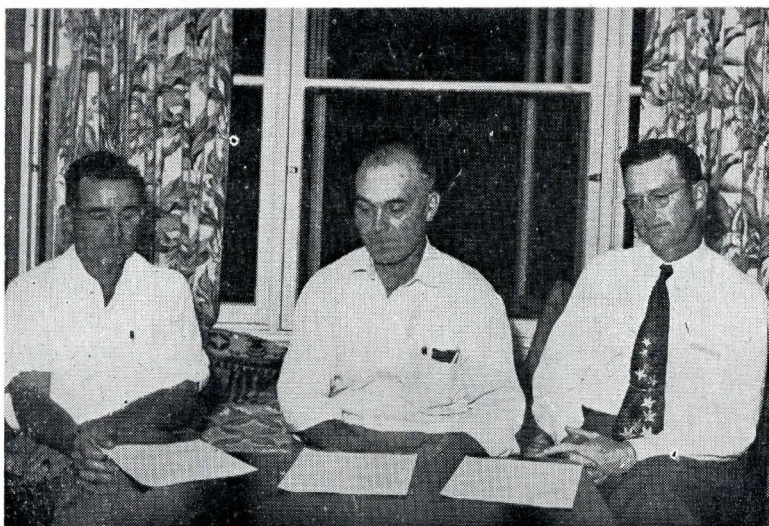




**CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT
1953**

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Hosfelt

Winston

Pellett

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

James A. WinstonChairman
Wendell C. PellettMember
George W. HosfeltMember

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL

Gilbert Wehrman	Work Unit Conservationist
Stanley Bennett	Conservationist
Richard France	Conservationist
Donald Blunk	Conservation Aid

EXTENSION SERVICE PERSONNEL

H. E. Codlin	Extension Director
--------------	--------------------

STATE PERSONNEL

Gayle R. Johnson	District Clerk
------------------	----------------

OFFICE LOCATION

Farm Credit Building, 17 W. 4th St., Atlantic, Iowa.
Phone 1374

1953

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

At the outset of our Annual Report, we the Commissioners of Cass County Soil Conservation District want to thank all other agencies, schools, and civic organizations for their fine cooperation during the past year and hope we may warrant the same fine cooperation in the years to come.

We also want to express our appreciation to our own personnel for their interest and faithfulness to the job of conserving our Natural Resource -- the soil.

In the following paragraphs we will try to point out most of the activities and give a report of the accomplishments of the District during the year 1953.

ANNUAL SHORT COURSE

The eighth annual Soil Conservation District Commissioners' Short Course was held at Iowa State College, January 20 to 22nd. District Commissioners from Iowa's 100 districts were in attendance as well as Commissioners from Nebraska, South Dakota and Minnesota.

Local Commissioners in attendance were James Winston, Wendell Pellett and George Hosfelt. Jim gave a report on the Lewis Park watershed and Wendell served as a member of a panel discussing, "Production with Conservation."

Speakers at the Short Course included Clyde Spry, Secretary of Agriculture; Frank H. Mendell, State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service and Everett T. Winter, St. Louis, representing Mississippi Valley association.

COMMISSIONER NAMED MASTER FARMER

Clarence A. Pellett, past Commissioner of the Cass District was one of eight Iowa farmers who received the Iowa Master Farmer award at a luncheon in Des Moines, April 15th. Winners are selected on the basis of a sound balanced farming program plus their outstanding contributions to a better agriculture through community service and good citizenship.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VISITS FARMS

The first farm tour of the season held May 27th by the Agriculture Committee of the Chamber of Commerce was attended by about 40 business and professional men. Soil Conservation and livestock practices were observed on the tour of farms in this area. In the forenoon the caravan visited the farms of Harry McDermott, Harvey Larsen and Wilbur Blake. On the itinerary in the afternoon were the Eldon Kay, George Gross, Raymond Schwartz and Dr. E. C. Petersen farms.

FOREIGN STUDENTS VISIT COUNTY

While on a tour of Iowa, fourteen student trainees from nine foreign countries visited Cass County farms, May 29th. The students were from Yugoslavia, Brazil, Mexico, Burma, Columbia and Turkey. They were accompanied by C. A. Reseland of the USDA Washington, D. C.; C. H. Wilworth of Raleigh, N. C.; Samuel J. Gilbert, Agricultural Statistician of USDA at Des Moines.

While making their study of farm operations in Iowa the Cass County farms visited included those of Ralph Knop, Gerald Kay, Boyd Bailey and the Hopley farms.

They are students of Agriculture in their respective countries where they expect to assume places of leadership as directors and educators of agricultural programs.



SOIL CONSERVATION WEEK ACTIVITIES

As one of the features of Soil Conservation Week, June 14 to 20, the Cass County District Commissioners, in Cooperation with the local flying club sponsored the 4th Annual Air Tour. About 85 passengers were taken up during the day with 8 planes used throughout the day over selected routes chosen by the passengers.

Another special feature of Soil Conservation Week, designated by proclamation by Gov. Wm. S. Beardsley, was a radio broadcast over KJAN Atlantic, by the local commissioners, local representatives of the SCS and the Extension Service. Those taking part in the broadcast were James Winston, Wendell Pellett and George Hosfelt, Gilbert Wehrman and Harry Codlin.

Special recognition was given Soil Conservation Week by newspapers in the county. Emphasis on conservation was stressed in news articles, ads and pictures of local conservation work which were published during the week. They showed the need for the progress made thus far in the field of conservation.



James Winston, Chairman of the District Commissioners is shown presenting books to Miss Georgia Byrne, County Superintendent of Schools in Cass County.

After discussing the best use for the \$500.00 World-Herald Award recently received by the Cass County District, it was agreed that the teaching of young minds was of primary importance, therefore the Commissioners decided to purchase books on Conservation for distribution to all rural and town schools in Cass County.

One hundred twenty-eight books were purchased and added to the existing supply so that each school was given two Soil Conservation text books. The books which were chosen by a committee consulting with the County Superintendent were "PARTNERS WITH NATURE" and "THE LAND RENEWED".

Soil conservation is the study of our most valuable natural resource — the soil, how to protect it from the hazards of erosion and increase its productivity by proper land use with conservation practices such as, Contouring, terraces, grass waterways and dams. A well informed youth can help in the preservation and protection of this—Our Country.



Terraces on Adolph Pettinger farm

One of the important jobs which must be accomplished is to get contour tillage on the farms which are still farming up and down hill. If this goal is accomplished many of the other conservation practices will naturally follow.

The construction of terraces has slowly increased in Cass County but due to the extremely dry weather in 1953 construction with farm equipment was completely stopped.

The filling and seeding of waterways has been a permanent practice in our county for a number of years. This practice has continued this year under a handicap of dry weather and difficult working and seeding conditions.

Good crop rotations provide for systematic cropping of land in a way that will maintain or improve soil fertility, yields, and the nutrient value of the crops. The type of rotation that should be used on any given piece of farm land depends on the characteristics of the land. If it is gently rolling, rotations that provide a sod cover 1 or 2 years out of every 3 to 5 will keep it from deteriorating.



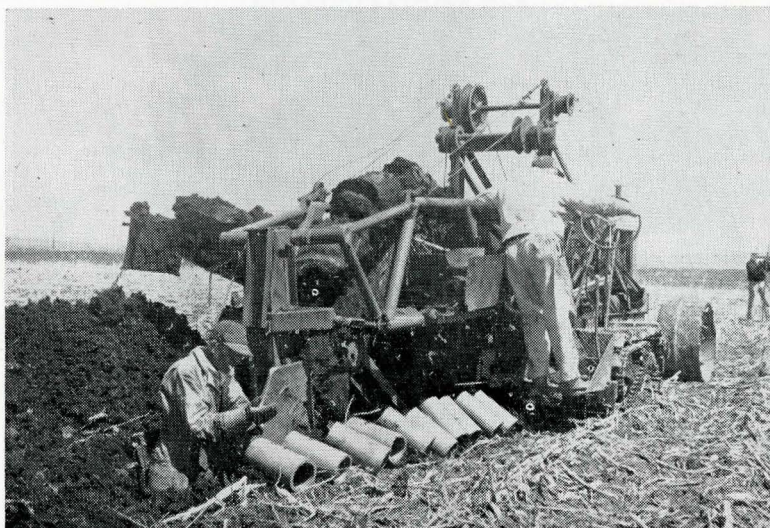
Left to right: G. H. Allen, Ernest Osler, Sam Garside, Otto Schwartz and Harlan Gittins.

Many earth dams constructed during the past ten years in Cass County have failed or show severe damage due to the failure to provide a satisfactory tube of sufficient size to carry the run-off when the heavy rains come.

Most of the permanent dams now constructed are of the drop-inlet type using a meal culvert tube to take care of the flow of water.

Design of roadway structures has a close connection with gully stabilization above and below the public roads. In a number of cases, by cooperating with the land owner, in stabilizing the gully below road culverts, excessive repair cost to the taxpayer has been prevented.

Likewise by designing road culverts to control waterways on farms above roads, cooperation between the Supervisors and the farmer can result in watershed control at a reduced cost.



Tile Drainage Installation

Tile drainage work has been particularly heavy in Cass County during the 1953 season. Several preceeding wet years focused attention on the areas which tended to be too wet for convenience in farming, but during the wet years the equipment was not available to do the job. During 1953, due to the dry weather conditions, the areas needing tile have been in shape to work in and sufficient machines have been available to complete the work desired.

The land in Cass County requiring tile can be divided into two types. First, the flat bottomland which does not have sufficient slope to drain. The Turkey Creek bottom is an example of this type of land. The second type is the rolling land where wet waterways or hillside seeps occur.

Removal of surplus water from wet land will increase productivity, lower the cost of production and make cultivation easier. Drainage aids in maintaining a granular structure which is particulary desirable in fine grained soils such as often occur in the bottomlands.



The Willard Muller family with their 4-H Baby Beeves

The sons, Kent and Gary, are proudly showing their 4-H baby beeves to visitors in the barnyard, of their modern farm.

In the operation of his 600 acre farm in Noble township Mr. Muller has adhered closely to the approved soil conservation practices. His operations include extensive cattle feeding and poultry production, utilizing all the forage produced on the farm. He has a 4-H background having formerly been recognized as the outstanding 4-H member of the year.

The Agricultural Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service have a close working agreement in the Soil Conservation program of Cass County. They cooperate jointly in all the educational phases of the conservation program, including forage and terracing demonstrations, field days and the annual Soil Conservation Air Tour. The District Commissioners and Soil Conservation Service personnel in turn support, with liberal awards and technical help, all soil conservation projects in the 4-H program. This has contributed substantially to the progress of soil conservation in this community.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

	1953	To Date	Needed
Initial agreements			
Number	140	114	
Acres	25,965	21,502	
Advanced Plans			
Number	6	6	
Acres	1,596	1,596	
Basic Plans			
Number	64	503	1,481
Acres	11,963	94,962	262,748
Contouring			
Acres	4,347	48,231	52,310
Waterways			
L. F.	26,538	1,119,498	7,837,486
Terraces			
Miles	44.45	332.9	11,391
Dams			
Number	29	174	351
Diversion			
Miles	2.96	31.96	1,200
Closed Drains			
L. F.	309,684	598,192	1,500,000
Open drains			
Miles	9.3	50.75	200
Drainage			
Acres	832	2,955	5,000



Conservation Pledge

I GIVE MY
PLEDGE AS AN AMERICAN
TO SAVE AND FAITHFULLY TO
DEFEND FROM WASTE THE
NATURAL RESOURCES OF
MY COUNTRY—ITS SOIL
AND MINERALS, ITS
FORESTS, WATERS,
AND WILDLIFE

TO: _____
