

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT
of the
WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Council Bluffs, Iowa
1977

* The West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District, and *
* the Council Bluffs Field Office of the Soil Conservation Ser- *
* vice, have moved their office to Room 221 Federal Building , *
* Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501. Please use that address on all *
* correspondence with this office. Our telephone number has re- *
* mained the same (328-2489). *
*
* The Commissioners wish to take this opportunity to thank you *
* for your continued cooperation and support of the West Potta- *
* wattamie County Soil Conservation District. *

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Room 221 Federal Bldg.
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501
Phone: 328-2489

THIRD CLASS

FOREWORD

This is an annual report. It is also an account of the most recent chapter in the outstanding history of the West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District.

A fortunate mating of foresight and dedication provided the parentage of this district. From its infancy the district has compiled an enviable record of accomplishment and achievement.

Subsequent pages of this report will reveal, in detail, the giant strides that have been taken in conservation practices. They will reveal a story of watershed accomplishment second to none. They will reveal the untiring spirit of cooperation that has drawn all elements of the community together in a common conservation effort.

Not many years ago conservation of soil and water resources in this county was a dream. A dream held and nurtured by a mere handful of men.

Today that dream is a reality. A reality of tremendous spread and impact. A reality that recognizes that while much has been done, a great deal remains yet undone.

To better understand that which has been done we recommend this report to your careful study. In the accomplishment of that which remains to be done, we solicit your understanding and support.

C. W. McManamy
Assistant Commissioner

DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY

Eldon Ravlin, Chairman, 1222 Harrison St., Council Bluffs
Derald Blois, Vice-Chairman, Honey Creek
Floyd Fischer, Commissioner, Rt. 5, Council Bluffs
Lloyd Brokman, Commissioner, Rt. 1, McClelland
Clint Goos, Commissioner, Rt. 1, Council Bluffs
Louie Fahrenkrog, Assistant Commissioner, Carson
C. W. McManamy, Assistant Commissioner, Rt. 3, Council Bluffs
Steve Hardiman, Assistant Commissioner, 1416 Ave. M, Council Bluffs
Don Untiedt (County Extension Director) - District Secretary

STATE EMPLOYEES

Mrs. Oneta L. Riggs, State Clerk Kevin E. Holcombe, State Aide

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES ASSISTING THE DISTRICT

Cal Cox, District Conservationist
Ronald Williams, Soil Conservationist (Reported for duty on 1-9-78)
Warren A. Vorthmann, Conservation Technician
Kendell W. Olin, Area Conservationist
Mrs. Eileen Moore, Area Clerk (Retired 8/77)
Miss Debbie Wallace, Area Clerk
Norman Koester, Area Engineer
Mark Jensen, Area Engineer

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FINANCIAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 1977 Budget

Soil Conservation Districts receive funds from the State of Iowa to assist them in carrying out local programs. These funds are allocated to the districts (sub-Governmental Units) by the Department of Soil Conservation on a need basis evidenced by work loads and budgets submitted by District Commissioners.

The allocation is broken down into two separate funds. They are, the 1M Budget used for commissioners expenses, office supplies, printing and other office expenses; and the 2M Budget which is used to employ a clerk for the office, and a full time aide to help with field work.

1M Budget

ALLOCATION	\$ 2,439.49
COMMISSIONERS EXPENSES	1,299.37
(mileage & meals)	
OFFICE SUPPLIES	806.43
OFFICE EXPENSE	87.92
MEETING EXPENSE	123.54
CONTESTS	65.73
PRINTING EXPENSE	56.50
TOTAL EXPENDED	2,439.49
Returned to Department of Soil Conservation	0.00
	<u>\$ 2,439.49</u>

2M Budget

ALLOCATION	\$18,195.00
SALARIES - Clerical and Technical	14,911.43
CLERKS & AIDES TRAVEL	272.26
DISTRICT EQUIPMENT	266.40
DISTRICT SHARE OF IPERS AND SOCIAL SECURITY	1,583.68
STATE EMPLOYEES INSURANCE	222.18
TOTAL EXPENDED	17,255.95
Returned to Department of Soil Conservation	939.05
	<u>\$18,195.00</u>

The District has a revolving fund to help them finance programs for which the 1M and 2M funds cannot be used. Some of the programs are: Conservation Education materials, information programs, and dues to State and National Associations of Soil Conservation Districts:

Working Balance 12-31-76	\$ 265.49
1977 Reciepts	137,364.79
1977 Expenditures	136,936.15
Balance on hand 12-31-77	694.13

The District also maintains a savings account for emergency use. The balance of that account is \$2020.58.

DISTRICT PROGRESS

	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
NEW COOPERATORS	30	30
INDIVIDUALS & GROUPS ASSISTED	202	243
FARMERS APPLYING PRACTICES	171	180
CONSERVATION PLANS PREPARED	32	30
CONSERVATION PLANS REVISED	9	10
RESOURCE PLANS PREPARED	2	2
INVENTORIES & EVALUATIONS		
(units of Government)	3	3
(individuals)		20

MAJOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES APPLIED

GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE	4	3
CONSERVATION TILLAGE	3,095.1 ac.	^{43,084} 430,084 ac.
TERRACES	67 miles	82 miles

OTHER ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS HELD	12
SPECIAL MEETINGS	48
OFFICE CALLERS	610
RADIO TALKS	7
TALKS TO SCHOOLS & CIVIC GROUPS	6
OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS	1180 Students Attended
6TH GRADE CAMPOUT	220 Students attended with a sponsor for every 5 students

STATE COST SHARE
THROUGH
WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District was allocated \$100,021.68 in State Cost Share Funds for the 1976-77 Fiscal Year, and another \$40,000.00 in State Cost Share Funds for the 1977-78 Fiscal Year.

All of this money, except for the current balance of \$8401.64, has been used in sharing the cost of installing terraces for farmers at 50% of the cost.

We would like to urge all farm owners to sign up as a District Cooperator. The Soil Conservation Service will assist each cooperator with a special conservation plan for their farm. You must be a District Cooperator in order to be eligible for State Cost Sharing Funds.

The allocation for our District usually falls short of meeting the application requests recieved from farmers. We process the applications on a first come, first serve basis, with priorities going to watershed areas.

You should contact the Soil Conservation Service (Phone: 328-2489) if you have any questions.

Floyd Fischer
Commissioner

GOLDEN HILLS
RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY

The Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development Planning Agency has been organized for more than a year. A great deal of time and effort have been used in developing this program. A set of By-laws was drafted and approved after several changes were made. District Boards were elected and an Executive Board was selected (one from each District).

This Board prepared an application for approval, and with several letters and signatures of recommendations, was sent to the State Officials for approval. It was approved, signed by the Governor, and is now in the hands of the Secretary of Agriculture for final approval.

In the meantime this board has not been idle. An Agricultural Committee was appointed. This board feels Conservation tillage plays a big part in controlling soil and wind erosion, pollution, etc.

A site has been acquired south of Oakland for a demonstration plot, six different types of tillage will be used, and at least one or more field days will be held during the spring and summer.

Another board was selected to study erosion on public roads. A great deal of research has been done, and this may be one of the proposed projects when we are accepted.

Many applications have been submitted and only a few can be approved this year. We sincerely hope to be one of those selected.

Lloyd Brokman
Commissioner

"208" REPORT

Another new year is here and we are closer to the deadline. What deadline? November of 1978. Let's go back to the beginning.

In 1972, Congress passed the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments. This Act set forth water quality goals and established provisions for curbing and eliminating water pollution.

Section 208 of the 1972 Amendment Act calls for development of State and area wide Water Quality Management Programs.

There are two sources of pollution -- point and non-point. POINT sources are end of pipe discharges, sewage plants, industries and some concentrated animal feedlots. NON-POINT sources are rainwater runoff of buildings, streets, agricultural lands, construction sites, mines and forests.

Agricultural pollutants (non-point) have been identified as sediments, nutrients, salts, organics, pesticides, herbicides and disease producing organisms. Non-point pollution is where our soil conservation district becomes involved.

The goal of this law is to prevent, reduce and eliminate water pollution by 1983. By November of 1978, the year we are in, a plan will be ready as to how these waters will be cleaned.

Federal cost-sharing will be available. All affected farmers should keep informed through this office, through news releases or by attending informational meetings held within the county.

In 1976, each county in Iowa, formed a Resource Co-ordinating Committee. In Pottawattamie County (East & West) those elected were: Robert Summy, Crescent, Chairman; Delmar Goos, Carson, Secretary; Cliff Stille, Macedonia, Representative to the Southern Iowa Conservancy District; Clint Goos, Council Bluffs, to represent the Western Iowa Conservancy District. This committee held two meetings in 1977 for information and public input. Interest at these meetings was shown by the Board of Supervisors, ASCS, SCS Personnel, Land Contractors, and by the Soybean Growers Association.

Good Conservation Practices can reduce sediment pollution from 50%-90% by keeping rainfall where it drops and by keeping soil on the terrain.

Our land and waters are precious to us. With God's wisdom, may we learn to care for these gifts He has given us.

Clint Goos
Commissioner

THE LAND WE INHERIT

"Take care of your land", John Randolph's mother used to say, "and your land will take care of you". Not only in rural America but in the cities also, this is about all that is asked of us -- to take care of our land.

There were 3,137,999 children born in 1973 in the United States. They will inherit our land, not in the literal sense, of course, of these few mountain acres, but in the larger sense, they inherit tradition, values and obligations.

America has its faults; none of the seven sins have passed us by. We still have millions of persons who know hunger, poverty and despair, but you are inheriting a rule of law that dates from the Magna Carta; you are inheriting all the culture legacy that is embraced in the Christian tradition.

Don't ever be ashamed of the material wealth of your country. Americans have worked for that wealth, for the products of our factories, the harvest of our farms, and we have showed that wealth more generously than any nation of the world. We ought never to apologize for this bounty. We ought, rather, to give thanks for our good fortune.

Someone has said it was his ambition to leave his community a little better than he found it. Landowners are only stewards of the land, to use during their lifetime. Nobody carries the land into eternity, but proper stewardship is something which can carry weight into the eternal beyond.

Eldon Ravlin
Chairman

WORKING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

As you probably know, District Commissioners are elected every six years. In six years time, a lot of different things can and do happen. Since its beginning in 1944, the District's program of activities has expanded tremendously. The District is involved with Environmental Education, MAPA, The Western Conservancy District, RC&D, and Region 13 Soil Conservation Districts. We work with such organizations as: Iowa Department of Soil Conservation, Conservation Commission, SCS, FHA, Extension Service, NACD, County Board of Supervisors, ASCS, Rural Development Committee, ARS, News Papers, Radio, T.V., Schools, and many others.

Our jobs are becoming more important with new laws being passed, such as the Iowa Conservancy District Law. We work with all these organizations, as well as running our own fundamental organization.

Deciding who gets cost-share assistance and how much; who is accepted as a co-operator; who is cancelled; and working with watersheds, are normal business.

The Commissioners wish to extend their gratification to all organizations for their cooperation in helping make the District a success.

Louie Fahrenkrog
Assistant Commissioner

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

1977 was a very productive year for the West Pottawattamie County Environmental Education Council.

Under the Auspices of the West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District, the highlight of the year was, as in the past, the annual Sixth Grade Campout.

The Campout was held the last weekend of April at lake Arrowhead. The, approximately, 200 sixth-grade students from throughout the County participated in activities such as Forest Habitat and Soil Building, Fishing, Star Gazing and many other activities designed to broaden their educational backgrounds.

The ten active members of the Education Council held eight monthly meetings at Iowa Western Community College in which all preparations for the campout were made.

In the past, the Council has sponsored a Fall Teacher's Work Shop in Environmental Education. That did not materialize in 1977 due to the difficulty in recruiting participants outside the Council Bluffs School District.

In addition to the annual campout, 1978 holds promise for the return of Environmental Education Work Shops.

In the makings now, are plans for "Drive-In" Work Shops to be held at I.W.C.C. at selected times throughout the year. Also, the Council is promoting a graduate level course taught by Dr. Bernard L. Clausen of the University of Northern Iowa to be held in June. A meeting is being scheduled for February for the nine area Soil Conservation Districts in which the Council hopes to accomplish two goals: First -- to promote the idea of Education Councils, and Second -- to promote Dr. Clausen's Program.

Steve Hardiman
Assistant Commissioner

RESULT DEMONSTRATION PLOTS
ILLUSTRATE CONSERVATION TILLAGE

Eight corn and soybean fields came under the scrutiny of county farmers throughout the summer of 1977. All of the minimum tillage demonstration fields were planted as they have been in recent years without the use of the once traditional moldboard plow. A variety of tillage methods such as chisel plowing, heavy disks, disk-chiseling, no till, and buffalo till planters were used. Participating farmers included: Don Casson, Rt. 2, McClelland; Kenneth Christiansen and Sons, Rt. 3, Council Bluffs; Clint Goos, Rt. 1, Council Bluffs; Jack Hester, Rt. 1, Honey Creek; Marvin Larson, Underwood; Bernard Schnoor, Silver City; Harry and Tom Schultz, Crescent; Roger Sealock, Rt. 4, Council Bluffs; Bill Vorthmann, Silver City; and the Treynor A.R.S. Farm.

Cal Cox, District Conservationist, initiated the idea of the project which featured self-guided tours of the fields. All of the fields were identified with large signs. The Council Bluffs Nonpareil located a mail box at each field, and from the box interested individuals obtained a brochure and a map which told the location of the other fields. Cooperators report seeing a number of Sunday afternoon tourists checking the fields. This was particularly so in June when it was possible to observe the residue from the previous crop on the top of the soil.

This residue that protects the soil against soil and water erosion is one of the primary advantages of conservation tillage farming practices. Residues from each field were scientifically measured shortly after the corn or soybeans were planted. After planting, residues of the ten fields averaged 2,456 lbs. The range was from 1,150 to 3,850 lbs. Other advantages include an estimated \$10 to \$20 per acre of lower production costs, less labor, and the conservation of moisture which may increase yields in periods of drought stress.

Throughout the summer your County Extension Director, along with Area Iowa State Extension Agronomist Jay West; and Soil, Water, and Waste Management Specialist Mark Hanna, evaluated the fields. 87 percent of the annual and broadleaf weeds were effectively controlled. The estimated corn yield was 109.7 bushels of 15.5% corn.

Various types of minimum tillage practices have been a part of the farming scene in Pottawattamie County over the past ten years. Most of the demonstration fields hadn't been plowed for several years. The yields and observations of the summer of 1977 indicate that land can be consistently farmed with conservation tillage practices. We were surprised at the number of operators that have been using these practices for several years. We look forward to working with all cooperators as they become interested in changing their tillage practices.

Don Untiedt
County Extension Director

CONTESTS

GOODYEAR AWARDS:

Goodyear Conservation Awards Program provides recognition for outstanding accomplishments by Soil and Water Conservation Districts and their cooperating landowners and land users. Your West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District placed first in 1975, in the Southern half of Iowa after placing second in 1973. The landowners, cooperators and friends of Soil and Water Conservation have a good reason to be proud of their districts accomplishments. The Goodyear Awards Program was founded in the Midwest in 1947 and expanded to all 48 Continental States in 1953 and all states and territories in the early 1960 s. Mor than 2700 conservationists have been guests of the rubber company on these awards tours since the program began in 1947.

WORLD HERALD SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRAM:

The district also enters the World Herald Soil Conservation Program each year. The contestants in this conservation program include districts in Western Iowa and Nebraska. The contest is based on performance of district activities and accomplishments. Your West Pottawattamie District was 1st place winner for Western Iowa in 1975.

NACD-ALLIS CHALMERS Environmental Conservation Education Awards Program was founded in 1975. That year your West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District won 1st place in the Regional competition and placed second in the Upper Mississippi Region.

IOWA SOIL CONSERVATION AWARDS PROGRAM:

This program is presented each year. Local winners are chosen by a committee from the Districts Governing Body. This past year your District has chosen the following winners in their respective Divisions:

Eldon Young (Division I - Owner-Operator). Elton farms 110 acres, has 93 acres protected by terraces, and 77 acres of cropland.

Robert Hough-Marvin Larsen (Division II - Landlord-Tenant) This farm has 160 acres. 103 acres are protected by terraces, and 135 acres of cropland.

Irvin Larsen (Division III - New Cooperator). There 236 acres of cropland in this 283 acre farm. 224 acres are protected by terraces.

All of the District Winners are to be congratulated for a job well done.

SOIL CONSERVATION SPEECH CONTEST:

Your West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District, sponsors of the West Pottawattamie County Environmental Education Council, holds a Speech Contest for students in grades 7 through 12. The District Winner then goes to the Regional contest, and if he wins 1st place at that level, goes on to state competition. The District Winner in 1976 was Dale Williams, 9th grade student at Woodrow Wilson Junior High-school. Dale placed third in the Regional Competition. Merle Rasmussen, Senior at the Underwood School was the 1975 District Winner. Merle placed 1st in the Regional competition and 3rd in the state.