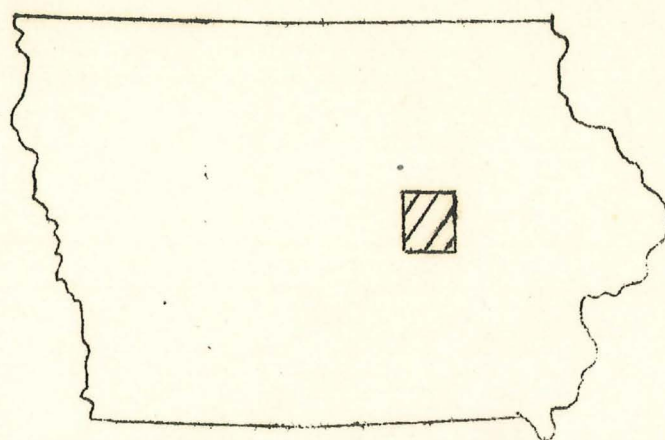




ANNUAL REPORT

1952

TAMA COUNTY

IOWA

SOIL CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION

The year 1952 was the first of operation following preparation of the Agriculture Resources Conservation Program for Tama County. District Commissioners aided in developing the resources program, in cooperation with other groups and agencies in the county interested in Soil Conservation. We have been actively working with the various parts of the program during the year.

One of the first efforts was attending Township ACP signup meetings. Held early in the year, for 1952 conservation practice intentions, these meetings gave us an opportunity to visit with farmers about the District. During succeeding periods of the year, the pasture improvement, birdsfoot trefoil seed increase, and conservation practice demonstration programs were activities of importance.

Efforts to meet the requests for conservation practice lay out reduced planning work to a marked degree. District personnel increases will need to be made if intended District objectives are to be maintained and present practice layout responsibilities for personnel continued. Planning results will improve some even with present help. This will come as planning processes adopted this past year move ahead. It will not approach past efforts nor future needs of planning.

Your present commissioners believe the District program based on farm conservation plans is sound. Efforts to continue it should be made. Practice layout aid to farmers within the District is also important, but we do not feel it wise to continue such aid at the expense of the farm conservation planning activity of the District.

PERSONNEL

Commissioners:

John F. Norton, Chairman	Tama, Iowa
George Kos	Toledo, Iowa
Forrest C. Hill	Dysart, Iowa

Soil Conservation Service:

Frank P. Reed	Work Unit Conservationist
Milburne E. Sevde	Conservation Aid
H. Howard Oak	District Conservationist
Grace J. Bredimus	Work Group Clerk (5 Mo)
Janet Ann Courcelle	Work Group Clerk (7 Mo)

District Employees:

Marjorie Emerson	Office Assistant
John F. Norton, Jr.	Conservation Aid

Agriculture Extension Service

G. Gress Rogers	County Extension Director
Gaylord Elliott	Youth Assistant

Production and Marketing Administration County Committee

Alfred J. Brandt, Chairman
Robert A. Malin, Vice-chairman
Charles Homolar, Third Member

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Farm Planning

A revised farm conservation plan development process was started in 1952. The end result should be much the same as in the past, but it is the hope that more farmers will be reached. The steps involved have been a part of farm planning prior to this time but have not been recorded as such. The principle change has been the combining of the assistance request and agreement form into an initial agreement. With the signing of the request form the farmer immediately becomes a District Cooperator. The preparation of the basic plan then follows in two stages. The advanced or first step includes a period of study about soil conservation. Practice layout aid is given the cooperator and soil capability information furnished about his farm. Following this the plan is developed by the farmer from his own conservation practice experiences and the study of soils and related information he has received. This method permits the cooperator to move ahead in preparation of the basic plan for his farm at his own discretion.

ACP Practice Signup Meetings

Early in the year Township PMA Committees held signup meetings for conservation practices. Each commissioner attended seven of the twenty one meetings to contact ACP participants relative to the District Program. As a result of these contacts over one hundred initial plans were signed. These were not signed as a campaign effort but on a selected basis. Those signed indicated a desire and interest in preparing farm conservation plans. Excellent cooperation was received from the local committees and also from the county PMA committee with this program.

State Committee - Districts Association

The District participated in the contest based on District activities sponsored jointly by the State Soil Conservation Districts Committee and the State Association of Soil Conservation Districts. This contest, replacing the Goodyear contest, aids the commissioners by focusing on activities accomplished, those to be improved and some to be considered. We trust this program will be continued.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Seed Increase Plots

The second birdsfoot trefoil seed increase plot was established in the District on the Ervin Hagedorn farm. This field contains seven acres. As a companion crop on the east three acres of the field alta fescue was seeded. The west four acres was seeded with trefoil alone. An excellent stand developed in this field except for a small low area along the south edge. A fair stand was growing there. The four acre plot seeded on the Jack Norton farm in 1951 had an excellent stand in 1952, but the uneven seed set eliminated any chance of seed harvest in 1952. It is hoped some seed may be harvested in 1953. Further phosphate fertilization is planned to improve seed development on both plots. The seed for the establishment of these plots was furnished to the District through the Soil Conservation Service Nursery.

Conservation Practice Establishment Demonstration

A second year of cooperative effort in a Conservation practice establishment program was held in the District. This program carried on cooperatively with the County PMA Committee, County Extension Director, the District, and Neil Johns the operator of the Ralph Johnson farm culminated in a field demonstration in the fall. The Farmers National Company is the manager of the Johnson Farm and also had a part in the carrying on of the program. A major purpose of this program is to show the practices that can be established by farmers with little help or aid from sources, other than at the immediate disposal of the farmer. It also points up the cooperation possible between landowners and operators. Practices involved were contouring, terracing, tiling, tile outlet structures, pasture improvement, and wildlife area improvement.

Radio Broadcasts

The District commissioners used the facilities of Radio Station KXEL Waterloo, Iowa regularly during the year. The Broadcasts, made once a month with Dallas McGinnis KXEL Farm Editor, featured District Cooperators. Each of the commissioners invited a neighbor to appear with him and discuss a part of the conservation program on his farm. This not only widened the experiences presented but it stimulated local interest in the broadcasts.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Forages

Recent years have seen efforts of the District in cooperation with the Extension Service and PMA to encourage greater use of forages. In past years a forage field day was held. During 1952, use of Birdsfoot trefoil as a permanent forage crop was stressed. A series of tours to new seedings were held during the year to acquaint farmers with it. These tours were held on the Jack Norton, Welby Dixon and Harold Read farms. The forage club of Iowa also held a tour in the county to visit the trefoil seedings. In addition to the farms given above the club inspected seedings on the Franklin Early, Arnold Brandt, Harold Higgins, Ernest Pokorny, and Neil Johns farms.

Permanent Pasture Improvement

Permanent pasture improvement is a major need in our District. Cooperating with the Extension Service a program to stimulate interest in pasture improvement was started. Called 'Green Pastures' the program was based on the need for high quality pastures and the economic necessity for increasing the income from such areas. Three things were particularly pointed up in the program. They were, selecting and using the adapted legumes, use of sufficient fertilizers including lime, and recording of costs, cultural operations, and any facts to aid in determining results. A loose leaf folder was given to each farmer taking part. He used it to keep those records indicated above and pasture production following improvement. Also included in the folder were leaflets covering the steps he was to consider to do the improvement operation. One of the highlights of the activity during the year was a meeting in December of those taking part. At this meeting a review of the records were made. Twentytwo farmers presented their material. As a result of comparisons some conclusions were gathered to be passed along to others planning work of this kind. One of these was that shallow seeding is of first importance in securing a good legume stand. Too often legume seeds are buried and a poor stand results.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Conservation Work Books

For the fourth year, conservation work books were sponsored for use in the schools of the District. There use this year marked the start of the second time thru the three year cycle of teaching conservation. The contents of the book follows the Teachers Guide, Volume XIV, prepared by the Iowa State Department of Public Instruction. All of the rural schools of the county and nine of the thirteen urban schools are using the book. To improve the books contents review meetings were held with local teachers, and some revisions were made. In the interest of Conservation Education two of the Districts personnel attended the Izaak Walton Leagues National Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma in May. Attending on their own time, they presented the books and how they were used to the convention. Attached to this report is a copy of the 1952-53 work book. We wish to again point to the very necessary and important cooperation we receive from the Tama County Superintendent of Schools E. P. Simmons. He has done much to make this program what it is in our District.

Bank Survey

Cooperating with the National Association of Districts, all of the banks in the District were contacted. This was done as a part of a national survey about bankers use of Soil Conservation in lending policies. This survey while not of too much use locally in itself, gave us an opportunity to visit with the officers of the banks about the District and its functions.

Veterans Classes

District personnel assisted Veteran Class Instructors with the class and field work relating to Conservation. Three classes in the county were visited, while two of the others received some assistance through the instructors. Plans are being prepared on several of the veterans farms thru the cooperative efforts with the instructors.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Conservation Movie

The District took part in the filming of a movie relating a story involving a Conservation District and a farming community. It was produced for the State Soil Conservation Districts Committee by the Visual Aids Production Section of Iowa State College. The picture 'Soil Conservation Districts and Iowa People' will feature several Tama County people. Two of the principal parts were taken by Mr. and Mrs. Fred K. Bruene, of Gladbrook, Iowa. Fred was a commissioner in our District for about eight years and his background suited the needs of the part he had. The picture will be used for educational purposes to bring out the functions of Districts in our farming communities.

1953 ACP Program

Cooperating with the County PMA Committee, and Extension Service the Districts personnel visited each of the counties twenty one PMA Community Committees prior to their sign-up visits. The committees were visited on their own farms. The purpose of the visits was to discuss the program on the land with the committee and give and give them information for the 1953 Program and the practices involved. We feel this materially aided the committees in their visits with neighboring farmers about carrying out the 1953 program.

Commissioner Recognition

Commissioner Forrest Hill received recognition from the Cedar Rapids Gazette and the State Soil Conservation Committee as an outstanding commissioner of the Region of the State in which our District is located. Forrest integrates his work as commissioner with the many other activities he has and as a result has done an excellent job pointing up conservation, particularly in his area of the District. Too often the grass roots activities of commissioners are overlooked. This is one place we believe they were not.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Commissioner Meetings

Kind	Number	Attendance
Regular Scheduled Meetings	12	36
Joint Meetings, 4 District	2	150
Joint Meetings, PMA Committee	5	30
Special Meetings	28	565

Conservation Education Activities

Kind	Number	Attendance
Radio Broadcasts	11	-
News Stories	142	
Conservation Work Books	1200	
Veterans Classes	9	207
Demonstrations	2	150
Training Schools	21	121
Tours	4	155
Interest Meetings	3	84

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Conservation Practices

Type	1952 Applied	To Date	1952 ACP
Contour Cultivation (Acres)	2894	15933	5468
Contour Strip Cropping (Acres)	32	433	74
Farm Ponds (Each)	5	18	21
Tree Planting (Acres)	0	18.5	-
Wildlife Area Improvement (Acres)	10.5	40	-
Terraces (Miles)	2.7	11.9	1.3
Farm Drainage (Acres)	148	563	478
Tile Drainage (Feet)	74,145	198,136	260,240
Open Drains (Miles)	1.6	5.7	7.9
Pasture Improvement (Acres)	22	98	-
Fence Row Management (Miles)	0	22	-
Creek Straightening (Feet)	3300	8760	-
Constructed Waterways (Miles)	0.3	2	3.5

Planning and Assistance

Initial Plans	127
Advanced Plans	21
Basic Plans	0
ACP-PMA Cooperators Assisted (No.)	712

CONCLUSION

It is often difficult to properly assess the results of a short period of activity. Nevertheless, we believe 1952 was a year that will be remembered as a milestone in Districts operation. We believe an increasing responsibility was given to Districts. Our hope is that in the future we will be able to function as we should to meet this responsibility and achieve the results that are possible and necessary.

Cooperating groups and agencies are a real part of the success of any Soil Conservation District. We wish to take this opportunity to thank the following for their cooperation:

County	Superintendent of Schools Farm Bureau Marshall Izaak Walton League
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State	Conservation Commission Soil Conservation Committee College -- Visual Aids Section
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Federal	Agriculture Extension Production & Marketing Administration Farm & Home Administration Soil Conservation Service Veterans Administration
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Also, to those many individuals who helped, we thank you.

This report is respectfully submitted to our friends and working associates.

TAMA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION
DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

JANUARY 14, 1953

John F. Norton
Chairman

George Kos
Member

Forrest Hill
Member

Conservation

IS

WISE USE

WITHOUT WASTE

I N T R O D U C T I O N

As boys and girls we have experienced the feeling of hunger. We know how well an apple or a slice of bread and butter quiets that hunger. We know how we depend on our parents and the loyal grocer to satisfy our food needs and keep our hunger satisfied.

We seldom ask ourselves what we would do if we did not have the apple, and the slice of bread, or our parents and the grocery store to furnish the food to us. During the recent war, we found that we were unable to secure many important food items, we thought would always be plentiful. Likewise there might be times in the future when food items may become scarce, if we do not take better care of our soil, and the other natural resources.

Plants that furnish to us our sources of food, are like us in that they must have food. Food for growing, food for producing more food for us. Where do they get their supply of food? We answer. From the Soil, from the Rain and from the Sunshine. We know that if the rain and sunshine fail to come in the proper amounts, we will have a poor crop. The same thing will result if we lose the good top soil. The rain and the sunshine will be of little use since plants will not grow well on poor soil.

Every year in our area we lose many Tons of fine top soil. It is washed down to the streams and rivers, never to return. If we keep permitting it to go away, before long we will have only poor crops, our food supply will become smaller, and as our food supply becomes smaller, our hunger will increase. And, we know we do not want additional hunger.

For this reason we study Conservation. It is the study of conserving our Soil, our Song and Game Birds, our Fur Animals and Fish, and our Natural Resources, such as Oil and Coal. Also, for this reason, we are anxious that young people everywhere, City, Town and Country, take a personal interest in Conservation, which is so essential for present and future happiness.

NAMES

Fill in the correct names:

U. S. Secretary of Agriculture

State Conservationist

U. S. Soil Conservation Service

State Director

Iowa State Conservation Commission

Your County Conservation Office

Iowa State Conservation Commission

Your County Extension Director

Agriculture Extension Service

Your County Soil Conservationist

U. S. Soil Conservation Service

Your County Soil Conservation

District Commissioners

Place here at least two pictures showing products we depend upon in everyday living, that are produced from our soil. Make a title for each one and tell something of its importance.

- A. Make a drawing of a soil profile or cross-section. Label each of the soil layers.

- B. Make three drawings of soil profiles showing a depth of topsoil layers in relation to subsoil layers at the following listed points.

1. Level Upland

2. On Slope or
Hillside

3. At the foot or
base of a slope

Place here at least two pictures of erosion or erosion damage.
Make a title for each and tell the cause of the damage.

A. Tell about Soil Conservation Practices you have seen on the land or in a movie on conservation.

B. Make a drawing of a Water Cycle. Label its various parts.

Complete one of the following:

- A. Write a short history about Soil Conservation.
- B. Place here two or more pictures of outstanding workers or leaders in Soil Conservation telling of their activities.
- C. Place here two or more pictures of Conservation Work carried on or sponsored by organizations, relating to their activities.

Place here at least four pictures of fur bearing animals found in our area. Name each and tell where it is most likely to be found.

A. Name one upland game bird and tell something as to why it is a benefit to our area.

B. Place here at least two pictures of other upland game birds that may be found in our area. Name them and tell where they might be seen.

A. Write a paragraph on song birds you saw on a trip or hike to the country.

B. Place below pictures of the birds you have written about in the paragraph above.

With a series of pictures place here in proper order, show a food chain that applies to present day living. Describe in a sentence or two how it works.