

ANNUAL FISCAL REPORT

JULY 1, 1965—JUNE 30, 1966

of the

*Cherokee County
Soil Conservation
District*

Cherokee County, Iowa

BY YOUR COMMISSIONERS

VERE CORRINGTON

ARTHUR DORR

DONALD DEWITT

The average Cherokee County farm is losing about 1,350 tons of soil per year through sheet and gully erosion. An average of almost seven tons per acre of cropland per year.

According to the 1965 Iowa census, the average farm in Cherokee county is 257 acres. Our Conservation Needs Inventory tells us that this average farm would have 15 acres of level cropland, 134 acres of gently rolling land (under 5% slope), 69 acres of rolling land (5% to 10% slope), 23 acres of steep pasture and timber land and 16 acres of level land subject to frequent flooding which is used as pasture land.

In 1965, this average farm would have 17 acres of lots, roads and timber, 39 acres of permanent pasture and 201 acres of cropland. The cropland would have 86 acres in corn, 40 acres in beans, 33 acres diverted as idle, 14 acres in oats and 28 acres in hay and rotation pasture.

In 1965, this average Cherokee County farm would have 89 acres tilled on the contour (an additional 97 acres needs contouring) and it would have 5 acres terraced (an additional 60 acres needing terraces).

Projecting from research information supplied by the Iowa State Experiment station, soil losses can be expected to average 1,350 tons of soil per year. This is wasteful use of land. If an additional 97 acres of cropland were tilled on the contour and an additional 60 acres were terraced on this average farm, expected soil losses could be reduced to about 835 tons of soil per year.

835 tons of soil lost per year averages out to about 4 tons per acre of cropland per year. This is not an unreasonable soil loss for the soil type found in Cherokee County.

There is only one conclusion to be drawn from the above, and that is: if we are going to farm our land intensively, we need terraces on the rolling land.

ACTIVITIES OF YOUR DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

- 7-20-65 Inspection of completed watersheds to determine maintenance needs.
- 7-20-65 Commissioners reviewed Grand Meadow Watershed plans.
- 7-27-65 Business meeting of commissioners.
- 7-28-65 Regional Conference of Commissioners at LeMars.
- 8- 2-65- District had booth at Cherokee County Fair, manned by
- 8- 4-65 Commissioners.
- 8-31-65 Business meeting of commissioners.
- 9-20-65 Meeting of Grand Meadow Watershed cooperators.
- 10-27-65 Business meeting of commissioners.
- 11- 4-65 Sub-committee of Little Sioux Works Committee meeting on priorities.
- 11-16-65 Little Sioux Works Committee meeting.
- 11-16-65 Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture Banquet.
- 11-24-65 Safety speech contest, local winner regional representative for Northwest Iowa.
- 12- 8-65 Business meeting of commissioners.
- 1-11-66 Annual short course for commissioners at Ames. Donald DeWitt attended.
- 2-17-66 Business meeting of commissioners.
- 3-29-66 Business meeting of commissioners.
- 5-21-66 Inspection of completed watersheds for maintenance needs.
- 5-21-66 Business meeting of commissioners.
- 5-26-66 Meeting of sub-committee on priorities (Little Sioux Works Committee).
- 6- 1-66 Special Commissioners meeting.
- 6- 6-66 Little Sioux Works Committee meeting.
- 6-17-66 Election of commissioners for 6 year term. Vere Corrington re-elected.

- 6-21-66 Organization and business meeting of commissioners.
- 6-18-66 Dedication of Arlington Watershed (Woodbury) by Secretary Orville Freeman.
- 6-20-66 National Youth Corps program. Youth assigned to work with technicians for nine weeks.

MISCELLANEOUS DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- 8-11-65 Marcus Garden Club toured Pilot Rock and Waterman Spring Watersheds.
- 9-22-65 Conservation program for Cherokee High School Agriculture class.
- 2-21-66 Assisted Cherokee Scout Troop with merit badge work on soil and water conservation.
- 4-19-66 Conservation program for Tilden Township Ladies Club.
- 5-17-66 Conservation Field Day for Meriden-Cleghorn School, held at Martin Access Area. Covered conservation of wildlife, soil, forestry, etc.
- 5-18-66 Conservation Field Day for Marcus School, held at Riney Knobb Access Area.
- 6-23-66 Conservation program for Aurelia Kiwanis Club.

The Cherokee District participated in the Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture sponsored by the Sioux City Journal and the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce and the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune.

AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION & CONSERVATION

The ACP cost-sharing program played an important part in encouraging the installation of soil and water conservation practices. Practices such as terracing, waterway construction and building of erosion control dams can be quite expensive and the cost-sharing program has been an important factor in the amount of these practices installed. For instance, landowners constructed 68 acres of waterways with cost-sharing assistance through ACP and technical assistance from the Soil Conservation Service.

CONSERVATION PROGRESS

	Added in 1966	To Date
Contour Farming (row crops) -----	2,869 acres	90,569 acres
Terraces constructed -----	72,576 feet	2,735,913 feet
Tile Drains -----	100,006 feet	1,581,026 feet
Diversions -----	2,641 feet	53,624 feet
Headlands Seeded -----	1,264 feet	323,372 feet
Waterways Constructed -----	68 acres	1,146 acres
Dams built -----	5 each	128 each
Open Ditch Drainage -----	7,080 feet	17,547 feet
Wildlife Plantings -----	2.3 acres	247 acres
Hedgerow Plantings -----	0 feet	126,646 feet
Number of farms applying practices --	155	
Number of District Cooperators -----	23	832
Number of Basic Plans -----	18	711
Number of Plans Revised -----	19	
Land Soil Mapped -----	1,070 acres	209,699 acres
Number of Operating Units -----	1,603	
Acres in Cherokee District -----	355,390	

LITTLE SIOUX FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAM

1. Grand Meadow Watershed

Construction designs for this watershed are complete. All agreements and easements have been completed and initial payments from cooperating landowners have been received by the District. Plans call for construction work in this small watershed during fiscal year 1967. It is located in Grand Meadow Township.

2. Ralston Watershed

This small watershed received a construction priority from the Little Sioux Works Committee on November 16, 1965. It is located west of Washta; lying partly in Cherokee County and partly in Woodbury County. Present plans are to complete necessary construction design, submit to landowners for approval and complete all agreements so that the watershed construction work can be contracted in fiscal year 1967.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service made available to the Cherokee District during fiscal year 1966, the following technical assistance:

Work Unit Conservationist (12 months)	Harvey Lindberg
Conservation Technician (12 months)	Glen Craft
Conservation Technician (12 months)	Monas Nixon

In addition to the above, the District received assistance from the Area Conservationist and his staff (Soil Conservation Service) with headquarters in Sioux City. This assistance was primarily on soil surveys, engineering design and inspection and watershed surveys and planning.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

More than 50 farmers planted trees and shrubs in the spring of 1966 for windbreak and wildlife purposes.

Thirty-nine farmers took advantage of the cost-sharing assistance available through the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) for wildlife and windbreak plantings.

This is the second year the District has had tree planting stock available for sale; 8,800 trees and shrubs were sold, with honeysuckle the most popular item. Your District Commissioners donated the time needed to pick up and package planting stock for delivery. Profits are being used to promote the District's soil and water conservation program. Mrs. Keith Ohlson of Meriden received the 100 honeysuckle plants given away by the District at the Cherokee County Fair.

Assistance in planning windbreaks is now being made available through the State Conservation Commission. District Forester, William Farris of LeMars is the man for Cherokee County farmers to see. He is also ready to help you with any forestry problems.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1966

State Funds (appropriated by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa and disbursed to soil conservation districts by the State Soil Conservation Committee:

I-M Budget

Commissioners expenses	\$ 163.49	
Office Supplies	38.49	
Printing annual report	92.25	
Demonstration and Exhibit Material	86.81	
Office Expense	86.75	
Sub-Total	\$ 467.79	
Received from State Soil Conservation Committee		\$ 500.00
Balance carried forward to 66-67	32.21	
TOTAL	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00

II-M Budget

Allocation		\$3,917.00
Salaries (including retirement)	\$3,916.24	
Balance released to State Soil Conservation Committee	.76	
TOTAL	\$3,917.00	\$3,917.00

District's General Fund

Cash on Hand July 1, 1964	\$ 344.80	
Tree sales	856.15	
Expenses incurred in sale of trees and shrubs		\$ 633.82
Sub-Total	\$1,200.95	\$ 633.82
Balance on Hand June 30, 1966		567.13
TOTAL	\$1,200.95	\$1,200.95

NOTE: The balance of \$567.13 in the District General Fund is deposited in a checking account at the Farmers National Bank of Aurelia, Iowa.

DISTRICT MAINTENANCE FUND

Balance on hand July 1, 1965\$20,154.17

Maintenance payments received during
fiscal year 1966:

Francis Herron	20.00
Robert Mortenson	52.50
James Fee	45.00
Mrs. Elsie Conley	45.00
Lewis Shea	90.00
Whitfield Adamson	127.00
D. W. Simonsen	150.00
Mrs. Ralph Robeson	65.00
Clarence Pennington	70.00
Ralph Simonsen	48.50
Robert Mortenson	52.50
Donald and Leland Smith	125.00
Joe Nelson	87.00
Earl Ebert	121.33
Harold Clark	70.00
Forrest Spencer	30.34
Neil Warner	45.00
Francis Herron	20.00
Mrs. Bessie Parks	100.00
Robert Rawson	280.00
C. J. Barwick	100.00
Ralph Rawson	100.00
Mrs. Elfrieda Hirschman	100.00
Walter Mortenson	157.50

Other Income:

Interest on Time Certificate	442.50
Interest on H. Bonds	224.80

Disbursements during fiscal year 1966:

Treasurer's bond	\$ 96.00
Repairs on Clark Watershed	62.50
Title Search expense on Grand Meadow Watershed	80.00
Easement checks to Grand Meadow Watershed participants	7.00
Recording fees for Grand Meadow Watershed	40.50

Initial payment share to Plymouth County (for Grand Meadow Watershed) -----	104.00
Bank Box Rental -----	2.75

TOTALS -----	\$22,923.14	\$ 392.75
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Balance on hand June 30, 1966 -----	\$22,530.39
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TOTAL -----	\$22,923.14	\$22,923.14
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NOTE: As of June 30, 1966, the \$22,530.39 is disposed of as follows:

\$11,505.02 in a certificate of deposit

\$10,000.00 in H. Bonds

\$ 1,025.37 in checking account

Bank accounts are at The Farmers National Bank in Aurelia,
Iowa.

