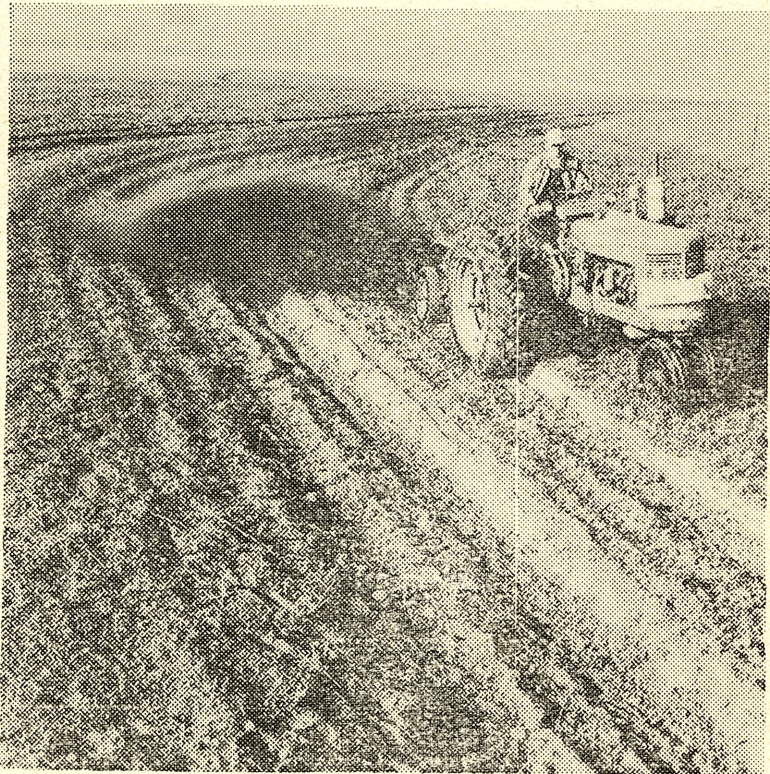


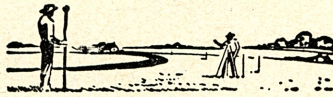
CEDAR COUNTY

Soil Conservation District

ANNUAL REPORT, 1956



Bob Joslin, Clarence, in picture above is building a terrace with whirlwind terracer which is owned by Soil Conservation District



DEAR COOPERATOR :

We are happy to present the following report so you might know of the activities and accomplishments of the Cedar County Soil Conservation District during 1956. We are proud of this record as it indicates the farmers have applied more practices on the land this year than in any previous year.

To have a complete conservation plan in operation on every farm in Cedar County is the goal of the district. We are happy to report an additional thirty-five farm plans were added to the district's accomplishments in 1956, bringing the total to 293 farm plans to date. Cooperators in the district now total 495.

We are looking forward to a bigger and better year in 1957 and feel sure that all of you will encourage your neighbors, along with yourself, to start the year by planning additional conservation practices. We are able to progress in soil conservation only through cooperation of the farmers themselves. We take this opportunity to thank those who have helped the district with its activities this year.

Your District Commissioners:

James Smith, Chairman
Wm. W. Wertzbaugher
Paul Hain

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

— 1956 —

The commissioners held twelve regular meetings during 1956 for the purpose of administering the District Soil Conservation Program. New farm plans were presented and approved, and technical work and progress of the district was reviewed.

George Kiser attended the Soil Conservation Short Course in January at Iowa State College as representative of the district.

The district held its annual meeting in the Tipton City Hall during March. Principal speakers were Dr. George Browning of the Iowa State College Experimental Station and Dr. Walker of the University of Iowa Geology Department. Election of a commissioner was held with the annual meeting. Paul Hain was elected to a six year term to fill the vacancy of retiring commissioner George Kiser.

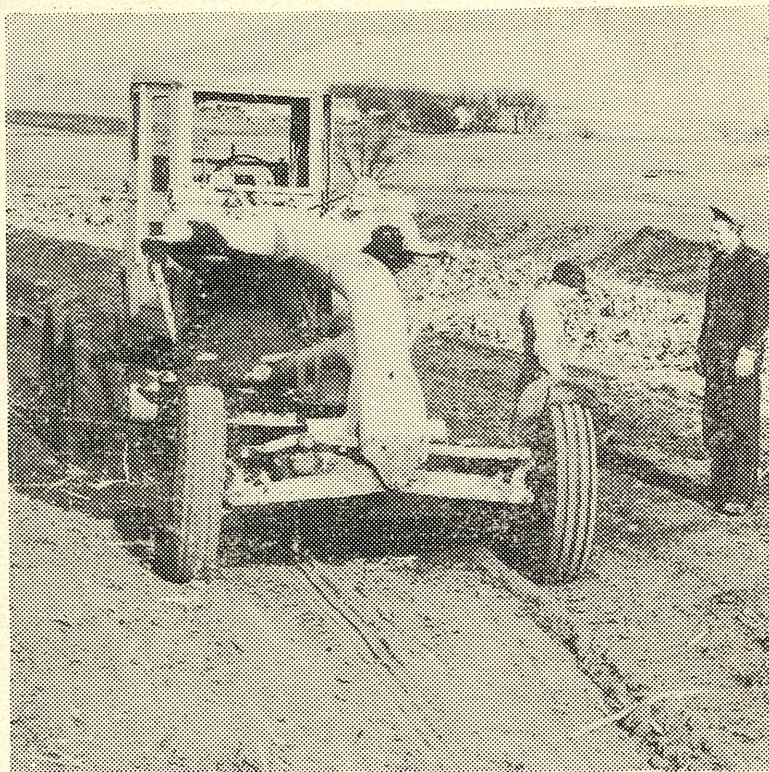
Meetings were held during March with drainage and earth-moving contractors. Attendance was near one hundred percent.

Don Williams, Work Unit Conservationist, assisted the West Branch Vocational Agriculture class in their project of farm planning. Each boy worked out a conservation farm plan for his farm.

In June, Keystone Fence and Wire Company made three tape recordings to be broadcast throughout the midwest. Several farmers in the district and the Work Unit Conservationist assisted in making these recordings.

The Cedar District acted as host to the area picnic at Hoover Park in West Branch during July. Commissioners and soil conservation personnel attended from the ten county area.

The district together with the American Fence dealers sponsored the "Queen of the Furrow" contest in August. Kay Hasselbusch, Clarence, and Margot Ann Smith, Stanwood were selected as Cedar District winners and were presented bracelets. The winners represented the district at the All Iowa Fair in Cedar Rapids.



Swick and Wiskus looking over a terrace under construction on the Harold Oldorf farm, Stanwood.

Vocational agriculture instructors from five counties attended a training meeting at the Ralph Gruenwald farm, Tipton. Instruction and practice in layout work on contouring and terracing was given. A terrace was constructed during the demonstration.

A 4-H Record Book contest on conservation was sponsored by the district in September. Record books were judged and cash awards presented to the top ten books.

Don Williams and Clarence Beyer attended and assisted with the National Field Days in Jasper County during September.

Two F. F. A. Soils Judging contests were sponsored by the district during 1956. The Tipton F. F. A. Chapter was winner of the spring contest, and the Durant Chapter the victors in the fall. Both contests were well attended by the five participating schools.

The year 1956 saw several new faces on the staff. Mrs. Hilda Carey reported to work in March as half-time state clerk to replace Mrs. Kay Jensen, who had recently resigned. During the heavy work load in the spring, Bob Wertzbaugher, Neal Smith and Bob Kelly assisted the district in layout work. In December, Cal Moore reported to work as conservation trainee. Don Williams and Clarence Beyer continued in their assignments with the district and Mrs. Lucille Farnum remained as half-time district clerk.

The commissioners met with the County A. S. C. Committee in December to assist in working out the plans for the 1957 A.S.C. Program.

INFORMATION PROGRAM

"Williams' Wanderings", a weekly column, originated during 1955, was continued this year. The column has been well accepted by the readers and publishers and is being carried in 4 weekly papers in the county

Three newsletters were sent to all district cooperators during 1956. Don Williams presented two TV programs on WOC-TV, Davenport, during the year.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

New records were established in 1956 by Cedar County farmers in putting soil conservation on the land—more terraces and ponds were constructed, more acres of pastures renovated, and more wildlife areas improved than during any previous year.

The following indicates the progress during 1956:

	1956	To Date
District Cooperators	41	495
Farm Plans	35	293
Contouring	2666 acres	21510 acres
Strip Cropping	129 acres	1373 acres
Pasture Improvement	403 acres	1697 acres
Tree Planting	6 acres	12 acres
Wildlife Area Improvement	47 acres	85 acres
Concrete Structures	5	18
Ponds	7	19
Tile Drainage	131,958 L. F.	1,133,033 L. F.
Terracing	6 miles	18 miles
Waterway Development	25 acres	189 acres

A.G.P. Referrals Served
The district has a whirlwind terracer which is available to the farmers in the county on a rental basis of \$1.50 per hour of actual use.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial assistance given the district by the State of Iowa provides aid in accomplishing district objectives. Expenditures of state funds in Cedar District in 1956 were as follows:

District Operation Expenses						IA Budget
Contests	..	..	..	..	..	\$ 37.03
Commissioners Mileage	..	..	..	..	..	115.24
Office Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	84.98
Meeting Expense	..	..	..	..	..	5.00
Material for Demonstrations	..	..	..	..	..	52.46
Office Expense	..	..	..	..	..	27.40
Printing	..	..	..	..	..	37.50
Total Expenditures						\$ 359.61
Clerical & Technical Aid						2A Budget
Clerical	..	..	..	..	..	\$1966.33
Technical	..	..	..	..	..	90.07
Total Expenditures						\$2056.40

CONCLUSION

The Cedar County Soil District Commissioners wish to acknowledge the assistance given by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service personnel in carrying on the district work load, along with the assistance rendered by the Extension Director in carrying out the educational program. Recognition is given for the cooperation shown by the following organizations and agencies: County A. S. C. Committee and staff, F. F. A. chapters, State Conservation Commission, Farm Bureau, Farm Loan Association, Production Credit and local civic and commercial organizations. We wish to extend our thanks for the fine support given by the local newspapers.

In closing, the District hopes you have enjoyed reading the report and that it has been of value to you in appreciating the work that has been done.

