

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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For '71 construction—

10 structures planned

Construction of 10 structures in the Big Wyacondah Watershed and the completion of the final work plan are expected this year, the Davis County Soil Conservation District said in its 26th annual report just published.

The report also notes a beginning on a third watershed project, outlines activities of the district commissioners during the past year, has a plan of operations for 1971 and lists progress and financial reports.

Concerning the Big Wyacondah Watershed, which has been under construction for several years, 29 of the proposed structural measures have been completed with contracts to be let for 10 more structures this year.

Total structural measures proposed in the watershed includes two flood water retarding structures, 57 grade stabilization structures, 3.4 miles of stream channel improvement and 9.4 acres of structural waterways.

"We anticipate that the cooperative arrangements between all of the groups and agencies involved will be completed soon and that the final work plan will be completed and presented to the local people this spring," the annual report states in discussing the Carter Creek Watershed.

The Carter Creek Watershed is located in southwestern Davis County and includes a major detention structure. The Iowa Highway Commission has agreed to cooperate in the construction of the major structure as Highway 63 is relocated.

The Davis County Conservation Board has agreed to

operate and maintain a public recreation area around the proposed pool with the State Conservation Commission cooperating in the project on land acquisition and development.

Among the goals for 1971 listed in the report, is the goal of cooperating with three other counties in submitting a request on the Soap Creek Watershed.

In reviewing the past year, the six commissioners — Iles Heady, Sam Botts Jr., Charles Chickering, Lionel Herteen, Phillip Melvin and LaVern Weilbrenner — said that although much has been accomplished in the past 26 years, 1970 was not a good year to apply conservation practices because it was the wettest year recorded in Davis County.

"But this was a year to observe established practices and to notice the fine job of conserving our great natural resource—the soil—staying where these practices were well established," the commissioners said.

"The tile outlet terrace, a relatively new application on Davis County farms, did a fine

job of keeping soil in the fields in spite of heavy rains," they reported.

In another section of the annual report, the commissioners note that the tile outlet terrace can be one of the most effective pollution (erosion) control measures "that can be used on many of our farms."

In addition to the erosion control benefits, the commissioners point out that the tile outlet terrace also has the advantage of eliminating waterways in the terraced part of the field and that terraces are parallel to eliminate short rows.

Tile outlet terraces in Davis County are located on the Richard Birchmier, Harry Battin, Dean Amstutz, Millard Mulcahey, Willard Hubbartt, LaVern Weilbrenner, Stanley Baughman and Allen White farms.

In the conservation practices progress report, it is noted that the district added 53 cooperators in the year beginning July 1, 1969 and ending June 30, 1970. This brought the number to 1,007 with 233,228 acres of land.

There were 40 basic conservation plans written during the year which brought the number to 735 covering 171,171 acres.

In the financial reports, the revolving fund budget, which is financed by royalties from a rock quarry, had a balance on hand of \$1,002.98 on Dec. 31. Balance at the beginning of the year was \$899.04.

Income from the rock quarry was \$4,251 while royalties paid on the quarry totaled \$3,542.42.

The I-M budget, which covers an allocation by the Iowa Legislature for commissioners expenses and others shows that commissioners mileage and expense during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1970 was \$304.43. Office supplies cost \$99.02 and office expense was \$7. This left a balance of \$89.55 of the \$500 total allocation.

The II-M budget, made available by the state legislature to enable hiring a full-time clerk and conservation aid, had total expenditures in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1970 of \$11,497.68 with \$10,358 for salaries. The total allocation for this budget was \$11,525.