

ANNUAL REPORT

DES MOINES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

-

Period Ending Dec. 31, 1949

ANNUAL REPORT

DES MOINES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

-

Period Ending December 31, 1949

The Des Moines County Soil Conservation District submits herewith its report for the activities during the year 1949. We are pleased to report that the district is in a very healthy condition with a large number of active applications ahead and a big increase in conservation practices applied and particularly terracing. Three major needs in this district are pasture renovation, terracing and the adoption of proper rotations. Other practices are also needed but particular emphasis is being given to the three mentioned.

The district has carried on a wide variety of activities during the year. In January a two-day short course was held for about sixty selected farmers. In spite of the very inclement weather, the attendance was average to about forty for the two days. The program was presented by members of the extension staff, supplemented with comments by farmers and soil conservation personnel.

A soils tour was held in June to visit several farms and permit people to observe conservation measures as they are applied to different situations. About fifty people went on this tour. Following the tour on the ground an air tour was set up covering approximately the same route and about 25 people took this trip.

The Farm Service Company has facilities for soil testing and held two soil conservation meetings for its clients; one in February and one in September with a total attendance of about 100 farmers. Supplementing this, a Soil Clinic was held by the district in October with an attendance of thirty.

Cooperating with the soil conservation district, the Burlington Chamber of Commerce held its traditional Soil Conservation Contest with twenty-five entrants and substantial prizes for the three outstanding conservationists during 1949. In December a Farm Institute was held at which time announcement was made of the winners of this contest and the corn yield contest. One hundred seventy-three people attended the luncheon and approximately eighty people attended the forenoon and afternoon programs.

The district held eight neighborhood meetings setting up planning groups in which they were assisted by the Extension Service and Soil Conservation Service personnel. Credit should be given to the extension service for the very fine method in which it handled the educational program during the year. It is estimated that more than one hundred news releases appeared during the year dealing directly with the soil conservation program.

The Soil Conservation Service provided full-time planner and aid and part time assistance of a soils technician, district conservationist, office help and engineering assistance as needed.

The local P.M.A. office added stimulus to the program by its work in soil sampling and laying of contour lines on several farms. Some of the 4-H clubs have become interested in soil conservation and one of the teams presented a demonstration at the county fair on how to build terraces with a mold board plow. Several meetings have been held with wildlife groups in the county, veterans groups, and the adult farmers at Yarmouth. The cooperation of the local newspapers has been very good during the year and particular credit should be given to the Burlington Hawkeye Gazette and the Mediapolis New Era for their contribution to the program. Mention should also be made to the contribution of K B U R which has made its facilities available to the Farm Bureau and the Extension Service.

The present officers of the district are Howard Gieselmen, chairman; John Blaul, commissioner; Kenneth Redfern, commissioner; Horace Sutton, Jr., treasurer; Walter B. Eyre, secretary. Soil Conservation Service personnel are Raymond Audsley, farm planner and Grant Stenenson, conservation aid. In addition to these some extra help has been employed under the new state funds to speed up planning and application within the district.

A brief summary of the accomplishment during the year is listed below.

Contour	2200 Acres
Terraces	24 Miles
Strip Crop	50 Acres
Pasture Renovation	90 Acres
Tile Drainage	45 Acres
Structures	7
Water courses	3½ Miles

Respectfully submitted,

Des Moines County Soil Conservation District

s/s Howard Gieselman
By: Howard Gieselman, Chairman

Soil Conservation District
ANNUAL REPORT OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

DISTRICT Des Moines County
(Name)

Burlington, Iowa
(Headquarters of Dist. Gov. Body) (State)

Period Jan. 1 19 49 to Dec. 31 19 49

ACTIVITY		This Year	To Date
Educational Meetings	Number	12	62
	Attendance	363	1911
Tours	Number	3	8
	Attendance	105	296
Demonstrations	Number	1	13
	Attendance	24	4176
Leader Training Meetings	Number	1	3
	Attendance	40	112
Exhibits	Number		2
Radio Talks	Number	16	34
News Articles	Number	57	207
Commissioners' Meetings	Number	9	42
Applications received	295		
Active Applications	106	Number	
Conservation Plans	118 (No.) on 18968 Acres		
Conservation surveys	on 58863 Acres		