

PROGRAM
AND
WORK PLAN
OF THE
MONROE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ALBIA, IOWA
February 1963

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PROGRAM

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I DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District was organized in May 19, 1944 under the Soil Conservation District Law of the 48th. General Assembly 1939. The following men were the first Commissioners: E. G. Hawk, Chairman, James W. Foster and Sterling B. Martin. Other farmers and landowners assisting with formation of the District and preparing the Work Plan were Charles Greenlee, Extension Director, H. C. Forrester, Soil Conservation Service, Gerald Gay, farmer, Albert Benson, farmer, H. C. Smith, farmer, Ed Agans, landowner, Earl Rouse, farmer, Henry Clark, farmer, Pat Coady, farmer, John Fynaardt, farmer, J. Carl Johnston, farmer, Merrill Hunter, farmer, and H. Williams, farmer.

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District consists of all the land in Monroe County, Iowa not included in the limits of incorporated towns and villages. The area is approximately 274,000 acres. There are 12 civil townships in the District which correspond with 12 legal Districts.

II KINDS AND TYPES OF FARMING

Average farm size has gone from 180 acres in 1950 to 210 acres in 1959.

Number of farms has decreased from 1416 in 1950 to 1174 in 1959 with the decline accelerating the last few years.

All types of livestock are represented on Monroe County farms. In 1960 78% of farms had livestock. Milk cows, chickens, and grain fed cattle are on the decline. Beef cow, calf herds and hogs are on a slight increase. More farms are going to almost complete grassland farming, partially due to age of farmers and the types of land farmed. This fits Conservation Needs in the Lindley-Weller areas.

III RURAL FARM POPULATION

Rural farm population has decreased 28.4% from 1950 to 1960. The 1960 Agricultural Census lists only 956 persons employed in Agriculture, a drop of 47.7% from 1950. This has an adverse effect on Conservation due to larger acreages farmed with bigger machinery, economic pressures, and a feeling among these farmers that there is not time for practicing permanent Conservation.

27.5% of farm operators work 100 or more days per year off the farm with many holding full time jobs in industry. These are the smaller farms. These farmers have financial means to do permanent Conservation work and this situation is favorable to Conservation. The problem here is to get in contact with them.

Many farmers are in the older age bracket and the next 10 to 12 years will see many changes in land ownerships.

IV TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS OF THE DISTRICT

General topography is level ridge tops of varying size, upland prairie and a high percentage of rolling to steeply rolling land with bottomlands along the creeks.

Lindley-Weller soil association areas occupy 150,000 acres or 54% of District area. The Lindley slopes range from 5 to 25+%. The Weller, a loess soil, slopes ranges from 2 to 13%. Many of the Weller areas in the 2 to 5% slopes range are narrow ridge tops of less than 5 acres in size.

The Lindley-Weller area has 92,100 acres with a yield potential in excess of 50 bu. of corn per acre in fields exceeding 5 acres in size.

The Lindley-Weller area has 32,100 acres of medium to heavy timber.

The Clinton-Lindley soil association occupy 12,000 acres or 4% of the District area.

The Clinton, a loess soil, slopes range from 2 to 9% with Lindley laying below it on steeper slopes.

The Clinton-Lindley area has 7368 acres with a yield potential above 50 bu. per acre in fields exceeding 5 acres in size. It also has 2568 acres with medium to heavy timber.

The Grundy-Haig soil association occupies 88,900 acres or 32% of the District area. The Grundy, a loess soil, slopes range from 2 to 9%. The Haig soil has slopes from 0 to 1% and has a wetness hazard. It may be tiled.

The Grundy-Haig area has 33,604 acres with a yield potential of over 50 bu. per acre in fields exceeding 5 acres. 6579 acres has medium to heavy timber.

The Mahaska-Taintor soil association occupies 16,600 acres or 6% of the District area.

The Mahaska, a loess soil, slope range from 2 to 5%. Also in this soil association area is Otley, a loess soil, on 5 to 13% slopes. Taintor, a loess soil, slope is 0 to 1% with a wetness hazard. This soil may be tiled. 365 acres has medium to heavy timber. The Mahaska-Taintor area has 2357 acres with a yield potential of over 50 bu. per acre in fields exceeding 5 acres.

The Alluvial soils occupy 12,000 acres or 4% of the District Area. These are bottomland soils with a wetness and overflow hazard. 660 acres has medium to heavy timber. This area has 3804 acres with a yield potential above 50 bu. per acre in fields exceeding 5 acres in size.

The Census Data and Conservation Needs information show the Monroe County Soil Conservation District land use as 129,795 acres of Cropland, 101,578 acres of Pasture, 34,044 acres of Woodland, and 12,985 acres of other.

V CLIMATOLOGY INFORMATION

The article "Our Usual Weather" in the October 1958 issue of IOWA FARM SCIENCE quotes the average annual rainfall 33 inches, average annual cropping season rainfall 24 inches, and the average number of freeze free days per year as 165.

VI CONSERVATION NEEDS

"MAJOR PRACTICES"

		Total Cons. Needs	On Land July 1, 1962	To Be Done by 1975
Terracing	Miles	2652	222	663
Contouring	Acres	38993	12170	31194
Diversion Terraces	Miles	225	77	75
Open Drainage	Miles	171	21	
Tile Drainage	L. F.	2212920	1100000	
Farm Ponds	No.	2714	1013	1493
Drop Inlet Structures	No.	505	56	151
Land Clearing	Acres	52368	1227	
Grassed Waterways	Acres	2820	430	889
Woodland Planting	Acres	6504	224	976
Pasture Improvements -*Annual	Acres	4388	1141	19627

VII OTHER PROBLEMS

The present tax structure tends to discourage the use of beef cow and calf herds on the land suited for pasture and this type of enterprize. All farmers are not fully informed on current farm Programs.

WORK PLAN

MONROE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

January 1963

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this work plan is to set forth the District's plan of handling problems set forth in the District Program.

B. DISTRICT COOPERATORS

The District will encourage all farmers (and groups) who live within the District to become cooperators of the District by agreeing to use their land within its capabilities, and treating it according to its needs. The landowner, or operator, will sign an agreement with the District indicating his intent to cooperate.

C. FARM PLANNING

We believe that the best Conservation program for the land can be achieved through a Conservation farm plan worked out by the farmer and technician. The plan to be based upon a soil survey and land use treatments. The Conservation practices to be applied are recorded in the Conservation Farm Plan.

Assistance will be given to farmers and others according to priority established by the District. First priority in planning will be given to groups of two or more farmers and to watershed groups, however, assistance will be given to individual cooperators.

D. TECHNICAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District has asked the Iowa State Extension Service for assistance in conducting the information and educational work in the District. It will also request technical assistance from the Soil Conservation Service.

E. EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

The District will keep people of the District informed of the Conservation Needs and accomplishments made by the District through news stories, tours, contests, assistance to schools, etc.

F. PLANT MATERIALS

Recognizing that grasses, legumes, and woody plants have an important place in the Conservation program of the District, we will cooperate with the Soil Conservation Service, Iowa State University Experiment Station or other groups in the field trial planting and seed increase plots.

G. WATERSHEDS

The District will acquaint residents of the District with the Watershed program and serve as sponsors for any watershed that may be organized.

H. ASSISTANCE TO OTHERS

We recognize our responsibility in providing technical assistance to the farmers cooperating in other Agricultural programs. The District will also provide technical assistance to owners or operators of non-agricultural land through the regular District Cooperators agreement. Included in this group would be schools, fair grounds, camp sites, golf courses, etc.

The District will provide consultive service to groups controlling non-agricultural lands. These groups would include city and county governments, planning commissions, industrial developments, etc.

REVISIONS

This Program and Work Plan will be revised as necessary when conditions warrant.

MONROE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BY

J. E. Spencer

Chairman, Monroe County

Soil Conservation District Commissioners

DATE

2/8/63

The signing of this Program and Work Plan was authorized by a resolution of the Monroe County Soil Conservation Commissioners adopted at a meeting held on 2/8/63.

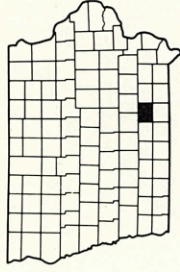
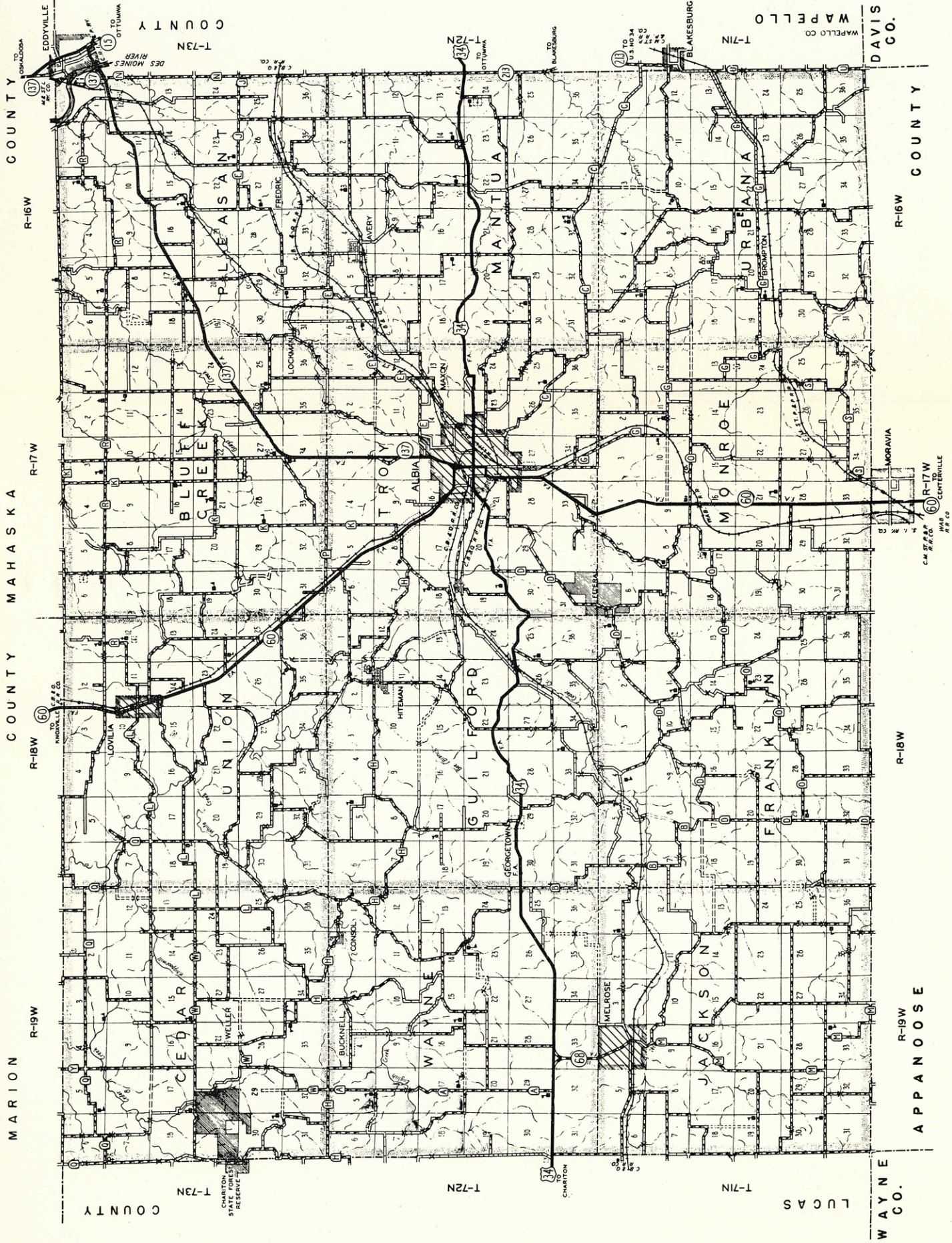
Date

SIGNED

Dale M. Mulling

Secretary

Monroe County Soil Conservation District



LOCATION IN IOWA

The District includes all lands in Monroe County exclusive of incorporated cities and towns.



EXCLUDED AREA

Total acreage approximate 262,278

MONROE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT IOWA