

is County Soil Conservation District

Report for the 1951 Year

The following report covers the activities of the Davis County Soils District during the year 1951 and was compiled by the district commissioners, P. W. Spilman, chairman, Dale Blackwell and Harold Baughman. Virginia Pinnell is secretary for the board.

Before submitting the following report, the commissioners want to bring out that one of the things that has promoted soil conservation in Davis County is the excellent publicity provided by the Davis County newspapers. Through the articles in these papers the story of soil conservation is being told.

One of the most outstanding accomplishments was the Soil Conservation School held at the Community Hall--January 31, February 7, and February 14th. The theme of discussion through-out the meeting was "Saving the Soil and at the same time Raising Production."

On the first day of the school, Val Silkett, Assistant State Conservationist of the Iowa Soil Conservation Service spoke on the topic "What is a head in Soil Conservation". Lethair Grant of Fairfield, head of the Soil Survey in Southeastern Iowa, discussed "Soils in Davis County". In addition to this program a forty minute film--"My Country" was shown.

At the February meetings the following men spoke on the topics as listed:

Dr. Heady -- Economics.

Chuck Greenley -- Farm Records and Farm Management.

Rex Bearsford -- Beef Cattle.

Lester Clapp -- Soil Conservation in General

Dr. Browning -- Soil Conservation

In March it was decided to purchase some books to be put in the public library. Mr. Runkel was to assist the librarian in choosing them.

The following books were placed in the library:

Conservation and Citizenship

Teaching Conservation

Water Appears and Disappears

Birds in the Big Woods

Soil

Road to Survival

Elements of Soil Conservation

Nature's Bank-the-Soil

Plants and Animals Live Together

Raidrops and Muddy Rivers

Would You Like to Have Lived When

The District furnished 100 lbs. of Reeds Canary Grass seed to the 4-H boys clubs. This seed was used to start Reeds Canary Grass beds and seeding grassed waterways under the supervision of the County Extension Director and the local 4-H leaders. These are demonstration plots to the value of Reeds Canary Grass in waterways and as a source of plants to be used in waterways.

Copy

Mr. P. W. Spilman and Mr. Fred Melvin were elected to attend the short course for the District Soil Conservation Commissioners to be held at Ames, Iowa, but due to weather conditions and icy roads they were unable to attend.

At the regular monthly commissioners meeting on April 11th, the commissioners hired Burdette Stamps as State Aid to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Harvey Clover. Mr. Stamps started to work on the 16th of April.

Mayor Smith of Bloomfield was at the meeting of the commissioners on May 9th to ask help from the district in controlling the erosion in the water shed area above Lake Fisher. Lake Fisher is the city water supply for the city of Bloomfield. He reported that he had called a meeting of all the land owners to be held Tuesday, May 15, 1951. The commissioners and Earl Hem of the PMA informed Mayor Smith that they would assist the Mayor in controlling the erosion on the land above the lake. Mr. Sylvan T. Runkel, District Conservationist and Mr. George G. Gutmann, Agricultural Engineer of the Soil Conservation Service, stated that they would give all the help that they possible could to the farmers in the watershed area and would be at the meeting of the farmers May the 15th. In the later part of September, George W. Fonken, Engineering Specialist and Marion F. Ebert, Engineering Aid, together with George G. Gutmann and Jack Chamberlain, Conservation Aid, made a survey of Lake Fisher for siltation.

Mr. Harold Baughman was appointed at the commissioners meeting of July 10th to replace Mr. Fred Melvin, who passed away May 3, 1951. The death of Mr. Fred Melvin was a severe loss to the people of Davis County and to the Soil Conservation. Fred believed in taking care of the soil and did everything in his power to promote it. He helped organize the district and was elected a commissioner in the first election and served in this capacity until his death.

Since Davis County did not have a plowing contest this year, Milford Hornaday, who lives north of West Grove and was chosen first in contour plowing in Appanoose County in 1950, was sent to the district plowing match to represent Davis County. The district payed his entry fee to Lee County, and allowed him fifteen dollars to help meet his expenses to Primrose in Lee County, where the match was to be held.

Mr. Spilman and Mr. Dale Blackwell attended the Annual Convention for the District Commissioners of the Soil Conservation Districts at Des Moines, Iowa, September 11th and 12, and made a report at the October meeting.

In November of this year it was agreed that the SCS use the commissioners file of farm plans, thereby eliminating the printing of two complete farm plans to be retained in the same office.

Copy

Two hundred and twenty-five co-operators and guests attended the annual meeting of the Davis Soil District at the Community Hall Thursday evening, November 27th. An oyster supper was served by the members of T.T.T. Society at 7:00 p.m. Principal speakers for the evening were David Livingston of Washington, Iowa and Duke Norberg of Albia. Both stressed the importance of continued work in the soil conservation service.

Mr. P. W. Spilman, chairman of the local district, presided at the meeting. Group singing was lead by Lloyd Garrett.

Twelve Davis County farmers were presented awards for outstanding work in soil conservation. The award winners were Russell Swift, Eugene Francis, E. L. Younkin, Gerald Van Horn, Lionel Herteen, Conrad Goettsche, D. C. Bollman, Carlon Cary, Urcle Hubbartt, Kenneth McCarty, Charles Mustard and Eugene Grim. The presentation was made by Dale Blackwell, one of the three commissioners for the district. This meeting was so successful that plans are being made to continue the meetings and make awards to the three men in Davis County who have done the most outstanding work in soil conservation during the year.

Following is the summary of the District Accomplishments for the year of 1951:

Applications	Goal	Accomplished
Contour Farming	2000	1542 Ac.
Strip Cropping	336	185 Ac.
Pasture Improvement	813	716 Ac.
Pasture Seeding	310	357 Ac.
Woodland Management	4	4 Ac.
Wildlife Area Improved	62	65 Ac.
Farm Ponds	14	47 No.
Terraces	8.0	4.5 Mi.
Field Diversions	3.5	3.5 Mi.
Farm Drainage	50	283 Ac.
Open Drains	4.0	3.1 Mi.
Fence Row Management	1.0	1.3 Mi.
Constructed Waterways	1.5	1.5 Mi.
Planning:		
Applications Received	666	
Plans Prepared and Signed	50	
Farms Replanned	4	
Follow Up Contracts	97	

P. W. Spilman, Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Secretary

Receipts:

Royalties from Kaser Construction Co.	2647.22
Shepards earth moving contract.	54.95
Transfer from Revolving Fund	19.95
Chamber of Commerce (refund from Fall Festival)	10.00
State Soil Commission (for reimbursement for grass seed)	45.00
Total Receipts for this year -----	2777.12
Cash Balance January 1, 1951 -----	684.73
Total Receipts and balance -----	3461.85

Disbursements:

Harold Baughman (\$5. per meeting)	15.00
Fred Melvin (\$5. per meeting)	45.00
Dale Blackwell (\$5. per meeting)	60.00
P. W. Spilman (\$5. per meeting)	65.00
Davis County Treasurer (Trailer license)	5.00
A. R. Schorder (State and National dues)	55.00
Chamber of Commerce (dues)	15.00
C. E. Fortune (cleaning seed)	1.50
Earl Auspurger (printing calendar's)	3.00
Royal Cafe (suppers)	18.71
Public Library (books)	10.00
McMahon Seed Co. (Reeds Canary)	45.00
State of Iowa (Notary renewal)	5.00
Milfred Hornaday (contest expense)	15.00
Duke Norberg (speaker)	15.00
David Livingston (speaker)	75.00
T.T.T. Society (dinners)	168.75
D. K. Nedrow (royalty)	2206.02
Total Disbursements -----	2817.98
Balance December 31, 1951 -----	643.87

Jan. 1, 1951 to Jan. 1, 1952

Money Expended from 1A Budget for the Year

Commissioner's Mileage and Expense-----	163.27
Office Expense and Supplies-----	81.40
School Expenses and Prize Money-----	90.95
Material for Demonstration-----	45.00
Tranportation-----	1.50
Misc.-----	10.91
Total-----	<u>393.03</u>

Money Expended from 2A Budget for the Year

Clerical Assistance-----	1185.45	99	1199.45
Technical Assistance-----	2190.38		
Total-----	<u>3376.83</u>		
		3389.83	