

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUMMARY OF NINTH ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 1952

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District was organized in April, 1944. At present E. H. Harms, Wm. C. Strohbehn and Louie Fahrenkrog are serving as commissioners.

Our regular Commissioner meetings are held on the last Friday of each month, with special meetings being called when needed. We have also attended all local, State, Regional and National meetings. We feel that our attendance at these meetings keeps us better informed on soil conservation work so that we can pass the information on to you cooperators.

During the year 1952 we sponsored a Ten Acre Contour Corn Yield Contest. We also cooperated with the Council Bluffs Nonpareil and the County Superintendent of Schools in sponsoring a Rural School Notebook Contest on soil and moisture conservation. We sponsored a Farmer-Conservationist Training School, and in co-operation with the Extension Service we sponsored a 4-H Grass-Beef Feeding Contest.

Since our District was formed the Soil Conservation Service technicians assigned to our District have assisted 486 farmers with the development of basic soil and moisture farm plans on their farms. In addition, we have initial agreements signed with another 161 farmers. These agreements comprise approximately 43% of the farmland in our District. We believe that every farmer in our District should have a complete soil and moisture conservation plan on his farm as soon as possible.

To date, accomplishments in the District include the following; 52,830 acres of contouring, 1,129 miles of terraces, 18 miles of diversion terraces, 253 miles of sod waterways, 28 miles of open drainage ditches, 20 drainage and gully structures, and numerous other practices.

The job of a Soil Conservation District Commissioner continues to require more of his time as the activities and responsibilities of the District continue to grow. The District work load has been increasing each year. We anticipate working more with watershed groups in the future. Several such groups are already organized and several more are in the process of being formed. We believe that this is the practical and sound method of controlling floods. Proper land use, plus necessary mechanical practices and detention structures, will greatly reduce future flood hazards.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to you cooperators and to all others who have helped us carry out the work in the District. With your help we can ultimately reach our goal of "Every acre being treated according to its needs and capabilities".