

1949

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Ia.-SCD.39

Council Bluffs, Iowa

We Commissioners, E. H. Harms, Don Anderson and Wm. C. Strohbehn, of the West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District, Iowa, are submitting our Sixth Annual Report of our accomplishments and our plans and needs for the future.

ORGANIZATION

This District was organized in April, 1944, and since that time the U.S. Soil Conservation Service technicians assigned to the District have assisted 322 farmers with the development of soil and moisture conservation farm plans, which consists of 32 groups of farms, on which most of the application has been established. It has been our policy since the District was organized to work with groups of farmers on planning and application.

At the present time we have 11 groups, consisting of 149 farms, that we are in the process of assisting with the development of soil and moisture conservation farm plans, and we anticipate more groups being organized during the year.

COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

Our regular Commissioners Meetings are held on the last Friday of each month, and special meetings are called whenever needed. During 1949 we have held 10 regular meetings and 4 special meetings, with a perfect attendance at all meetings. In fact, since April, 1944, when the District

was organized, we have had a perfect attendance at all meetings, which includes 86 consecutive meetings without an absence. We also attended Work Group, State and National meetings, such as the National meeting at Denver.

Louis Fahrenkrug, Carson, Iowa, was selected as Assistant District Commissioner, as we feel it is advisable to have a representative from all areas in the District.

FIELD DAYS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

We have urged as many farmers and businessmen as possible to attend the field days at the Western Iowa Experimental Farm, Castana, the Clarinda Experiment Station, and our own Horticulture Experimental Farm at Council Bluffs, and we have had excellent response with the number attending.

We have also held a number of terrace and waterway construction demonstrations, which consisted chiefly of showing farmers how to properly construct terraces and grass waterways.

FIELD TRIALS AND EXPERIMENTS

This year, we established some seedings of grasses and legumes on the field trial basis, consisting of five acres of native grasses on Ida soils and Alta Fescue seedings in waterways. From our observation these seedings have a place in our District. In previous years we also made various field trials on other grasses and legumes which assisted us in our program. The Soil Conservation Service and Experimental Station have assisted us greatly in these trials. Practically all farmers in the District are now using adapted strains of brome grass and alfalfa in their seedings.

CONTESTS AND EXHIBITS

We entered the Omaha World Herald Soil Conservation Contest and the Goodyear Soil Conservation Awards program. We feel that contests of this nature are very worthwhile and do a lot in promoting soil and moisture

conservation in our District as well as in the State and Nation.

In previous years our District has won both of the above contests.

This year we sponsored a ten acre corn yield contest and the Council Bluffs Nonpareil presented the winner of this contest with a \$25.00 War Bond.

The Council Bluffs Kiwanis Club had as their guests all the entrants in the Corn Yield Contest, as well as a number of other farmers in the District.

We sponsored the 4H Conservation Awards Contest. Awards were presented to the winning 4H Club on their application of soil and moisture conservation practices on 4H Club members' farms.

We set up a soil conservation exhibit at the Frontier Fair.

JOB AHEAD

We feel that every farmer in our District should have a soil and moisture conservation plan on his farm as soon as possible, because that is the only sound approach to soil and moisture conservation. The U.S. Soil Conservation Service technicians assigned to the District are working as rapidly as possible to get this job done, by assisting the farmers with their planning and application. Our application load for 1950, which consists chiefly of actual requests on hand, comprises the following: Farm Plans, 149; Terraces, 260 miles; contouring, 8,200 acres; grass waterways, 275,000 lineal feet; permanent structures, 25; open drainage, 240,000 lineal feet; field boundaries, 11,000 rods; and others.

We also anticipate and are confident we will receive a large number of additional requests for application.

The total needs in our District are for a complete soil and moisture conservation farm plan on every farm, and the application of all practices planned. Every farm plan is based on the capability of the soil to produce, therefore a suitable crop rotation is the first requirement. We estimate

the following practice needs; Contouring 195,000 acres; waterways 1,500 miles; terraces 85,000 acres; permanent structures 1,800, and others.

FOLLOW-UP

We have held a number of follow-up meetings with all the cooperators and the follow-up load is becoming greater as the number of farm plans increases. During the winter months we plan to spend as much time as possible assisting old cooperators.

FARMER-CONSERVATIONIST TRAINING SCHOOLS

In the past years we sponsored farmer-conservationist training schools and we found them to be very worthwhile and they assisted greatly in our program. This year we invited four farmers from each Township, comprised of 60 farmers. This training school lasted five full days. The farmers who attended this training school informed us that they felt this training session better equipped them to go out in their communities and assist their neighbors in doing a better job of controlling erosion.

COOPERATION

In making this, our Sixth Annual Report, we, the Soil Conservation District Commissioners, feel that we are entitled to point with pride to the accomplishments of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District. In compiling our total accomplishments to date, we find that we have 322 Farm Plans, comprising more than 20% of the total acreage of the County, operating under a farm plan prepared by the farmers and assisted by Soil Conservation Service technicians and approved by the local Soil Conservation District Governing Body. We find that the various soil conservation practices as demonstrated on these farms have spread to adjacent farms at an ever increasing rate, getting us substantially closer to our goal of a soil and moisture conservation plan, and the practices approved thereunder, in

operation on every farm in the District.

The job of being a Soil Conservation District Commissioner continues to take more of our time as more responsibilities are added in carrying out the Soil Conservation program in the District.

We wish to take this opportunity to especially commend the 53rd General Assembly of Iowa for recognizing the responsibility of the State of Iowa in giving financial support to the local Soil Conservation Districts. We are sure that the money appropriated for this purpose will not be money spent, but only a wise investment in the protection of the future productivity of Iowa's major tax base, its soil.

We wish, also, to give special commendation to the Department of Public Instruction for furnishing the Iowa Elementary Teachers Handbook and providing proper training for the teachers so that they might be better equipped to teach this great science, soil conservation, in every school in the State. We note, also, that the local Supt. of Schools, Mr. E. Barker, is giving every assistance to this program. The Nonpareil, in order to emphasize this new subject in the school curriculum, is offering prizes for the best notebook on soil conservation to the rural schools of the District. Certainly if we are going to have a generation of soil conservationists in the future, we must start educating them today.

The Federal Government, State Government and Local Government, and the individual farmers, all need to make additional contributions to soil conservation.

We wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Soil Conservation Service for furnishing the technical assistance they have made available; the State of Iowa for the assistance they have made available to the District in the form of money for expenses and technical assistance;

The Extension Service for their assistance in the educational work of soil conservation, and for the promotion of soil conservation in L.H. Club activities; the P.M.A.-F.H.A., and all other agencies and organizations; to the Council Bluffs Nonpareil and the other papers and magazines for their fine publicity of soil conservation activities; to the civic organizations for their efforts in promoting soil conservation among the urban groups; to the local banks and businessmen for their fine cooperation; to our cooperators for their fine work in conserving their soil and demonstrating to their neighbors that soil conservation doesn't cost - it pays.

We trust that all of these people, and many more, will help us make even more progress in 1950.

Signed: _____
E.H. Harms, Chairman
District Governing Body

Date: _____ 1949

(See Chart on following page - "Total Accomplishments in the District")

TOTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE DISTRICT - 1949

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>To Date</u>
Contour Intertilled crops	Acre	50,000	
Grassed Waterways	Miles	21	189
Terraces	Miles	206	710
Soil Saving Dams	No.	30	168
Permanent Structures	No.	2	15
Interest or Group Meetings	No.	16	
Planning with Group Meetings	No.	5	
Farm Plans Written	No.	60	322
Requests for farm plans on file and approved by District Commissioners, but not planned	No.	149	

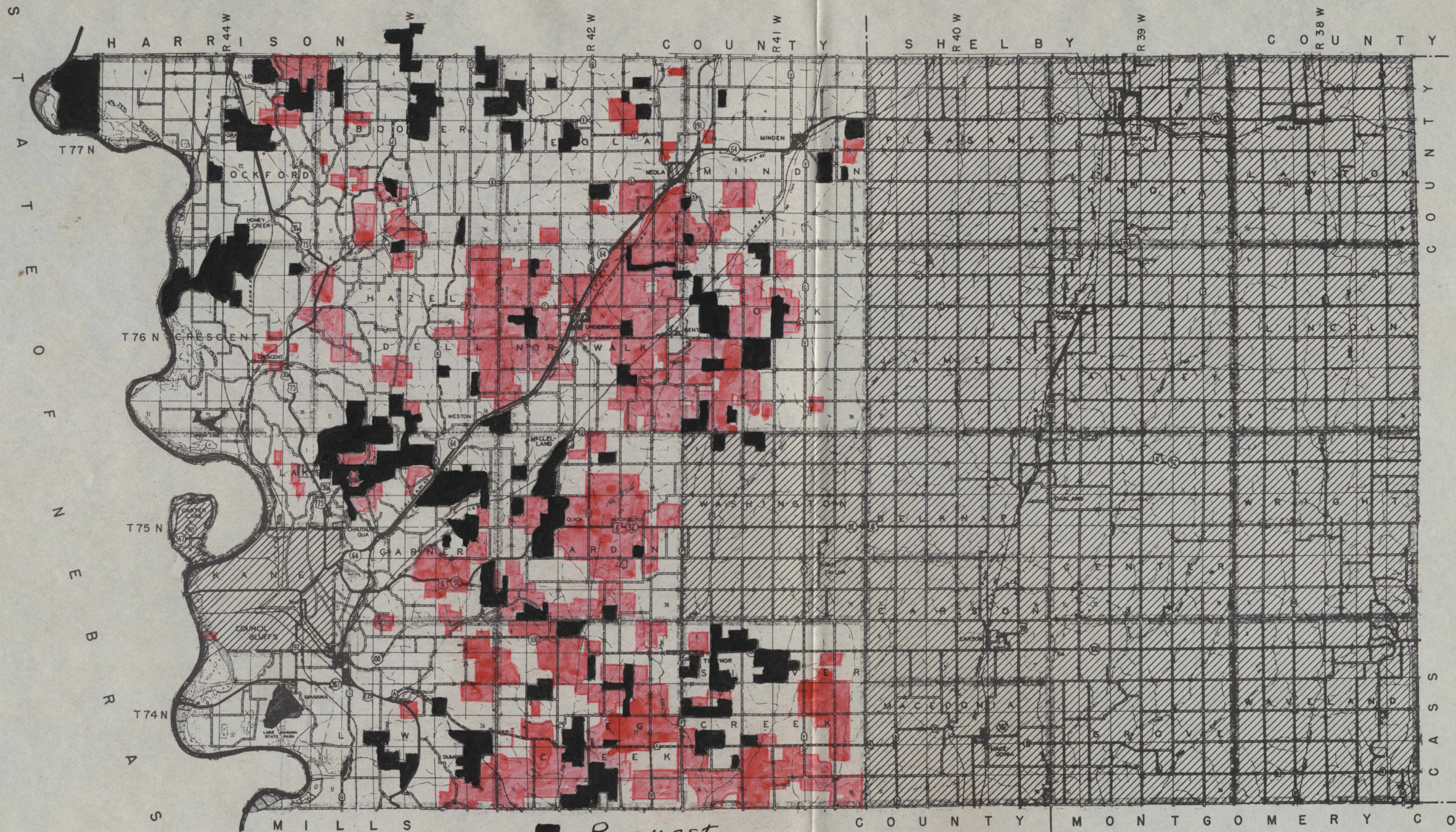
Soil Conservation District

ANNUAL REPORT OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

DISTRICT West Pott. Soil Cons. District Council Bluffs, Iowa
 (Name) (Supervisor's Headquarters) (State)

Period Jan. 1st, 1949 to Dec. 31st, 1949

ACTIVITY		This Period	To Date
Educational Meetings	Number	9	48
	Attendance	500	2,862
Tours	Number	5	11
	Attendance	250	506
Demonstrations	Number	6	54
	Attendance	90	1,328
Training School Meetings	Number	4	36
	Attendance	168	800
Exhibits	Number	3	21
Radio Talks	Number	9	38
News Articles	Number	70	475
Commissioners Meetings	Number	14	86

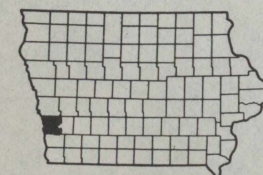
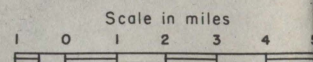


■ Request
 ■ Plan

acreage approximate 291,935

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The District includes all land in the townships of Minden, York, Silver Creek and the twelve townships lying West of them, exclusive of incorporated cities and towns.



LOCATION IN IOWA

EXCLUDED AREA