

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1959

of the

**Cherokee County
Soil Conservation
District**

Cherokee County, Iowa

BY YOUR COMMISSIONERS:

Vere Corrington

J. F. Ralston

Arthur Dorr

Introduction

The need for soil conserving practices such as contouring and terracing is greater today than ever before. All indications are that this need will continue to increase in the years to come.

In 1958, Cherokee County farmers operated 269,500 acres of cropland. In 1951, there were 263,000 acres of cropland. In these seven years, 6,500 acres of pasture have been plowed and put into crops.

In 1958, we had 167,500 acres of cropland planted to row crops (mostly corn and soybeans). In 1951, we had 142,000 acres in row crops. In these same seven years we have seen an increase in row crop of 25,500 acres.

The increase in row crop is primarily the result of substituting soybeans for small grain; our hay acreage has shrunk by about 3,000 acres and we all know that most of our soil loss occurs when land is in row crop.

It is quite apparent that we are plowing more land and putting more and more of it to row crops; and we will all agree that there is a still larger acreage of row crops this year (1959) than in 1958.

We are all aware that a rotation that includes a fair share of small grain and sod crops is an excellent way of effecting a reduction in soil losses. So, it necessarily follows that, if we are going to continue to reduce the acreage of small grain and sod crops, we must make more use of other soil conserving practices. The two practices that best fit the picture today are contouring and terracing (in general, contouring will reduce soil losses by 50%, terraces by 95%). The only alternative is increased land destruction through soil erosion on our rolling land.

If you are increasing your row crop acreage, are you also increasing your soil losses? Or, are you planning a soil conservation program that will cancel out your increased hazards? Your District has made technicians available through the Soil Conservation Service to assist you with such planning; plan to make use of them.

District Cooperators

There are now 727 farmers cooperating with the Cherokee District in applying one or more conservation practices on their land. Of these, 632 farmers have worked out complete conservation plans for their land and are now engaged in applying their planned programs.

This means that 41% of the farm units in the District are now cooperators. There are 1,765 farms in Cherokee County.

51% of district cooperators are owner-operators. According to the 1958 Iowa Census, only 36% of Cherokee County farms are owner-operated.

MARCUS 12	LIBERTY 37	CEDAR 21	SPRING 31
AMHERST 48	SHERIDAN 32	CHEROKEE 42	AFTON 31
TILDEN 53	ROCK 68	PILOT 63	PITCHER 52
GR. MEADOW 66	WILLOW 68	SILVER 66	DIAMOND 37

The above map shows the distribution of cooperators by townships. According to the 1958 Iowa Census, the average Cherokee County farm is 210 acres. This would mean about 110 farm units per townships; compare this figure with the totals per township shown in the above map.

Cherokee's District Commissioners

Vere Corrington of Cherokee, J. F. Ralston of Washta, and Arthur Dorr of Marcus served as commissioners during 1959. Vere Corrington served as chairman and also as Cherokee's representative on the Little Sioux Works Committee. Chairman Corrington's term will expire in the spring of 1960; the others will carry over for two and four more years.

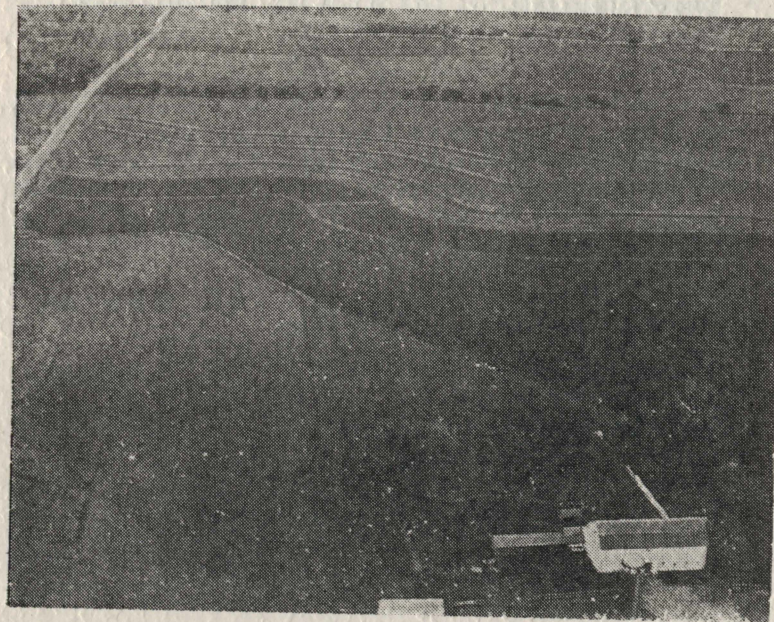
Following are some of the activities your commissioners and the District participated in during 1959:

January 2, 1959	Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.
January 22, 1959	Meeting with Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committeemen on the 1960 Agricultural Conservation Program.
January 27, 1959	Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.
February 24, 1959	Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.
March 9, 1959	Sub-Committee meeting of Little Sioux Works Committee.
March 12, 1959	Little Sioux Works Committee Meeting.
March 13, 1959	Meeting of Conservation Needs Committee.
March 24, 1959	Iowa Association of District Commissioners Regional meeting at Primghar, Iowa.
April 16, 1959	Meeting with Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committeemen on 1960 Agricultural Conservation Program.
April 28, 1959	Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.
May 3, 1959	Soil Stewardship Week — material distributed to all pastors in District.
May 16, 1959	Inspection of all completed watersheds in District.
May 26, 1959	Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.
June 18, 1959	Little Sioux Works Committee Meeting.
July 23, 1959	Meeting with Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committeemen on 1960 Conservation Reserve Program.
July 28, 1959	Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.
July 31, 1959	Sub-Committee meeting of Little Sioux Works Committee.

August 25, 1959 Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.
 September 19, 1959 Assist with Pilot Rock Plowing Match.
 September 22, 1959 Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.
 September 25, 1959 Assist with State Plowing Match held in Woodbury County.
 October 14, 1959 Assist in judging farms for Sioux City Program (Northern Region).
 October 29, 1959 Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.
 October 30, 1959 Meeting with Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committeemen on 1960 Conservation Reserve Program.
 December 23, 1959 Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.

Major Conservation Practices Installed During 1959

6,372 acres of new contouring established with District assistance.
 13,178 rods of contour field divisions surveyed.
 52,060 lineal feet of tile surveyed and checked.
 20 miles of terraces surveyed and checked (level, graded and parallel).
 6.3 miles of waterways established (47,027 cu. yds. of dirt were moved in shaping these waterways).
 4 erosion control dams built (these 4 dams required 46,356 cu. yds. of earth fill).
 7,000 acres soil mapped during 1959 (a total of 186,000 acres has now been soil mapped; there are about 356,000 acres in farms in the Cherokee District).
 53 basic conservation plans completed.
 368 farmers received assistance in planning and applying conservation practices.



Parallel Terraces on the Ralph Patterson farm

Soil Conservation Service

The technical staff, supplied to the Cherokee District by the Soil Conservation Service, during 1959, consisted of the following:

Work Unit Conservationist	Harvey Lindberg
Soil Conservationist	Harold Boehmer
Conservation Aid	Glen Craft
Conservation Aid	Monas Nixon

Additional technical assistance was made available, upon request, by Area Conservationist George Lamp of the Soil Conservation Service (headquarters at Sioux City, Iowa). The bulk of the special technical assistance received during 1959 was in the soils field (from Area Soil Scientists John Worster and Elmer Harvey) and in the engineering field (from Area Engineer Wayne Ducommun and his assistants).

Additional Information Activities

Soil and water conservation information was presented to the following groups by our Soil Conservation Service technicians:

January 22, 1959	Cherokee County Conservation Board — outlined District's program and discussed possibilities of future projects.
February 7, 1959	Cherokee Chapter D. A. R. — conservation slides were shown and discussed.
March 4, 1959	Klingborg and Smith Neighborhood — explained Little Sioux Watershed Program.
October 21, 1959	Marcus Boy Scouts — conservation slides were shown and explained.
October 22, 1959	Cherokee High School Agriculture Class — taken on tour of completed watershed in Fee Neighborhood.
December 7, 1959	Veterans Agriculture Course — discussed soil conservation practices.
December 11, 1959	Aurelia High School Vocational Agriculture Class — discussed farm planning procedures.
December 15, 1959	Aurelia High School Vocational Agriculture Class — field tour of farm to check land use capabilities and follow-up on farm planning discussion.

Wildlife Conservation

One of the most successful multiflora rose plantings in recent years may be seen on the Clifford Chapman farm about 3 miles west of Cherokee. The original planting was made in 1956 (a double row—40" spacing), some replanting was done in 1957 and 1958. It was fertilized and cultivated the first two years. Today, after surviving two dry years, it is a dense hedge averaging better than five feet in height. It is located on a contour field division separating two crop fields. This year, with one field in corn and one in stubble, he was able to pasture the stubble and use the hedge as a fence.

This year, small wildlife areas were planted by Walter Fuhrman of Cleghorn, Junior Barwick of Pierson and Dale Nafe of Pierson. Multiflora rose was planted on field boundaries by Darrell Blankenbaker of Cherokee and Clifford Dubes of Aurelia. Floyd Lux of Cherokee, Roy Nelson of Marcus and Howard Peterson of Aurelia all planted a row of multiflora rose around the outer edge of their groves (providing a low windbreak, and excellent snow trap and top notch wildlife cover).

Frank Starr, Conservation Officer for Cherokee and Buena Vista Counties, assisted with many of these; and the treeplanter owned by the Izaak Walton League of Storm Lake was used in most of the areas.



Wildlife area on the Simonsen farm with terraces above. Erosion control dam and contour fields are on Smith Bros. and McWilliams farms. All near Quimby.

Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp

The Cherokee District furnished two scholarships, each with a value of \$36.00, to encourage teachers to attend the Conservation Short Course at Springbrook State Park.

This past summer, Miss Marlene Hulstein and Miss Marilyn Roxeboom, both of Cleghorn, enrolled in this short course. Following is a comment received from Miss Hulstein:

"I have attended Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp at beautiful Springbrook State Park in Guthrie County from June 7 to June 27, 1959.

During that summer session, three weeks, we worked with conservation problems. Emphasis was placed on wildlife, soil nutrients, and the balance in nature.

The study of wildlife was very interesting. We discussed game mammals, census methods, and uses of census techniques. We saw displays of furs of Iowa fur-bearing animals. We also discussed and saw excellent films on planning and laying out wildlife areas.

In soil nutrients, we studied soil formation, composition, and the effects of fertilizers on soil. We took a field trip to Ames to the experimental farm.

We took many bird hikes early in the morning. We studied bird migration, patterns, flyways, and banding. We learned to recognize some birds and their calls. This is especially helpful to me in my classroom.

One of the outstanding events was the night we went on a "Coon Hunt." It was a thrilling experience even if we didn't have any luck.

We had specialized instructors in every field. They were very outstanding.

The time spent at camp was very enjoyable and valuable. I have used my material and knowledge acquired at camp a great deal.

I would like to thank you for giving me financial assistance to make this session possible for me."

Agricultural Conservation Program

The Cherokee County office of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation program continues to be active in supporting and promoting soil and water conservation. The County Committee (Louis Bengtson, Chairman, Harold Clark and Bryon Campbell) and the office manager (Cliff Chapman) all have completed soil and water conservation plans for their farms and have been practicing conservationists for twelve or more years.

During 1959, this County Committee approved 203 cost sharing requests for soil and water conservation practices in the categories for which the Soil Conservation Service has technical responsibilities. Of the 203 referrals, 50 were for terraces and 48 for waterway construction.

Lack of cooperation on the part of the weather and the resultant delay in harvesting of corn and soybeans prevented many of these practices from being completed; however, indications are that they will be installed in 1960.

Sioux City Program For Permanent Agriculture

Sponsored by
Sioux City Journal-Tribune and Sioux City Chamber of Commerce

1959 representatives of the Cherokee District in this program were Robert Werthman of Cherokee, William Roberts of Cherokee and Harry Johnson of Quimby. Lawrence Hohbach of Marcus won the Cherokee award for most progress in conservation in the past year. These men all received certificates at the banquet in Sioux City in November.

Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program

Sponsored by
Des Moines Register and Tribune

1959 representatives of the Cherokee District in this program were Walter and Robert Mortenson of Cherokee, Gust Ekstrom of Peterson and Levi Lundquist of Cherokee. All of these received certificate awards from the Des Moines Register and Tribune.

National Inventory of Soil and Water Conservation Needs

In order to better carry out its responsibilities in providing for adequate conservation of the nation's soil and water resources, the Department of Agriculture is assembling a "National Inventory of Soil and Water Conservation Needs".

Agencies in every county in the United States were assigned the job of assembling this information. Cherokee County completed its part of the job this year. It was assembled and reviewed by a committee that included your District Commissioners, Board of Supervisors, Extension Council, Extension Director, Soil Conservation Service technicians, Vocational Agriculture instructors, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committee, Farmers Home Administration representative, and Conservation Officer.

This inventory provides an excellent guide to help your District Commissioners in reviewing the district's program and outlining the total job to be done.

State Soil Conservation Committee

Funds are provided by the General Assembly of Iowa to assist soil conservation districts in their local programs. These funds are allotted to districts by the State Soil Conservation Committee on the basis of needs (as evidenced by budgets submitted by the district commissioners).

State funds allotted to the Cherokee District were expended as follows in 1959:

Commissioners expenses (mileage and meals)	\$ 169.47
Office Supplies	197.80
Treasurer's bond	25.00
Two tuitions to Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp	72.00
Printing annual report	85.00
Prizes for conservation contests	14.53
	\$ 563.80
Clerical help employed by district (includes district's share of social security and state retirement)	
	\$2840.82
Total State funds expended	
	\$3404.62

Our District Clerk, Mrs. Gladys Schroeder, reports that 1,067 people stopped at the office during 1959 to make appointments, obtain information or confer with technicians. In addition, she reports handling 502 telephone calls.

Report of the Treasurer

L. C. Bengtson—Cherokee, Iowa

CHEROKEE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

December 31, 1959

GENERAL FUND

Cash Balance on January 1, 1959	\$226.11	\$
Received from State Soil Conservation Committee	309.33	
Postage		186.75
Office Supplies		9.51
Film (prints)		1.54
Plowing Match Trophy (1959)		14.53
Bond for Treasurer		25.00
Two Tuitions to Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp		72.00
Material for Stewardship Week		8.25
TOTALS	\$535.44	\$317.58
Balance on Hand December 31, 1959		217.86
TOTALS	\$535.44	\$535.44

MAINTENANCE FUND

Cash Balance on January 1, 1959	\$10,570.26	\$
Watershed Maintenance payments received in 1959:		
James R. Fee	45.00	
F. O. Mortenson	210.00	
Donald and Leland Smith	125.00	
Ralph Robeson	65.00	
Donald and Leland Smith	125.00	
Mrs. Elsie Conley	45.00	
F. O. Mortenson	210.00	
P. M. Peterson	90.00	
Harold Clark	70.00	
D. P. McGregor	45.00	
James R. Fee	45.00	
Clarence Pennington	70.00	
D. W. Simonsen	150.00	
Interest on funds deposited on time certificates at the Farmers National Bank in Aurelia	230.40	
Paid to Joe Werthman for repair work on structures in watersheds		97.96
Paid to Cherokee Implement—weed spray ..		1.58
Paid to Klatt Hardware—Paint and supplies ..		10.17
TOTALS	\$12,095.66	\$ 109.71
Balance on Hand December 31, 1959		11,985.95
TOTALS	\$12,095.66	\$12,095.66

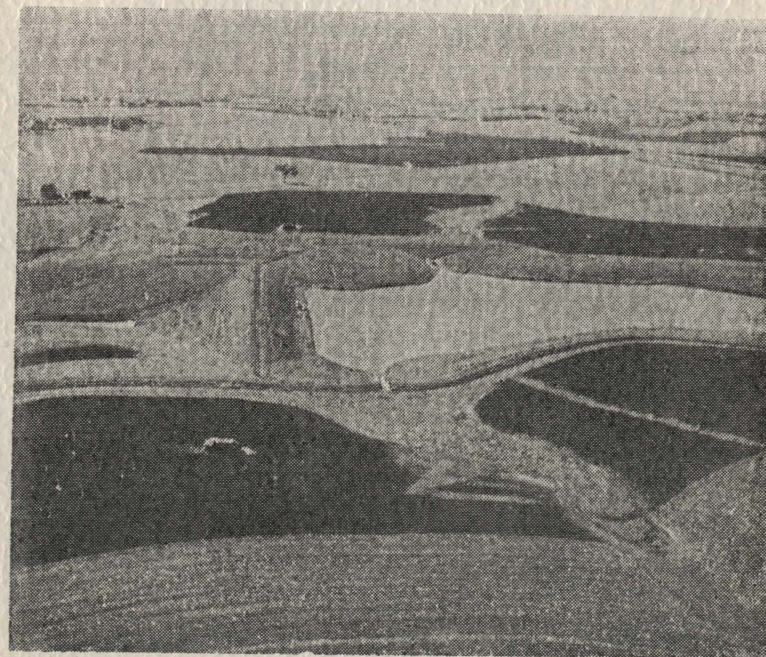
[Continued on Next Page]

TREASURER'S REPORT [Continued]—

NOTE: As of December 31, 1959, the \$11,985.95 in the District Maintenance Fund is disposed of as follows: \$10,545 in Certificates of Deposits at the Farmers National Bank of Aurelia and \$1,440.95 deposited in the checking account at the Farmers National Bank.

The \$217.86 in the District General Fund is also deposited in the checking account at the Farmers National Bank of Aurelia.

Inspection was made of all completed watersheds in the spring of 1959 and this fall all needed structure repair was completed at a cost of \$109.71.



Detention Reservoir Structure—F. O. Mortenson Farm

Goals for 1960

64 New district cooperators
56 Complete conservation plans
7,350 Acres soil mapped
7,770 Acres of contouring
60 Miles of terraces
40 Acres of waterways established
9 Erosion control structures
59,000 Feet of tile drains
12,600 Rods of contour field divisions

