

# **1956 Annual Report Poweshiek County Soil Conservation District**

***Montezuma, Iowa***



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Poweshiek County Soil  
Conservation District**

*Montezuma, Iowa*

## DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS FOR 1956

1. District and Soil Conservation Service occupy new quarters in Montezuma, Ia.

2. Pond building gets off to an early start—dry weather in spring favorable for construction.

3. Soil Conservation Week featured by special editions in newspapers of the County.

4. Twilight Tours planned with the Grinnell and Montezuma business men. Grinnell tour on Raymond Vogt farm rained out but an excellent group met at the Country Club during the tour hour. Montezuma group toured Gerrit Septer farm.

5. Much of County hard hit by drouth. Conservation practice make best use of rainfall.

6. Selection of winners in the Conservation Achievement Awards Program are honored at a dinner and awarded plaques by the Grinnell Kiwanis Club November 20, 1956.

7. The 1955 record accomplishment in pond construction (55 in number) was duplicated in 1956.

8. Soil Surveying completed in the three (3) newly organized watersheds—Montezuma, Fairview, and Buck Creek.



*Personnel of the Soil Conservation Service  
and District Commissioners*

*Morton C. James  
Conservationist  
Lauren W. Wright  
Commissioner*

*Archie Casebolt  
Cons. Aid  
J. Basil Brush  
Chair. Com.*

*Don Lender  
Cons. Aid  
David Anthony  
Commissioner*

## **FOREWARD**

The Poweshiek County Soil Conservation District, which had the biggest year since it was formed, wishes to thank all individuals and organizations who made it possible.

The District has accomplished much in the way of water and soil conservation in the eleven years of operation. But we must push forward even harder if we are to save our soil for future generations.

Our government was built on land rich with natural resources and will stay strong only as long as we protect these resources.

Three years of drouth show that water and soil conservation practices help agriculture in dry weather as well as in wet. These benefits carry through to all segments of the American economy.

## BASIC CONSERVATION PLANS

John Cullison  
Willis E. Evans  
Hoyt—Larsen  
Lindberg—Stark  
R. W. Gropper  
June—Pilgrim  
Audrey McCain  
A. J. Yates  
Fern Hicks  
Dale Brush  
John M. Williams  
Farmers Nat.—Hanssen  
Charles R. McLain  
Robert J. Dee  
Frank Lynch

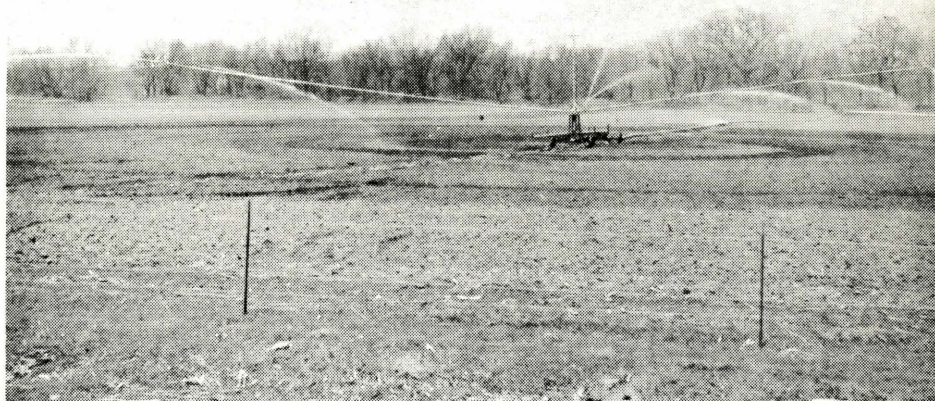
Farmers Nat.—Henry  
Bob Evans  
Ida Terbell  
Raymond Gregory  
Marvin Montgomery  
W. Craig Stanley  
J. L. Carpenter  
Louis Maschman  
Chester Hess  
Guy Versendaal  
Mrs. Cecil Vest  
Kenneth Haines  
Gilbert Phipps  
Bill Kriegel  
A. L. Grimm

Leo Formanek

## NEW COOPERATORS FOR 1956

Raymond McKee  
Frank Swatosh  
C. B. Cross  
C. B. Cross & Harrington  
Don K. Schuldt  
Marjorie F. Hughs  
Louis Maschman  
Warren L. James  
Chester Hess  
G. C. Hudnut  
Mrs. V. G. Preston  
Guy Versendaal  
Sam Simpson  
Maynard J. McLain  
Paul C. DeJong  
Guy Versendaal  
Edgar Lester  
A. L. Grimm  
Glen H. Bryan  
Daryl D. Goodlow  
William Douglas  
Central Nat. Bank—Brooke  
Chester Freshour  
Richard Tuttle  
Rex B. Pitman  
Mrs. Cecil Vest

John A. Crisswell  
Burdette Farley  
Sadie & Myrtle Cass  
W. F. Willett  
Melvin Peterson  
Mrs. Cecil Vest  
Benidict Peterson  
Harry Ryan  
Kenneth Haines  
Fred Coffee  
Gilbert Phipps  
Wadsworth & Icenbice  
Howard Sears  
P. J. Scandridge  
R. W. Doonan  
Ernest Gorsch  
Albert C. McKee  
Mable Bryan  
E. L. York  
Lavern Lamb  
B. L. DeMeulenaere  
Clarence Van Wyk  
Central Nat. Bank—VerSteegt  
G. A. Height  
A. E. Ahrens  
E. W. McNeil

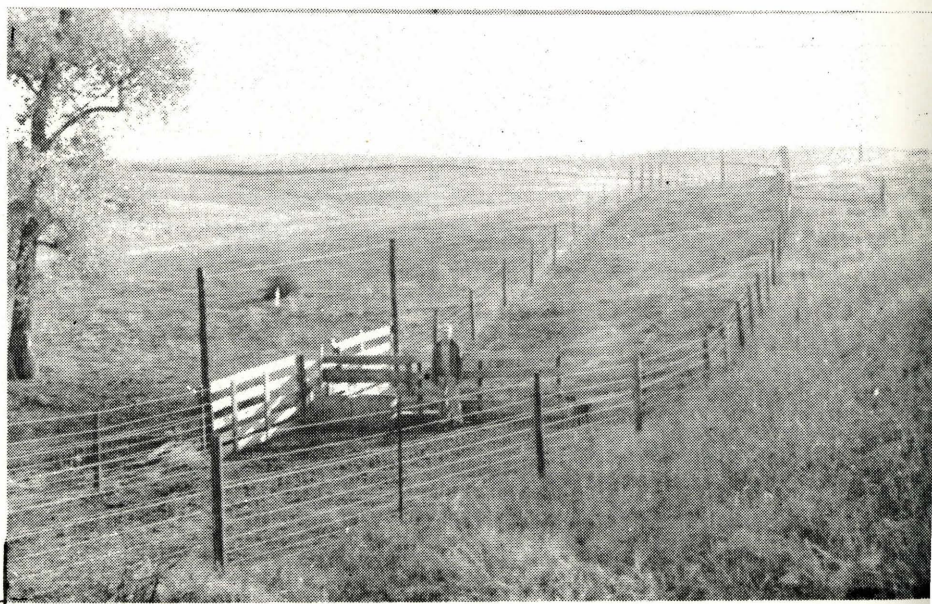


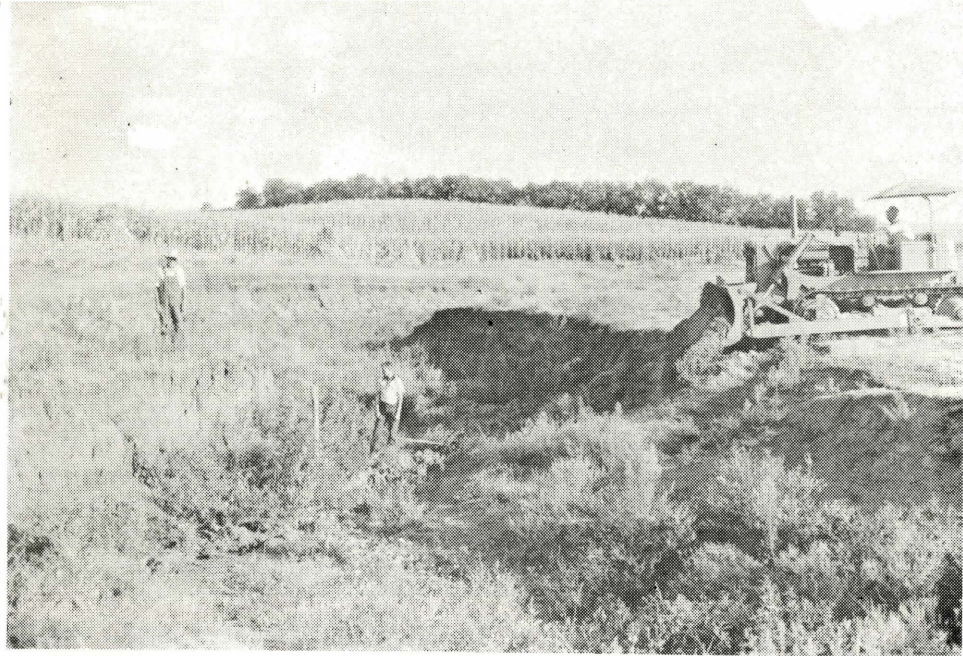
*Pre-planting irrigation to build-up subsoil moisture on Chester Freshour farm near Victor. Water supply is obtained from Bear Creek near by.*

*The principal problem to irrigation in Poweshiek County is inadequate water supply.*

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*Making the most out of a farm pond water supply on the Arthur Read farm west of Deep River. The lane arrangement permits access to pond from four pastures.*





*Gully on Louis Newkirk farm north of Barnes City before filling.*

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*Gully shown in first photo after filling, shaping and seeding. Ridding a field of such ditches is an important improvement in efficiency as well as appearance.*



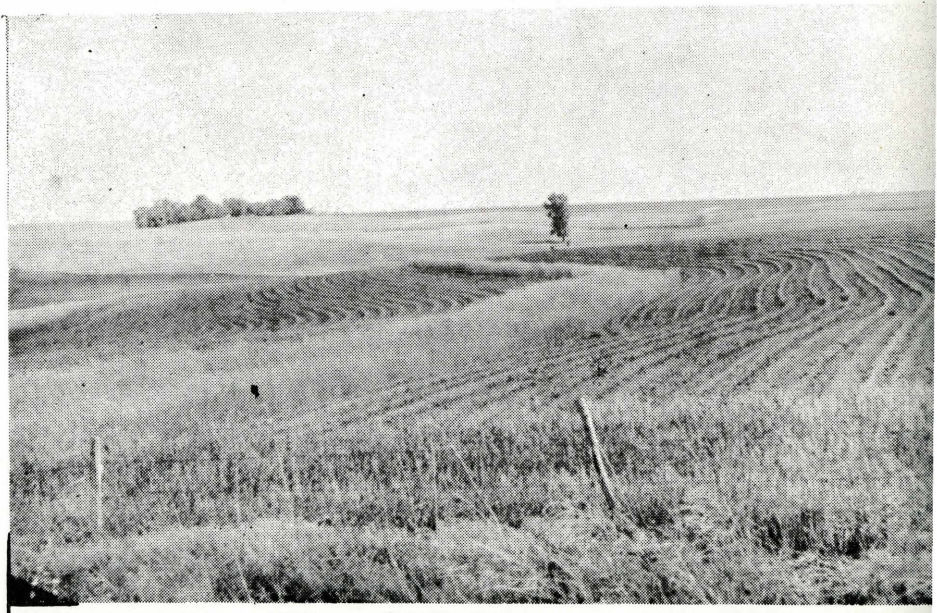


*Cultivating a terrace on the Carroll Elscott farm near Tainto. Terraces are the most effective practice yet devised to reduce soil losses on cultivated land.*

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*Newly built diversion terrace on the Earl Rempp farm south of Montezuma.*

*Diversion terraces may be used to shorten slopes too steep for standard terraces.*

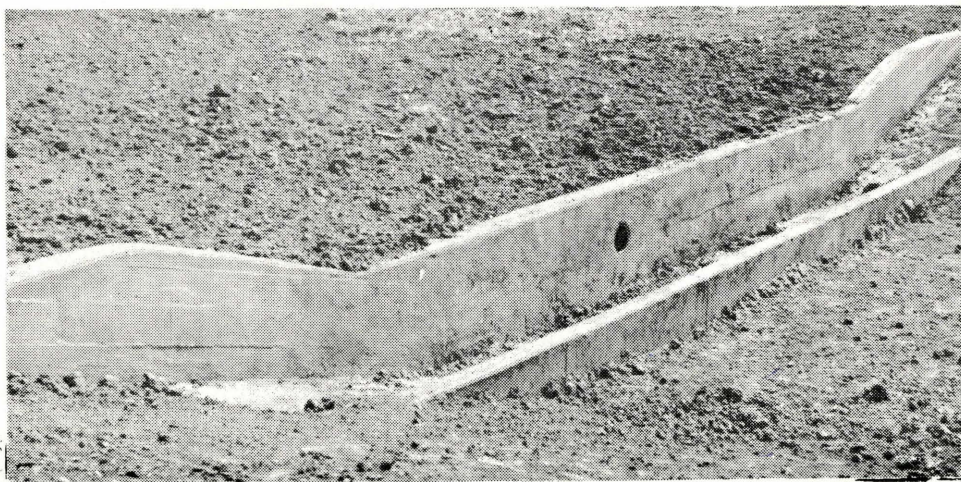




*Dry weather plus fall plowing plus a good stiff wind equals soil in the road ditch. The soil lost is the "cream" of the field.*

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*Combination livestock water and gully control structure on the Melvin Elliott farm 2 miles east of Montezuma. The tile outlets through the wall filling the catch basin. A second outlet tile not visible prevents the catch basin from overflowing.*





*Before photo of a gully on the Leslie Ormiston farm, Brooklyn*

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*After filling, shaping and seeding gully on Leslie Ormiston farm. Making grass waterways out of gullies is the first step in a complete conservation plan.*



## WATERSHEDS UNDER WAY



**a** Montezuma watersheds William Henkle, Montezuma, Iowa—Chairman of the Montezuma Watershed south of Montezuma. The watershed contains 3518 acres including 21 farms. Henkle lives 3 miles south-west of Montezuma.

**b** Fairview Watersheds Phil Smith, Chairman of the Fairview watershed in north Madison township Poweshiek county. Smith's farm is on the Poweshiek-Tama County line 6 miles south-west of Belle Plaine. The Fairview watershed contains 2315 acres and includes 21 farms.

**c** Buck Branch Watersheds Warren James, Montezuma—Chairman of the Buck Branch Watershed west of Montezuma. The watershed contains 8,287 acres and includes 56 farms.

**EXPENDITURES OF FUNDS PROVIDED  
BY STATE OF IOWA  
1955-56 FISCAL YEAR**

**I-A Budget**

|                                     |                |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Commissioners-Mileage, meals, hotel | \$221.13       |
| Office Supplies                     | 129.19         |
| Printing                            | 89.50          |
| Prizes for contests                 | 39.50          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                        | <hr/> \$479.32 |

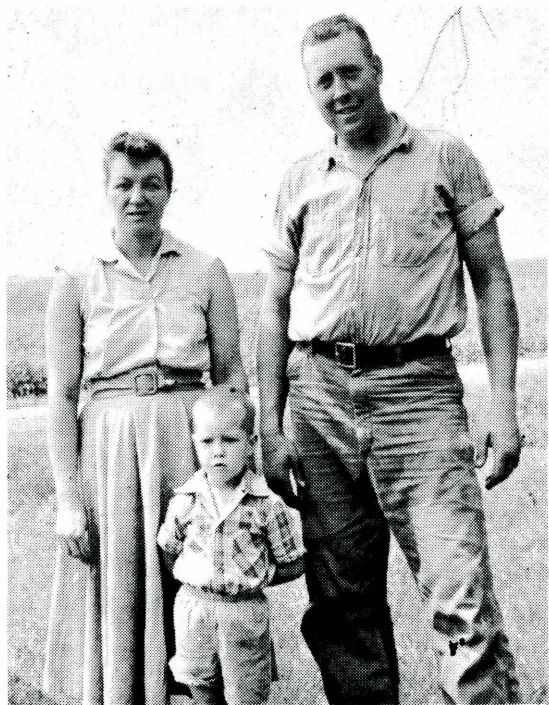
**II-A Budget**

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Salary-Clerk        | \$2,031.98       |
| Salary-Technicians  | 1,018.00         |
| Mileage-Technicians | 165.76           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <hr/> \$3,215.74 |

# WINNERS IN POWESHIEK COUNTY'S 1956 CONSERVATION AWARDS PROGRAM



*Mr. and Mrs. Gerret Sep-  
ter — left to right Beverly  
Bob, Billie and Debbie  
Montezuma Division I win-  
ner, owner-operator, recog-  
nizing outstanding work in  
soil conservation, consistant  
use of soil conservation  
practices through the years  
and completeness of pro-  
gram.*



*Mr. and Mrs. Miles Clay-  
ton and John three and a  
half, Ruth Ann seven was  
not present. Brooklyn Divi-  
sion II winner, for tenant-  
landlord class. This class  
recognizes outstanding pro-  
gress in soil conservation  
where tenant and landlord  
achieve results through  
joint effort. The owner is  
Mrs. Jean Cavell, Evans-  
ville, Indiana.*



*Mr. and Mrs. Raymond  
Vogt, Barbara, left and Ju-  
dy, right. Grinnell winner of  
Division III for outstand-  
ing progress in soil conser-  
vation since 1954.*

## **OTHERS IN THE COUNTY WHO HELP WITH THE DISTRICT PROGRAM**

1. Radio & TV Stations
2. 4-H Clubs
3. Vocational Agriculture & FFA
4. Boy Scouts
5. Kiwanis Club
6. Chamber of Commerce
7. Jay-Cee's
8. Lions Clubs
9. Rotary Clubs
10. State & National Assn. of District Commissioners
11. State Soil Conservation Commissioners
12. County Supervisors
13. Implement Dealers
14. Farm Bureau Groups
15. Public Schools

