

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE

Soil Conservation District

Annual Report



Council Bluffs Iowa

1965

FORWARD

We the commissioners of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District wish to take this way of reporting accomplishments in soil and water conservation during 1965. This was another excellent year for crop production and establishment of conservation practices.

A recap of the year's weather shows that generally spring was a little too wet but most crops were planted in good time. During mid-summer a dry period caused some concern for crops. Then to top off an unusual year came September with record breaking rainfall. Most of the country had 12-14 inches of rain. Considerable damage was done to farm lands, particularly those fields not protected by soil and water conservation practices.

The value of a soil conservation plan and the conservation practices needed to support it have again been proven to those who have such a plan on their farms.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the office staff of the Soil Conservation Service for the technical assistance they have given to the conservation farmers of the district. We also appreciate the help we have received from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Extension Service, the Agricultural Research Service, the County Board of Supervisors, the local newspapers, the banks and the public schools.

West Pottawattamie County Soil
Conservation District
Donald Bladt, Chairman

COMMISSIONERS

ELDON RAVLIN	Member
JACK O'HARA	Member
JOE OSBORN	Assistant
LOUIE FAHRENKROG	Assistant
CLIFF JOHNSON	Secretary
ELDON RAVLIN, JACK O'HARA	Treasurers

U.S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL

WALTER WEISS	Area Conservationist
LEON D. FODERBERG	Work Unit Conservationist
RICHARD FRANCE	Soil Conservationist
OLIVER HALL	Soil Conservation Technician

STATE PERSONNEL

MRS. MONA MACKEY	Clerk
HOWARD ANGEROTH	State Aid
CLAUDE BRITTAIN	State Aid
BEN HOWELLS	State Forester for State Conservation Commission (assists when requested)

In December Leon Foderberg received a promotion to Area Conservationist at Elkader, Iowa. Calvin Cox, formerly Work Unit Conservationist at Pocahontas, Iowa, is the new Work Unit Conservationist in this District.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CONSERVATION PLANNING

	1965
New District Cooperators	32
Basic Farm Plans	40
Revised Farm Plans	14
Cooperator Follow-up Contacts	300

CONSERVATION PRACTICES INSTALLED

	Unit	1965	On hand As of 6-30-65
Diversion Terraces	ft.	7021	259,466
Structures	no.	9	11
Grassed Waterways	ac.	50	1,888
Level Terraces	mi.	40	2,306
Parallel Terraces	mi.	15	56
Tile Drains	mi.	9	59
Field Ditch	mi.	1.5	117

OTHER ACTIVITIES

News stories published	15
Tours	2
Meetings held	23
Office Callers	762
Office phone calls	560



The picture shows Jay Anderson of Honey Creek, Iowa operating an ensilage cutter on a neighbor's farm. Jay is the tenant of the landlord-tenant team that won Regional Honors in Div. II of the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Contest. The owners of this farm are Adele Murray of Logan, Iowa and Evelyn Wheat of Vienna, Virginia.

The District winners in this contest are: Div. I Walter Young, Rt. 2 Council Bluffs; Div. II, Jay Anderson, Adele Murray and Evelyn Wheat; and Div. III Lyle Jensen, Rt. 1, Underwood, Iowa.

These folks won their awards for the excellent job of conserving soil and water on their land.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS ACTIVITIES

Your District Commissioners wish to take this opportunity to again inform you as to the activities of your District Commissioners during the past year to safeguard our valuable soil and water resources.

During the year the Commissioners held 12 regular and 2 special meetings. We also participated in several meetings and tours closely allied to our program.

Some of the highlights of our activities during the past year were:

In January we paid the state and national dues to the State and National Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners. These are bodies which aid us in achieving objectives which are difficult to obtain at the local level.

In February we discussed a program to support the Allen-Steer Creek Watershed which was approved and sent to the Pottawattamie County Supervisors in March.

At our April meeting we decided to enter the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Contest and the Wallace's Farmer Outstanding Commissioner Contest. We were well rewarded for our efforts in that John Anderson, owner and Jay Anderson, operator of a farm near Honey Creek won the Regional honors in the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards contest.

In May we discussed the 1965 Queen of Conservation Contest and the Conservation Workshop Conference for 4-H youth.

During the month of June a scholarship was awarded to Mrs. Ethel Hoffman to the Teacher's Conservation Camp.

In July we appointed Eldon Ravlin as the Contracting Officer for Part 1 of the Indian Creek Watershed.

In August we discussed our participation in a tour sponsored by the Soil Conservation Society planned for September 3rd. We had 13 entries in the Queen of Conservation Contest. Miss Gayla Minges and Miss Cheryl Lund were selected as District winners and went on to the Regional Competition in Audubon where Miss Minges was selected as first runner up in the Regional Contest in September.

During October we reviewed our progress on our various watershed projects. This activity, of course, required considerable attention during every commissioners' meeting. However, progress in our watershed program had been delayed by bad weather and it appeared that some modifications might be necessary. This later proved unnecessary as all planned work was completed during 1965. Mr. Ravlin and Mr. Foderberg also went to Des Moines to partake in discussions about the feasibility of modifying the ACP program so that more cost - sharing would be available for areas being treated under the Small Watershed Program.

November saw the completion of our planned construction program in the Ryan-Henschal and Indian Creek. The implementation of the Indian Creek Project has proven to be a long drawn-out effort, but we are on our way now and hope that the rest of the project will be achieved within five years.

During the December meeting we prepared and approved this report and discussed our 1966 program.

1965 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The General Assembly of Iowa provides funds to assist soil conservation districts to 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.

Two separate funds are provided by the State Soil Conservation Committee. They are the 1M Budget used for commissioners expenses, office supplies, printing and other office expenses; and the 2M Budget which is used to employ a clerk and technical help to assist with layout work.

STATE 1M BUDGET

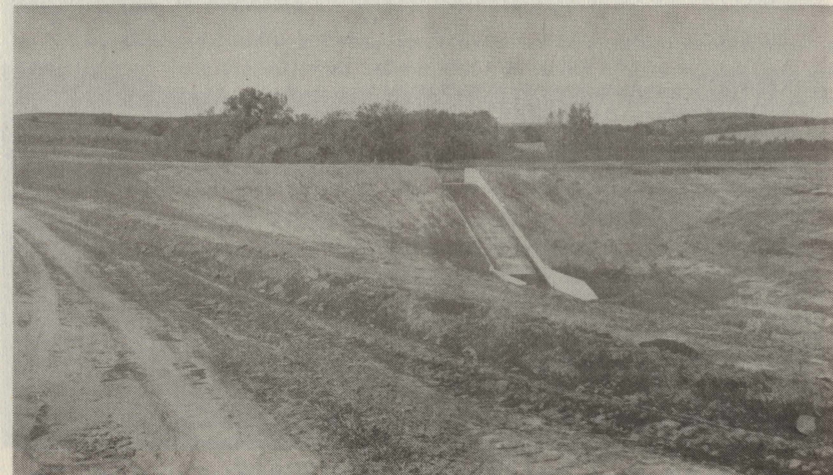
Allocation — plus balance	\$622.45
Commissioners expenses	158.74
Office supplies	214.66
Printing	117.00
Office expenses	132.05
TOTAL	\$622.45

STATE 2M BUDGET

Allocation	\$5875.23
Clerical	2796.00
Technical	2684.61
District Share - State & Federal Retirement	394.62
TOTAL	\$5875.23

DISTRICT REVOLVING FUND

Balance on hand, January 1, 1965	426.61
Receipts	407.50
Expenditures	223.06
Balance on hand, December 31, 1965	591.05



This picture shows the downstream side of the dam and concrete chute of the structure on George Kalstrup's farm. This is a gully control structure built in Ryan-Henschal Watershed this summer. The other two structures that were completed this year were on Ed Klopping's farm and John Hiller's farm.

WATERSHED REPORT

This has been an active year in Ryan-Henschal Watershed and Indian Creek Watershed, both in construction and upland practices.

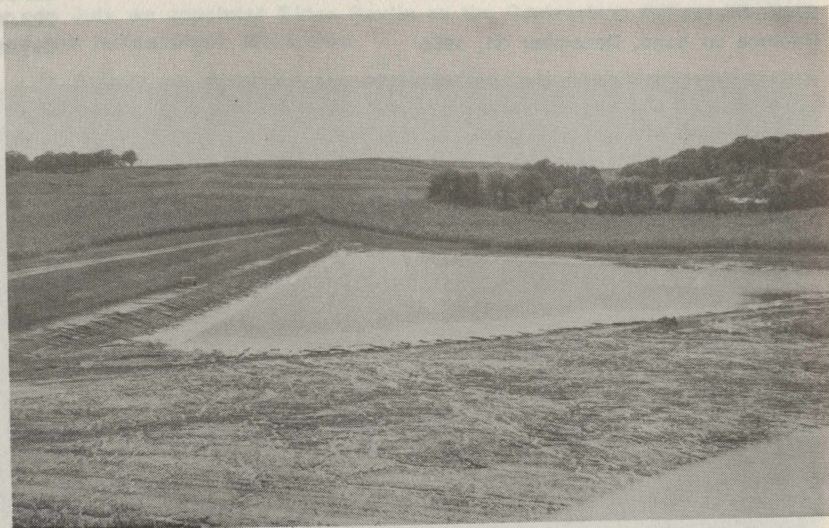
In Ryan-Henschal Watershed four large structures were built by the Hopp Construction Company of Harlan; E-1 on John Hiller's farm, F-3 on George Kalstrup's farm, F-2 on Erwin Larson's farm and J-1 on Edwin Klopping's farm. In addition to the above work, structural waterways were built and tiled on the farms of Erwin Larson, Harl Hough, John Hiller, Glen Osborn, Leo Ryan, Edwin Klopping and Henry Warncke. All of these works of improvement have been fertilized and seeded. Kenneth Clark of Onawa did the first seeding and Jim Perry of Council Bluffs finished the watershed year with the seedings he did.

In Indian Creek Watershed Conrad Wilson was awarded the contract to construct waterways on the farms owned by Harold Crane, Adolph Fell, Henry Hansen and Charles Angeroth. Three waterways were built, two were completed and Jim Perry fertilized and seeded them. The other one will be completed next year.

Plans are now complete on three Indian Creek Watershed structures on the farms of LeRoy Coffelt, Adolph Fell, Harold Crane, Fred Schlott and Ed Spetman. A contract will be awarded during the winter with construction anticipated in spring and summer.

Upland treatment was good this year in the Ryan-Henschal Watershed. Approximately 10 miles of terraces were layed out and built by farmers in this area.

North Pigeon Watershed north of Crescent has been under study this fall by SCS Watershed Planning personnel. The study is not complete at this time.



This is F-2 structure in Ryan-Henschal Watershed. It was built on Erwin Larson's farm last summer. It is a drop inlet type with 248 acres of land draining to it, and has $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of water. Upstream, to the right of this picture, is a constructed waterway that extends into Harl Hough's land. The 30 ft. gully that was here is no more. In its place is a small pond and smooth grass waterway.

GRASS BACKSLOPE TERRACES

In 1963 Paul Jacobsen, formerly State Engineer for the Soil Conservation Service, perfected a method of terrace construction which is now called "grass backslope terrace."

We have seen quite an evolution of terrace design over the past thirty years. At first we built a graded terrace which allowed the water to drain off. This type of design was utilized in Western Iowa and it was often difficult to find suitable outlets for the terraces. This problem was solved by constructing level terraces which did not need outlets because they were constructed not to carry water away, but to allow it to absorb into the terrace channel.

This terrace design, however, did not solve all of the faults farmers found with terraces. However the level terrace was the mainstay of the Soil Conservation District's terracing program between 1940 and 1960.

About 1958 more and more attention was drawn to the fact that these level terraces would tend to "bench" after being installed for 10 or 12 years. Also farmers were rapidly changing over to four-row equipment with which they often found it difficult to cultivate backslopes and cut-slopes of these conventional level terraces.

In answer to these problems, Soil Conservation Service personnel developed a means of constructing terraces parallel to one another. These terraces were usually constructed with a bulldozer and scoop because it was necessary to move dirt across the slope as well as down the hill as had been done previously.

Experience with parallel terraces, which SCSers prefer to call "cut and fill terraces led to the development of the grass backslope terrace. With the grass backslope terrace most of the earth needed for its construction is pushed uphill resulting in a reduction in the slope of the ground between terraces. The backslopes of these terraces are quite steep, however, because the steepness is concentrated within the backslope.

The cultivated area between terraces are flatter after construction of the terraces than the hill was before. Over a period of years, the area between the terraces will become "benched", or flatter, as erosion continues and eventually the cultivated area will be nearly level.

The main advantages of these terraces is that they are: 1) easily farmed with four-row equipment; 2) and allow much more intensive rotations than previous terrace systems.

The disadvantages are that the grass backslope 1) can act as host to rodents; 2) allow more wind damage in cultivated crops; 3) is a danger to a tractor operator that is not alert; and 4) reduce the amount of land in row crops.



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Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501