

1955

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District
Iowa SCD 39

Council Bluffs, Iowa

We, the Commissioners of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District, Louie Fahrenkrog, Chairman; Ernest H. Harms and William C. Strohbehn, hereby submit our twelfth annual report.

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District is now beginning its 12th year of assistance to the farmers of West Pottawattamie District. We feel that a great deal of progress has been made in Soil and Water Conservation in the District. Perhaps not as much has been done as we would like, but measured from its beginning we are indeed grateful to the cooperators of the District for accepting this new philosophy of farming.

We would like to list first the accomplishments of the District.

Accomplishments

Since the organization of the District in 1944, 647 complete soil and moisture farm plans on 111,887 acres have been developed and applied, or are in the process of being applied by farmers, with the assistance of the Soil Conservation Service technicians assigned to the District. Also on hand are 203 agreements, totaling 35,521 acres, between farmers and S.C.D. Commissioners that are in the process of being developed into basic farm plans in the near future.

The following is the 1955 and to date accomplishments of the District on cooperator farms.

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>to Date</u>
Contouring	Acres	6,386	75,813
Terraces	Miles	90	1,413
Diversions terraces	Miles	1.0	25
Open Drainage	Miles	0	54.0
Grass Waterways	Acres	128	1,288
Gully Control Structure	No.	7	44
Land Smoothing	Acres	212	212

Cooperation

(1) The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District has enjoyed a great year of cooperation with all agencies. The County ASC Committee has done an excellent job in encouraging cost sharing assistance on the permanent and sometimes costly conservation practices. The use of purchase order agreements has also encouraged some of the farmers to undertake some of the more expensive practices.

The Extension Service has been very cooperative with the District Commissioners on all phases of the conservation program. Our Extension Director has assisted with tours and contests and is secretary of our regular commissioners' meetings.

We are very grateful for the funds received from the State of Iowa. They have enabled us to hire a full time office secretary as well as some additional technical assistance.

(2) A tour sponsored by the East and West Pott. SCD Commissioners for the County Board of Supervisors and County Engineer was held in May. Purpose of this tour was to observe gully control structures and to attempt to arrive at an agreement whereby the farmer and the County Board of Supervisors could cooperate and share in the cost of road crossings that could serve as gully control structures as well as just road crossings. We feel that much more cooperation is needed along this line because oftentimes a structure at the road site would greatly benefit the land both above and below the structure.

Commissioner Activities

During the past year, regular meetings and special meetings have been held with 100% commissioner attendance. We have also attended various local, regional and state meetings as a part of our job.

Our second air tour was held in June 1955 with about 75 in attendance.

With the cooperation of the Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce, a Businessmens' Twilight Tour was held to view some of the erosion problems and some of the accomplishments in the District.

Ernest Harms was selected as Iowa's Outstanding Soil Commissioner at the annual meeting held in Des Moines in September. We are very proud of this award and know that it couldn't have happened to a more deserving man.

Efforts were made to interest cooperation in the watershed development program. However, due to the drouth very little progress was made.

Several radio recordings and one TV program has been made in the District this year. We are very grateful to the newspapers and radio and TV stations for their splendid cooperation in helping to publicize our District activities.

Special emphasis was placed on Stewardship Sunday and we are very appreciative of the efforts made by the churches in our District on this particular Sunday.

Contests

The Commissioners participated in the Des Moines Register and Tribune, the World Herald and the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co, also the Outstanding Commissioner contests.

The Job Ahead

The Commissioners again would like to stress the necessity of continuing full speed ahead with the terracing, contouring and good land use program needed on all farms in the District.

We also feel that many of the small watersheds in the District have their land treatment well enough established that the farmers within these watersheds should be thinking ahead to a complete watershed development program. Such a program will require the cooperation of all people involved. Federal financial assistance can be received on these watersheds from two sources.

- (1) Under the ACP program
- (2) Under Public Law #566

The goal of the District remains the same: That every farm have a complete soil and moisture farm plan, established on the land. Every acre used according to its capabilities, with treatment for its protection should be the goal of every farmer.

This report was prepared by Louie Fahrenkrog, E.H. Harms and Wm. Strohbehn-Commissioners of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District.

Submitted by

Louie Fahrenkrog Date 1/31/55
L.H. Fahrenkrog, Chm.

West Pottawattamie S.C.D

Council Bluffs, Iowa

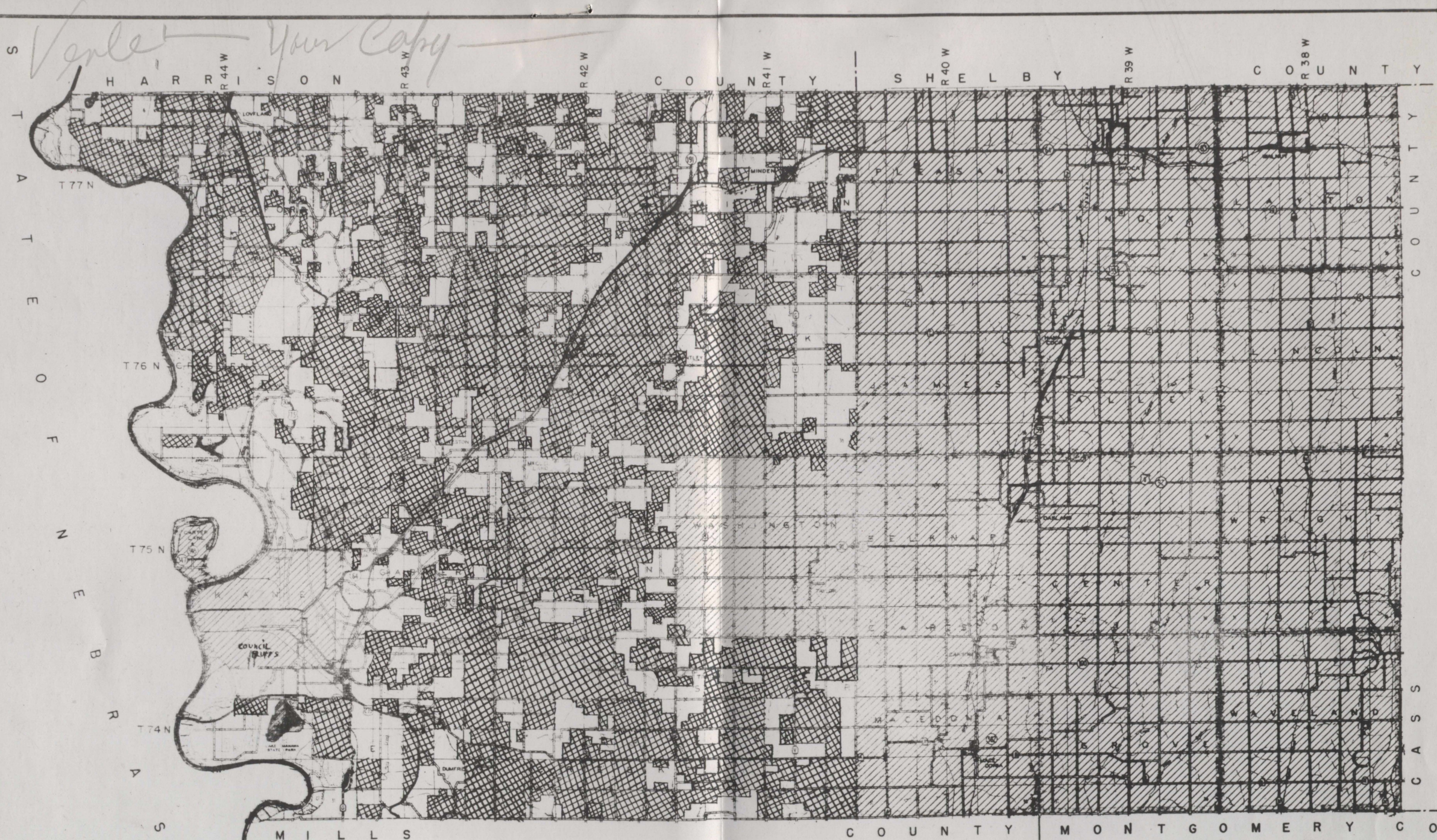
Period 1/1/55 to 12/31/55

Annual Report of Educational Activities

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>This Period</u>	<u>to Date</u>
Educational Meeting	No.	20	121
	Attendance	615	6,115
Tours	No.	11	78
	Attendance	450	2,589
Demonstration	No.	4	110
	Attendance	75	2,295
Exhibits	No.	2	32
Radio talks	No.	5	66
TV Program	No.	1	1
News Articles	No.	125	1,499
Commissioner Meetings	No.	12	174

Total Accomplishments

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>to Date applied</u>	<u>Remaining Needed on the land</u>
Terrace	Miles	1,413	8,126
Contouring	Acres	75,813	
Permanent Structures	No.	44	2,108
Closed Drains	L.F.	6,680	205,000
Open Drainage	Miles	54	139
Open Drainage	Acres	6,843	15,493
Grass Waterways	Acres	1,288	4,361
Diversion	Miles	25	103
Crop Boundaries	Rods	68,722	726,447
Basic Farm Plans	No.	647	1,034
District Cooperators	No.	850	831



acreage approximate 291,935

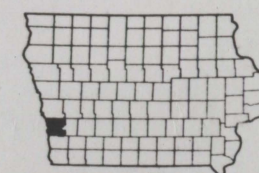
WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PROGRESS

SOIL CONSERVATION SURVEY

	1-1-55....185,350 Ac.
	1-1-56.... 3,860 Ac.
	Total....189,210 Ac.

Prepared by the Cartographer



 EXCLUDED AREA

LOCATION IN IOWA

The District includes all land in the townships of Minden, York, Silver Creek and the twelve townships lying West of them, exclusive of incorporated cities and towns.

the District Governing Body