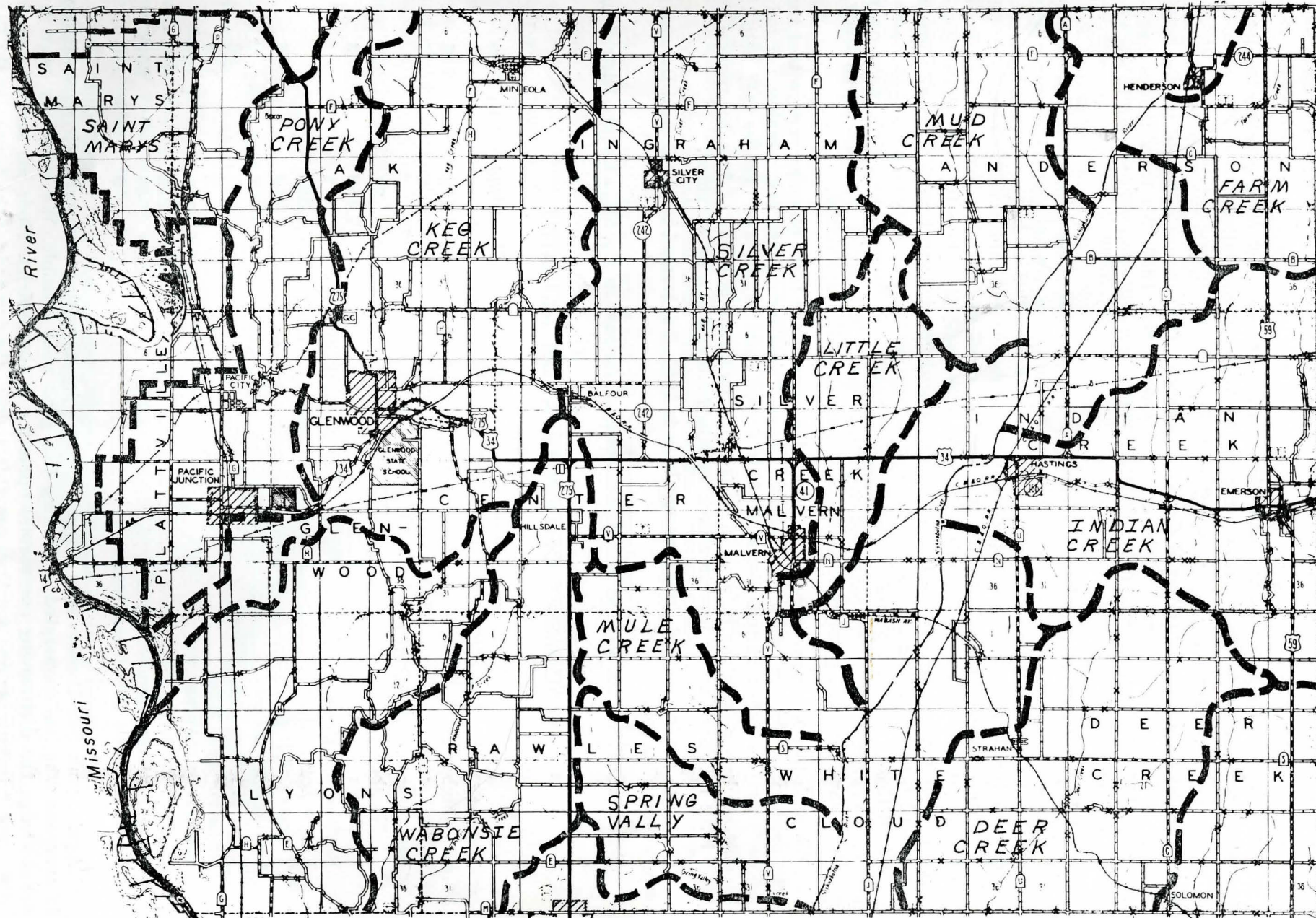


Mills County Soil Conservation District

P. O. Box 567

MALVERN, IOWA

Phone 2321



POTENTIAL MILLS DISTRICT WATERSHEDS

1958

ANNUAL NEWS LETTER

Malvern, Iowa
Dec. 31, 1958

The Mills County Soil Conservation District Commissioners extend a greeting to all the people of the District who are interested in Soil and Water Conservation.

One over-sight which was made in the 1957 News Letter, which we wish to correct, is that of giving recognition to Dallas McGrew for receiving the honor of being elected the "Out-standing District Commissioner" in the State of Iowa during 1957. We have always leaned heavily on Dallas' council in conducting the District's activities — and we are glad to see him receive this honor.

Most Mills County farmers had a prosperous year in 1958. Crop yields were above normal and livestock prices were, on the whole, satisfactory. This, we believe, is one reason why farmers did so much soil conservation work in 1958. You will note in the Accomplishments Summary below that over three-hundred miles of terraces were built in Mills County in 1958. This is a new record — exceeding the previous record of 1949 by sixty-two miles. We hope that this interest in terraces will continue into the new year. Mills District also led the State of Iowa in the miles of terraces built in 1958. The amount of waterway work done also was a new record for Mills County. However, interest in farm plans seems to remain about the same. We would like to remind our readers that the construction of terraces and waterways on a farm only achieves part of the conservation goal. A farm, in order to maintain productivity, must also have a cropping program in keeping with the soil's capabilities.

We wish to encourage everyone to take advantage of the farm planning service that the Soil Conservation Service has made available to us. These farm plans are valuable, not only because they can help a farmer get started in a good rotation, but also because they help to demonstrate how a farm can be divided so as to be operated efficiently. Also by requesting this service a better idea of how to attack various problems can be obtained.

Only one erosion control structure was built in 1958. It is located on the Donald Deitchler farm west of Mineola.

Below are listed the various accomplishments of farmers in the Mills County District in 1958.

SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

1958

	1958	To Date
District Cooperators —		
Number	132	636
Acres	22,176	137,007
Basic Conservation Plans —		
Number	32	344
Acres	7,859	76,933
Revision of Plans	14	
Farms Serviced	351	
Terraces, Miles	319	2,838
Contouring, Acres	4,720	92,170
Diversion Terraces, Miles	1	48
Open Ditches, Miles	2	109
Waterways, Acres	267	2,123
A. C. P. Referrals	354	
News Articles, Number	44	300
Commissioner's Meetings, Number	9	150

Again, your Soil Conservation District Commissioners wish to express their appreciation to everyone who has cooperated in making this good year possible. We especially want to acknowledge the dirt-moving contractors operating in the District. Their job seems to grow with every passing year and yet they are able to meet the demands of the farmers in the District and still produce a quality product.

A group that we have especially enjoyed working with is the Soil Conservation Service which provides us with technical service.

During the past year Mr. T. J. Powell retired from his position as Area Conservationist, covering the eight county territory in southwest Iowa. At this time Mr. Powell is enjoying the fishing and sunshine of Florida. We would like this opportunity to thank Mr. Powell for the help he has been to this area in his years of service.

Our new Area Conservationist is Mr. Ralph McGill from Bethany, Missouri.

We wish to give credit to two other groups in the District who have greatly promoted good land use in Mills District. They are the Mule Creek Board of Trustees and the Pony Creek Watershed Committee. Mule Creek farmers installed over twenty-six miles of terraces this year, which is nearly twice any previous year. This has been due, largely, to the efforts of the Mule Creek Board of Trustees.

The Pony Creek Watershed Committee represent farmers from a watershed in the northwest part of the County, comprising about 19,000 acres. This area has some of the roughest land of the County. Flooding and silting has been a constant source of trouble to the farmers of the Pony Creek Drainage District and to the town of Pacific Junction.

It is the hope of your District Commissioners that a program similar to the program developed in the Mule Creek Watershed can be obtained for this area. However, it is certain that before any structures can be built there must be several hundred more miles of terraces built.

Your District Commissioners know of several other watersheds interested in development, however, we find it difficult to properly take on the extra work-load with the present office staff. You will notice on the front of this newsletter we have drawn a map showing the location of the various watersheds in the District. This is not intended to mean that anything will ever be done with these various watersheds, but we thought that our readers would like to see where the potential watersheds of the County are located.

Others to whom recognition is due for helping in getting the soil conservation job done are — The Mills County Board of Supervisors, The Mills County Agricultural Stabilization Committee, The Extension Service, The Superintendent of Schools, The State Soil Conservation Committee, State Conservation Commission, Agricultural Research Service and many other groups and individuals.

During the year of 1958 your District Commissioners supplied each of the 7th and 8th grade pupils of the County with Conservation Workbooks. We were very pleased with the response, and in 1959 we plan to place these booklets in the hands of every seventh grade pupil in the County. We hope by doing this that we can develop in our youth an awareness toward the need for conservation of our resources. We would appreciate your comments on these workbooks, since it is a rather new innovation.

PROSPECTS FOR 1959

The outlook for 1959 appears very bright. The A.S.C. Office has, so far, approved nine erosion control structures or dams for construction in 1959. Interest in terracing and waterway work remains high. The problem will be, as it has been, not enough ACP funds and not enough technical personnel. Another problem is that of obtaining a contractor when needed.

About all we can do to keep these problems from disrupting our program is to urge all farmers to sign up early at the ASC Office for any work on which they wish assistance. Then contact an earth-moving contractor so that you may be assured of completing the work when you desire it done.

The Mills County Soil Conservation District wishes each of you a prosperous New Year, and hopes that you keep up the good conservation work.

Sincerely,

District Commissioners
Albert Washburn, Chairman

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

RECEIPTS

Balance on hand January 1, 1958 (Malvern Bank)	\$ 999.35
Balance on hand January 1, 1958 (Mineola Bank)	381.18
Land Owner Contributions	2,030.72
State 2-A Budget — (Personnel)	3,452.02
State 1-A Budget	592.12
A.S.C. — (Personnel & Mileage)	4,225.00
	\$11,680.39

DISBURSEMENTS

Rodmen —	Rodmen —	State	\$ 772.02
	District		757.03
	A. S. C.		4,225.00
Total			\$ 5,754.05
Clerical —	State		2,680.00
	District		282.00
Total			2,962.00
District Operations —			
	Office Supplies		\$ 58.50
	Postage		95.52
	Fuel & Utilities		338.36
	Dues and Subscriptions to Organizations		259.53
	Field Supplies & Equipment		96.44
	Printing		127.02
	Photographic Supplies		44.00
	Office Equipment		217.57
	Telephone		44.52
	Office Insurance		84.23
	Total		\$ 1,365.69
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS			10,081.74
Balance Cash Dec. 31, 1958 (Malvern Bank)			1,217.47
Balance Cash Dec. 31, 1958 (Mineola Bank)			381.18
TOTAL			\$11,680.39

District Commissioners

Albert Washburn, Chairman
Hastings, Iowa
Dallas McGrew
Henderson, Iowa

Dale Lincoln
Glenwood, Iowa
Harold McCain
Malvern, Iowa

Myron Jones
Glenwood, Iowa
Lillian A. Campbell, Treas.
Malvern, Iowa

Soil Conservation Service Personnel

Lawrence Jones
Conservationist Aid
Donald Carlberg
Conservationist Aid

Dick France
Work Unit Conservationist

Gerald Bower
Conservationist Aid
Leo Van Fossen
Conservationist Aid