

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE
TAMA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1947

Wm. J. Kremenak, Chairman	Toledo, Iowa
Fred K. Breune	Gladbrook, Iowa
Clifford Ryan	Chelsea, Iowa
Lee Marsh, Secretary	Toledo, Iowa
Burns M. Bryam, CED	Toledo, Iowa

Soil Conservation Service Personnel assigned to
Tama District:

George E. Summers,	District Conservationist
Frank P. Reed	Work Unit Conservationist
Milburn E. Seide	Conservation Aide

Toledo, Iowa

ANNUAL REPORT
THE TAMA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
STATE OF IOWA

January 1, 1947 to December 31, 1947

INTRODUCTION

It is apparent in our District that a definite need exists to interest farmers to a point of action in planning for and applying conservation measures to the land. Our problem is how to best arouse interest to such a point. We believe a good general educational program has been and is being carried on in our District. Evidence of this is the acceptance by farmers and others in the District of Soil Conservation as an essential activity.

Our District has only made a start towards actually meeting requirements for conservation on the land. About 2% or 45 to 50 farmers have in operation, relatively complete conservation plans; another 2% have made a definite start; while an additional 2% are in planning or starting stages. We estimate that 90% of farmers in the District practice, or have in use, one or more of the accepted Conservation measures, but they are principally of a soil building or improving nature, such as tiling, use of fertilizers, including limestone, and rotation of crops.

Evidence of need for action in interesting farmers to plan and apply comprehensive conservation plans, became apparent in 1946, when applications for planning assistance were very few. To try and arouse farmers to the point of action was one of our major objectives during 1947. We believe some definite progress was made to this end in 1947. Additional and continued effort is essential by the District in 1948 and succeeding years, for our district to have a satisfactory rate of progress.

OPERATIONS

The District requested and received added assistance from the Extension Service in interesting farmers of several areas to farm into conservation planning groups. Result of this activity were the formation of ten planning groups containing 83 farmers. Planning meetings were held with five of these groups by Soil Conservation Service personnel, assigned to our District. Twenty plans were written. The remaining plans for these groups are to be prepared during 1948. Thirty two of the farms represented in the groups performed contouring as a starting practice.

The District in cooperation with the A A A prepared and carried out a contour staking training school for a group of selected Township A A A committeemen. The Districts Soil Conservation Service Technicians

conducted the school. Some 30 farms were given assistance by the committeemen as a result of this work. Total results in 1947 indicate that approximately 7500 acres were contour operated in our District.

MEMORANDUM WITH STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

A memorandum of understanding between the State Conservation Commission of Iowa and our District was signed in October, 1947. This memorandum provides for cooperative effort on the problems of wildlife management within the district.

Prior to the approval of the memorandum, a luncheon meeting was held in Toledo to discuss the situation. Attending this meeting were representatives of the State Commission, the State Soil Districts Board, District Commissioners, Conservation officers, interested farmers, County Extension personnel, A A A Committeemen and assigned Soil Conservation personnel.

One major objective of the understanding will be an effort to establish Conservation measures on the Union Grove Lake watershed.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Tama County Rural Schools, under the direction of County Superintendent E. P. Simmons, again followed the recommended course of study on Soil Conservation. As an added feature in 1947, Supt. Simmons conducted a Conservation Scrapbook contest between the rural schools. Ninety-six books were prepared and submitted for judging by the District Commissioners. Ribbons for first, second, and third in each Township were awarded for the top books. Later in the year the books were exhibited at the Iowa State Fair as a Tama County Rural School Exhibit.

A series of contour layout demonstrations for 4-H Clubs were held in the spring. These were held as a part of the Counties 4-H program of conservation education. The youth assistant, the County Extension Director and the Districts Soil Conservation Service Technicians collaborated in holding the demonstrations.

The second in a series of contour plowing contests sponsored jointly by the Marshall, Grundy and Tama Districts, and the Tama County Livestock and Fair Association was held near Gladbrook in August. General interest was high and a good crowd attended.

Working with the Tama County Ministerial Association, a tour was held in May on two farms having good conservation plans in operation. Eleven ministers attended and the Earl Lyon and Burton Whalin farms were visited. A highlight of the day was the excellent luncheon served the group by Mrs. Whalin. Following, a discussion regarding District activities, was held.

General education received continued attention in 1947. Good cooperation was received from newspapers, radio stations, civic groups and governmental agencies.

EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES

Due to limitation of experimental funds, the direction of row plots were not renewed in 1947. However, one tillage plot on the J. D. Hayes farm was continued for the third year. Due to weather conditions the third year for the tillage work was not completed on the Earl Lyon farm. However, plans for 1948 have been made to continue studies on both farms. Agricultural experiment station workers at Iowa State College and the District Soil Conservation Service Technicians will aid in this work.

Collaborating with the Extension Service, studies and results of using various grades of Commercial Fertilizers were carried on by three District cooperating farmers.

SEED PRODUCTION

Failure of two bromo-grass seeding plots to respond properly, limited the returns from the Districts program to expand production of adapted seed. One plot of 5 acres on the Joe Kucera farm was harvested and will yield approximately 1000 pounds of certified seed. Of this amount 400 pounds will be returned to this District for additional seed production plots.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 1948

1. Support and encourage continued Soil Conservation Education in rural schools.
2. Maintain effective relationships with all groups, agencies and individuals, that may have a part in maintaining and increasing district activities.
3. Secure where possible necessary cooperation to further experimental studies to aid local farmers in developing conservation plans.
4. Continue organizations of planning groups.
5. Continue to further general information on conservation to all people.

REMARKS

We feel the Districts program has been hampered, at least in our Tama County District, by the lack of an operating fund of some form. District Commissioners are charged with the responsibility of holding certain types of educational and interest meetings, and also must hold elections. Many of these meetings are of necessity, held in public places, and in practically all such places, nominal charges are made. Also at various times, correspondence, requiring postage, and other minor expenses become a necessity. It is for expenses of this nature that Commissioners have no means of being reimbursed.

The educational and Technical organizations and agencies with which the Districts work, have been extremely tolerant of the District being unable to furnish money of an incidental nature. In most cases these organizations have paid bills of this kind. We believe it is time the District should be able to pay its own way and meet its obligations without the embarrassment of continually asking others for aid.

We do not believe that under present operating procedures, Districts, generally, have need for a large fund. However, we do believe the program is of sufficient importance to warrant financial aid from taxes in nominal amounts up to \$300.00 per year.

We strongly urge those, who are nearest empowering State bodies, to give consideration to requesting of such bodies, some financial relief, either by amendments to existing laws, or changes thereof, to permit sources of County or State funds being granted Soil Conservation Districts, to enable District Commissioners to meet the financial obligations of their office.

Soil Conservation District

ANNUAL REPORT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES

District	<u>Tama County</u>	<u>Toledo</u>	<u>Iowa</u>
	(Name)	(Supervisor's Headquarters)	(State)

Period January 1, 1947 to December 31, 1947

RECEIPTS (By Source)

1. Balance brought forward	\$15.53
2. Philip Kucera Lime Spreader	3.00
3. Welby Dixon Lime Spreader	1.70
4. Balloun & Ross Grain Drill	3.25

Total	\$23.48
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EXPENDITURES (Classified)

1. Drill Repairs	\$ 5.15
2. Postage	1.00

Total	<u>6.15</u>
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Balance carried forward	\$17.33
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		<u>This Period</u>	<u>To Date</u>
Educational Meetings	Number	15	216
	Attendance	1256	8749
Tours	Number	1	6
	Attendance	11	84
Demonstrations	Number	4	90
	Attendance	42	647
Training School	Number	2	8
	Attendance	31	77
Exhibits	Number	0	12
	Atte		
News Articles	Number	34	159
Commissioners Meetings		11	45
Group Planning Meetings	Number	16	38
	Attendance	122	286
Motion Pictures	Times shown	3	74
	Attendance	65	1256

/s/ Wm. J. Kremenak
 Chairman, Tama County Soil
 Conservation District.