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1946

COMMISSIONERS ANNUAL REPORT

Cass County Soil Conservation District

Atlantic, Iowa.

January 16, 1947.

1946

#### FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

#### CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1a-SCD-27

Atlantic, Iowa.

We, the Commissioners of the Cass County Soil Conservation District, Joe Lawton, Clarence Pellett and Gilbert Lacy submit this 1946 Annual Report of our accomplishments, plans for the future and needs:

#### FARM PLANNING

Sixty-nine (69) farm plans were signed during the year, which brings the total to 134. The addition of a planning technician made it possible to complete the high number of farm plans in 1946. A goal of seventy (70) farm plans has been set for 1947.

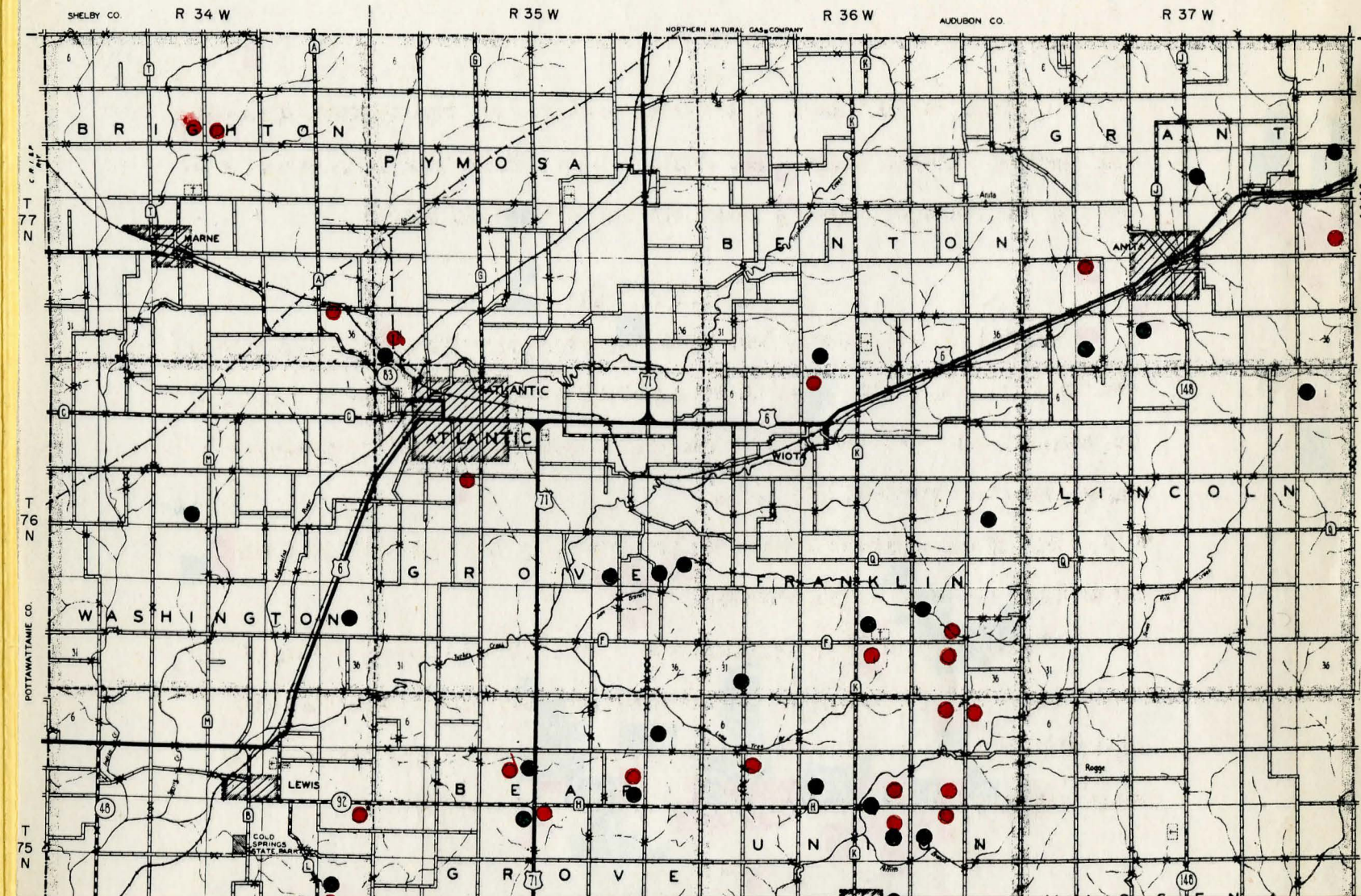
The group approach method of farm planning is being followed and is working out very satisfactorily.

Throughout the year, applications have kept well ahead of planning. There are now fifty-one (51) applications for farm plans on file. The District is in a position to accept applications from more groups at this time and we plan to have nine (9) new groups organized in 1947.

#### DEMONSTRATIONS

It was the plan of the District to change the method of holding the spring demonstration in Cass County in 1946. It had been the custom in Cass County to hold twelve (12) to sixteen (16) spring soil conservation demonstrations -- one in each township in the county. These sixteen demonstrations consumed considerable time during the busy months and the attendance was not too heavy. Instead of holding a large number of Field Days in the spring, four demonstrations were held, well distributed over

#### CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT



FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT  
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the District. Equipment companies were invited to bring and display or demonstrate equipment useful in soil conservation work. Following the demonstrations, a discussion was held on good land use, and farm planning. The total attendance at the four demonstrations was between approximately 550 and 600. All agreed the demonstrations were very successful and the commissioners recommended using the same method next year.

#### FISCHER BROME SEED INCREASE PLOTS

The first certified Fischer Brome seed produced in Cass County was produced this year on the Floyd Northrup farm from seed supplied to him by the District. This field was seeded with oats in 1945 and yielded about 450 pounds in 1946.

The 450 pounds has been distributed to six individuals who are interested in future seed production. It would appear that a successful start has been accomplished in Fischer seed production in Cass County.

#### EXPERIMENTAL WORK

In order to secure more information for making recommendations to the farmers on their erosion control problems, the Commissioners have cooperated with the Experimental Station, Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service in several studies such as commercial fertilizer, field trials, seed variety test field trials and others. Commercial nitrogen fertilizer was applied on blue grass and brome grass pasture for yield studies.

#### COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

The District Commissioners have regular meeting dates and usually meet in the day time to transact all business.

Clarence Pellett attended the District Commissioners Meeting at Ames, Iowa sponsored by the Mississippi Valley Association of which Mr. Pellett felt was a very worth while meeting. College specialists and Soil Conservation Service personnel were the speakers discussing various phases of soil conservation.

Southwest Iowa Commissioners meeting was held at Atlantic. The State Soil Conservation Committee sponsored this meeting, discussing problems of District Commissioners and how to best increase soil conservation in the districts.

#### TOURS & CONTESTS

The District Commissioners sponsored a tour to the Clarinda Experimental Station to study grass land methods of farming and feeding beef cattle on grass. A bus was chartered and fourteen (14) farmers from the Cass County Soil Conservation District attended. Seventy-five farmers attended field day at Pleasantville, Iowa witnessing the complete change-over of a farm from the old conventional method of farming to the modern way of conservation farming, and also witnessed the Contour Plowing Contest.

Twelve (12) farmers were nominated for the World-Herald Soil Conservation Contest and the following farmers were selected to represent the District: Clair Becker, Adolph Pettinger and Mrs. H. E. Heath.

William H. Lawton, son of Joe Lawton, Chairman of the District Governing Body won the District Contour Corn Yield Contest with a yield of 135 bushels per acre. Mr. Lawton received a \$25 war bond from the Council Bluffs Bonpareil as first prize.

SOIL SURVEYS

We are in need of more soil conservation surveys and feel that they should be continued as rapidly as possible until the entire district is completed.

We, as Commissioners, feel that during the year 1946, we have made considerable progress toward our goal, which is a soil and moisture plan in operation for every farm in the District. We appreciate the help and support we have received from the Soil Conservation Service, Extension Service, A.A.A., State Soil Conservation Committee and other agencies and organizations. One of our main needs is to inform all the farmers about our District activities and operation, we also feel that more soil conservation should be studied in the schools.

Signed: 1st Joe Lawton

Joe Lawton, Chairman  
District Governing Body

Date: January 13, 1947

TOTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE DISTRICT - 1946

| <u>PRACTICE</u>                                                                                         | <u>UNIT</u>                                       | <u>AMOUNT</u> | <u>ATTENDANCE</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Intertilled crops                                                                                       | Acre                                              | 37,093        |                   |
| Terraces                                                                                                | Mile                                              | 20            |                   |
| Brome-legume established                                                                                | Acre                                              | 2500          |                   |
| Reed's canary grass established                                                                         | Acre                                              | 10            |                   |
| Lime spread                                                                                             | Ton                                               | 25,315        |                   |
| Fertilizer used                                                                                         | Ton                                               | 950           |                   |
| Soil saving dams                                                                                        | No.                                               | 35            |                   |
| Number of meetings: (Interest or Group)                                                                 | No.                                               | 3             | 120               |
| (Planning with Group)                                                                                   | No.                                               | 10            | 122               |
| Moving Pictures or slides shown                                                                         | No.                                               | 16            | 500               |
| News stories on soil conservation                                                                       | No.                                               | 55            |                   |
| Farm plans written                                                                                      | No.                                               | 69            |                   |
| No. of requests for farm plans on file<br>and approved by District Commissioners<br>on Dec. 31st, 1946. | No.                                               | 51            |                   |
| Demonstrations                                                                                          | No.                                               | 4             | 550               |
| Kind of contests sponsored by the District:<br>Plowing (Contour)<br>4-H Clubs                           | Ten Acre Contour Corn Yield<br>Omaha World-Herald |               |                   |
| Goals set for 1947:                                                                                     |                                                   |               |                   |
| Farm Plans                                                                                              | No.                                               | 70            |                   |
| News Stories                                                                                            | No.                                               | 110           |                   |
| Field days and tours                                                                                    | No.                                               | 7             |                   |
| Exhibits                                                                                                | No.                                               | 1             |                   |
| Contour Training Schools                                                                                | No.                                               | 4             |                   |

We are cooperating with the County Board of Supervisors with the sloping of banks on County roads and seeding them down to grass legumes. Also on highway structures.

Soil Conservation District

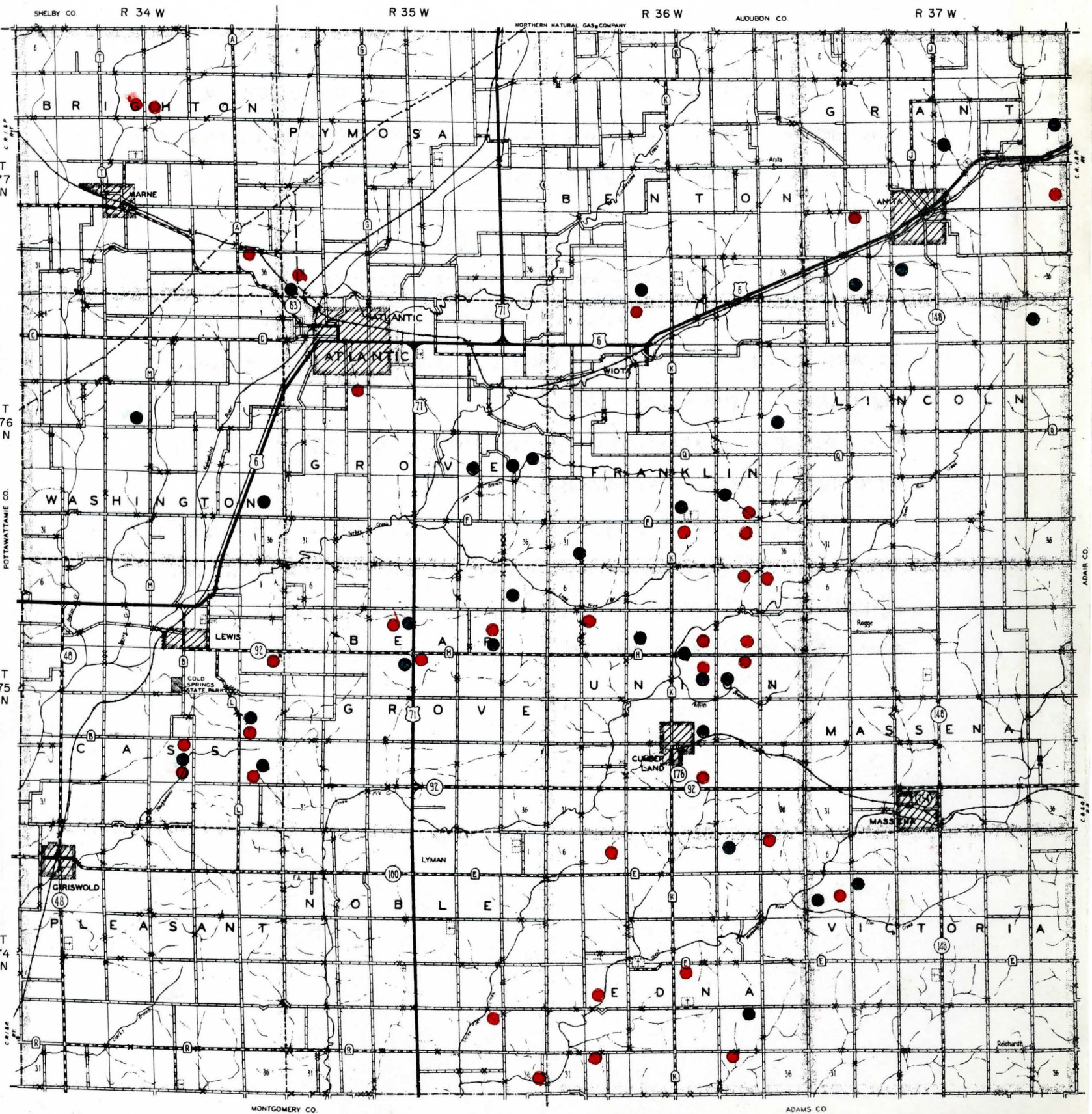
ANNUAL REPORT OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

DISTRICT Cass County Soil Cons. District Atlantic, Iowa.  
(Name) (Headquarters of Dist. Gov. Body) (State)

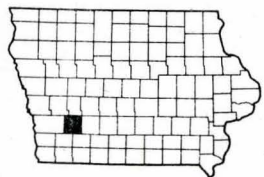
Period Jan. 1, 1946 to Dec. 31, 1946

| ACTIVITY                 |            | This Year | To Date |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------|---------|
| Educational Meetings     | Number     | 16        | 51      |
|                          | Attendance | 500       | 1949    |
| Tours                    | Number     | 2         | 8       |
|                          | Attendance | 89        | 158     |
| Demonstrations           | Number     | 4         | 55      |
|                          | Attendance | 550       | 1412    |
| Leader Training Meetings | Number     | 4         | 9       |
|                          | Attendance | 200       | 269     |
| Exhibits                 | Number     | 1         | 8       |
| Radio Talks              | Number     | 0         | 0       |
| News Articles            | Number     | 55        | 199     |
|                          |            |           |         |
|                          |            |           |         |
|                          |            |           |         |

# CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Approximate Acreage 350,622 acres  
exclusive of incorporated cities and towns.



LOCATION IN IOWA

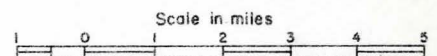
 EXCLUDED AREA

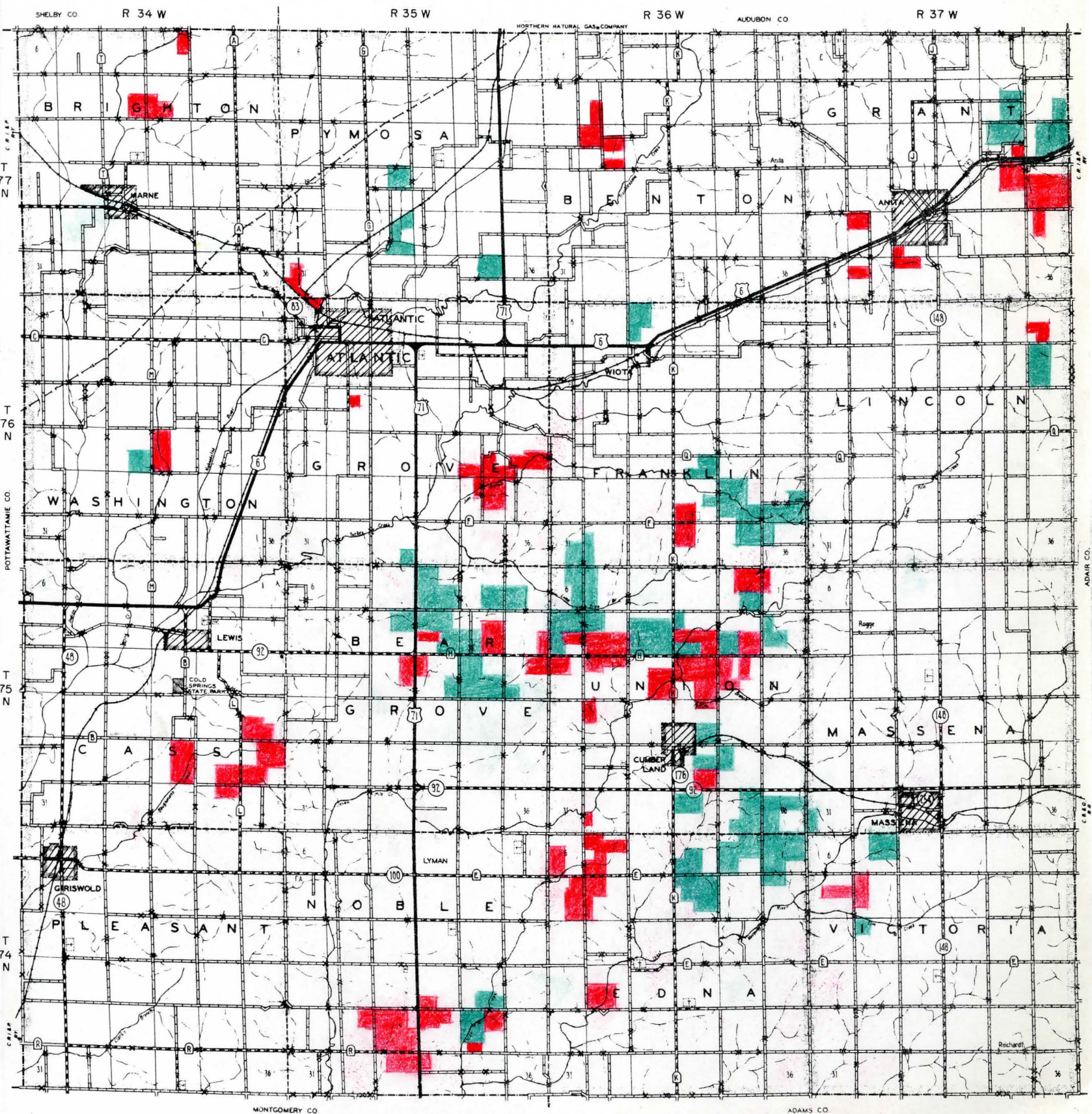
FARMS TERRACED NO.  
MILES

 1944 & 1945.....43

 1946.....20

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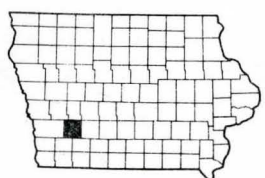
FARMS PLANNED NO.

 1944 & 1945.....65

 1946.....69

CASS COUNTY

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