

23rd Annual Report
1967
WEST
POTTAWATTAMIE
Soil Conservation
District
Council Bluffs, Iowa



CROP RESIDUE

FOREWORD

FORWARD

With the prediction of a food shortage in the world in the not too distant future, it is a challenge to us to take inventory of our soil and water conservation program in our cities and on our farms.

The population of the world has been growing faster than the rate of increase in food production since 1958. There are two facts to consider: (1) the human population of the world is expected to double within 35 years, or less; (2) this increase in human numbers is outstripping the increase in food production by a ratio of 2 to 1.

The question we can ask ourselves is -- are we doing all we can to preserve these resources of soil and water that have been entrusted to our care?

We wish to express our appreciation for their assistance in promoting soil and water conservation to the following: Soil Conservation Service, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Extension Service, the County Board of Supervisors, the Agriculture Research Service, the local newspapers, the banks, the public schools, and all the District cooperators.

Eldon Ravlin, Chairman



The District Commissioners are the elected members of the governing body of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District. Left to Right: Derald Blois, Harvey Moss, Eldon Ravlin, Donald Bladt and Secretary Cliff Johnson.

The Commissioners are charged with the responsibility of directing the soil conservation program in the District. They develop long range programs set annual goals and work priorities for the District. To accomplish this task they meet regularly on the last Wednesday of every month in the Soil Conservation Office. They have special meetings whenever the need arises. Everyone is invited to come to the meetings.

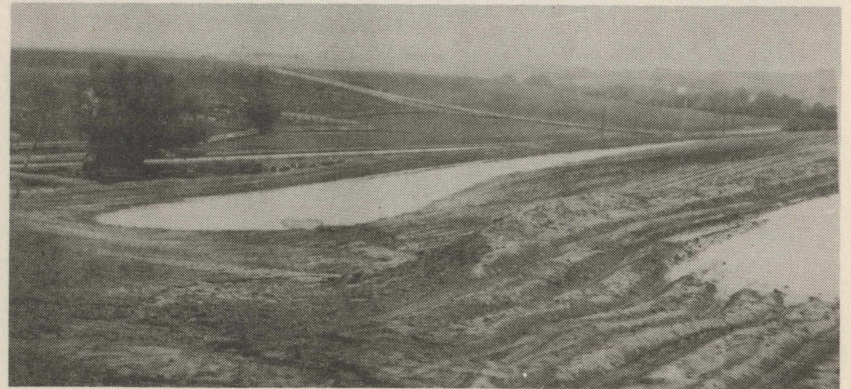
They all serve without pay. They only receive mileage and expenses for attending out of town meetings.

1M BUDGET

Commissioners Expenses	\$ 308.07
Offices Supplies	\$ 35.60
Printing	\$ 100.00

2M BUDGET

Equipment	\$ 97.66
Salaries - Clerical	\$2,630.78
Salaries - Technical	\$1,041.86
District Share of State and Federal Retirement	\$ 360.72
Total	<u>\$4,131.02</u>



(Parallel grassed backslope terraces filled with water after the June rains of last summer.)

This new concept in terracing is becoming the terrace of today. Over 90% of the level terraces built in the West Pottawattamie District in 1967 were the grassed backslope terraces. These terraces are made as straight and parallel as possible. Most of the dirt is taken from the downhill side which tends to flatten the slope (changing a side hill say from 14% to 10%).

When planting corn with these terraces, start at the ridge and plant uphill to the backslope of the terrace above.

These terraces are designed to use with 4 or 6 row equipment depending on the need. They will increase farming efficiency and make the hillsides more farmable.



Ryan - Henschel watershed structure on the Howard Jensen and Maynard Ridlen farms

WATERSHED REPORT

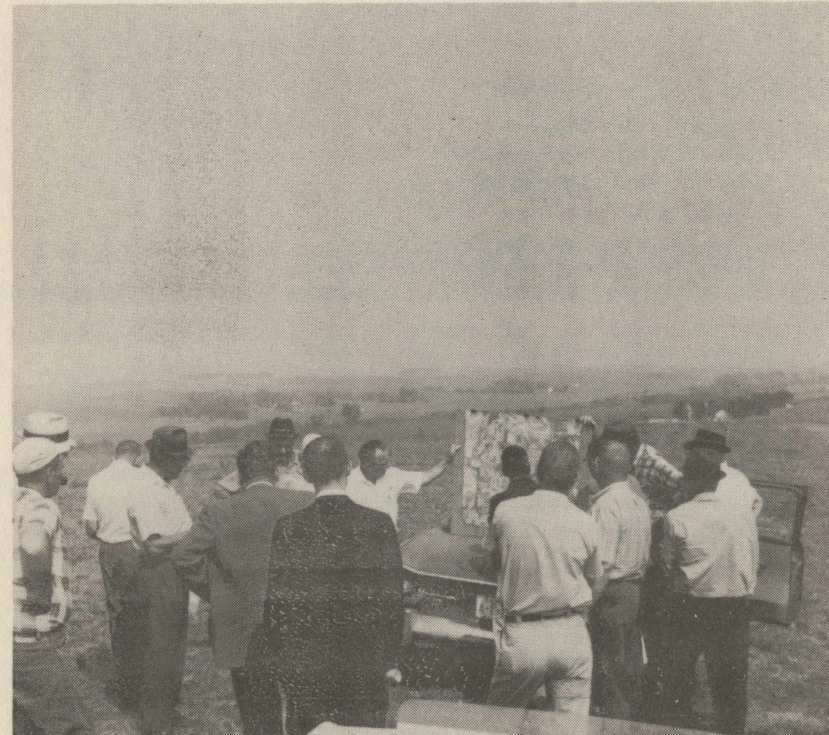
We are all living in a watershed -- be it large or small, in the city or on the farm. The urban and rural citizen practices soil and water conservation, too: 1. to save soil and water for use now and for further generations; 2. to improve their economic position; 3. community improvements such as beautification, flood protection projects, recreational projects and other community improvements.

We devote large amounts of time, money, knowledge and people to this development, conservation and management aspects of our soil resources. This is important and such efforts must continue.

West Pottawattamie watershed program had one of its best years in construction and activities. Five structures were completed. Two of these structures were road structures in cooperation with the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors and Soil Conservation Service. One of these structures was in Indian Creek Watershed, 5 miles north of Council Bluffs along Mud Hollow Road and the other one a mile south and three miles west of Underwood in the Ryan-Henschel Watershed. These two road structures were built by Wilbur Nielsen Construction Company of Omaha, Nebraska.

A weir knotch full flow structure was completed on the Francis Bell farm and a full flow structure was completed on the Carrie Scott Estate farm. These structures are in Ryan-Henschel Watershed three miles south and two miles west of Underwood. These structures were built by Paul Hoyt Construction Company of Missouri Valley, Iowa.

Site 5 in Indian Creek Watershed which was only partially completed in 1966 was completed in 1967. Seeding was by Kenneth Clark of Onawa, Iowa.



The State Watershed Advisory Committee reviewing the Mamie Creek Watershed prior to State Soil Conservation Committee approval.

Three other watersheds had activities that will lead to construction in the future. Mamie Creek Watershed, north of Quick, was toured by the State Soil Conservation Committee, Board of Directors and West Pottawattamie District Commissioners on September 7; it was approved by the State Soil Conservation Committee. North Pigeon Watershed, northeast of Honey Creek, is awaiting Federal approval. Simon Run Watershed, north of Crescent, was approved in December for Federal planning assistance.

Twin Ponies Watershed was re-Organized. This watershed consists of 21,640 acres and lies east of the Iowa School for the Deaf along both sides of Highway 92. A nine-man Board of Directors was selected and officers elected.

Three structures are planned for Indian Creek Watershed in 1968. Site 12 on the Fred Schlott and C. F. Angerth farms; Site 1 on the Dr. Guggenheim and Kermit Dau farms and Site 2 on the Joseph Ryan and William Pepper farms.

No construction is planned for Ryan-Henschel Watershed for 1968. Four sites are planned for 1969 which include a road structure at Site A-2 west of Weston. This structure would be in cooperation with the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors and the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District. Three other sites are B-8 on the Donald Jensen farm, B-6 on the Fred Huneke farm, B-9 on the John Scott farm.

PERSONNEL

DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY

Eldon Ravlin, Chairman
 Donald Bladt, Commissioner
 Harvey Moss, Commissioner
 Derald Blois, Assistant Commissioner
 Con Fischer, Assistant Commissioner
 Louie Fahrenkrog, Assistant Commissioner

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

Walt Weiss, Area Conservationist
 Gerald Hollander, Area Engineer
 Cal Cox, Work Unit Conservationist
 Don Kauffman, Soil Conservationist
 Don Barnhart, Conservation Technician
 Howard Angeroth, WAE (Part-time)

STATE EMPLOYEES

Mona Mackey, State Clerk
 Howard Angeroth, State Technical Aid (Part-time)
 Jim Sorensen, State Technical Aid (Part-time)

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

	1967	Goals - 1968
New District Cooperators	48	50
Conservation Farm Plans	69	50
Revised Farm Plans	26	20
Cooperators Contacted	284	500
Farm Serviced	1,324	1,300
Erosion Control Structures	11	8
Grassed Waterways	16.3 ac.	50 ac.
Grassed Backslope Terraces	43 mi.	60 mi.
Basin Terraces	7 mi.	10 mi.
Tile Drainage	51,964 ft.	18,000 ft.
Surface ditch	2,675 ft.	8,000 ft.

WHAT IS A FARMER?

A farmer is a paradox — he is an executive with his home his office; a scientist using fertilizer attachments; a purchasing agent in an old straw hat; a personnel director with grease under his fingernails; a dietitian with a passion for alfalfa, aminos and antibiotics; a production expert with a surplus; and a manager battling a price-cost squeeze.

He manages more capital than most of the business men in town.

He likes sunshine, good food, state fairs, dinner at noon, auctions, his neighbors, his shirt collar unbuttoned and above all, a good soaking rain in August.

He is not much for droughts, gullies, throughways, weeds, the 8-hour day, grasshoppers, or helping with housework.

Farmers are found in fields -- plowing up, seeding down, rotating from, planting to, fertilizing with, spraying for and harvesting. Wives help them, little boys follow them, city relatives visit them, salesmen detain them and wait for them, weather can delay them, but it takes Heaven to stop them.

A farmer is both faith and fatalist -- he must have faith to continually meet the challenges of the capacities amid an ever-resent possibility that a late spring, an early frost, tornado, flood, drought, disease, or bugs can bring his business to a standstill.

He is your countryman -- a denim-dressed, business-wise, fast-growing statesman of stature. And when he comes in at noon, having spent the energy of his hopes and dreams, he can be recharged anew with the magic words, "the market's up."

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE

Soil Conservation District

Room 238 Federal Building

Council Bluffs, Iowa

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