

Cherokee County

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

AGREEMENT



1979

FOREWARD

"You are stewards of some of the most important resources God has given the world. Therefore, conserve the land well so that your children's children and generations after them will inherit an even richer land than was entrusted to you".

Pope John Paul II - October 4, 1979

During his visit to Iowa, Pope John Paul set forth an ideal for everyone in the business of agriculture and especially for those active in soil and water conservation programs. This annual report is a summary of the progress made by our county in Soil Conservation and related activities over the past year.

It is also appropriate at this time, we recognize and thank those who made this progress possible. The farmers and cooperators that have added new practices to their land this year and those people who maintain previously completed practices are the reason for our successes in conserving and preserving the soil.

The agencies that have provided funds for cost-share programs, technical assistance and other support also have earned our thanks. We appreciate the efforts of the press, radio media and agricultural and civic organizations in giving us informational exposure.

It is with the help and cooperation of everyone that we look back on our accomplishments and forward to our ever increasing challenges.

Linda Bindner
Vice-Chairman

1979 DISTRICT REVIEW

Meetings attended by District Commissioners - - -

- 12 Regular Commissioners Meetings
- 3 Special Meetings
- 3 Conference Calls
- 2 Regional Meetings
- 11 Miscellaneous Meetings (W/shed, RCA, ACP & etc.)

Linda Bindner attended the Annual Short Course at Ames January 16 and 17, 1979.

Pierson Watershed organization meeting held March 14, 1979

Outdoor Conservation Field Days held starting May 7th for County 6th graders.

The Area 12 Teacher meetings were attended by both District Commissioners and SCS staff.

Four District Meeting held at Storm Lake on July 12th was attended by Commissioners, Clerk and DC.

A commissioners tour and meeting held at Mapleton on August 2, 1979.

ACP formulation meeting held in Cherokee on Sept. 20th.

Meeting on conservation problems held at Storm Lake on September 26th. Commissioners and SCS staff attended.

Local speech contest was held October 23, 1979 with first place winner Kristi Peterson and winning second was Charles Ferrin, both from Marcus, Iowa.

District Activities continued - - -

District farms for the Marc Cox Program were judged on June 27, 1979. Winners were: Curtis Peterson, Perrin Fur Farms and Phil Ladenthin. R. J. Thomas was the area winner in the Wildlife Habitat Award division. Banquet was held in Sioux City on November 15, 1979.

RCA meeting held October 29, 1979 at Cherokee.

Aurelia teacher, Mary Brinkman, honored by the Cherokee District and selected as their candidate for the 1979 Teacher Awards Program.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

10/1/78 - 9/30/79

District Cooperators	No.	14
Conservation Plans	Ac.	1,404
Plan Revisions	Ac.	1,122
Terraces	Ft.	213,340
Structures & Ponds	No.	4
Waterways	Ac.	23
Tile	Ft.	61,997
Contouring	Ac.	80

FINANCIAL REPORT

July 1, 1978 - June 30, 1979

1-M Budget Allocation

\$ 1,116.80

Expenses:

Commissioners Expenses	\$ 386.41
Office Supplies	167.62
Printing	70.50
Contest Expense	253.32
Meeting Hall Rental	4.00
Office Expense	78.84
Meeting Expense	31.93
Released to Department of Soil Conservation	124.18
	<u>\$ 1,116.80</u>

\$ 1,116.80

2-M Budget Allocation

\$ 11,355.00

Clerical Salary, FICA, IPERS,	
Travel & Insurance	\$ 10,752.17
Released to Department of Soil Conservation	602.83
	<u>\$ 11,355.00</u>

\$ 11,355.00

3-M Budgets

77-78 Allocation

\$ 33,813.03

Funds Paid Out	\$ 29,118.36
Funds Unobligated	104.45
Funds Released	4,590.22
	<u>\$ 33,813.03</u>

\$ 33,813.03

78-79 Allocation

\$ 37,000.00

Funds Paid Out	\$ 17,267.77
Funds Obligated	14,511.63
Funds Unobligated	5,220.60
	<u>\$ 37,000.00</u>

\$ 37,000.00

District General Revolving Fund

Balance On Hand 7/1/78	\$ 2,940.19
Income	3,630.33
Sub-total	<u>\$ 6,570.52</u>
Expenses	<u>\$ 3,264.32</u>
Balance On Hand 6/30/79	<u>\$ 3,306.20</u>

District Watershed Maintenance Fund

Balance On Hand 7/1/78	\$ 51,399.93
Watershed payments	200.50
Interest	3,270.31
Sub-total	<u>\$ 54,870.74</u>
Expenditures	<u>0</u>
Balance On Hand 6/30/79	<u>\$ 54,870.74</u>

1979 was a banner year for conservation accomplishment in Cherokee County as evidenced by the amount of terracing and erosion control structures installed by conservation minded farmers. Even greater application could have been done if all could have been installed that farmers wanted to have done, but could not get a contractor to do the job. All contractors worked up until and after the ground froze in December.

This indicates very drastically that as long as the land is available for conservation work, the job is being done. More work could be done if land were available for a longer construction season. Spring terrace application could be increased before soybeans are planted. Some hay ground could be terraced before being broken up. A great deal of summer application could be done on oats ground. Don't sell an oats crop short as an important income producing crop.

Spreading the terrace application over the growing season will not only get you a better finished product, but you will have a better chance of getting a contractor.

Neither the number of contractors available nor amount of cost-share funds are limiting factors in more conservation, it is land to install the practices.

Bernard Braband
District Conservationist

COMMISSIONERS

Max E. Mugge, Chairman	Cleghorn
Linda Bindner, Vice-Chairman	Marcus
Joe V. Dessel, Treasurer	Cherokee
Donald L. DeWitt, Little Sioux Representative	Washta
Edwin J. Clow, Member	Cherokee

FIELD OFFICE STAFF

Bernard Braband	District Conservationist
Tom Oswald (Aug. 79 to present)	Soil Conservationist
Monas Nixon	Conservation Technician
Duane Hollenbeck	WAE - Part-time Technician
Gladys Schroeder	Clerk-Secretary (District)

AREA OFFICE STAFF

Wallis R. Tonsfeldt	Area Conservationist
Richard Hall	Area Engineer
Wayne Eberly	Civil Engineer Technician
Judith Rathel	Area Clerk
Margaret Walker	Clerk

IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thomas Neal	(Stationed at Cherokee) Wildlife Biologist
Duane Bedford	(First part of 1979)
Joe Schwartz	(Fall 1979 to present) District Foresters (Stationed at LeMars)

IN MEMORIAM

One of our early commissioners, Arthur J. Dorr, of Marcus passed away in 1979. He was elected to the board of commissioners in 1952 and served for 18 years until 1979. He was one of the first ten farmers in Cherokee County to become District Cooperators and carried on a very active conservation program on his own land as well as always being available to help others get started. Even after retirement he was willing to assist the conservation program whenever possible.

Priority watersheds are moving along with more terraces installed this past year and many more planned for 1980. The largest work load in our terrace program lies in the priority watershed area. Namely, these are (1) Railroad Creek, (2) Stratton Creek, (3) Four Mile Creek, (4) Silver Creek, (5) Ashton Creek and (6) Pierson Creek.

Map showing approximate location
of the priority watersheds

	(1)		
(6)	(2)	(3)	(4)

