

Dickinson County Soil Conservation District

THE BEST SECURITY . . .



IS SOIL SECURITY

1957
Annual Report

DICKINSON COUNTY

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Report of 1957

This is the fourteenth annual report of the Dickinson Soil Conservation District, which was organized in 1944.

The membership of the Soil Conservation District is:

Commissioners

Charles E. Watson, Chairman

Elwood Gilbert, Secretary

Norman Blass, Member

Gerald Mayou, Member

Lyman Bailey, County Extension Director, Advisory Member

Work Unit Office

Walter R. Thoreson, Work Unit Conservationist

Adolph M. Ladegaard, Conservation Aid

Betty Parsons, State Clerk

District Administration

1. Twelve regular meetings were held during 1957. Attendance at these meetings was 86%. One very good record is that of C. E. Watson, chairman. In six years that he was a commissioner he missed one meeting. The meeting which he missed was held on an irregular date.

2. Norman Blass attended two meetings on the Little Sioux Watershed, one held at Cherokee, and the other one in Sioux City.

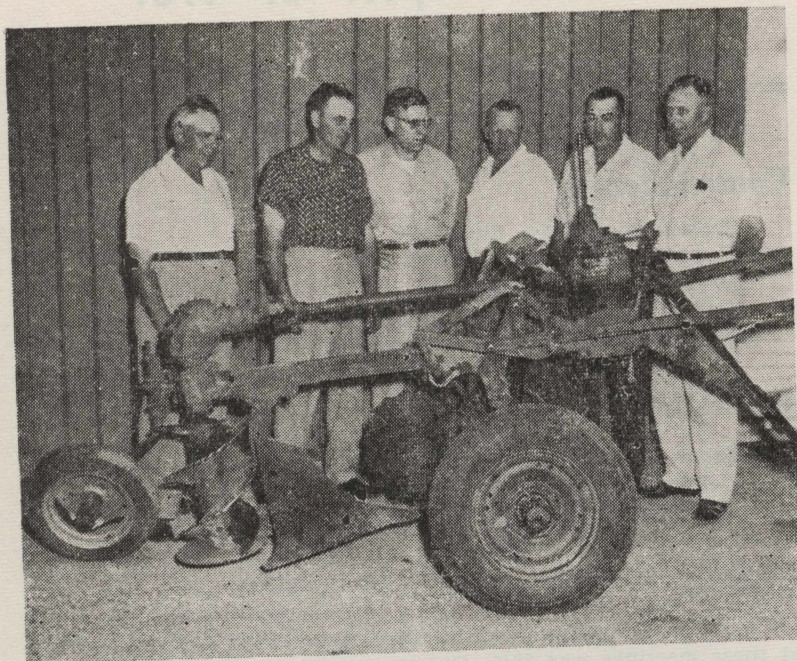
3. Marinus Kamphuis resigned as District Commissioner, and Gerald Mayou of Diamond Lake Township was appointed by the commissioners to serve until the next election.

4. Elwood Gilbert was appointed as District commissioners' secretary.

5. District commissioners attended two regional meetings held in March and December.

6. Jeanette Roggenburg resigned as State Clerk in May and Betty Parsons was appointed to fill the vacancy.

7. The District commissioners held three joint meetings with the ASC committee on selection of 1957 ACP practices for Dickinson District and two meetings were held in selecting the 1958 practices.



A Whirlwind terracer purchased by the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Commissioners. This terracer was purchased to aid farmers in building their terraces and waterways. The terracer is rented to farmers at a rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ c per foot. This is a maintenance charge. Four cooperators; Elmer Dykstra of Westport Twp., Dale Barber of Superior Twp., Wendell McBreen of Silver Lake Twp., and the State Conservation Commission farm in Diamond Lake Twp. used this terracer in building 2.4 miles of terraces. Six other cooperators were to build terraces, but because of early fall, were not able to do so. These terraces will be built in the spring. To date, there are 42.4 miles of terraces on 46 farms. The terracing program is increasing very rapidly.

District Activities

1. The District entered the Sioux City Permanent Agriculture Contest. There were twenty-one contestants. The winners were Adelbert Dougal from Okoboji Township, Ralph Nelson from Okoboji Township, and Gerald Mayou from Silver Lake Township. The above winners attended a banquet in Sioux City, which was sponsored by the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce and the Sioux City Journal and Tribune. Judges selecting the above farmers were - Tom Hayden, Vo-Ag. instructor Spirit Lake, Lyman Bailey, County Extension Director, and R. B. Taylor, retired farmer from Milford.

2. Dickinson District also entered the Des Moines Register Contest. Winners were — Lyall Gleason, Silver Lake Township, Allen Muir, Superior Township, and Leon Clark, Diamond Lake Township.

3. The District cooperated with the county churches during Soil Stewardship week, held from May 26th through June 2nd. Five hundred copies of church programs and 15 copies of Selected Sermons were presented to the churches for their use during Soil Stewardship Week. The commissioners attended church in a body on Soil Stewardship Sunday. Services were held on the Leon Clark farm.

4. The district again sponsored the "Queen of the Furrow" contest. Janet Hutchinson represented the Dickinson District, in the Regional Contest held in Sheldon.

5. John Boetel, Silver Lake Township, represented Dickinson District in the regular contour plowing match held at Sheldon.

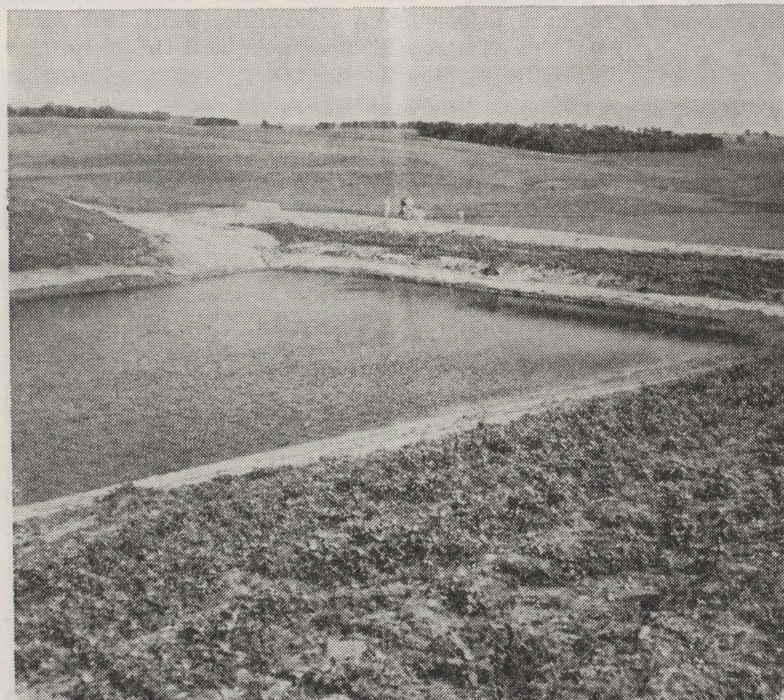
6. J. Justin Rogers, district cooperator from Superior township, was elected president of the Iowa Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America.

State Appropriations for Dickinson District

2A Budget allocation	\$3470.45
Expended for clerical, technical assistance and office equipment	2625.33
Returned to state	845.12
IA Budget allocation	\$ 590.25
Expended for office supplies and commissioners expenses	416.27
Returned to State Committee	\$ 173.98

ACP 5% Allocation

Used to pay technical assistance in carrying out Soil Conservation Service responsibilities in connection with Agricultural Conservation Program ----- \$2150.00



Completed stock pond on the F. Ahrenstorff farm. Two stock ponds were built this year. Freddie Ahrenstorff, Excelsior Twp., and Gary Noble., Okoboji Twp. There is a total of six stock ponds. These ponds vary in size from a depth of 11 ft. to 20 ft. and from 2/3 acre to 3 acres in area. "Stock Ponds" is a new practice for the Dickinson district but more calls are coming in to the Soil Conservation Service for assistance in this practice. A trial planting of Asiatic Trailing Raspberry was made on F. Ahrenstorff's stock pond. These plantings will be closely observed the next three years. If found suitable, will be an aid to farmers in bank erosion problems.

Information

1. Demonstrations on tree planting were conducted for Excelsior and Lake Park Vo-Ag departments.

2. Contour demonstration was conducted for Excelsior Vo-Ag department.

3. A terrace demonstration was conducted on the State Conservation Commission farm in Diamond Lake. The districts' whirlwind terracer was used.

4. Several meetings were conducted for the Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, and Vo-Ag. day and Nite Classes.

5. Fourteen news articles on Soil Conservation were published in the county newspapers.

6. Station WNAX Yankton, S. Dak. interviewed Justin Rogers on radio about his conservation plan.

7. The Work Unit Conservationist again assisted with Career Day, held for Juniors and Seniors in the County High Schools.

8. A tour was conducted for the fifth grade students from Spirit Lake schools. Terraces, wild life areas, and contouring were observed.

9. Field and office inspection was held in May.

10. Tour was conducted for commissioners and ACS committee, in June.

11. A county tour was held in October. Observations were made of stock ponds, terraces, waterways and a test plot of sorghum.

Wildlife Areas

Cooperators establishing wildlife areas as part of their farms plans for 1957 were:

Albert McBain -----	2 acres
Orville Dodge -----	2 acres
John Cory	
Don Harris (op) -----	6 acres
F. Ahrenstorff -----	2 acres
B. Chaplin -----	2 acres
Ainsworth Bros.	
B. Lynn (op) -----	2 acres
	16 acres

Nineteen acres were developed into wildlife areas by several other cooperators. Trees and shrubs were planted in these areas to aid in their development. The game habitat department of the State Conservation Commission assisted in the planting of these areas.

It is recognized by the cooperators that there is a great need for wildlife cover and protection for our upland game.

Since 1946, there have been 146 acres of land planted for wildlife areas.

Soil Conservation Accomplishments

Contour

817 acres were contoured this year by 25 cooperators. To date there are 9,492 acres contoured by 151 cooperators.

Contouring increases the amount of water entering the soil. Results, from farmers reporting, vary from an increase of 5 bushels corn to 25 bushels from contoured areas.



Inspect terracer. Walt Thoreson, district soil conservationist, (center) explains the operation of terracing equipment belonging to the Nobles county, Minn., soil conservation district to Leon Clark (left) on whose farm the terracing was being completed. Marvin Fenske of Worthington, Minn. is the operator.

Closed Drains

1. 103,000 lineal feet of tile were installed in 1957.
2. 3 group jobs were completed. Harold Ford and Ray Smith job comprised 1200' of 10" tile plus laterals.
3. Sid Northey and Fritz Ehlbeck had 1800' of 12" tile, 175' of 10", plus laterals.
4. L. G. Chrysler - Melvin Godfrey and Frank Gallema - Bertha Sargent comprised the third group job. It is quite common for farmers to go together on mutual drains.



Wildlife area planting on Rodney Graham farm in Excelsior Twp. This area was planted in 1946 by the Spirit Lake F. F. A. as a group project. All plantings were made on the contour area comprising approximately three acres.

Other Practices

Open drains	1.2 mile
Pasture Renovation	30 acres
Waterway Development	10 acres
Field Re-organization	1208 acres

30 new requests for assistance were made to the district.

35 completed farm plans were made.

76 referrals for soil conservation practices were received from the Agriculture Stabilization Committee and assistance was rendered in each case.

Outlook for 1958

1. Plan to have 35 completed farm plans.
2. Cooperate with other agencies to further Soil Conservation Work.
3. Enter two contests.
4. Cooperate with heavy equipment contractors.
5. Invite new-cooperators to the office for meetings.

