

1943

First Annual Report

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Ia-SCD-27

Atlantic, Iowa.

1943

(Cass County Narrative Report, Dec. 31, 1943, Page 2)
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
CASS COUNTY, IOWA
DEC. 31, 1943

5. Accomplishments on Plans approved

Narrative Report

The cooperators on all the plans to date are men who have been contouring part or all of their clean tilled crops. Experience in contouring contributes a great deal to making a successful and satisfactory

1. Widespread practice program

6. One contour demonstration was held in each township in the county by the Extension Service and Soil Conservation Service cooperating. These demonstrations were held from March 17 to April 12. The period during which these demonstrations were held was somewhat earlier than usual, and we feel this has a definite advantage since it is a season when those attending are not quite as busy as they are a little later. Also considerable contour plowing resulted from the lines laid out at this early date. With the assistance of individuals and all agencies in the county, a good increase in the amount of contouring was secured last year. A survey made through the township AAA committeemen indicated that in 1942 there was approximately 448 farms contouring 12,420 acres of clean tilled crops. That amount was increased to 760 individuals and 23,430 acres in 1943.

The waterway seeding demonstrations held at the same time as the contour demonstrations also attracted considerable attention and resulted in a number of seeded waterways which held up very well during the year of rather heavy rains.

Plans are being made to have a similar number and type of demonstrations in 1944 with the hope of securing an additional good increase in contouring and waterway seeding. A few terrace demonstrations would be very desirable this spring.

2. Petitions for complete plans

We have group petitions for complete plans from seven groups. There are two additional groups which are contouring and we know are definitely interested in complete plans but have not sent in their petitions yet. In addition there are a number of scattered individuals who desire complete plans but are unable to secure cooperation from the neighborhood.

3. Conservation Survey

Soil mapping was started in Cass County in April and continued until the last of December. Surveys have been completed on 66,000 acres in the county to date. All the groups from which we have petitions, and a number of other groups which are definitely interested, have been mapped this year.

4. Plans approved

Twelve complete plans were approved during 1943 and several additional plans are ready for approval at the next meeting. These plans partially cover two of the groups which were mapped first. However, since planning started in these groups, additional farms have been added which indicated they were definitely interested in complete plans.

*District
Copy*

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Narrative Report

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6. Course of study in rural schools

This year, for the first time, a course of study in soil conservation has been offered in the rural schools.

7. Post War Plans

A post war plan for soil conservation work has been outlined by the district commissioners and a committee appointed for that purpose. A copy of that plan is attached.

SUGGESTIONS TO AID IN THE SOLUTION OF OUR POST WAR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

The Honorable Ben F. Jensen

We as citizens of the Seventh Congressional District wish to petition you as our representative in Congress to present to the Congress of the United States the necessity of post war planning, whereby, our native sons who are now in the service may have gainful employment in their home county helping to build a greater and stronger nation through the use of the valuable machines that the United States Government will possess following the close of the war. We have a great need for soil conservation not only to give these boys employment but to preserve the greatest natural resource of the nation. Constructive work of this kind would help to build a greater nation and preserve our soil for future generations. We have the soil conservation district set-up with valuable assistance given by technicians. We will have the ex-service men available after the war. We will have jeeps, trucks, tractors, and much other valuable machinery which our agricultural land needs to stop erosion and the loss of fertility.

Whereas, the conclusion of World War II will necessitate a rapid re-conversion of American industries and enterprise to peace time pursuits. Our main object is to provide in a post war world gainful and useful work for our ex-service men, and we believe that many thousands can be employed in their own home community at work they understand by the use of surplus machinery useless to the army which should not be scraped or sold but rather used on agricultural land to establish soil conservation practices. Thus this large quantity of machinery would be permanently eliminated from trade channels and competition with the industrial production output. The field for production of new equipment would be stimulated rather than hampered. Factories, mines, and industry would spend full time on production to replace the depleted supply of machinery for civilian use. The use of surplus war machinery in this manner will contribute most effectively to insuring the permanency of the fundamental source of new wealth, the soil. This is the best security for returned service men and women.

Whereas, it is considered imperative that immediate action be taken to have the plan herein contemplated ready for operation when the first men are discharged from the service, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the undersigned groups and individuals of the Seventh Congressional District that they hereby petition the Congress of the United States of America to, at the present session, enact legislation to enable the foregoing program as suggested, or such portion of it as shall be deemed feasible, to be put into operation, and to that end we do petition our Representative in Congress, the Honorable Ben F. Jensen to introduce in the Congress legislation to that effect, or to collaborate with any other interested members of Congress in the introduction of such legislation, and to use all proper means at his command to secure the passage of such legislation.

I, Clarence Pellett, presiding at the Post War planning meeting called at Atlantic, Iowa, January 17, 1944, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing resolution was duly adopted and a copy thereof ordered sent to The Honorable Ben F. Jensen.

Clarence A. Pellett

Enclosed you will find an outline of the suggested plans for Post War work in the conservation of Cass County's greatest resource the soil. We will all have many hardships to endure before the time will arrive when the plans for post war will be needed. It is very important that when that time does arrive, a sound program carefully planned is ready to be put into operation immediately.

When our men return from the armed forces we should be prepared with constructive employment which will utilize the skills and training they have been given and provide interesting work close to their homes until they are established in civilian life. A large supply of earth moving equipment is now used by the army which will be of no further use after the war. This equipment could do a peace time job for future generations by converting hillside gullies, which are growing deeper and more numerous each year, to grassed waterways. Terraces constructed would protect slopes from sheet erosion.

The enclosed plan was approved by a committee appointed by the Cass County Soil Conservation District. We are presenting this plan for your serious consideration.

Sincerely yours,

s/ Clarence Pellett

Chairman

SUGGESTED POST WAR PLAN FOR EMERGENCY
SOIL CONSERVATION WORK
CASS COUNTY IOWA

1. SURVEY OF SOIL CONSERVATION WORK NEEDED IN CASS COUNTY

This plan was made by taking a careful survey on eleven representative farms to determine the work needed within the next three to five years. These eleven farms were checked carefully from the plans made in co-operation with the District, and in addition a field check and tour was made by men representing the following organizations: Cass County District Commissioners, Cass County War Board, Cass County Agricultural Conservation Association, Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, and other interested individuals. After checking the eleven representative farms, the estimate for the county was made in proportion to the acreage in the eleven farms and the total acreage in Cass County.

A. Work Immediately Available for Post War Period	Quantity of Work Needed	Man Days Labor Re- quired
1. Number of feet of hillside gullies needing control on average Cass Co. farm (156 Acres)	4656 Feet	
2. Total miles of gullies needing work (dams or sloping and seeding) on 2244 Cass County farms	1981 Miles	24108
3. Total miles of terraces	870 Miles	17712
4. Total available now		41820
5. Time required for 52 men to complete above work		3 years
B. Additional Work Needed over Long Time Program Which May or May Not be Adapted to an Emergency Program		
1. Fencing	355177 Rods	25,250
2. Permanent Structure, concrete etc.	984 Structures	78,720
3. Total miles of terraces	1740 Miles	25,424

2. SUGGESTED METHOD OF OPERATION

A. District Commissioners be assisted by one assistant commissioner in each township. Township commissioner (keymen) assume the responsibility of assisting the foreman in determining the schedule of work in each respective township.

B. Work group to consist of three men as follows:

1. First man--foreman or contact man--to organize work, layout work, supervise crew, determine with the help of the township assistant commissioner the farms to receive work.

Qualifications--leadership ability, experience in contacting, and a knowledge of farming.

2. Second Man--skilled tractor operator

Qualifications--past experience in the operation of heavy equipment.

3. Third man--assistant operator or blade operator

Qualifications--experience in tractor operation not essential.

C. Mechanic--mechanical help sufficient to maintain equipment (probably four mechanics with mobil repair shop truck and/or other transportation facilities).

D. Equipment required

1. Each work group of three men to be equipped with tractor, grader bulldozer, scraper, and jeep. The work group of three men with equipment to be assigned to one township. For Cass County this would employ, 52 men, and 16 complete sets of equipment. In addition four mobil machine shop trucks would be needed to service and repair equipment. The number of work groups could be increased or decreased as necessary requiring only an adjustment in the work area assigned to them.

3. QUALIFICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT

A. Preference given World War II veterans

B. Preference to home county service men

C. Local District has authority to hire and discharge men

D. Wage paid equal to competing jobs requiring equal skill

4. METHOD OF HANDLING FUNDS FOR EMPLOYMENT, REPAIRS, SUPPLIES, ETC.

A. First Method

1. Equipment assigned to District Commissioners
2. Men Employed by District Commissioners
3. Funds allotted to District Commissioners

B. Second Method

1. Equipment assigned to Soil Conservation Service
2. Funds allotted to Soil Conservation Service USDA
3. Expenses and payroll paid by Soil Conservation Service

C. Cooperator's Contribution

1. On per hour basis to cover cost of operation and labor
2. Could be deducted from AAA payment

Approved by the Cass County Soil Conservation District Commissioners
December 29, 1943

s/Clarence Pellett
Chairman

Soil Conservation District

ANNUAL REPORT OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

DISTRICT Cass County Soil Conservation District Atlantic, Iowa
(Name) (Headquarters of Dist. Gov. Body)(State)

Period January 1 1943 to December 31 1943

ACTIVITY		This Year	To Date
	Number	13	13 17
Educational Meetings	Attendance	633	633 883
	Number	4	4 5
Tours	Attendance	22	22 62
	Number	19	19 23
Demonstrations	Attendance	277	277 352
	Number	4	4 5
Leader Training Meetings	Attendance	39	39 69
Exhibits	Number	1	1 1
Radio Talks	Number	0	0 0
News Articles	Number	50	50 76
Group Planning Meetings			
Supervisors Meetings			

1944	To Date
6	23
155	988
0	5
0	62
13	36
348	700
0	5
0	69
2	3
0	0
31	107
5	28
0	0

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES

10

(State)

Period July 1 __, 1943 to Dec. 31 __, 1943 .

[illegible]

Soil Conservation District
ANNUAL REPORT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES

DISTRICT Cass County Soil Cons. Dist. Atlantic Iowa
(Name) (Hdqtrs. Dist. Gov. Body) (State)

Period January 1, 19 43 to December 31, 19 43.

RECEIPTS (BY SOURCE)		
1 Balance Brought Forward	\$	
2		
3		
4 There have been no receipts or expenditures		
5		
6		
7		
8		
TOTAL	XXXXXXXXXX	\$
EXPENDITURES (CLASSIFIED)	XXXXXXXXXX	
1	\$	
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
TOTAL	XXXXXXXXXX	\$
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD		\$

5/15/51