

APPANOOSE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1947

TO: The Honorable Charles Brannan, U. S. Secretary of Agriculture

The Commissioners of the Appanoose County Soil Conservation District respectfully submit the following report covering the operation of the district during the calendar year 1947.

Due to the continued high prices which are causing an over cropping of our land in Appanoose County, we commissioners feel that serious consideration should be given to speeding up soil conservation on the land.

During the summer of 1947, we had a severe drouth which destroyed a major part of our new seedings, and as a result this land has been planted to intertilled crops which adds greatly to the need of soil conservation practices.

We have had a very successful year in developing Soil Conservation by demonstrations, contests, and interest meetings. Many farmers are becoming interested in the program who are not in groups and we are far behind on planning the groups who have applied for assistance. Our farm planner is being contacted repeatedly for information by farmers who are not in groups or who have no plans on their farm.

There has been very good cooperation with other agencies in the District: AAA, FHA, National Farm Loan Asso., Extension Service, and Association of Commerce, all having worked closely with the district.

There are a number of major problems which the district is concerned with and constant effort is needed to overcome them.

The need for Soil Conservation Education is ever-increasing, with the continuing exploitation of our farm lands.

More grassed waterways and contouring are needed on much of the land. The pace at which farm plans are written, while progressing is nevertheless not fast enough to prevent deterioration to much of our lands. We need more technical help if we are to get the job done in time. Our Farm Planner technician is doing a good job, and we are grateful for the help that has been extended to us by the Soil Conservation Service, through our District Conservationist, and others.

However, the greater part of actually getting Soil Conservation on the land, yet remains to be done, and any further technical help which can be made available for accomplishing this job, will be appreciated.

Much of the county is at present in grassland and pasture which needs improvement badly. The county in general would benefit by a greatly expanded pasture improvement program.

There is a need for enlargement of the terracing program.

A course of Soil Conservation continues to be taught in our rural schools. The progress of Soil Conservation and related land use practices are summarized below:

	<u>1947</u>	<u>Total to date for District</u>
Co-op Agreements	36	102
Acres Contoured	1156 plus 2385) widespread)	2022 plus 2585) widespread)
Grassed Waterways	22,122 sq.ft.	35,242 sq.ft.
Limestone	36,321 tons	381,321 tons
Miles of Terrace	4.2	7.2
Diversions terrace	6725 ft.	12,470 ft.
Pasture Renovation	1105 acres	2645 acres
Open Drain	4200 ft.	53,200 ft.
Farm Ponds	5	422
Fertilizer	1099 tons	5499 tons

The education activities are as follows:

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
General Meetings	9	505
Interest "	10	125
Farm Plan "	16	104
Movies?	6	419
Demonstrations	3	2500
Soil Conservation Week Tour	1	200
Contour Plowing Contest		1200

A Soil Conservation Field Day was held at the County Farm with the following demonstrations being given:

Terracing
Gully Control
Pasture Renovation
Fence Changing

During the year two of the ~~District~~ Commissioners died: L.B. Monroe and R. E. Bear.

Art Streepy was appointed to fill Monroe's vacancy and George Scott was appointed to fill the vacancy of R. E. Bear.

Three private operators with four tractors, some equipped with Bulldozers and other equipment, have been working throughout the county, and have been kept busy in the construction of ponds, diversions, waterway construction, and similar types of work. Much remains to be done along this line however, and the District is planning to assist in this type of work when the tractor and bulldozer assigned to the district is repaired.

Soil Conservation is steadily progressing in this county, and the interest in it, is continuing to increase.

/s/ R. C. Wilson
Richard Wilson, Chairman

/s/ Art Streepy
Art Streepy, Commissioner

/s/ George Scott
George Scott, Commissioner