

ANNUAL
REPORT
KOSSUTH
COUNTY
1956

KOSSUTH COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1956

ALGONA, IOWA

We usually hold our regular meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month. This year we held eleven (11) regular meetings and one (1) special meeting. Those who usually attend our meetings in addition to governing body members are assistant commissioners Glen Jenkinson, Walter Campney and Joe Skow; Extension Director Dean Barnes; and Work Unit Conservationist Lyle Riedinger. Area Conservationist Joe Colgan, Conservation Aid Sidney Johnson and District Clerk Elizabeth Hoover attend a number of our meetings.

Two of us attended the annual conference for District Commissioners. We also attended State and District ACP and soil bank meetings.

Attendance at our annual meeting for district cooperators last year was about 200. Assistant commissioner Joe Skow served as master of ceremonies. The annual report was given by T. E. Lagerstrom. J. C. Skow spoke on the organization of the soil conservation district and reviewed the progress of the district. Marvin Anderson, Associate Director of Extension Service from Ames, gave the evening address. Commissioner Ernest Heidecker and Assistant commissioner Glen Jenkinson and Walter Campney, Also an assistant commissioner, contributed much to the success of the meeting by making the arrangements for the meal, special program features and tickets sales.

The Extension Service has a memorandum of understanding by which it agrees to help us carry out our educational program. They also assisted in the soil bank program and formulation of the ACP program.

The Soil Conservation Service has provided assistance to the District by furnishing two (2) full time men, plus help for soil surveys and engineering work from the Area office. They have given District cooperators assistance in the planning and applying soil conservation and drainage practices.

Tours, demonstrations, contests or general meetings dealing with soil and water conservation for adults and others were held last year are as follows:

EVENTS	DATE	EXPLANATION	ATTENDANCE & PLACE
Annual Mtg.	2/28/56	Annual Meeting of District Cooperators.	200 - Burt
Farmers Mtg.	3/ 5/56	Movies "Lost Acres Through Drainage" & "Flood & Broad Base Terraces" were shown.	23 - Lakota
Contractors Meeting	3/ 7/56	Review ACP program and quality drainage.	12 - Algona
Farmers Mtg.	3/ 7/56	Movies "Lost Acres Through Drainage" & "Flood & Broad Base Terraces" were shown.	10 - Swea City
Farmers Mtg.	3/ 8/56	Movies "Lost Acres Through Drainage" & "Flood & Broad Base Terraces" were shown.	20 - Algona

EVENT	DATE	EXPLANATION	PLACE & ATTENDANCE
A.C.P. Mtg.	3/13/56	Selection of Practices for 1957	40 - Algona
Regional Meeting	3/23/56	District Commissioners & Cooperating Agencies.	10 - Garner
Soil Stewardship Week	5/ 6 to 12	Phamplets on Soil Stewardship Week & Selected Sermons sent to all ministers on request.	7 - Kossuth County
Kossuth County Real Estate Board	5/ 7/56 5/14/56	Soil Conservation meeting & soil conservation capability tour.	10 - Algona
Portland Twp. Farm Bureau Mtg.	5/ 9/56	Movie "Garden of Eden" shown.	30 - Menmet Trunkhill's home
Burt Jr. High School	5/14/56	Field trip to Union Slough. (Milford Smith, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service cooperated in conducting the tour.)	51 - Burt
Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Contest	7/ 6/56	District Cooperators Burdette Hoepfner, George Olsen and Ralph Morgan were selected as the three outstanding farmers. Arie Dittmer, Alfred Melz, & Charles Nygaard, Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners & assisted by Extension Service & S.C.S.	Kossuth County
Report on Springbrook Camp	7/25/56	Miss LeNora Kettwick, Titonka first grade teacher, reported at the regular meeting of the District Commissioners on her summer course. She was scholarship winner of the Kossuth District.	Algona
Badge for Eagle Scout Conservation Merit	8/ 1/56	Assistance given to Ronnie Tschetter.	1- Algona

EVENT	DATE	EXPLANATION	PLACE & ATTENDANCE
4-H Plowing Contest	9/ 8/56	Contest on fuel economy and quality plowing sponsored by Extension Service.	23 participating 500 speculators
Contour Plowing Demonstration	9/18/56	Contour layout and plowing demonstration.	15 - Burdette Hoeppner's farm Lakota
National Field Days	9/21/56 9/22/56	Commissioners attending Kossuth County farmers & businessmen.	2 60 - Colfax
Soil Judging Tour	9/25/56 9/27/56	Field Trip - Titonka Vocational Agriculture Classes	35 Titonka on Lester Callies farm.
Soil Bank Area Meeting	9/28/56	Meeting on Conservation reserve.	10 - Estherville.
Soil Judging Tour	10/ 3/56	Field Trip - Algona Vocational Agriculture class	20 - Algona on Harold Hunt farm
Soil Judging Contest	10/ 6/56	Swea City, Algona and Titonka FFA chapters participated in contest.	15 - Humboldt
Algona Lions Club	10/15/56	Talk given on soil conservation.	30 - Algona
County Farm Bureau Women's Group	10/19/56	Talk on "Water Conservation" was given.	40 - Algona
Union Twp. Farm Bureau Women's Group	10/25/56	Movie "Soil Conservation District and Iowa People" shown.	20 - Mrs. C. S. Schipler's home Algona

Regular weekly news paper columns are written by the Work Unit Conservation and the County Extension Director. These columns carry the activities of the District and the accomplishments in the District.

Special news articles have been written on the annual meeting and other special events. Newspapers in the county carrying articles about soil conservation the past year were the Swea City Herald, Bancroft Register, LuVerne Tribune, Whittemore Champion, Lakota Review, Tiltonka Topic, Kossuth County Advance and the Algona Upper Des Moines.

During the past year the number of new Farmer-District agreements signed was 46. This brings the total to-date to 404 agreements signed. Practices applied during the year of 1956 were as follows:

Contour farming - - - - -	360 Ac.
Ditch Construction - - - - -	1.5 Miles
Drop Inlets - - - - -	3
Drop Spillways - - - - -	1
Tile Drains - - - - -	301,452 L. F.
Open Drains - - - - -	9.1 Miles
Drainage- - - - -	1,869 Ac.
Waterway Development - - - - -	7 Ac.
Basic Farm Plans - - - - -	46 Plans

The Kossuth County A.S.C. has transferred to the S.C.S. 5% of the county allocation to provide assistance to ACP participants in their soil and water conservation program. During the year there were 294 farmers referred to the SCS for technical assistance. All farmers were contacted with 151 completing the practices. The balance were not interested in doing it this year. The 5% funds turned over to SCS have been used to pay for travel and hire additional part-time help of ACP participants.

The District has continued the policy of having a full-time clerk paid from the state funds. During the past year there were 820 office callers and 250 phone calls.

We believe the Soil Conservation Service should furnish more help to our district for the year beginning next July 1 and ending June 30 the following year. There is an increasing interest in farm planning and soil conservation practices.

We wish to express our appreciation for the assistance and cooperation given to the District from the following Federal agencies: Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, A.S.C., and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Kossuth County Farm Bureau Women's group have contributed much to conservation the past year through their meetings on water conservation.

Newspapers, civic groups and other groups have done much to spread the work of the District program.

KOSSUTH COUNTY SOIL
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
GOVERNING BODY

Chairman