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ANNUAL REPORT

FORWARD:

Since 1956, was a drought year for most of Davis District, many farmers cut down on their sheep and beef cow numbers.

In most cases, herd improvements were made while in a few cases, whole herds and flocks were sold. Where the entire herd or flock was eliminated, farmers increased their acreage of row crops preparatory to pasture renovation and new meadow establishment.

Except for the production of feed grains which were in surplus at this time, certainly this move was beneficial. By this Fall, farmers were again replacing their breeding stock. Most meadow and pasture seedings were successful. Many pastures were terraced and watering systems installed, mostly ponds.

The trend towards larger farms, continues as older farmers leave the land with a neighboring farmer buying the 40, 80 or 120 acres. A trend that has been going on for more than 50 years.

A better understanding continues to develop with regards to the benefits of the permanent type soil and water conservation practices.

This short report will bring you up to date on the district progress in 1957.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

We have now received reports from the State Soil Conservation Service Office, of the terraces and stock water ponds built in Iowa, in 1956.

Davis County was first in number of ponds built in that year, with a total of 245 and second in the total number constructed to date in the State. With the number built this year (100) Davis County now has 950 ponds or second in the state.

There were also 33 permanent erosion control structures built which "pond" an average of 2.15 surface acres of water, each. These are not included in the above number of ponds. The control structures are actually multiplied purpose units.

They control gullyheads, protect terrace outlets, serve as stock water supply, protect small areas of bottomland from flooding and serve also, for recreation areas, where the farm family may fish and where properly supervised, swim, skate and learn to handle a boat.

We were high in the State on terraces built. We were tied with Adams District for 15th. place - each having built 89 miles in 1956, in 1957 a total of 63.7 miles were constructed, making a grand total of 261.7 built to date.

In 1956, we were first in pond construction, and 15th. in miles of terraces. We were first in 1957, in the number of ponds stocked with fish.

Stocking by the State Conservation Committee and Federal Fish and Wildlife Service were as follows:

state - 45, with forty-eight surface acres of water, and 74 with approximately eighty surface acres of water were stocked by the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service.

Davis District farmers may not have adequate water to supply its' livestock and home needs at present, but are making good progress.

Besides the 33 water storage structures, there are 4 permanent erosion control structures that do not "pond" any water. They control gully heads and stabilize waterways and terrace outlets.

The total drainage area above these 37 structures is 1823 acres and the total water storage surface area is 71.4 acres. At flood stage, when water level is at the auxiliary outlet level, they will "pond" 127.05 surface acres of water or 276.76 acres feet. This would be equivalent to water covering 553.5 acres of land - six inches deep.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS' ACTIVITIES

As 1957 was a different year from any other years' activities, we will touch on some of the main activities and mention the regular administration routine.

On January 2, 1957, we held our first regular meeting. Happy New Year wishes were passed around without any expense to the District. That is the way most of our business must be handled, due to our very small budget.

Commissioner, Dale Blackwell was elected Chairman for the years 1957-1958, without any major political conflict.

All current bills were paid including the Annual dues to the National and State Association of District Commissioners. The equipment, owned by the District, was checked for repair, so it would be ready for operation in early Spring. This includes: 3 whirlwind terracers, 1 hydraulic controlled wheel scraper, sold in 1957, because of the repair problem. It was too time consuming. Also, 1 Brillion combination, packer seeder. The work load analysis was discussed as it was approved or reviewed by the Area Conservationist.

Our schedual of activities were also on time for 1957, and prepared for submitting to the Area Office, in Fairfield, Iowa. Also, progress checked on the District's annual report.

Wesley Beecher, Conservation Officer, Bill Byers, County Extension Director and Doyle Schmitter, Farmer's Home Administration, have been regular attendants to our regular monthly meetings. Vic Cowles, County ASC Chairman, or Cargile Bollman, Officer Manager have attended several of the regular and special meetings.

On the other hand, we as Commissioners, have attended the county and Regional meetings of the ASC.

On March 6, 1957, the Wyacondah Watershed, after some discussion, and comments by Walter Grim, Chairman, Dale Dixon, Vice-Chairman, Teddy Dixon, Secretary of the Watershed organization, the applications of the watershed was approved and forwarded to the State Committee. The Little Wyacondah watershed was submitted in June of 1956, but at the suggestion of the State Committee the District included the entire drainage area of Big Wyacondah and Burr Oak Branch, consisting of 38,675 acres. We are now awaiting our turn for the next step in Watershed planning and development.

At the April meeting, two rural teachers requested to attend the Springbrook Conservation School, and requests were approved. Agencies contributing to their expenses were the State Soil Conservation Committee Davis County Soils District, Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce and the Davis County Fish and Game Club.

We approved the idea of placing port-of-entry signs at county lines on all main highways leading to Davis District, the largest of these being on the Bloomfield, Ottumwa, Highway # 63, as you enter Davis County.

In July, the "Queen of the Furrow Contest" was held at the Drakesville Reunion, Mrs. Duane Bunting, Bill Byers, and George Kyle acting as judges. Winner and attendant of the Contest were as follows: Miss Susan Stoker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Stoker of West Grove, Iowa, and Miss Karen McMains, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. LaVern McMains of near Mark, Iowa.

The Register and Tribune Contest winners were as follows: Division I - W. W. Swain, Division II - Mrs. Mildred Baker, owner, and operators, Glen Christy and Wayne Proctor. Division III - was Hugh Augspurger. Two demonstrations and field days were held in August, besides the Register and Tribune Contest. One was on the Bloomfield Experimental Farm, and the other the birdsfoot trefoil harvesting demonstration, on the Donald Harris Farm, using defoliant to dry up the plant before harvest, harvesting direct, and last - winrowing and combining after a few hours drying in the swath, proved to be the best method.

In September, our pasture improvement tour was held with Commissioners Baughman and Spilman in charge, and Extension Director, William Byers handling the discussion part of the program. This tour was well attended and interest was high. The Commissioners again made awards to the outstanding 4-H Club boys. Leather notebooks were given to: Tom Swain, Phillip Bengé,

and Larry Hoffman. Tom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Swaim, of Unionville, and Phillip is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Loran Benge, of Bloomfield. Larry is the son of State Senator and Mrs. Gene Hoffman, of West Grove, Iowa.

Well - - now, we are nearing the end of 1957, and we have only one special meeting to plan. That is for our Annual Banquet and Meeting - plus the regular December Meeting. It has been a good year for Davis District in many ways. Crops were good, beans, corn, oats, and our new crop - milo, hay and pasture. Although many acres of milo will never be harvested only except by livestock. Except for silage, it is a risky crop, unless mechanical dryers are available. Conservation accomplishments were high.

The Annual Meeting, held on the 10th. day of December, at the Methodist Church, in Bloomfield, was a good roast turkey dinner, with all the trimmings - served by the Methodist Church Ladies, and a good way to close the door on 1957.

The annual goals and schedule of projects to be carried out in 1958, were taken care of at the regular meeting on December 4, 1957. So -- we were ready to enjoy our banquet, and make the reports and listen to others.

District Cooperators, receiving gold lapel pins for their outstanding work in conservation, were: Charles Chickering, Lick Creek Township, Clair Roberts, Marion Township, and Kendall Johnson, Fabius Township.

Receiving plaques from the Bloomfield newspapers and presented by Kenneth Baldrige were: W. W. Swaim, Owner-operator division from Marion Township, Mrs. Baker - Christy-Proctor, Landlord-Tenant division, and located in Wyacondah township. For the New Cooperator division, Hugh Augspurger, from West Grove Township was the winner.

All agencies cooperating with the District, made oral and written reports which were made apart of the program outline given to the 177 persons attending the Banquet. Mr. "Chuck" Worcester, of WMT, Cedar Rapids, in his talk gave us many laughs and food for thought.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES * 1958

January	Meeting of Directors, Bloomfield Experimental Farm. Annual Report of 1957. -----
February	Contractors' Banquet. Planning for 1958 Contractors' Field Day. -----
March	Selection of teachers for 1958 Conservation School. -----
April	Tour by ASC, SCD, SCS, County Extension Service, Voc. Agriculture on high conservation farms to observe conservation practices established. -----
May	Big Wyacondah Watershed promotion and accomplishment to - date meeting. -----
June	Observation of Conservation Week. Tours and displays, cooperating with local Churches for Stewardship Sunday. -----
July	Meeting of Directors. -----
August	Selection of Register & Tribune Contest Winners. -----
September	Contractors Conservation field day. -----
October	Program planning meetings, Annual meeting and election. -----
November	Annual Banquet and District Commissioners Election. -----
December	Work Plans for 1959 to be developed.

ASC COMMITTEE REPORT

The following report was given to the Commissioners at their Annual Meeting held, December 10, 1957, by County Chairman, Victor Coles, and Office Manager, C. G. Bollman.

This is as of December first, and should be studied by every farmer, and businessman of Davis County. The accomplishment figures will not correspond with the accomplishment figures of the District due to period covered and method of reporting.

(Accomplishments)	(Number of Cooperators)	(Acres)	(Assistance earned)
-----	-----	-----	-----
Perm. Past. Seed- ing	97	1925	\$ 15,096. 15
Additional Seeding	9	168	1,933. 73
Improvement of seed- ings	12	320	1,837. 69
Cover Crop Seeding	17	371	440. 70
Vegetative Cover	29	590	1,884. 30
Limestone	241	5949	26,406. 38
*			
Controlling Shrubs	53	882	9,532. 97
Contouring (includes clearing) *	18	637	997. 25
Contour Strip Crop- ping (Clearing included)	5	233	426. 00

(Accomplishments)	(No. of Coop's.)	(Units) ?	(Assistance Earned)
-----	-----	-----	-----
Ponds (Includes pipe to tank.)	137	318,853 cu.yd.	\$ 30,781.06
Waterways, Sod	72	60,342 " "	3,827.34
Diversion Terraces	46	39,920 " "	3170.55
Open Drainage Ditch	8	7,690 " "	684.99
Erosion Dams (earth moving.)	13	78,216 " "	6,917.13
Pipe (coated, iron)	13		2,944.52
Sod Waterway seeding	31	869,000 Sq.Ft.	
Sod Established against erosion	4	126,000 " "	94.50
Standard Terraces	52	217,930 Lin.Ft.	3,170.55
Drainage Grading	14		1,107.25
Wells	23		2,775.98

1957 Grand Total assistance for establishment of ACP Practices to cooperating farmers in Davis County - \$115,906.16.

SOIL BANK

Conservation Reserve - 1957

Number of Contracts	(28)
Number of Acres	(962.2)
Amount of Annual Payments	(\$ 9,622.90)
Amount of Practice Payments	(\$ 13,406.45) through December 1, 1957.

Acresage Reserve - 1957

Number of Contracts	(450 corn)	(6 wheat)
Number of Acres	(6956.3)	(68.0)
Amount of both corn and wheat	(\$266,171.52)	

ALLOTMENTS

1957 Corn

Total number corn farms	1541
Cropland acres on above farms	156,130
Allotment acres	26,840.8
Average Payment Rate per acre	\$37.00

1958 Wheat

Total number wheat farms	182
Cropland acres	47,150
Allotment Acres	1,588.0
Average Payment Rate per acre	\$23.00

PRICE SUPPORT

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Number of loans as of November 15, 1957	104
Capacity of facilities under loan	131,660 Bushels

1957 Deliveries to CCC

Bushels of 1953-54-55 and 56 corn delivered	244,600
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Corn in CCC Bin Site Storage

103,096 Bushels of corn in storage as of November 30, '57.

Commodity Loans

1956 Soybean Loans

Number of loans-166
Bushels repaid - 105,235
Bushels delivered to CCC-3,949

1957 Loans as of November 15, 1957

Commodity	No. of loans	Bu.
Rye	1	441
Oat	16	9,762
Wheat	4	2,924
Soybean	172	130,377
Corn (low)	19	13,766
Corn (high)	14	15,201

1955 Reseal Oat loans

Number of loans-10
Bushels repaid-6,748

1956 Grain Sorghum loans

Number of loans-1
Bushels repaid-655

Applications on hand for 1957 loans as of November 15, 1957.

1956 Wheat loans

No. of loans - 5
Bushels repaid - 2,502
Bushels delivered to CCC - 1,092

Corn 32
Soybeans 17

Purchase agreements completed by Nov. 15, 1957.

1955 & 1956 Corn loans resealed

Number of loans - 118
Bushels - 92,490

Rye	1	800 bu.
Oat	2	1500 "
Soybean	1	400 "
Corn	1	1000 "

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE REPORT

Each student enrolled in Vocational Agriculture, carries a three phase supervised farming program. Besides the one or more productive subject or project and the many supplementary farm practices that he learned to do, he chooses an improvement project to help with on the home farm. Last year, 1/6 of the boys enrolled, did soil conservation improvement work.

The department recognizes the educational need for selling conservation. In a survey of the 57 Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors, 18 have had the local SCS prepare a farm plan for their farm, seven of which have been since the boys have been enrolled in Vocational Agriculture. Thirty-nine remain to have farm plans prepared.

Some of the work done in soil and water conservation by the students include: 22 farm ponds built, 7,864 rods of terraces constructed, 452 rods of diversions built, 384 acres of permanent seeding, 1,362 tons of lime spread, 630 rods of fencerows changed, and 64 acres of brush removed.

During the past year, 18 Seniors studied land use and management in classroom work. They used an actual farm with field trips to prepare a physical features map, a land capability inventory, a record of past land use and management, and finally a desirable farm plan.

From the work done, a team of three Senior boys entered the land judging contest, at Fairfield, sponsored by their FFA Chapter, in co-operation with the Soil Conservation Service.

The team placed third with ten teams entered. The previous year, the team placed first to win the traveling plaque. Phillip Benge placed eighth among the thirty contestants.

The local FFA Chapter encourages conservation in their program of work and during the year, Ed Bachman was presented the National FFA Foundation Medal for his accomplishment on the home farm.

After boys graduate, results can be seen of their continued interest in conservation. Teddy Dixon, LaVern Weilbrenner, and Larry Harper all helping the SCS Service, were Vocational Agriculture students. Even Jack Chamberlain was president of the Albia FFA Chapter, where he was active in Vocational Agriculture. They are putting conservation into practice on their farms today, along with other graduates.

EXTENSION SERVICE REPORT

We, of the Davis County Extension Service, heartily endorse and will always work for good soil and water conservation practices. We cooperate with the Davis County Soil Conservation District in our 4-H program by having a soil and water conservation and land use activity. This was our special activity last year, for all 4-H members enrolled in agriculture projects.

Other ways we cooperate are in providing educational information at meetings, in the newspaper, helping with watershed development and working with office callers, to encourage good practical soil and water conservation management.

Extension Service cooperates with the Davis County District Commissioners, their Staff, the County Extension Council, and the County Program Planning Committee. Good soil management practices are also emphasized in the Farm and Home Development Program.

As the above summary indicates, the Davis County Extension Service always stands ready to assist you, the cooperators, in any way, possible, through the use of educational methods.

William Byers, Extension Director

FARMERS' HOME ADMINISTRATION

The services of the Soil Conservation organization are considered basic in the writing of our farm ownership or real estate loans. In that farms are appraised on a developed basis, it is important to know just what the potential of that unit will be when using every acre to its' full capacity. This service has been carried out perfect by Clay C. Barnett and his staff. Not only has it aided us in setting up costs for carrying out a feasible work plan, but in instances, it has aided us in getting farm approval by bringing out the actual potential value of a unit to our appraiser.

The soil conservation office cooperation does not end at setting up a farm for approval. It goes far beyond that stage. In making long time loans, we are interested primarily in 2 basic points which are: (1) If the farm is capable of affording an adequate income to the family over a period of years, and (2) that the farm, in the event that something should happen to the family, would have a value to exceed the amount of the loan. We have learned that the value of a farm will increase from year to year when a good soil conservation plan is being followed.

Not only is soil conservation considered in the farm ownership program, but in our other types of loans, such as, chattels, operating, housing, and other advancements. We have learned that the tenant who is interested in soil conservation will not have much difficulty in finding a farm to rent. All land agencies have learned to use their soil wisely.

The personnel of this office, wishes to express their appreciation to the Davis County Soil Conservation District. We recognize their service as an important part of our program. Just now, we are in the process of informing farm owners in our program of the importance of contacting Clay Barnett, and his staff, for assistance in making up applications for the 1958 ACP Program.

Doyle P. Schmitter, FHA Supervisor

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

As the State Conservation Officer, of Fish and Game, assigned to this County, I am happy to report that in the year, past, the State Conservation Commission has sold, at cost, to conservation minded persons of Davis County, 19,500 multiflora rose plants, more than 1000 conifer seedlings, and numerous game packets (assorted seedlings for planting odd areas) for improving wildlife habitat. In addition, the Commission stocked 43 farm ponds with the recommended ratio of large-mouth Black Bass and Bluegill, at no cost to the pond owners. When the necessary forms are completed, 50% of the cost of the above mentioned plantings, plus fencing costs and the cost of planting the trees and shrubs, will be re-funded under our Farmer Sportsman cooperative plan.

I would like to take this opportunity, as representative of the State Conservation Commission, to express sincerest appreciation of the fine help and cooperation received from the Davis County Soil Conservation District

and its' personnel. Without this fine help, it would have been nearly impossible to have accomplished these things, which we feel are indispensable to our public relations and habitat improvement programs.

W. M. Beecher, Conservation Officer

CONSERVATION AND SCIENCE COURSE - SPRINGBROOK STATE PARK

The three weeks Conservation Course, at Springbrook State Park, Guthrie Center, Iowa is a very comprehensive and informative course, covering a semesters work in Science. The session I attended, dealt primarily with soils, nutrition, plant, bird and insect and animal life, through conservation and relationship to man and his economy.

The guest leaders are specialists in their field, and the best available. We covered approximately 700 miles by bus on field trips. Usually, we worked from seven thirty a.m., until 10:30 p.m., so it wasn't exactly a vacation.

There was time out for fun, though. Espedally the night of the "coon hunt". Imagine 30 teachers, ranging in age from 25 to 75, following the hounds until they treed a coon. I preferred the campfire, but many didn't.

It was a very interesting experience and one I can recomment to other teachers.

Mrs. Harvey Parks

(This Science Course is sponsored each year, by the various Conservation groups in the state, but under the supervision of the Iowa State Teachers' College, Cedar Falls, Iowa. Credits are given all completing the course. Mrs. Harvey Parks, and Mrs. Walter Glasgow attended from Davis Co. in '57)

DUNNVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH MAKES PROGRESS

This is a continuation of the 1955 Progress Report of a church, run-down farm, and a conscious church group of people. How each helped the other to greater service to the community with the assistance of the Davis County Soil Conservation District, follows:

To continue the story of the "Lord's Acres", operated by the Dunnville Baptist Church, in 1956, the farm plan was revised and rewritten by the Soil Conservation Service, farm planner. Plans were made to construct terraces and the possibility of a large dam to control run-off and make a lake for fishing as well as furnishing livestock water, was discussed.

The rotation plan was also revised with the idea in the future that chopped forage would be harvested and hauled to cattle as a part of pasture rotation.

In 1956, the allotted corn acres were cut to 22 acres, this being the smallest number acres of corn yet planted, but the harvest was the largest. The average yield was 65 bu. per acre. The net profit for the Church in 1956, was \$1350.00.

In 1957, only 15 acres of corn were planted, but the yield was 70 bushel per acre, and the estimated profit for the church \$1400.00.

This should convince the most skeptical, that strip cropping, plus fertilizer, plus rotation equals soil conservation - larger crops, greater profits and a better living.

For the church, it has meant continuous improvement. A church basement is now a reality, which when completed will have running water, a modern kitchen either gas or electric heat. Facilities for the young people in the community to have meetings. Members of the church are looking forward to these accommodations.

TREASURER'S REPORT

MACHINERY FUND

Balance brought forward - January, 1957.	\$ 63.55
Income for 1957 1	229.80
Expenses for 1957.	192.58
Outstanding Accounts	103.50
Brought forward - December 31, 1957	100.77

COMMISSIONERS' FUND

Balance brought forward - January 1957	\$ 706.79
Income for 1957	4226.36
Expenses for 1957	4558.70
Balance brought forward - December 31, 1957	374.45

SCD - SCS ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 1957

	1957 Yr.	To Date
Contour Farming	828 (ac)	33370
Strip Cropping	233 (ac)	2539
Brush Control	892 (ac)	2233
Pasture Planting	1935 (ac)	11242
Tree Planting	25 (ac)	25
Fishpond Improvement	119 (no)	532
Hedgerow Planting	1220 (rd)	8248
Wildlife Area Improvement	210 (ac)	1349
Drop Inlet	13 (no)	46
Land Smoothing	12 (ac)	561
Div. Construction	14.3 (mi)	58.0
Open Drain	3.4 (mi)	38.8
Farm Drainage	115 (ac)	3181
Pond Construction	100 (no.)	950
Terraces	63.7 (mi)	261.7
Waterway Development	45.7 (ac)	228.7
Sod Establishment	6.1 (ac)	6.1

SUMMARY

Your District has been a member in good standing of the State and National Association of Soil Conservation Districts, since they were organized.

These associations have kept us informed of District activities all over the United States, and "tuned in" on the soil, water, timber and wildlife programs in Washington, D. C.

We, the Commissioners, are grateful for the splendid help we have received through the State Soil Conservation Committee, Soil Conservation Service, and all other local state and federal agencies, departments and services of all service clubs.

We solicit your continued cooperation in the year, 1958, and we offer our services to you. Progress must be fast in the Davis Soil Conservation District in order to gain or hold our own in the field of Agriculture. Every Cooperator must inform his neighbor of the advantage of conservation farming.

Dale Blackwell
Chairman, Dale Blackwell

LoRetta Augspurger
Secretary, LoRetta Augspurger