard Girres, Garfield Twp. This represents a 600% increase over last year's accomplishments.

Seventy-eight Kossuth landowners and operators indicated their concern for soil conservation by becoming district cooperators in 1977. New and revised conservation plans were prepared for 90 farms. Twelve groups of landowners received technical assistance from the District.

Eighteen district cooperators built terraces on their farms this year. More than 43,000 feet of parallel tile-outlet terraces were constructed. Records indicate that 340,000 feet or about 65 miles of terraces exist in Kossuth Co., located primarily on Clarion-Nicollet soils.

An animal waste disposal lagoon was built on the Duane Metzger farm near Whittemore.

Forty-two farmstead and field windbreaks were planted with technical assistance provided by the field office staff. Rufus Olthoff and Gerald Maass, two Lincoln Township farmers, cooperated to plant a 2600-ft. shelterbelt. The planting was made on the property line of their two adjoining farms.

Nine inventories and evaluations were provided to NIACOG (North Iowa Area Council of Governments) for the Cities of Whittamore and Swea City. Information from the I & E's will be used to develop a Community Recreation Plan for Whittamore and a Comprehensive Development Plan for Swea City. An inventory and evaluation of the Native Prairies in Kossuth County was prepared for NIACOG, also.

STANDARD SOIL SURVEY

The Standard Soil Survey has been completed on 505,000 acres of Kossuth farmland. This figure represents 81% of the total land in the county. All townships have been mapped except Plum Creek, Wesley, Irvington, Prairie, Sherman, and LuVerne.

Three new soils have been found in the county--Bode, Algona, and Ottosen--their names being derived from the geographical area in which they were first discovered.

Persons owning land in the area mapped during the year are notified by letter that an advance copy for their farm is available to them as part of a conservation plan.

HOSTS TRAINING SESSION

In July the Kossuth District hosted a 2-day training session for new employees sponsored by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Bill Welker, Biologist, and John Maddy, Conservation Agronomist, from the SCS State Office Staff conducted sessions on wildlife and wildlife habitat and soil loss limits, including a field tour.

Twenty employees from the Algona office and other area district offices attended the meetings.

STUDENT TRAINEE

Myron Baer, from Eureka, California, was stationed at the Algona Office from June through September. Baer worked as an SCS Soil Conservationist Student Trainee.

STATE COST SHARE

Twenty-two state cost share applications to build terraces were approved during the 1977 calendar year. Of these, fourteen were completed; one, construction underway; and, six, cancelled.

There is an unobligated balance of nearly \$19,000 in the state cost share account as of December 31, 1977. Applications will be taken after January 1, 1978, for those projects with spring construction planned.

208 PLANNING

The Kossuth County Resource Coordinating Committee (RCC) held two meetings during the year.

In March a random water quality farm survey was taken in the county. Questionnaires were mailed to 70 landowners and operators. Twenty-six responses were received. County results, as well as state-wide results, from questions dealing with water quality problems, soil erosion, soil testing, cost share assistance, conservation set-aside programs, soil conservation district cooperation, and other related areas can be reviewed at the District Office.

The Kossuth RCC met in October to assist in completing a mine-assessment report for the County.

Serving on the Board are Wendell Christensen (SCD Commissioner), president; Nick Scholer (Algona Municipal Utilities), secretary; and, James F. Antoine (SCD Commissioner), representative to the Conservancy District Advisory Committee.

This committee, provided for under Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, was organized to provide local input into planning for pollution control from non-point sources. Membership is open to all interested residents and representatives of local government.

LEPPC

Three of Kossuth SCD's Commissioners--Wendell Christensen, Kenneth Brones, and James F. Antoine--are serving on the temporary Kossuth

County Land Preservation Policy Commission (LPPC). The policy commission is charged with developing land use policy recommendations for a state and a county land use policy.

RECOGNITIONS RECEIVED

Russell Jensen, Seneca Twp., was named the 1977 Iowa Conservation Awards Winner for Kossuth County. Jensen received a certificate and a district cooperator farm sign in recognition of the honor.

Ray Laabs, Fenton Township, was presented the 1977 Kossuth Co. Windbreak Award by the Iowa Izaak Walton League. The certificate noted, in part: "In Recognition Of An Exemplary Windbreak Planting Program That Is Helping To Conserve America's Natural Resources." Laab's winning windbreak which was established in 1971 was planned by the SCS Office.

Carolyn Marshall, District Clerk, received a meritorious promotion and salary increase in July. She has worked at the Algona Office for six years.

DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

The Kossuth SCD received an allocation of \$2522.85 from the Kossuth County Assistance Fund to payroll a part-time conservation aide. John Skilling worked in this position from June through September. For the balance of the year, Skilling's position is funded by federal (WAE) and state (DSC) monies.

The District also cooperated with the Iowa Department of Job Service (DJS) through the federally funded CETA program and employed five persons in 1977. William Manske, Jr., was employed during March and April. Timothy Heldt and Allan Voss worked in the District from June to September. Laurie Williams and Douglas Johnson began working in September and are currently on staff. The DJS reimbursed the District for salary expenses, FICA contribution, and fringe benefits provided to these employees. The District has assumed the employer's share of IPERS contribution from its Revolving Account Fund. All payroll and wage reporting is done through the District Office.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

More than 7,700 trees and shrubs were sold for windbreak planting during the spring of 1977. Forty-two metal terrace intakes were also sold by the District. The additional income from these projects supports various local district activities.

The District presented a 12-ft. Crimson King Maple tree to eleven high schools in Kossuth County as a memorial to David Inman. Inman, who served as vice-president of the Kossuth Conservation Youth Board, was killed in an automobile accident.

In observance of Arbor Day, a free tree was given to each third grade student in the District. Nearly 350 green ash and silver maples were distributed to the youngsters.

The District purchased the grass seed and a hand seeder to be used for established trial seedings of switchgrass, birdsfoot trefoil, and tall fescue on terrace backlopes.

Nearly 4,000 church bulletin covers and inserts were provided to Kossuth churches in the annual May observance of Soil Stewardship Week.

A new electrostatic copy machine and a tape recorder were purchased for office use.

The District sponsored a booth at the Kossuth County Fair in August. The theme of which was conservation tillage.

Approximately 375 third graders and teachers attended a conservation field day held in October at A. A. Call State Park near Algona. Sixteen area schools participated in the event. Five learning stations set up throughout the park included (1) trees and Smokey the Bear, (2) insects, (3) conservation, (4) mammals, and (5) soils. The sixth station was a refreshment stop where students enjoyed cookies and juice.

The District sponsored three people to attend a conservation education workshop in October. Carol Rohs and Elizabeth Grill, both teachers from Algona, and Laurie Williams, Kossuth SCD, attended the 2-day session held at the 4-H camping center near Boone.

State and national association dues in the amount of \$300 were paid in 1977. A \$100 donation was given to the state association to help defray costs of the new State Fair Conservation Exhibit.

OFFICE ACTIVITY

A year-end tally shows that 907 office callers and 482 phone callers were received at the District Office. Fifteen news items were prepared for local newspapers. Fifteen program on conservation were presented to various groups. District Conservationist Lyle R. Riedinger conducted 44 fifteen-minute radio programs on local station KLGA.

MEETINGS

The District Commissioners held twelve regular meetings and one special session with the Kossuth County AEGS Committeemen. Commissioners Brones and Antoine attended the Annual Short Course in Ames in January. In March Commissioner Antoine attended the Spring Regional Meeting in Fort Dodge. Assistant Commissioner John Reding represented the District at the Fall Regional Meeting in Fort Dodge in November. Commissioners Antoine, Brones, and Christensen attended sessions of the Annual Conference held in Fort Dodge in November. An estimated 200 hours of service were donated by the commissioners in 1977 conducting district affairs and representing the District at various functions.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

1-M ACCOUNT:

Allocation received \$ 1750.46

Disbursements:

Commissioners Expense	\$ 421.70
Office Supplies	780.61
Meeting Hall Rental	61.00
Office Expense	447.51
Meeting Expense	39.64
Total disbursements.....	\$ 1750.46

2-M ACCOUNT:

Allocation received..... \$15,325.00

Disbursements:

Salaries	\$ 11,285.62
Travel	55.16
State Retirement	660.21
Social Security	539.07
Health Insurance	280.00
Life Insurance	36.00
Long-term Disability Insurance	50.76
State-Owned Equipment Expense	168.00
Released to State Committee	2,250.18
Total disbursements.....	\$15,325.00

3-M ACCOUNT

1976-77 allocation received..... \$23,000.00

Funds Paid Out:

Terraces \$20,686.41

Diversions 1,035.00

Total Paid Out..... - 21,721.41

Funds Released to Dept. of Soil Conservation..... - 1,278.59

Balance of funds in account..... \$ 0.00

1977-78 allocation received..... \$46,000.00

Funds Paid Out - terrace construction..... - 20,244.54

Funds obligated, practice not completed..... - 6,776.25

Balance of unobligated funds..... \$18,979.21

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

January 1, 1977 - December 31, 1977

District Cooperators	78
Individual and groups assisted.....	368
Total services rendered to individuals and groups.....	1067
Individuals and groups applying conservation practices	230
Conservation plans (individuals).....	64
Conservation plans (groups of landowners).....	9
Conservation plans revised.....	17
Inventories and evaluations.....	43
Units of government assisted.....	3
I & E's for Resource Planning.....	10
Agriculture Waste Management System.....	1
Ponds.....	6
Farmstead Windbreaks.....	19 ac.
Field Windbreaks.....	8130 ft.
Grassed Waterways.....	3 ac.
Minimum Tillage.....	11,845 ac.
Parallel Terraces.....	43,665 ft.
Tile Drainage.....	162,976 ft.
Cropland Adequately Treated.....	9,555 ac.

