

24th Annual Soil Conservation District Report

4/17/1969

COMMISSIONERS

Sam Botts, Jr.	Chairman
C. Iles Heady	Commissioner
Charles Chickering	Commissioner
Dale Blackwell	Treasurer
LaVern Weillbrenner	Assistant Commissioner
Floyd Newell	Assistant Commissioner
Dwight White	Assistant Commissioner

SCS PERSONNEL

Verle M. Arnold	District Conservationist
D. Eugene Francis	Conservation Technician
Richard J. Cordes	Soil Conservationist
Lyall Mitchell	Area Conservationist (to August 1968)
John J. Eckes	Area Conservationist (August to present)
Marion Clark	Area Engineer
Marge Dickey	Area Clerk
Dale Lockridge	Soil Scientist

STATE PERSONNEL

Christine H. Botts	State Clerk
Roger L. Fry	Conservation Aid

Foreward

The Davis County Soil Conservation District has been in operation twenty-four years. During this time the technology of farming has made much progress. Through the wide spread use of conservation practices, the appearance of our farm land has changed. As our population continues to increase we all must concern ourselves with better soil and water conservation practices. Now there is approximately 2 acres of cropland per person in the nation and as more cropland is used for roads, buildings and industrial use the acreage for crop-

land will decrease. Conserving this decreasing cropland is the task of each farmer as he manages the area he farms. As the modern farmer plans his farming operations, valuable help can be given to him by the technicians in our office. If you have questions regarding your farm operations, our technicians will be glad to help develop a conservation plan with you. We wish to thank the agencies, individuals, churches, schools and especially the Davis County farmers who assist the district directly or indirectly in getting the soil and water conservation practices on the land.

District Activities—1968

During the 1968 calendar year 12 regular meetings and 2 special watershed meetings were held.

The two special meetings were held in the afternoon and the evening of September 5 with the state SCS Watershed Planning Party present to discuss the Carter Creek Watershed preliminary plan with the Bloomfield City Council (in the afternoon) and with the County Conservation Board and Board of Supervisors (in the evening).

At the January regular meeting the 1968 District Plan of Operations was developed. The State and National SCD dues were approved for payment by the treasurer.

The president of the Davis County Ministerial Association, Robert Allen, attended our February meeting to help order material for use in the local churches during Soil Stewardship week in May. The 1967 annual report was mailed to all Davis County farmers in February. The three commissioners and their wives attended the National SCD Conference in Dallas, Texas the first week in February. Frank Men-

dell, State Conservationist, retired in February.

Mrs. Vera Small, local 6th grade teacher, applied for the scholarship to attend the Iowa Teacher's Conservation Camp in June and was awarded the scholarship at the April meeting. Her reports appear in the Annual Report. The commissioners voted to furnish the magazine "Journal of Soil and Water Conservation" for the Ag Library of the local high school.

At the May meeting the proposed budgets of State Funds for 1969 fiscal year, from state funds, were discussed and submitted to the State Committee for their approval.

The Soil Conservation Speech Contest for our district was held in connection with our June Commissioners meeting. Phillip Bolin was named winner and represented the district in the Region 9 contest held in July. Sam Botts, Jr. was named Outstanding Commissioner for the district and was entered in the regional contest. Mrs. Olive Dalbey, local elementary teacher was named Conservation Teacher of the year for our district. John Swart-

zendruver was chosen Division I winner and Division II winners in the landlord-tenant division were Marvin Logan, landlord and Phillip Herten, tenant. In July plans were made for the annual "Queen of Conservation" contest to be held at the Drakesville reunion in August. Richard Cordes, Soil Conservationist, training in our office reported for 4-months basic training at Fort Ord, California. LaVern Weillbrenner, Dwight White, Floyd Newell and Dale Blackwell were named assistant commissioners for one year.

The commissioners, their wives, Mr. and Mrs. Verle Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Bolin and son, Phillip, attended the Region 9 SCD meeting July 24th at the Holiday Inn in Ottumwa. At the August meeting, Verle Arnold announced that Lyall Mitchell, Area Conservationist, is retiring after more than 33 years of service to agriculture. The District appreciates the help he has given to the soil conservation program within our district, and wish he and his wife much happiness during their retirement years.

Teachers Conservation Camp

By Mrs. Vera Small
On Sunday, June 2, 1968, I arrived at Springbrook State Park along with forty-three other teachers and full time students from various colleges in Iowa. Soon after arrival we registered, paid our fees, and moved into our assigned cabins. By three p.m. we were in the workshop making a plant press. This was not too difficult.

After the evening meal we had our first meeting. This was an orientation and an introduction to the course and the staff. Since the campers are known as "Turtles" our first advice was "Don't stick your neck out until you know what you are doing." Before the three weeks were over we found this to be quite valuable advice. We were given name tags which were to be worn constantly. It became quite a chore to keep someone from stealing them before camp broke.

Classes were not held on Saturday afternoon and Sunday. But assignments were so arranged that you were too busy trying to catch up to have much free time.

Our grades were based on our notebook, collections of rocks and flowers, individual projects and attitude. The first week our lectures were on rocks, minerals, and soils. We took field trips to the Ledges State Park and to the Agronomy Farm near Ames. During this time we were also in the process of trying to

make two rock boxes and collect 24 rocks and minerals. After collecting these we would spend hours in the lab after the night sessions identifying them.

The second week we studied soil nutrients, plant nutrients, conservation problems, etc. We took several field trips to various farms in the surrounding area. In addition to the lectures and field trips this week, we were collecting, pressing, and identifying plants for our wild flower collection.

The last week was spent studying the current water problems in Iowa, watershed management, water pollution, and the teaching of water conservation. We did study on the Little Sioux Flood Control Projects, the Lakin Slough and some less important ones.

Three weeks of living, working and learning at Springbrook was a delightful experience. I shall always be grateful to you people for helping to make this possible. I think these few words will summarize best: "I've never worked so hard, learned so much, and had so much fun doing so in all my life as I did at Springbrook. The staff and all the campers were wonderful people. I'm sure many lasting friendships were made. Again, I say 'thanks' to you people for your part in this wonderful experience." (The district paid the tuition for Mrs. Small to attend this 3-weeks college training.

Forestry Section

Reported by Bruce Plum, District Forester

There were 17 requests for forestry assistance in Davis County Soil Conservation District in 1968. This involves 593 acres. The district forester marked 48,000 board feet of timber for sale and assisted in making one sale.

Tree planting held even with last year with 15,000 trees being planted. Most of these trees are any of several species of pine.

Those planting includes Virgil Hering, Muri Lindley, Robert Lancaster, Gib Anderson, D. W. Harris, James Olinger, James Bailey, Roy Stookesberry, Jack Henderson, Harry Lyons, Dr. R. E. Kasmussen and Norman Hansen.

A recent forest survey made for the Iowa Development Commission indicated there is more room for forest industry in Iowa. The survey singled out Ottumwa as a potential site for a wood

using industry.

The continued increase in demand for quality timber has kept the price of standing timber strong over the past three years. A shortage of high quality timber has developed. The stumpage price of high quality timber now justifies a little time in upgrading existing woodlots. ACP cost-sharing is available for weeding our undesirable trees. The use of this practice improves the quality and increases the growth rate of standing timber.

While waiting for your timber to develop Iowa's forest reservation law can be used to reduce the taxes on your timber as long as it is being protected from grazing. It is somewhat surprising, in view of the fact that property taxes are so high, that only six acres of Davis County timber are placed in timber reserve for tax protection.

Phillip Melvin, Dean Spilman and Bob Chickering were named as the nominating committee for the election of a district commissioner later this fall. Sam Botts, Jr. term as commissioner is completed this fall. He was re-elected to another 6-year term at the annual meeting in November. The Part 9, Big Wyacondah watershed construction was completed in August. The annual inspection tour of completed watershed structures was held August 28. The commissioners furnished food and their wives served it to those attending the Southeast Iowa Experiment Farm Tour on August 27.

At the September meeting it was decided to have Lee Kline (WHO radio farm announcer) be the speaker at our annual banquet meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Sam Botts, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Iles Heady, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chickering attended the State SCD Conference in Mason City.

At the October meeting, Doyle Schmitter, reported on the number of grazing associations recently organized in the county. He also told of completing

the first county recreation area loan.

Plans were completed at our November meeting for the annual cooperators' banquet meeting to be held November 19 at the American Legion Hall. Certificates of recognition for good conservation practices established on their farms were presented to Mrs. Eunice Tucker, Jack Greiner, Roy Baker and Charles Tucker at the banquet.

Verle Arnold reported conducting a conservation tour for 120 eighth grade students and their teachers on the Iles Heady farm October 30.

At the December meeting, new officers for the coming year were selected: Iles Heady, Chairman; Charles Chickering, Vice-Chairman; Sam Botts, Jr., Watershed Contracting Officer; LaVern Weillbrenner, Secretary; Floyd Newell, Treasurer; Dewey Goode, recently elected State Representative for Davis and Appanoose Counties, was present at our December meeting and proposed changes for Soil Conservation Districts which will require legislative action were discussed.

Treasurer's Report

REVOLVING FUND

(made available for the District's use by one-cent per ton royalty the district received from the quarry on D. K. Nedrow farm)

Balance on hand January 1, 1968 \$613.58

INCOME

Royalties from Rock Quarry	\$ 4,213.76
U.S. Treasurer on Big Wyacondah contracts	31,771.83
State Comptroller for reimbursement	427.96
Banquet ticket money	243.11
Other Income	20.40

EXPENSE

Royalties Paid on Quarry	3,511.49
U.S. Treasurer on Big Wyacondah	31,771.83
Other Big Wyacondah Expense	17.50
Postage and Supplies	200.06
Commissioner's Expense	417.26
Awards	187.71
State and National SCD Dues	175.00
Banquet expenses and Speakers Fee	331.90

Balance on hand, December 31, 1968 \$ 677.89

I-M and IMA BUDGET

(Fiscal year July 1, 1967 - June 30, 1968)

Commissioner's Expenses and Mileage	\$ 270.09
Office Supplies	130.12
Prizes for Contests	86.50
Material for Demonstrations	148.96
Office Expenses	40.75
Meeting Expenses	21.63

TOTAL EXPENDED \$ 698.05

II-M BUDGET

(Fiscal year July 1, 1967 - June 30, 1968)

Gross earnings (Clerical and Technical)	\$ 7,859.80
District's Share of State Retirement	271.94
District's Share of Federal S.S. Tax	345.86
District's Share of Hospital Insurance	126.00
Travel Expenses (Clerical and Technical)	60.08

TOTAL EXPENDED \$ 8663.68

The I-M, I-MA and II-M Budgets are funds made available to the district by the State Legislature and distributed by the State Soil Conservation Committee to help with the work of Soil and Water Conservation within the district. Without this help from the state, much less work could be accomplished in the field of conservation.

Progress Report

PRACTICE	UNIT	APPLIED	NOW ON THE LAND
Conservation cropping system	Ac.	4,005	95,157
Contour farming	Ac.	532	45,769
Diversions	L.F.	44,350	833,015
Farm Ponds	No.	73	1,908
Fish Pond Stocking	No.	101	1,397
Structures	No.	33	338
Grass Waterways	Ac.	130	1,680
Drainage Ditches	L.F.	—	221,890
Pasture Renovation	Ac.	1399	23,123
Strip Cropping	Ac.	18	3,408
Shallow Surface Ditches	L.F.	6,580	429,731
Terraces, Graded	L.F.	7,600	2,803,524
Terraces, Tile Outlet	L.F.	5,600	8,200
Terraces, Parallel	L.F.	15,800	169,655
Tree Planting	Ac.	23	328
Cropland to Grassland	Ac.	997	6,963
Tile Drains	L.F.	3,132	94,531
DISTRICT COOPERATORS	No.	—	904
	Acres	—	224,450
BASIC CONSERVATION PLANS	No.	—	687
	Acres	—	157,055
PLANS REVISED THIS YEAR	No.	—	15
SOIL MAPPING TO DATE	Acres	—	234,767

(Tile outlet type terraces are on the Richard Birchmier, Harry Battin, Dean Amstutz and Millard Mulcahey farms.)

Secretary's Report

During the 1968 calendar year 1192 office callers visited our SCS Office. There were 7 telephone calls during the 1968 year.

Seventy-three ponds and thirty-five structures were completed during the 1968 fiscal year

and many were stocked with fish. 14,570 large mouth bass and 6789 channel catfish were delivered to Davis County farmers for their ponds by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service hatchery near Muscatine, Iowa.

Big Wyacondah Watershed

Twenty-nine of the proposed structural measures for the watershed have been constructed. Completed structural work is located on the farms of Sam Bradford, Wilson Hartman, Robert Brown, Edward Bichette, Richard McClurg, Verle Benge, Mildred Baker, Albert Whisler, L. A. Shelton, Frank Shively, O. J. Scott, Dal Dixon, Aura Barnett, Frank Varren, Dean Grim, Walter Grit, Mrs. Phyllis Fresh, Mrs. Bess Beggs, J. E. Amstutz, John Ortg, Carl Games, Cleo Rinkenberg, Don-

ald Altheide, Kenneth Hull, Vaughn York and Elmer Weillbrenner.

If budget limitations permit, it is planned to let a contract for 6 more structures after July 1, 1969.

Total structural measures proposed in the Big Wyacondah watershed includes 2 flood water retarding structures, 57 grade stabilization structures, 3.4 miles of stream channel improvement and 9.4 acres of structural waterways.

Carter Creek Watershed

Authority to develop a work plan on Carter Creek Watershed was received in May 1966. The preliminary report made indicates that in order to get the desired flood protection, one large flood water retarding structure, several smaller flood water retarding structures, several grade stabilization structures and channel improvement work on the main channel of Carter Creek below Highway 63 would be needed.

awaiting a decision from the Davis County Conservation Board as to their interest in the possibility of developing a public recreation area around the proposed detention structure.

It is not known at this time what effect the planned relocation of Highway 63 will have on the preliminary plans for the watershed.

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