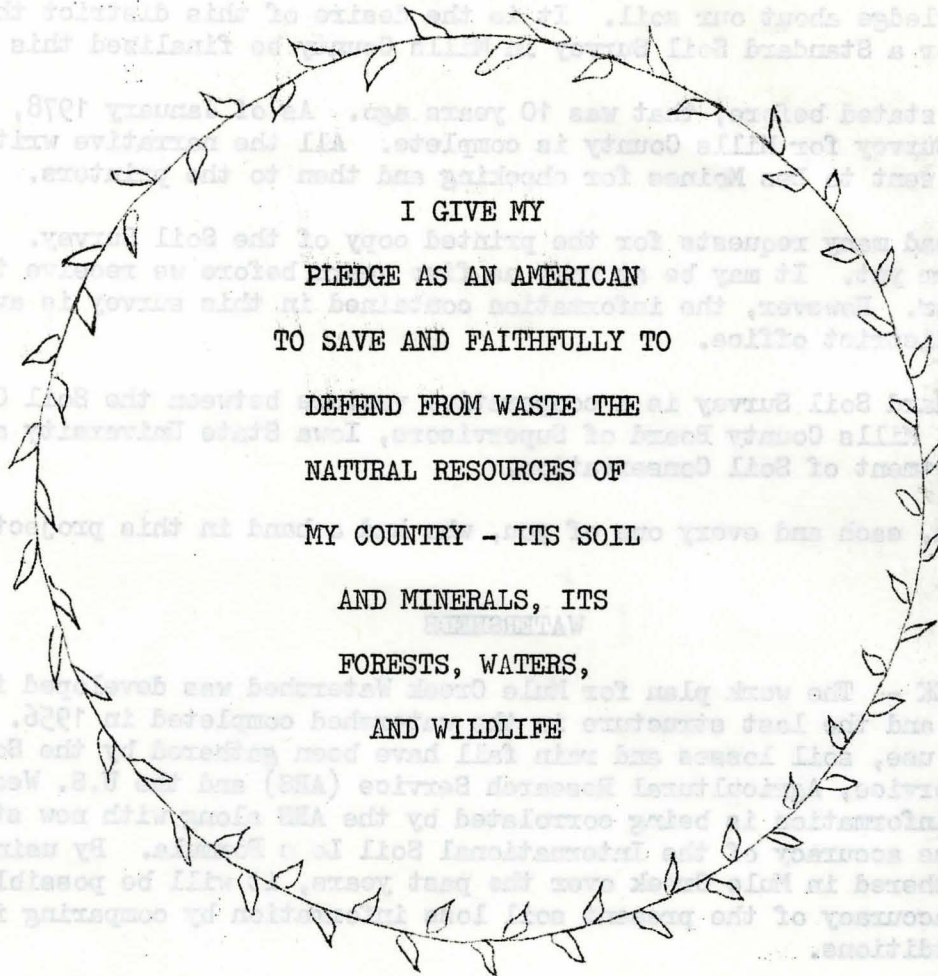


MILLS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT 1977/78



I GIVE MY
PLEDGE AS AN AMERICAN
TO SAVE AND FAITHFULLY TO
DEFEND FROM WASTE THE
NATURAL RESOURCES OF
MY COUNTRY - ITS SOIL
AND MINERALS, ITS
FORESTS, WATERS,
AND WILDLIFE

FORWARD

Fiscal year '78 is now history. There is nothing we can say or do that can alter the events of the year. However, we would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the things that occurred in the district during the year.

Each year more stress is put on the conservation of our natural resources. More committees are formed, more research done, more laws passed, more enforcement of the laws we already have. All in the name of conservation.

If we are to see to the needs of our own people, it is just plain, bold fact that we need the research, the committees, the laws and the enforcement. Conservation of our natural resources is a very real problem. We, as Soil Conservation District Commissioners are doing our best to help solve these problems. But, we need your help. It's everyone's problem and it will take everyone's help to alleviate it.

We would like to take this opportunity to say "THANK YOU" to the Department of Soil Conservation, Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service, Iowa Conservation Commission, Corner Conservation Development Community, County Extension, Schools, Service Clubs, Banks, Churches, Newspapers, Radio Stations and all the many other groups who helped us carry out a successful soil and water conservation program.

A special "THANK YOU" goes to the more than 100 individuals and businesses in Mills County who sent donations to further our program. We are very proud of our cooperator club. And, we certainly appreciate their generous support.

We, the Commissioners of the Mills County Soil and Water Conservation District respectfully submit this annual report for Fiscal Year '78 to you, for your review and consideration.

Albert T. Washburn, Chairman
Harold Tackett, Vice-Chairman
Glen Sell, Commissioner
Roger Jackson, Commissioner
Richard Biermann, Commissioner

Henry Pein, Assistant Commissioner
Paul Hathaway, Ass't. Commissioner
Viola Hathaway, Ass't. Commissioner
David Snow, Ass't. Commissioner

Ten years ago, in our 1968 fiscal year annual report, we told you ----
 "Each year brings us closer to the problems affecting everyone -- such as water supply and pollution, recreational area development, erosion, flood and sediment problems in cities and urban areas. However, heading the list is the unending thirst for knowledge about our soil. It is the desire of this district that negotiations for a Standard Soil Survey in Mills County be finalized this year."

Well, as stated before, that was 10 years ago. As of January 1978, the Standard Soil Survey for Mills County is complete. All the narrative written, maps inked and sent to Des Moines for checking and then to the printers.

We have had many requests for the printed copy of the Soil Survey. We do not have them yet. It may be as many as five years before we receive them from the printer. However, the information contained in this survey is available to you at our district office.

The Standard Soil Survey is a cooperative venture between the Soil Conservation Service, Mills County Board of Supervisors, Iowa State University and the State Department of Soil Conservation.

Thank you, each and every one of you, who had a hand in this project.

WATERSHEDS

MULE CREEK -- The work plan for Mule Creek Watershed was developed in September 1954 and the last structure in the watershed completed in 1956. Information of land use, soil losses and rain fall have been gathered by the Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the U.S. Weather Bureau. This information is being correlated by the ARS along with new studies to determine the accuracy of the International Soil Loss Formula. By using the information gathered in Mule Creek over the past years, it will be possible to determine the accuracy of the present soil loss information by comparing it with actual conditions.

PONY CREEK -- The watershed work plan for Pony Creek was developed in March 1961. Since that time, there has been many ups and downs in the watershed. However, time has brought progress toward completion of the watershed. Today only one major work of improvement remains to be finished, namely the 4.3 miles of channel improvement across the Missouri bottomlands. It is hoped this can be completed in the very near future, as a contract has been awarded to the Dave Armstrong Co., Inc. of Ames, Iowa. Work is to start this summer.

WAUBONSIE CREEK -- As far as age goes, Waubonsie Creek is the "baby" of the Mills County watershed family. The first structure was built in 1976. Since then, two more have been completed and two are under construction at this time. The district has been working feverishly to obtain the needed easements so another contract can be let. This watershed has met alot of stumbling blocks and we would certainly like to see it progress in a more timely manner.

208??

WHAT is 208??

The United States Congress has passed Public Law 92-500 which states that all lakes, rivers and streams will be swimmable and fishable by 1983.

Section 208 of this law contains a provision which does not allow citizens involvement but requires it. Citizen involvement must take place during the planning process, not by simply allowing the public to comment on the plans, after they have been developed. Citizen participation must be an integral part of the planning process.

At local County Resource Coordinating Committee meetings last year, you elected Harold Tackett as Chairman, Ruth Stevens, Secretary of the local committee. You also elected Richard Biermann to represent you on the Western Iowa Conservancy District Advisory Committee and Roger Jackson to represent you on the Southern Iowa Conservancy District Advisory Committee.

More local meetings will be held during the next two years to establish standards for the statewide 208 Water Quality Management Plan. We look forward to your support and attendance at these meetings.

This commission is the direct result of House File 21 that the legislature passed in 1977 wanting local input for the Land Preservation Policy Commission. At that time they set up a procedure where a local temporary commission would be appointed. Extension was given the responsibility of getting this group in function and counties the size of Mills County there was to be 3 members from the County Board of Supervisors, namely: Austin Bass, Walter Marshall and Virgil Curtis; 3 members from the District Soil Conservation Commissioners, namely: Roger Jackson, Harold Tackett and Richard Bierman; and 3 members from city councils and mayors, namely: Gene Schatz, Clair Clark and Roger Johnson.

This group was organized in August of 1977 and they have had many meetings and three public hearings, trying to come up with a feasible plan for land preservation.

Following are the temporary land preservation policy commission recommendations from Mills County:

1. We question the need for a land use commission when a county has a comprehensive plan that includes land use.
2. A county land use commission should be the final authority on the development and implementation of all land use policies within the county. The commission should be representative elected officials from both urban and rural interests within the county.
3. Agricultural land suitable for food and fiber production should be preserved. Soils need to be identified as to best crop or crops they are suited for.
4. We would encourage the county comprehensive plan to designate industrial, residential, and recreational development areas for Mills County.
5. We would encourage the county zoning ordinance to have specifications for development of industrial, residential and recreational development areas within Mills County.
6. We encourage municipalities to develop zoning ordinances to enhance land use within the incorporated towns of Mills County.
7. We discourage the construction of newly created highways and county roads and encourage a study for the purpose of closing unused and low used roads.
8. Extractive mineral industrial areas will be operated as long as economically feasible and then reclaimed. Procedures should be established whereby newly found deposits could be utilized with reclamation of beautification for recreation at a future date considered.
9. We encourage more total funds, but the continued present rate of incentives to promote and use soil conservation practices.
10. Preservation of scenic landscapes, historical sights, and valuable geological formation is encouraged.
11. The legislature should consider revision of the "Eminent Domain" law to give a prevailing annual compensation for easement to landowners.
12. When railroads are abandoned, we favor adjoining landowners being offered the rights-of-way first and they not be considered for public use.
13. We are opposed to using public funds for buying developmental rights to private land.
14. When DEQ guidelines cause change of land to alternate production practices, they should show profitable financial potential from the recommended change.
15. The State Department of Archeology should have a restricted time table pertaining to maximum length of time they can hold up construction projects.

The purpose of RCA is to ensure that the conduct of programs administered by the Secretary of Agriculture for the conservation of soil, water, and related resources shall be responsive to the long-term needs of the nation.

The Soil Conservation Service must take specific actions on its own and in cooperation with conservation districts, State soil and water conservation agencies, and other natural resource agencies in order to meet the requirements of the act. Further, maximum participation in the RCA process by groups, organizations and the general public is a primary objective of the act and is necessary to ensure that SCS programs respond to the public's needs.

Development of the National RCA program must begin at the local level where the resources are located and managed. Local people wish to express their concerns about our resources and these procedures give them the opportunity to do so. S.C.S. District Conservationists in cooperation with conservation district officials are to hold public meetings to determine citizen concerns and needs.

All organizations, groups, agencies, and individuals who desire to be included in resource appraisal and program development are urged to participate.

C.C.D.C.

CORNER CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

A big boost to the conservation program in Mills County has been the Corner Conservation Development Community or CCDC. Let me tell you a little about this organization. Two commissioners from each of the four southwest counties, Mills, Fremont, Page and Montgomery formed a non-profit organization called the Corner Conservation Development Community or CCDC. It is a very conservation oriented organization. The directors of the CCDC have entered into a contract with the Office of Programming and Planning and with Title VI money, have hired five (5) technicians and one clerk, to help in the four counties. In Mills County, we have a technician, Edward Marshall and the Clerk, Mike Winchester.

The intentions of the program are to give these CETA persons an adequate training experience so they can qualify for permanent positions with S.C.S. or the Department of Soil Conservation. Since the beginning of the program, we have a 50% conversion average and 50% of our CETA personnel are veterans. We feel that this program is serving the county two fold. First, we are training young people in a needed occupation and two, the employees are doing valuable work. These employees work in the district offices of the four counties and one technician in the area office in Shenandoah. It is a very worthwhile program and we would like to see it continued.

Our thanks to the Corner Conservation Development Community.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- 7-77 Conservation tour -- 16 adults and 30 young people from Virginia. Watershed inspection held in Pony, Mule and Waubonsie Creek Watersheds.
- 8-77 County Fair Booth
Pre-bidders tour for 23-1 and 23-2 Waubonsie Creek Watershed
- 9-77 Slide and conservation talk given to DAR and 6th grade at Malvern School. Bid opening for 23-1 and 23-2 Waubonsie Creek Watershed. Stanley Co. low bidder.
- 10-77 Commissioner Bill Stacy resigned. Richard Biermann replaced him. Slide talk given to Malvern Methodist Church group. Mills SCD co-sponsored Soils Judging Contest. Last Acre ceremony held for Standard Soil Survey. Painting Contest held.
- 11-77 Costello and Hyde's LTA's were approved. Washburn, Tackett, Grissom, Maaske and Stevens attended Annual Conference in Fort Dodge.

- 12-77 Connie Lee terminated as CCDC Clerk. Mike Winchester replaced her.
- 1-78 Preston Grissom interviewed by George Thompson for Project 7.
- 2-78 Soil Scientists transferred to Pottawattamie County.
- 3-78 Commissioners and Clerk attended Spring Regional meeting in Red Oak. Contractors Meeting was held.
- 4-78 Randy Reafleng worked for 6 weeks under student work agreement with S.C.S. and Iowa Western Community College.
- 5-78 Lisa Tyner, S.C.S. Soil Conservationist trainee began work.
- 6-78 Site M-1 Waubonsie Creek Watershed was accepted.

FINANCIAL REPORT

I-M Budget -- Commissioner mileage and Office expense --

Total allocation	\$2064.32
Commissioner expenses	988.85
Office Supplies	910.94
Rental for mtg. halls etc.	35.00
Materials for demonstrations	42.05
Office expense	87.48
Total expended	\$2064.32

II-M Budget -- State Personnel salaries, travel and office equipment

Total allocation	\$22,719.58
Travel	220.32
Equipment & repair	415.17
Gross salaries for Clerk & St. Aid	18,977.00
State Share of IPERS	996.40
State Share of FICA	1,129.28
State Share of Insurances	981.41
Total expended	\$22,719.58

III-M Budgets Cost-Share

1973/74	Total spent	\$29,238.77
1974/75	Total spent	22,442.04
75/76	Total spent	24,737.23
76/77	Total allocated	79,560.50
	Total spent	79,413.00
	Total balance	147.50
77/78	Total allocated	77,000.00
	Total spent	76,821.13
	Total balance	178.87

OFFICE STAFF

Louis P. Grissom, D.C.
 Leo VanFosson, Cons. Tech.
 Richard Maaske, St. Eng. Aide
 Lisa Tyner, Soil Cons. Trainee
 Ruth E. Stevens, State Clerk
 Edward Marshall, CCDC Technician
 Michael Winchester, CCDC Clerk

AREA OFFICE STAFF

Erwin O. Aust, A.C.
 Richard Birchmier, Area Engineer
 Marjorie E. Meyer, Area Clerk

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

-6-

REPORTABLE ITEM	NO.	AC.	FT.
District Cooperators	25	6266	
Individuals & Groups Assisted	170		
Ind. & groups applying practices	97		
Resource Conservation Plans	27	4689	
Res. Cons. Plans Revised	10	1268	
Inventory & Evaluations	4		
Inv. & Eval. for Res. Planning	5		
Referrals serviced	61		
Contouring		10641	
Grade Stab. Structure	1		
Minimum Tillage		1710	
Pasture and Hayland Planting		44	
Basin Terraces			4400
Level Terraces			24125
Parallel Terraces			315225
Subsurface drains			2604
Wildlife Upland Habitat Mgt.		34	
Cropland Adq. Treated		1470.5	
Pasture and Hayland Adq. Treated		226	
Grassland to Cropland		100	
Woodland to Cropland		3	

D. C.'s COMMENTS

During fiscal year '78 we have had all of the elements against us at one time or another. Drought, heavy rains, wind and hail -- and because of each of them, we have lost more and more of our top soil.

True, we don't have any jurisdiction over the weather -- but -- we do have jurisdiction over the top soil. Agricultural research and some concerned farmers have proved there are ways of keeping our top soil in place.

The need for additional emphasis on conservation tillage should be the challenge for all of us in the new year. I strongly believe that this one practice can do more to save our top soil than any other single practice. Combined with other conservation practices, such as terraces, it's a real winner.

The advantages of conservation tillage or leaving 3000 lbs/ac. per year of residue on the surface does not stop with just conserving the soil. It holds the moisture too and gives it a chance to soak in. It conserves fuel and time and therefore money. It's a dollars and sense proposition.

Ernest E. Behn, a retired S.C.S.'r has written a book titled "More Profit with Less Tillage". We have several copies of this book in the District Office. The book is well written, in everyday language and says what I have been trying to tell you, in a better way. We would be more than happy to loan you a copy of Mr. Behn's book to read.

The past year has been a busy one. We have been involved in so many facets of conservation. Land Use Preservation, 208, RCA, RC&D, Erosion Control Inventories, Work Loan Analysis etc. and still the field work progresses at a rapid pace.

I see no summer slack period, in construction of practices, with the A.S.C.S. "Diverted Acres" program in force.

Stop in and see us when you're in Malvern and we'll be happy to sit down with you and discuss a conservation plan for your farm. Half a soil conservation plan is better than none --- but why be "half safe?"

Preston Grissom, D.C.