

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
DAVIS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BLOOMFIELD, IOWA
1952

The District Governing Body:

Dale Blackwell, Bloomfield, Iowa, Chairman
P. W. Spilman, Bloomfield, Iowa, Commissioner
Harold Baughman, Bloomfield, Iowa, Commissioner

REPORT FOR THE 1952 YEAR

The annual report of the Davis County Soil Conservation District for the year 1952 lists the following special events and activities of the Soil Conservation District and its accomplishments. This report was compiled and signed by the district commissioners, Dale Blackwell, Chairman; P. W. Spilman; and Harold Baughman.

All in all, this has been a busy and eventful year for the Davis County Soil Conservation District. Much work has been done, and many activities have been engaged in, with the goal ever in mind, of getting good soil conservation on all the farm land in Davis County. Much remains to be done in this regard. The district commissioners are continually studying, planning and working at the job, and with the assistance of the local soil conservation service technicians, extension director, F.H.A. supervisor and others, they are progressing. The task will not be complete, however, until each farm owner and operator in the district is also studying, planning and working at accomplishing the soil conservation job on his land.

The district commissioners hope that each Davis County farmer will make use of the district facilities in helping each one to do the job that needs doing.

At the beginning of the year a series of four soil conservation schools were held at the community hall. The purpose of these meetings were to help and instruct farmers who are interested in farm plans and about to become co-operators. The morning sessions were set up to instruct in land use and farm plans, and to answer any questions that should come up. At noon a lunch was served. In the afternoon, the program included a speaker and a movie. Coffee and doughnuts were served in the afternoon. At the first meeting, January 23, Dr. Frank Shaller spoke on the topic "The Latest Research Information."

January the 30th, Chuck Greenlee spoke on "Farm Management" and "Farm Records." February 6, a representative of the Phillips Chemical Company spoke on the topic "What is new in Fertilizers." February 13th, Walt Wiese spoke on "Long Grass Silage," and had with him a number of colored slides to show the progress in this new method of making silage. In addition to Mr. Wiese, Wally Anderson, Regional Biologist for the Soil Conservation Service, spoke on "Wild Life Conservation."

In the latter part of February, a short course was held at Ames for the commissioners of all soil conservation districts. Mr. Spilman, Mr. Baughman and Mr. Blackwell attended the short course, held at the Memorial Union, Iowa State College, at Ames. The principal speaker was Dr. Robert Salter, Chief of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service. Governor William S. Beardsley gave a talk on "Soil Conservation Today."

The sixth Annual Convention of The National Association of Soil Conservation Districts was held in Cleveland, Ohio, February 25 through 29. The headquarters were in the Hotel Cleveland and most of the sessions were held there.

Harold Baughman and P. W. Spilman were delegates to this convention. Mr. Baughman reported that the two best attended sessions were the addresses by the Honorable Earl Warren, Governor of California and the address "Soil Conservation Districts Tomorrow" by the Honorable Charles F. Brannon, Secretary of Agriculture. Governor Warren spoke in the ballroom of the Hotel Cleveland on Tuesday evening and had as favors, California oranges and fresh dates. Secretary Brannon spoke Thursday evening in the ballroom of the Hotel Carter. Others that addressed the convention were the Honorable Robert A. Taft, and Robert M. Salter, Chief, U. S. Soil Conservation Service. Some of the tours at the convention included an agricultural tour and a tour of the Cleveland Art Museum and Garden Center and Industrial tours.

At the Davis County District Commissioner's meeting, May 7, Sylvan T. Runkel, District Conservationist, read a memo from Charles F. Brannon, Secretary of Agriculture, to Gus Geissler, Administrator of the PMA, and Robert M. Salter, Chief of the SCS.

"Soil Conservation Districts play a key role in helping farmers to get a well-rounded conservation system developed and applied. I believe it is in the national interest for every farm and every acre of farm land in the country to be in soil conservation districts. For this reason, in memo number 1278, I direct the PMA state committee and the State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service to jointly encourage development of the Soil Conservation Districts," said Secretary of Agriculture Brannon.

One of the outstanding events of the summer months, was a tour arranged and sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. This tour was for the businessmen as well as for the farmers of Davis County. All of the Agricultural Agencies took part in the tour. The Soil Conservation Technicians arranged the route of the tour and the route was as follows: The first tour, the farmers visited the farms of J. A. Baughman, Eugene Grim, D. C. Bollman and Earl Trachsel. On the second tour, the farmers saw the farms of Lionel Herteen, Conrad Goettsche, Dewey Harper, Austin Davis and Clyde Sherwood. All of the farmers listed above are co-operators with the Soil Conservation District and have soil conservation programs on their farms.

The Davis County Soil Conservation District had representatives at the Soil Conservation Field Day at Polk City, Iowa, August 12 and at the Barnes City contour plowing contest, August 10 and 11.

In September, there was an election for a commissioner and P. W. Spilman was elected for another term of six years. At that time, all voters were given a package of reeds canary grass seed and invited to listen to an address given by Bob Larson, editor of the Albia Union Republican, after which refreshments were served.

The Sixth Annual Conference of Soil Conservation District Commissioners in Iowa was held in Cedar Rapids this year, in September. This conference was conducted jointly by the State Soil Conservation Committee and the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

More than 300 people attended the conference, of which 115 were Soil Conservation District Commissioners representing 69 districts throughout the State of Iowa. Seventy-seven of these commissioners were accompanied by their wives. Many representatives from Federal, State and local agencies were also in attendance.

P. W. Spilman, District Commissioner, was presented a plaque by Radio Station WMT, for the most outstanding District Commissioner in Region 6. Similar plaques were presented to each outstanding District Commissioner in each of the 9 regions. The Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners presented certificates to four past district commissioners.

Guest speakers appeared on the program during the three day session, including Governor William S. Beardsley, who spoke on the responsibilities of the State of Iowa regarding the total Soil Conservation program. He stressed that even though Iowa is perhaps well ahead of many other states, their work in this all-important job of conserving our natural resources is only started.

Everett Mitchell, from the National Farm and Home Hour, Chicago, presented a number of important observations which he had made regarding conservation problems and how many people must solve these problems for this and coming generations. He gave a complete story of how and why Soil Conservation Districts were established and how they have been functioning during the past several years. People in all walks of life are able to contribute to this important job of conservation by assisting and co-operating with their local Soil Conservation District program.

After all the committees had reported, the election of officers was held. Ed Bauer, Van Meter, was re-elected president and William Mitchell, Grundy Center, vice-president.

A state Fair Exhibit was arranged in the Agricultural Building for the Iowa Soil Conservation Districts. One of the nicest booths was

arranged by the Appanoose, Davis, Monroe and Wapello County Districts. It included technical material and had fine samples of rotation pastures and permanent pastures. The Commissioners of the three other counties and P. W. Spilman assisted Sylvan Runkel with the exhibit booth.

The annual meeting of the Soil Conservation District was held in the community hall, December 3. After the invocation by Rev. Ernest Harder, the Ladies Hospital Auxiliary served supper. There was a movie "Soil Conservation," shown. Dale Blackwell made the introductions. Group singing was led by Lloyd Garrett. After the address, given by John Holland, Harold Baughman presented the awards. Those receiving awards were: Austin Davis, Ival Hining and Dewey Harper.

There were several district meetings held during the year and one Regional Meeting was held at Albia, December 4.

In the late fall, Sylvan T. Runkel, District Conservationist at Ottumwa, secured a quantity of krillium and PR-51 for experimental purposes. This material was to be used in an experiment on erosion in waterways. The site chosen was a waterway on John Quigley's farm just south of Bloomfield. Because of the dry fall, no results are available at the present time.

In the accomplishment of the district this year will be listed one structure. This structure is a good example of an earth fill that performs three services. It is located on the Jimmy Melvin farm about a mile south of Savannah. The ditch below the earth fill is about 15 feet deep and was eating its way right up through the pasture. Mr. Melvin had to cross this ditch to get to the fields on the other side. A fill was erected with a drop inlet to stop the erosion and to provide a roadway to the fields beyond. The earth fill is 600 feet long and contains about 4000 cubic yards of dirt and it has a 16 foot top so that any farm machinery can readily be moved across it. There is 107 acres of drainage into this structure and has a ponding area of about two acres. In addition to this, the fill provides water for livestock and recreation.

Technical assistance was furnished by the Soil Conservation Service and the PMA helped construct the earth fill through incentive conservation payments.

WORK REPORT

Farm Conservation Plans

	This Period	To Date	Acres this Period	Total Acres To Date
Applications Received--- IA's & AA's Included	52	378	12400	71363
Plans Prepared and Signed (Basic)	29	309	5604	59575
Plans Cancelled-----	3	12	493	1749
Amended Plans-----	0	1	0	63
Active Conservation Plans		297		57889

WORK APPLIED

Cooperator Farms		Applied This Period	Applied To Date
Practices	Unit		
Contour	Acres	1356	9078
Strip Crop	Acres	202	1306
Pasture Improvement	Acres	792	4985
Seeding of Pasture	Acres	105	1813
Wildlife Area Improvement	Acres	0	216
Woodland Management	Acres	0	4
Farm Ponds	No.	17	81
Terraces	Miles	1.5	31.6
Field Diversions	Miles	4.4	16.5
Farm Drainage	Acres	458	1032
Open Drains	Miles	5.1	12.9
Fence Row	Miles	3.5	6.7
Structure	No.	5	5
Constructed Waterways	Miles	1.8	5.6

REPORT OF ACP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ACP REQUESTS REFERRED TO AND SERVICED BY SCS

1. Total requests referred to SCS by county PMA committee	No. 218
2. Total requests for ACP practices serviced by SCS	No. 224
a. Farms on which practices were recommended as needed	No. 144
b. Farms on which practices were layed out	No. 135
c. Farms on which practices were installed	No. 134
d. Farms on which performance was certified	No. 135
3. Total farms serviced on ACP practice work	No. 224
a. Farms serviced who were SCD cooperators when referred	No. 85
b. Farms serviced who became SCD cooperators	No. 25
c. Farms serviced who are not SCD cooperators	No. 114

AMOUNTS OF PRACTICES APPLIED (OR INSTALLED) ON FARMS OF ACP PARTICIPANTS

Name of Practice	Report Unit	District Cooperators		Non-SCD-Cooperators	
		No. Farms	Amount	No. Farms	Amount
Terraces	L. Ft.	1	1300	--	--
Diversions	L. Ft.	4	3300	2	3500
Sod Waterways	Cu. Yds.	11	8691	4	3675
Outlets, flumes, and chutes	Number	--	--	--	--
Erosion control dams	Number	2	2	--	--
Contour strip cropping	Acres	5	162	--	--
Contour farming	Acres	35	898	2	20
Stockwater dams and ponds	Number	16	16	12	12
Farm Drainage	Acres	12	308	9	358
a. Open drains	Cu.Yds.	12	15300	9	8249
b. Tile drains	L. Ft.	--	--	--	--

TECHNICAL SERVICES USED TO MEET SCS RESPONSIBILITIES - MAN HOURS

	ACP PRACTICE WORK	OTHER ASSISTANCE	TOTAL MAN-HOURS
1. SCS personnel - on regular Public 46 Funds.	772		772
2. SCS personnel - employed with 5% PMA Funds.	420		420
3. PMA employees working under SCS supervision (est)	8		8
4. Other employees working under SCS supervision (est).....	189		189
5. Total Man Hours - This period.....	1389		1389

I-A BUDGET

Amount on hand January 1, 1952	\$368.91
Amount allotted from State	<u>500.00</u>
	868.91

Expenses

Office supplies	9.50
Office Supplies	123.60
Commissioners Mileage	313.53
Material for Demonstration	10.15
School Expense and Prize Money	24.80
Bond	2.50
Phone	5.39
Misc.	<u>55.31</u>

TOTAL EXPENDED	\$ 544.78
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\$ 868.91
<u>-544.78</u>

BALANCE JANUARY 1, 1953	\$ 324.13
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2-A BUDGET

Total expended for clerical and technical salaries, January 1, 1952- January 1, 1953	\$2,974.72
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BALANCE January 1, 1953	\$ 1,678.37
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REPORT
ON
MUNICIPAL RESERVOIR SEDIMENTATION
BLOOMFIELD, IOWA

We, the Commissioners of Davis County, would like to include the following report on the problem effecting the municipal reservoir. Briefly, the original volume of the reservoir was 895.93 acre feet and has been reduced by 64.59 acre feet during the 14 years of operations. In terms of per cent, this represents a loss of 7.22% at the rate of 0.515% per year. It would take approximately 106 years at this rate to use 60% of the reservoir capacity. This is generally considered the useful life of a reservoir. This may appear to be very favorable, but actually the annual rate of sedimentation in acre feet per square mile (2.05) is well above the average for reservoirs of comparable size.

This annual accumulation of sediment can be expressed in terms of tons of soil lost at its source. In other words, the watershed is contributing an average of 6 tons of soil per acre per year. It is desirable to reduce these soil losses to an optimum of 2 tons per acre per year, if the reservoir is to be protected and its life prolonged.

The most practical method of acquiring this protection is through the establishment of conservation practices on the lands of the watershed. As a general rule, we find a complete conservation program on a watershed of this type will reduce the sediment volume anywhere from 65 to 95 per cent, depending on the completeness of installation, and will increase the farm income from 50 cents to \$3.50 per acre on the farms in the watershed.

Your attention is also invited to the fact that the fill and spillway can easily be raised to meet additional reservoir capacity needs that might arise in the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That a conservation program for the watershed be sponsored.
2. That a sedimentation survey be made at 10 year intervals.

The Davis County Soil Conservation District will be glad to answer any questions and help you in every way possible.

This report was compiled by George W. Fonken, SCS Engineer, approved by Sylvan T. Runkel, District Conservationist, SCS, and signed by the Chairman of the District Governing Body, Dale Blackwell.

In this report we have tried to summarize some of the most outstanding events and accomplishments that have taken place in the various fields of our organization. We feel that we have had a very satisfactory year and are looking forward to a year of more and better accomplishments.

Harold Benham
Commissioner

C. W. Spilman
Commissioner

Dale Blackwell
Chairman