

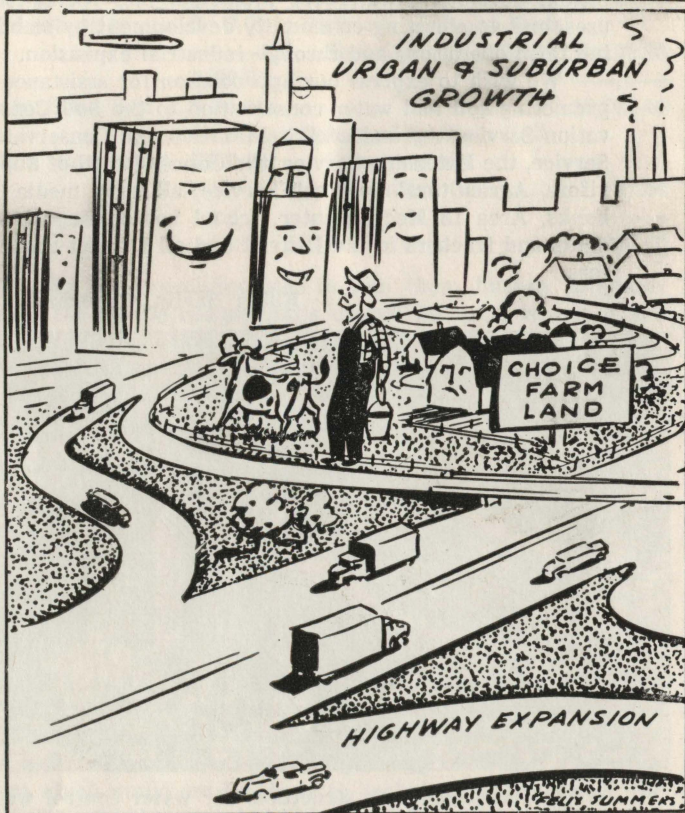
940 - Soils Con. district

25TH ANNUAL REPORT

ATTEND BANQUET FEB. 25

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA

THE SQUEEZE IS ON



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FOREWORD

The West Pottawattamie Soil and Water Conservation District takes this opportunity to report the accomplishments in soil and water conservation for 1969.

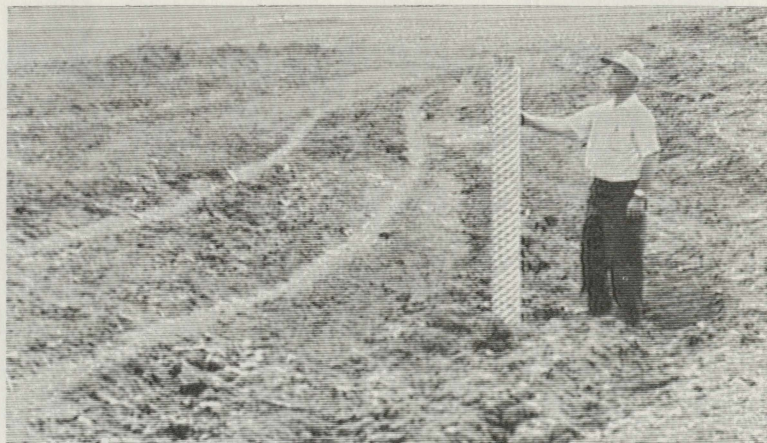
Resource planning and development has been carried out many years on individual farms following the basic principles of using and treating the land according to its capabilities and needs. These basic principles are still good.

Today, however, we recognize a broadened concept. Conservation now means the development, protection, use and management of **all** our resources for the needs and enjoyment of all people. Its concern is not with nature alone, but with human resources as well.

Entire communities are now working together to identify their needs. Included in their goals is improved land utilization and water conservation, control of stream pollution, developing water for municipal and recreational uses, and accelerating community development by stabilizing farm operations and through industrial expansion.

We wish to express our appreciation for assistance in promoting soil and water conservation to the Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Extension Service, the County Board of Supervisors, Agricultural Research Service, all news media, all banks, Area 13 Media Center, school boards, superintendents and teachers in the District and all District cooperators.

Eldon Ravlin, Chairman



70 terrace intakes or structures for water control were installed. Surface water is collected in the terrace channel and removed through the intake.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Soil Conservation Districts receive funds from the State of Iowa to assist them in carrying out local programs. These funds are allocated to districts (sub-governmental units) by the State Soil Conservation Committee 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 and part-time employee to help with field work.

1M Budget		2M Budget	
Allocation	\$500.00	Allocation	\$6300.00
Commissioners expenses		Salaries — Clerical	
(mileage and meals)	\$229.57	and Technical	\$5680.26
Office supplies	\$230.70	Equipment Repair	\$ 36.50
Office expense	\$ 25.00	Clerk's travel	\$ 65.03
Speech contest prize	\$ 3.00	District's share of Social	
		Security and IPERS	\$ 198.75
	\$488.27		
Returned to State Soil	\$ 11.73		\$6,242.46
		Returned to State Soil	
Conservation Committee ..	\$500.00	Conservation	
		Committee	\$ 57.54
			\$6300.00

The District has a revolving fund to help them finance programs for which the 1M and 2M budget 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.

1969 Receipts	\$104.50
1969 expenditures	\$281.53
Balance on hand 12/31/69	\$224.31

The First Twenty Five Years

Twenty five years ago some far-sighted farmers like Don Anderson, Glen Craft, Guy Moss, Ernest Harms, W. H. Grote and others saw the need for soil and water conservation in Pottawattamie County. They were especially concerned about organizing as a Soil Conservation District which would entitle them to technical assistance of the Soil Conservation Service, a technical branch of the United States De-

partment of Agriculture. They began circulating petitions in 1941, but the necessary signatures were difficult to obtain due to bad weather and road conditions.

The sign up for a soils district was completed January 28, 1945 when members of the Extension Service soils committee met. A total of 463 signatures were counted on the petition which was 25% of the landowners of West Pottawattamie County. Petitions were submitted to the State Soil Conservation Committee and a hearing was held February 17, 1944 at the City Hall Auditorium in Council Bluffs with 100 farmers in attendance. The hearing favored holding a soils district referendum on March 3, 1944. Results of the referendum were 134 favoring the district and 8 not favoring the district. Nominees for county district commissioners and those selected were as follows: Ernest Harms, chairman; Glenn Craft; and Don Anderson; and Clifford Johnson, secretary.

A charter was granted on April 28, 1944 officially recognizing the establishment of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District.

Commissioners who served during this 25 year period are as follows: Ernest Harms, 1944-1958; Don Anderson, 1944-1952; Glen Craft, 1944; William Strohbehn, 1945-1958; Louie Fahrenkrog, 1952-1963; Lawrence Dittmer, 1958-1959; Eldon Ravlin, 1959-present; Don Blatt, 1958-1968; Jack O'Hara, 1963-1966; Harvey Moss, 1966-present; Derald Blois, 1968-present.

It can be said without doubt that district progress is directly attributable to their efforts. They are elected by the people and serve without pay.

Some of the highlights are: the organization of the District and receiving its charter on April 28, 1944; winning the first Goodyear Award in the state of Iowa for the year July 1, 1947 to July 1, 1948; and winning the Omaha World-Herald Soil Conservation contest in 1945.

We have seen other changes take place as well, such as from contouring of cultivated crops to terracing and the use of rotations using grasses and legumes to more intensive cropping. The most significant change, we believe, is from the old moldboard plow-built conventional terrace to dozer-built parallel terrace to "cut and fill" storage type terraces using terrace intakes.

A more complete summary of district activities and progress will be presented at a banquet to be held in Underwood Community Hall on Wednesday, February 25, 1970 commemorating the 25th anniversary of the District. Tickets will be on sale at all banks in the District and a selected farmer in your community. Plan to attend.

Today's Terraces for Tomorrow's Farming

Would you trade a system of terraces with point or odd rows for a system of even parallel rows running the full length of the terrace? This is what several West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District co-operators have done. Some have gone a step further and included water management systems. All surface water is controlled by the use of intakes placed in the terrace channels using underground conduit (drain tile) for its removal. Some systems use only intakes and pipe. The surface water flows between terraces.

Some advantages are: parallel rows, controlled water removal, straight or nearly straight rows, elimination of grass waterways, accommodates larger equipment and in some cases, there is less earth-moving involved.

The disadvantages are: higher cost and possibly more care needs to be taken in the farming operation to keep from damaging the intakes.

These methods of terracing are becoming quite popular and will probably be more in demand in the future. This is closer to complete land improvement for better farmability, erosion control and water management. These are today's terraces for tomorrow's farming approaching the ultimate in conservation including other good soil management practices.

DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY

Eldon Ravlin, Chairman
Harvey Moss, Commissioner
Derald Blois, Commissioner
Louie Fahrenkrog, Assistant Commissioner
Con Fischer, Assistant Commissioner

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES ASSISTING THE DISTRICT

Leon D. Foderberg, Area Conservationist
Gerald Hollander, Area Engineer
Cal Cox, District Conservationist
Arlyn Gesell, Soil Conservationist
Don Barnhart, Conservation Technician

Arlyn Gesell has been promoted to District Conservationist at Carroll effective January 12, 1970. The Commissioners appreciate the fine work he has done the past 2 years.

STATE EMPLOYEE

Mrs. Mona Mackey, Clerk

NOTICE: Our office is no longer under the Federal switchboard system. Our new telephone number is 328-2489.

District Progress

New cooperators	21
Farmers assisted	278
Farmers applying practices	123
Conservation plans prepared	44
Conservation plans revised	23

MAJOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES APPLIED

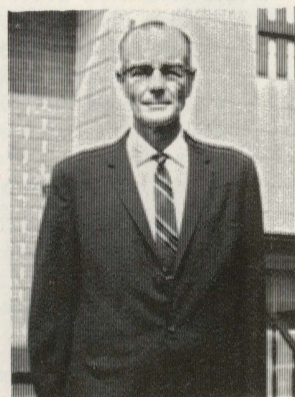
Terraces	253,257 ft.
Drainage field ditch	14,970 ft.
Tile	13,833 ft.
Land leveling	135.6 acres
Grass waterways	6,120 ft.
Erosion control structures	3
Farmstead windbreaks	4
Pipeline for livestock water	2,170 ft.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Meetings held	12
News stories published	15
Office callers	454
Phone calls	791
Radio talks	12
School talks	5

Conservation education materials were furnished to Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and to the junior and senior high schools in Council Bluffs. Counseling services were provided by Cal Cox and Arlyn Gesell to several Boy Scouts receiving Soil and Water Conservation Merit Badges.

Eldon D. Ravlin was named Iowa's Outstanding District Commissioner for 1969. Ravlin has been a commissioner for 10 years and was instrumental in starting 5 watershed programs. He is also chairman of the Ryan-Henschal watershed board, contracting officer in Indian Creek watershed and assistant contracting officer in Ryan-Henschal watershed.



The Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors making their annual inspection of the watershed structures. They are co-sponsors along with the District Commissioners of the watershed programs in the District.

WATERSHED REPORT

By Eldon Ravlin

Watershed progress during 1969 was curtailed due to the reduction of Federal funds for Public Law 566 watershed construction. No watershed projects were started or finished this year. The only work done this year was repair on one site in Indian Creek watershed under the maintenance fund program.

The bright spot in 1969 was the approval by the Federal government for a work plan in North Pigeon Creek watershed and hope that some construction might start in 1970.

We hope the work plan for Simon Run Watershed will be completed in 1970.

The four small structures in Ryan-Henschal watershed have been designed and ready for construction when funds become available. This would leave only two road structures to be completed.

Indian Creek structures are being designed and will be ready for construction when funds are available.

Mamie Creek and Twin Ponies watershed applications have been approved, but have not received planning priority from the Federal government.

While we wait for Public Law 566 watershed funds, we should apply all the necessary upland treatment possible. Competition will be great for funds and the watersheds with the highest percentage of upland treatment practices (terraces, etc.) completed will have priority.

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE
Soil Conservation District
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