

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1958
of the

Cherokee
County
Soil
Conservation
District

Cherokee County, Iowa

BY YOUR COMMISSIONERS:

Vere Corrington

J. F. Ralston

Arthur Dorr

A Thought

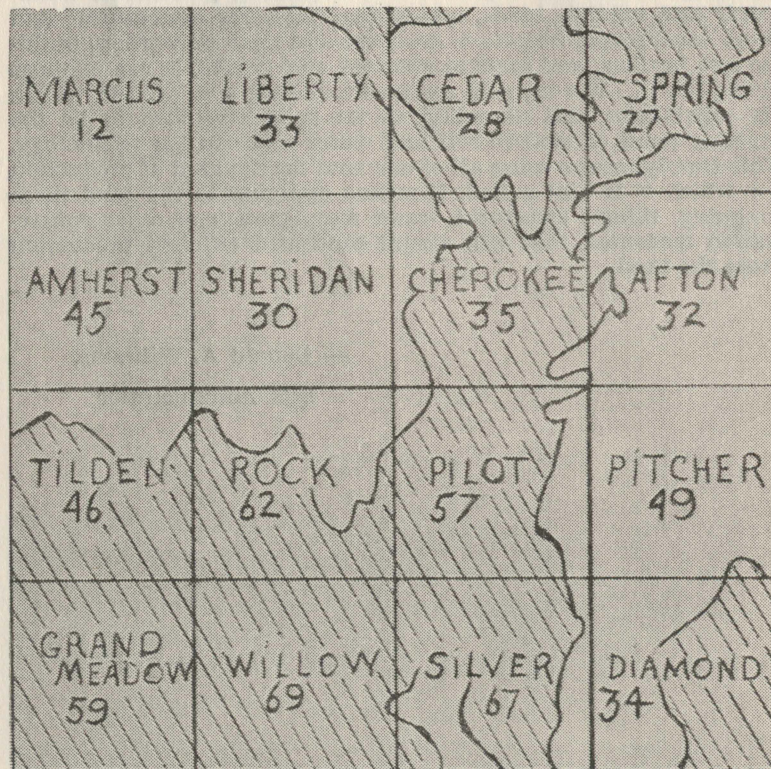
By soil and water conservation we mean, today, proper land use; protecting land against all forms of soil deterioration, rebuilding eroded and depleted soil, improving grasslands, woodlands and wildlife lands, conserving water for agricultural and other uses; proper irrigation, drainage and flood prevention; build-up soil fertility, and making efficient and profitable use of these resources. . . . The use and treatment of each acre of land within its capabilities and according to its need continues to be the starting point of modern soil and water conservation technology. This simply means using all of our land for the kind of production for which it is best suited. It means applying to the land those cropping, tillage, structural, water management or other conservation measures, that will assure continued efficient production from the land.

— Donald A. Williams,
SCS Administrator

District Cooperators

There are now 685 farmers cooperating with the District in applying soil and water conservation practices on their land; of these 594 have complete plans for their farms and are applying the planned practices.

The following map shows the distribution of cooperators by townships. The shaded area outlines the more rolling land in the District (steep pasture land and cropland most of which has a dominant slope of 5% to 8%). The unshaded area includes most of the level to gently rolling areas with dominant slopes of 0% to 4%. Marcus Township has most of the nearly level land in the District.



Cherokee's District Commissioners

Vere Corrington of Cherokee, J. F. Ralston of Washta, and Arthur Dorr of Marcus served as commissioners during 1958; Arthur Dorr was re-elected (to a second term) last June. Vere Corrington served as chairman and as Cherokee's representative on the Little Sioux Works Committee.

Following are some of the activities your commissioners, and the District participated in during 1958:

- January 28, 1958 Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.
- February 21, 1958 Little Sioux Works Committee Meeting at Cherokee.
- February 25, 1958 Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.
- March 27, 1958 Iowa Association of District Commissioners Meeting at Primghar.
- March 28, 1958 Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.
- March 28, 1958 Sub-Committee meeting on developing a Conservation Needs Inventory.
- May 7, 1958 Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.
- May 29, 1958 Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.
- June 23, 1958 Little Sioux Works Committee Meeting (sub-committee) at Correctionville.
- June 25, 1958 Little Sioux Works Committee Meeting at Cherokee.
- June 26, 1958 Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.
- July 10, 1958 Experimental Farm Field Day at Doon.
- July 18, 1958 Judge farms in Buena Vista District for the Des Moines Register and Tribune contest and the Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture.
- July 22, 1958 Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.
- July 31, 1958 Iowa Association of District Commissioners Meeting at Primghar.

August 25, 1958 Little Sioux Works Committee Meeting at Sioux City.

August 26, 1958 Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.

September 25, 1958 Experimental Farm Field Day at Sutherland.

September 30, 1958 Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.

October 7, 1958 Inspection of all completed sub-watersheds in Cherokee District by District Commissioners.

October 15, 1958 Selecting Area Winners in Northern Iowa District for Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture.

October 28, 1958 Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.

November 5, 1958 Meeting to establish 1959 ACP Program recommendations for Cherokee County.

November 6, 1958 Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture Dinner at Sioux City.

November 10, 1958 County meeting to develop Conservation Needs Inventory for Cherokee County—expected developments by 1975.

December 2, 1958 Meeting of Cherokee District Commissioners.

December 4, 1958 Iowa Association of District Commissioners Meeting at Primghar.

May 11 to 18, 1958 Soil Stewardship Week—conservation material on this subject was distributed to the pastors of thirty-three churches in the Cherokee District.

Conservation Progress During 1958

54 miles of terraces constructed (three types of terraces were built: graded, level and parallel).

5.7 miles of gully shaped into waterways (in doing this, 27.5 acres of gullied wasteland were shaped into crossable waterways and seeded to brome grass—50,000 cubic yards of dirt were moved in shaping the gullies).

6 erosion control dams built (47,000 cubic yards of dirt moved; spillways used were treated corrugated metal pipe).

2 risers were installed on county road culverts to stabilize waterway outlets.

14,500 rods of contour field divisions were laid out to facilitate contour farming and balance crop rotations.

7,380 acres of contouring (guide lines established with District assistance).

68,357 feet of tile drains installed (surveyed and checked with District assistance).

12,156 rods of headlands and turn rows established.

To date, the most widely accepted practice in the District is contouring—about 92,000 acres are now tilled on the contour. It is estimated that there are 82,000 acres of cropland with a slope of 5% or more and about 130,000 acres of cropland with slopes of 2% to 4% in our District. The remaining cropland (about 48,500 acres) is nearly level. This adds up to a total of 260,500 acres now being used as cropland in the Cherokee District.

7,650 acres soil mapped.

51 new district cooperators.

45 more cooperators with complete conservation plans.

421 farmers were assisted, during 1958, in planning and applying conservation practices.

Soil Conservation Service

The technical staff, supplied to the District by the Soil Conservation Service, during 1958 consisted of the following:

Work Unit Conservationist	Harvey Lindberg
Conservation Aid	Glen Craft
Conservation Aid	Monas Nixon
Soil Conservationist	Roger Koster*
Soil Conservationist	Harold Boehmer

*Roger Koster received a promotion and moved to Sioux City December 1st. Harold Boehmer, a recent graduate of Iowa State College, was employed to fill the vacancy.

Additional technical assistance was made available, when requested, by Area Conservationist George Lamp of the Soil Conservation Service. During 1958, such assistance was requested and received in the soils, engineering and agronomy fields.

Extension Activities

Conservation and land use was a special activity for Cherokee County 4-H Clubs during 1958. At a meeting of all 4-H Club Leaders on January 18, 1958, Extension Director Forrest Kohrt outlined information available and possible club activities in this field. Harvey Lindberg of the Soil Conservation Service also attended this meeting and outlined material he had available.

At the request of the 4-H Club Leaders, Harvey Lindberg and Roger Koster of the Soil Conservation Service, showed slides and presented background information on soil and water conservation to the various clubs at their meetings through the winter.

As a highlight to the 4-H special activity on conservation and land use, two conservation tours were planned. Galen DeValois, County Youth Assistant, arranged for the tours and the necessary publicity. The tour itineraries were planned by Harvey Lindberg and Roger Koster of the Soil Conservation Service.

The first tour, covering the southwest part of Cherokee County, ended up at the Doyle Simonsen farm pond with a chance for everyone to do some fishing. This was on July 8th. Harvey Lindberg and Roger Koster explained the many uses and advantages of the conservation practices seen (terraces, farm ponds, multi-flora rose plantings, waterways, and etc.). The leaders, 4-H'ers and parents were very interested to hear of the assistance that can be obtained in planning the projects and installing them. There were 37 present for this tour and all brought sack lunches.

The second tour was on July 11th. Attending in addition to 4-H club members and some of their parents, were the County Extension Director, Assistant Extension Director, Extension Youth Assistant, also Harvey Lindberg, Merle Jones and Bruce Marcue of the Soil Conservation Service. Jones and Marcue explained the problems and practices covered on this tour. Elmer Lund, Area Extension Soil Conservationist, gave a talk at noon which helped tie the many events together. Stops included the Anthon and Lum Hollow Watersheds and emphasized the severe erosion problems in this area. Seventy-five 4-H'ers and leaders attended.

All 4-H'ers were encouraged to attend one of the two tours; a few attended both.

Additional Information Activities

Soil conservation information was presented to the following groups by our Soil Conservation Service technicians:

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| March 10, 1958 | Aurelia Boy Scouts — conservation slides were shown the group and soil conservation practices explained. |
| March 17, 1958 | Agriculture Classes of Cherokee High School field trip to Edgar Allen farm to demonstrate laying out of contour lines and discussed soil conservation programs. |
| March 26, 1958 | Science Class of Marcus Junior High School — conservation slides were shown with explanation and discussion. |
| May 8, 1958 | Agriculture Classes of Cherokee High School — toured the Fee and Mortenson Watersheds. |
| September 12, 1958 | Quimby Ladies Garden Club — showed conservation slides and discussed District program. |
| October 23, 1958 | Cleghorn Lions Club — soil and water conservation discussion. |
| November 10, 1958 | Cherokee Rotary Club — outlined Railroad Creek Watershed—flood prevention possibilities and progress conservation wise. |

Agricultural Conservation Program

The Soil Conservation Service is responsible for the technical phases of the major soil and water conservation practices for which ASC cost sharing payments are available. During 1958, referrals were received from the ASC Office covering conservation work to be done on 114 different farms. These referrals covered terracing, waterway shaping and seeding, tiling, erosion control dams, wildlife planting and fencing, diversions, etc. These were all serviced.

The ASC Office reports that cost sharing requests were also received for 3,498 acres of contoured row crops.

We, as District Commissioners, are taking this opportunity to express our appreciation to the entire ASC Staff for help they have given us in promoting the District program and the emphasis they have given to permanent type conservation practices. It has been a pleasure to work with Louis Bengtson, Harold Clark and Bryan Campbell of the County ASC Committee and Cliff Chapman, their office manager.

Sioux City Program For Permanent Agriculture

Sponsored by

Sioux City Journal-Tribune and Sioux City Chamber of Commerce

The Cherokee District again participated in this program, as it has since the program was started in 1947.

Selected as the three outstanding conservation farmers, to represent our district were Wilbur Plagman of Paullina, Gust Ekstrom of Peterson and John Heline of Pierson. Harley Conley of Quimby was selected as the cooperator making the most progress in applying practices during the year. The selections were made by the Buena Vista District Commissioners. The above named men received award certificates at a banquet in Sioux City on November 6th.

State Soil Conservation Committee

Funds are provided by the General Assembly of Iowa to assist soil conservation districts in their local programs. These funds are allotted to districts by the State Soil Conservation Committee on the basis of needs (as evidenced by budgets submitted by the district commissioners).

State funds allotted to the Cherokee District were expended as follows in 1958:

Commissioners expenses (mileage and meals)	\$ 216.70
Office supplies	61.22
Printing annual report	77.50
Material for exhibits	4.70
Treasurer's bond	25.00
Prizes for conservation contests	13.28

\$ 398.40

Clerical help employed by district (includes district's share of social security and state retirement).	\$2564.45
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Total state funds expended \$2962.85

Our District Clerk, Mrs. Gladys Schroeder, reports that 1093 people stopped at the office during 1958 to make appointments, obtain information or confer with technicians. In addition, she reports handling 484 telephone calls.

Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program

Sponsored by
Des Moines Register and Tribune

The Cherokee District participated in this program in 1958. Farmers selected to represent the district were: George Mundy and Doyle and Merle Simonsen of Quimby (landlord-tenant class), Bryce Vollmar of Holstein (owner-operator class), and Harry Johnson of Quimby (most progress since 1956). In this program, the state of Iowa is divided into nine regions; both regional and state awards are made. Bryce Vollmar was selected as a regional award winner in the owner-operator class.

Report of the Treasurer

L. C. Bengtson - - Cherokee, Iowa

CHEROKEE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

December 31, 1958

GENERAL FUND

Cash Balance on January 1, 1958	\$398.16	\$
Received from State Soil Conservation Committee	104.20	
Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners Dues		100.00
National Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners dues		65.00
Plowing Match Trophy (1957)		13.28
Office Supplies Purchased		32.08
Office Expenses		35.93
Material for Demonstrations		3.50
Stamps Purchased		16.00
Film and Film Development		2.21
Material for Stewardship Week		8.25
TOTALS	\$502.36	\$276.25
Balance on Hand December 31, 1958		226.11
TOTALS	\$502.36	\$502.36

MAINTENANCE FUND

Cash Balance on January 1, 1958	\$ 8446.92	\$
Watershed Maintenance Payments received in 1958:		
Forrest Spencer	30.34	
James W. Fee	45.00	
D. W. Simonsen	150.00	
Henry Smith & Sons	125.00	
Harold Clark	70.00	
Clarence Pennington	70.00	
Neil Warner	45.00	
D. P. McGregor	45.00	
Mary Vollmar	121.33	
P. M. Peterson	90.00	
F. O. Mortenson	210.00	
Elsie Conley	45.00	
Ralph Robeson	65.00	
Harry Jenness	100.00	
D. P. McGregor	45.00	
Neil Warner	45.00	
D. W. Simonsen	150.00	
Mary Vollmar	121.33	
Ralph Robeson	65.00	
Clarence Pennington	45.00	
Elsie Conley	45.00	
Harold Clark	70.00	
Forrest Spencer	30.34	
P. M. Peterson	90.00	
Interest on funds deposited on time certificate		
At Farmers National Bank in Aurelia	180.00	
TOTALS	\$10570.26	
Balance on Hand December 31, 1958		\$10570.26
TOTALS	\$10570.26	\$10570.26

NOTE: As of December 31, 1958, the \$10,570.26 in the District Maintenance Fund is disposed of as follows: \$7680.00 in Certificates of Deposits at the Farmers National Bank of Aurelia and \$2890.26 deposited in checking account at the Farmers National Bank of Aurelia.

The \$226.11 in the District General Fund is deposited in a checking account at the Farmers National Bank of Aurelia.

Railroad Creek Watershed

The Railroad Creek drainage area lies northwest of the City of Cherokee. It totals about 4,650 acres. Of this total, 4,350 acres is farmland (comprising all or part of 36 farms) and the remainder is in roads, railroad and within the city limits of Cherokee. The creek itself meanders through the city until it finally reaches the Little Sioux River.

This creek has been a serious problem to city residents over the years; this problem hit a peak on June 22, 1947. On that date a 4¾" rain storm hit this watershed (3" of which fell in forty minutes and 4½" of which came down in the first hour and forty minutes). The result was a flood that inundated many dwellings and business establishments.

One of the purposes of the small watershed development program in the Little Sioux is to reduce peak flows during and after such storms as this; this is accomplished by applying soil and water conservation practices on the land and constructing flood detention dams where needed.

There are about 3,000 acres of cropland in the watershed with a slope of 2% or more; at present about 1,500 acres of this is tilled on the contour. There are about 12½ miles of terraces in this watershed. Farms comprising about 50% of the watershed area are now applying conservation practices on their land.

Under present policies, your district commissioners recommend such watersheds for treatment under the Little Sioux Flood Control Program when owners of 75% of the land (preferably 100%) are applying conservation measures on their land; and a major portion of these practices are installed.

Treating this watershed would be of great benefit to a very large number of people and we, as district commissioners, will do everything to make it possible if that is what you desire.

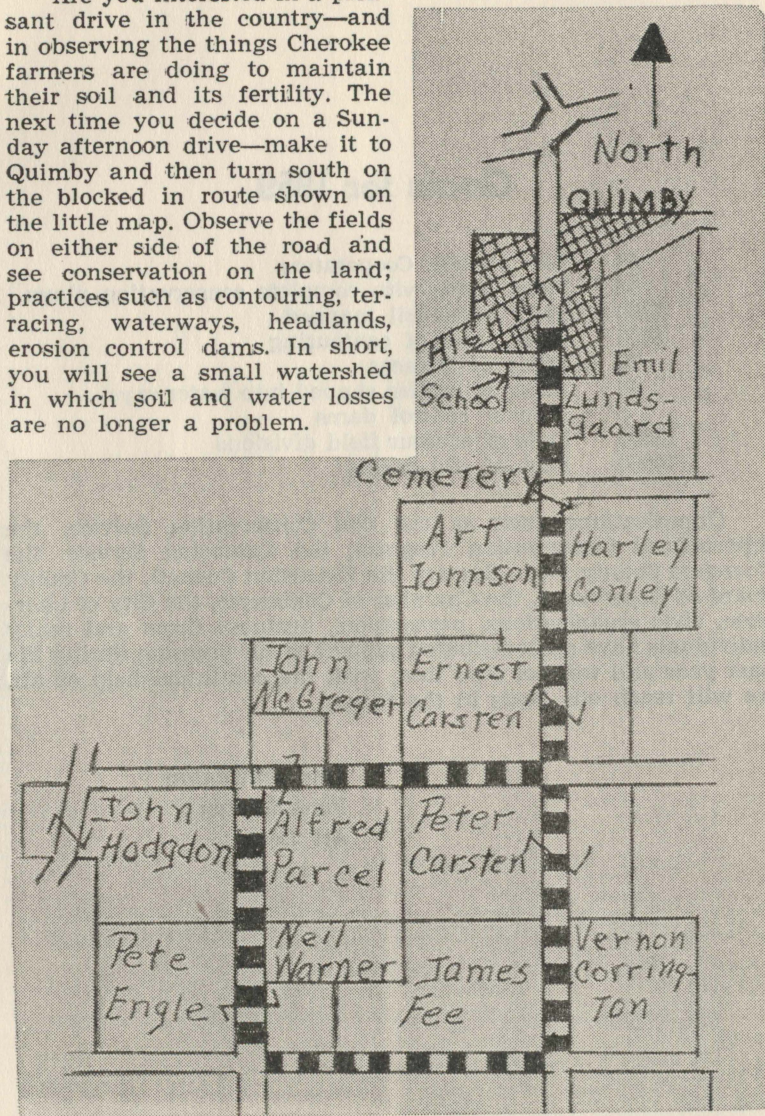
Wildlife Conservation

Herb Peterson, who farms south of Aurelia, has headlands seeded all the way around his place and the brome grass is thick and heavy. He tells us that, last year he did not mow the headlands until after the nesting season and that the pheasants made good use of them.

Last spring, Vic Carlson and Bryce Vollmar planted multi-flora rose along field divisions on their land; such hedges make excellent wildlife travel lanes. Walt Fuhrman planted a small area on his farm to trees and shrubs last spring; on checking in the fall, we found he had an excellent stand. Cultivating this planting paid off. More future cover for our wildlife.

Frank Starr, Conservation Officer for Cherokee and Buena Vista Counties, informed us that the Izaak Walton League at Storm Lake owns a treeplanter that is available at a reasonable rental fee. This machine was used in planting the areas named above. Arrangements for its rental were made through Frank.

Are you interested in a pleasant drive in the country—and in observing the things Cherokee farmers are doing to maintain their soil and its fertility. The next time you decide on a Sunday afternoon drive—make it to Quimby and then turn south on the blocked in route shown on the little map. Observe the fields on either side of the road and see conservation on the land; practices such as contouring, terracing, waterways, headlands, erosion control dams. In short, you will see a small watershed in which soil and water losses are no longer a problem.



Goals for 1959

68	New District Cooperators
56	More farms with complete conservation plans
7200	More acres soil mapped
8000	More acres of contouring
70	Miles of terraces
40	Acres of gullies shaped into waterways
5	Erosion control dams
12800	Rods of contour field divisions
70000	Feet of tile drains

Organizations such as the Soil Conservation Service, the Agricultural Conservation Program, the Extension Service, the Cherokee County Farm Bureau, the Extension Council, the County Board of Supervisors, the Chamber of Commerce, the City of Cherokee, civic organizations, newspapers, business firms and many individuals have all contributed support to our program during the past year and we feel sure that, with the continued help of all, we will reach our goals in the future.

Vere Corrington
Ford Ralston
Art Dorr

Cherokee Times Print