

1977 ANNUAL REPORT OF Hardin County Soil Conservation District

ORGANIZED IN 1945

5 Commissioners direct operations of Hardin Soil District

The Hardin Soil Conservation District was organized in April of 1945 to assist landowners in solving any soil and water related problems in Hardin County. A general survey of the county indicates that 97% of the soil has the capability of cropland and is being used for that purpose. It is also true that nearly 100% of the silt, sand, and stream comes from cropland. With these facts in mind, the district has organized a program and set priorities to try to meet the needs of the community.

You will see in the accomplishments listed, that nearly 8 miles of terraces were installed in 1977. This is the best method known today for keeping productive soil in the area where it can be used to produce row crop, and the practice is given a high priority by your commissioners. A second practice is earth dam or ponds. Fifteen of these were designed and some will be completed later. Although this practice does not hold soil on cropland, it does act as a final filter to keep silt out of our streams.

Many other items are also shown in the accomplishments for 1977 and over the past 32 years there has been some change in emphasis, especially the change away from the farmers give up meadows. The variety of practices listed in the district program is not limited to cropland and this is certainly true. People in cities and towns are entitled to the service, and many are helped one family re-vegetate their hillside slide that was threatening their lawn.

Through the years, the Pine Lake Watershed and the Iowa River Green Belt have received a high priority in relation to their total acres, but we feel this is justified because of the great number of people who utilize the recreation provided.



Carroll J. Hobson
(Chairman)



Gary Walters
(Vice Chairman)



Kermit Whitehead
(Treasurer)



Caleb Knutson



Martin Broer

1977 ANNUAL REPORT FOR HARDIN DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

—Hardin Soil Conservation District Commissioners held 12 regular meetings and 7 special meetings.

—The Annual Photo Contest was held again and the entries were displayed in the Second National Bank in Eldora.

—An Annual Speech Contest was held this year with the winner, Martha Parris, going to the Regional Contest.

—The Soil Judging Contest, which was sponsored by the Hardin District and Ellsworth Community College, was held in October. The District furnished the trophies and ribbons.

—A copy of the educational booklet "Sharing the Earth" was distributed to each 8th grader in the district.

—The SCS staff members, along with some of the commissioners attended the Annual Commissioners' Conference in Fort Dodge in November.

—Soil Stewardship material was distributed to the churches in Hardin County.

—A 208 Survey was mailed to farmers in the county with a good response.

—Randy Hubbard, an Iowa State student, was the SCS Summer Trainee for 1977.

—Thaine Hogue attended a Management Level III Training School in Lincoln, Nebraska in February.

—A Land Inventory report was prepared by Thaine Hogue and Randy Ritland.

—A Ministry of Conservation Practices was held for the Eldora Ministerial Association during Soil Stewardship Week.

—Three Commissioners — Carroll Hobson, Gary Walters and Martin Broer — are serving on the Land Preservation Commission in Hardin County.

—The Pine Lake Watershed project was submitted for second-round consideration under the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976. It was not funded because the unemployment level in Iowa was below the guide line.

SOIL SURVEY PERSONNEL

Kermit Voy	Soil Scientist	Hampton
Norman Johnson	Soil Scientist	Hampton
Tom O'Connor	Soil Scientist	Hampton

Additional assistance was received from the Soil Conservation Service Area Office, Fort Dodge.

John T. Ball	Area Conservationist
Daryl Carpenter	Agricultural Engineer
Charles W. T.	Civil Engineering Technician
William West	Area Clerk

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Carroll J. Hobson, Chairman	Caleb Knutson
Gary Walters, Vice-Chairman	Martin Broer
Kermit Whitehead, Treasurer	ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
	Jim Tidman

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Thaine R. Hogue, District Conservationist
Ernest Hoffa, State Engineering Aide II
Ed Rosenkrans, W.A.E. (part-time)
Melinda Schwarck, State Clerk Typist II
Betsy Ritland, Student Trainee, summer of 1977



Thaine Hogue, District Conservationist for Hardin County, is seated at his desk. Standing behind him are office personnel Ernest Hoffa, right, State Engineering Aide II, and Melinda Schwarck, State Clerk Typist II.

SUMMARY OF WORK FOR 1977

New Cooperators	30
Recipients of Technical Assistance	216
Cooperator Contacts	970
Conservation Plans	30
Conservation Plans Revised	10
Group Resource Plans	2
ACP Referrals Serviced	137
Parallel Terraces	42,553 ft.
Tile	360,323 ft.
Windbreaks	6 acres
Land Adequately Treated	2,317 acres
Grassed Waterways	13 acres
Conservation Tillage	8,253
Tree Planting	20

STATE OF IOWA COST-SHARE FUNDS

The State of Iowa provides cost-share funds as shown on the financial statement, (IIM Budget). As your commissioners, we have the responsibility of approving the use of these funds, which are provided for erosion control only. These funds are being distributed on a first-come first-serve basis with the following priorities: 1. Terraces; 2. Dams; 3. Grass Waterways. Terraces are designed to function on cropland and are approved only on land which shows the capability for crops. A rotation or Conservation tillage may be required, if needed, to keep the soil loss within reasonable limits.

If you are interested in using any of these funds, stop in at the district office and plan your project with the staff. Several excellent projects have been completed and there is enough variety to show something which will compare to your land. There is a long way to go to accomplish the goal of "swimmable and fishable waters", but these projects mean that we are on the way.

HARDIN SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT JULY 1976 — JULY 1977 ANNUAL REPORT FINANCIAL STATEMENT

IIM Budget	
Allocation — \$1,530.00	
Expenses:	
Commissioners' Expense	\$ 417.46
Office Supplies	326.69
Office Expense	583.08
Meeting Expense	54.54
Prizes for Contests	75.57
Rental for Meeting Halls	60.00
Printing	10.00
	\$ 1,527.34 Total Expended
\$2.66 Released back to the State	
IIM Budget	
Allocation — \$18,600.00	
Supplement — 529.55	
\$19,129.55 TOTAL ALLOCATION	
Equipment (Typewriter)	\$ 529.55
Clerical and Technical Assistance	17,304.65
Travel	92.78
Total	17,926.98 Total Expended
\$1,202.57 released back to the state	
IIM Budget	
Allocation — \$25,000.00	
Supplement — 4,500.00	
\$29,500.00 TOTAL ALLOCATION	
Amount of Cost share paid	\$28,483.84
One project to be completed	1,016.16
REVOLVING ACCOUNT	
July 1976 Balance	\$ 484.78
July 1977 Balance	\$ 524.20
CONSERVATION CLUB ACCOUNT	
July 1976 Balance	\$ 603.32
Income (Cons. Club Donations)	601.45
	\$ 1,204.77
Expense	
State Fair Display	\$ 75.00
State, National Dues	300.00
Awards	19.03
Miscellaneous	14.96
	408.99 Total Expended
July 1977 Balance	795.78
	\$ 1,204.77

SOIL SURVEY PROGRESS

The soil survey which is sponsored jointly by the State of Iowa, Hardin County and the USDA is progressing on schedule. Approximately the west half of the county has the field work complete and two more summers should see the field work complete in the east half. There may be some delay in obtaining a printed copy for the county, but you can see a copy of the field sheet when they are completed by asking for them at the district office in Eldora.

The field work is being done by three Soil Scientists — Kermit Voy, Norman Johnson and Tom O'Connor. They will be working most of this summer in the southeast one-fourth of the county. You will recognize their vehicle by the Soil Conservation Service emblem on the doors, and the USDA license plate.

PLANNING TIME

Winter is planning time for all phases of the farm operation and this is the time to request planning help from the Soil Conservation Service. If you are considering a project or wonder how any conservation practice would be adapted to your land, stop at the district office in the basement of the post office and discuss it with the staff. A full time Agronomist is available to assist you with any soil or water conserving practice as well as make approval for cost-sharing where that applies.

TWO ITEMS IMPORTANT ON FUTURE

Two items which will be important to everyone in the future are first of all the "Soil Survey" which is being completed in Hardin County. The field work is approximately half complete. This will be helpful for land appraisal and tax evaluation as well as land management. The second item is the "Clean Water Act", which says the streams will be swimmable and fishable. This may involve some very serious enforcement.

The day to day operation of the office is done by personnel provided by the Soil Conservation Service and by the Iowa Soil Conservation Department. If we can help you in any way, we invite you to stop at the office in the basement of the Post Office in Eldora.

CONSERVATION CLUB

The Hardin Soil Conservation District needs your support to finance some projects which are not funded in any other way. These projects include environmental educational booklets which are given to each of the sixth grade students in the county, assistance for teachers attending conservation work shops and summer camps, State and National Association Dues as well as the awards and display material, etc.

Please cut out the coupon below and send it with your contribution to the district office. We will mail your membership card to you.

HARDIN SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Post Office Bldg., Box 108
Eldora, IA 50627

Name _____

Address _____

Amount of Contribution _____

Your membership card will be mailed to you.

THANK YOU



Three Soil Scientists, all from Hampton serve as Soil Survey Personnel in Hardin County. They are Tom O'Connor, seated, Kermit Voy, left, and Norman Johnson.

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