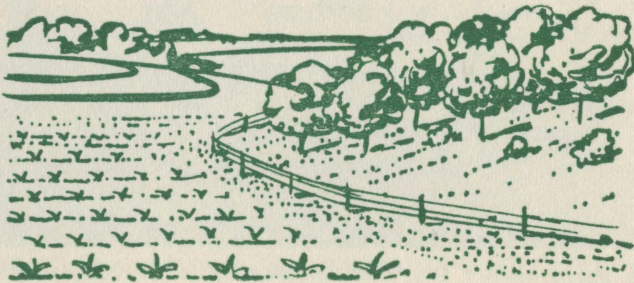


20th Annual Report
1964

WEST
POTTAWATTAMIE
Soil Conservation
District



Council Bluffs Iowa

FORWARD

We the Commissioners of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District take this opportunity to report the accomplishments in soil and water conservation during 1964. At times during the year too much rain came and caused some erosion damage to land and crops, and at other times too little rain caused some concern for the corn crop. Those farms with a lot of conservation practices applied were able to conserve earlier moisture for later times of need. All in all, though, it was another bountiful year of harvest.

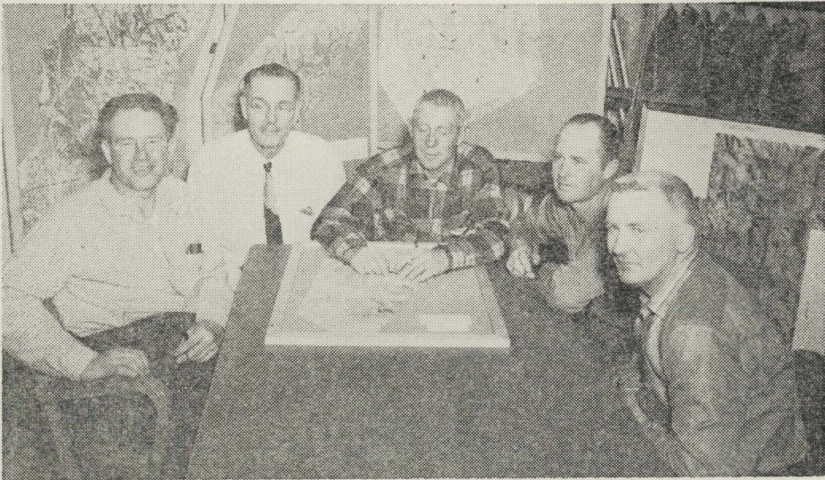
We appreciate the cooperation of all individuals, groups and agencies that worked along with us in this continuing job of soil and water conservation. To name a few, we wish to thank our cooperators, the Soil Conservation Service, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Extension Service, the Agricultural Research Service, the County Board of Supervisors, the local newspapers, the banks and the public schools.

Assistance is available from our office in Room 234, Federal Building, Council Bluffs. Any land owner or operator with erosion or drainage problems may call for help to determine the conservation practices to use and how to apply them.

Our phone number is 328-1543, Ext. 24.

West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation
District Commissioners

Donald Bladt, Chairman
Eldon Ravlin
Jack O'Hara



In the above picture the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District Commissioners study their watershed maps and review 1964 accomplishments. From left to right are Jack O'Hara, Eldon Ravlin, Louie Fahrenkrog, Chairman Donald Bladt and Joe Osborn. They are also in the process of formulating plans and activities for 1965 in Ryan - Henschal Watershed, Indian Creek Watershed and Pony Watershed. There are three other watersheds being worked on, but are not in the structure phase yet. They are North Pigeon Watershed, Twin Ponies Watershed and Simon Run Watershed.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Another year is past and again we review the events that took place. During the year the Commissioners held 12 regular meetings and 3 special meetings. In addition to these were a number of watershed meetings, tours, etc.

JANUARY: Eldon Ravlin attended the Commissioner's Short Course at Iowa State University.

At a special meeting bids were received and a contract awarded for construction of Ryan-Henschal Watershed Part 3 structures B-1, B-7, and E-2.

FEBRUARY: Committees for the year were appointed by Chairman Donald Bladt.

The Goodyear contest score sheet was finished and sent to the judges.

MARCH: Seeded backslope terrace layout workshops were held at the Treynor Watershed for technicians of 14 southwest Iowa Districts.

APRIL: A Commissioner's election was held and Donald Bladt was re-elected to a 6 year term and Jack O'Hara to a 2 year term.

MAY: Construction is underway on Part 3 structures in the Ryan - Henschal Watershed.

JUNE: Soil Conservation Week was observed by the District with news stories in the local papers and watershed tours.

An annual inspection was made in Ryan - Henschal Watershed.

JULY: Selected District winners for the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards program. They were: Division I, Louie Fahrenkrog; Division II, John Schnepel, landlord and Lowell Hartje, tenant; and Division III, Howard Jensen.

SEPTEMBER: At a special meeting the Commissioners received bids and awarded the contract for construction of Ryan-Henschal Watershed Part 4 structures F-1, F-2, F-3 and J-1.

OCTOBER: Final inspection was made of structures in Ryan - Henschal Watershed Part 3.

NOVEMBER: Approximately 200 people turned out to the Treynor Watershed Tour.

North Pigeon Watershed was walked over by the Watershed Planning Party.

Howard Jensen received an award at the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Banquet at Denison as a Regional winner of the Contest.

DECEMBER: The regular meeting and annual Christmas Party were combined. The wives attended and there was a gift exchange.

PERSONNEL

DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY

Donald Blatt, Shelby, Iowa, Chairman
 Eldon Ravlin, Underwood, Iowa, Commissioner
 Jack O'Hara, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Commissioner
 Joe Osborn, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Assistant Commissioner
 Louie Fahrenkrog, Carson, Iowa, Assistant Commissioner

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

Walter Weiss Area Conservationist
 Leon Foderberg Work Unit Conservationist
 Oliver Hall Conservation Technician
 Perry Thomas Conservation Technician

STATE EMPLOYEES

Mona Mackey State Clerk
 Howard Angeroth State Aid, Part-time
 Claude Brittain State Aid, Part-time

We regret to report that Perry Thomas, a long time employee of the Soil Conservation Service, died December 12. He worked in this District for the past 15 years.

NEW TOOL

A new tool has been made available for combatting erosion in West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District. The bench terrace or seeded backslope terrace is an entirely new concept where most of the dirt that forms the ridge and front slope is taken from the downhill side. These terraces, as much as possible, are made parallel and total rows between terraces are in multiples of 4, and sometimes held to multiples of 8 in an effort to get operator back to where he started. Conventional terraces bench over a period of 12-15 years if not maintained properly. This type of terrace will cost more; without a doubt it also does more. Eliminating most of the point rows in a field and the tendency towards LEVELLING the side hill (changing a side hill from say 12% to 9%) and the attainment of tremendous capacities of terrace channels to hold completely the 4-5" downpour that will ravage any unprotected side hill not in excellent cover.

These terraces are designed to be used with 4-row farming equipment and will increase farming efficiency and make the hill land farmer more competitive with the bottom land operator.

Several farms in the West Pottawattamie District have installed bench terraces. They are: ARS Farm, Bob Gronstal, George Thiel on the Kathman farm, Al and Palmer Vorhmann, Hans Schmidt, Ervin Rath, all near Treynor; Elmer Wahle, Carson; Lynn Moffatt, Wayne Ostdeik, Richard Felton, near Neola; Ralph and Bruce Barnett, Underwood; John Dimon and Don Hartman of Council Bluffs, Albert Peterson, Bentley.

Parallel cut and fill level terraces on gentler sloping hillsides and ridge tops make farming easier and faster. Erosion is controlled and most point or "short" rows eliminated. Many of the cooperators that installed cut and fill parallel terraces during 1964 are: Ivan Collins, Masel Roenfeldt, Herb Sudman, Robert Palmer, Ed Fischer, Lyle Campbell, Roy Miller, George Mass, Eldon Schultz, Stanley Danker, Henry Hansen.

If one of these terrace systems appeals to you in your desire to harness the erosion on your farm, go look them over on your neighbor's farm and then call your local Soil Conservation Service office for advice, guidance and layout.

1964 DISTRICT BUDGET

The Commissioners of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District are grateful to the Iowa Legislature and the Governor for providing funds to help run the District. By the use of these funds much more is accomplished in the conservation of our soil and water than would otherwise be possible.

1M BUDGET 1964

Commissioners Expenses	\$ 245.11
Office Suplies	\$ 135.00
Printing	\$ 62.00
Office Expenses	\$ 120.20
TOTAL	\$ 562.31

2M BUDGET 1964

Clerical	\$ 2,876.31
Technical	\$ 3,169.61
TOTAL	\$ 6,045.92



Parallel seeded back slope terraces shown in aerial view were built on the Treynor Watershed for studies being made by the Agricultural Research Service. There are 7½ miles of parallel terraces on this 130 acre field. The amount of erosion and run off from this watershed will be compared to watersheds without terraces and watersheds all in grass to show the real value of terraces.

WATERSHED PROGRESS

The watershed program in West Pottawattamie County had a good year of construction and upland treatment. This shows interest in our watershed program as well as in the areas not in watersheds.

Ryan - Henschal had one drop inlet completed on farms of Don McQuinn and Eldon Ravlin. This structure has a 6 - acre pond behind it and is number 2 of this type in the watershed. These two and others to come will make for some wonderful recreation and fishing areas. Another structure with a large concrete spillway was built on Art Christofferson's farm; another, a large ditch made into a waterway with a riser attached to a road tube was constructed on the farms of Donald Jensen and Clifford Shudak. At the upper end of the above waterway, the banks were reshaped to stop the cutting on a dam that was constructed a few years ago on Clifford Shudak's farm.

Contracts were let for 4 more structures in the watershed for construction in 1965. They are on the farms of John Hiller, Ervin Larson, George Kalstrup and Edwin Kloppe. Some work has already started.

Plans are almost completed for 3 structures in Indian Creek north of Council Bluffs. Contracts for the construction of these dams will be let early next year so that work can be completed in 1965.

Upland treatment moved forward in the other watersheds at a rapid rate. This indicates a growing interest in the county in all areas of soil conservation both in the watersheds and areas outside. The other watersheds, with the continued interest, will soon be reaching the point where they will be ready for construction.

West Pottawattamie County had a good year in all fields of soil conservation. With the continued efforts of all cooperators in the county, along with the interest of all the citizens of our cities in the county, the next year and years to follow will show a tremendous growth in the conservation of our soil and water for future generations. We had a great year last year. Let all of us in the city and on the farm strive to make this year even better than last year.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

		1964	1965
			Goal
New cooperators	no.	50	45
Basic plans	no.	40	40
Revised plans	no.	14	20
Farms serviced	no.	407	400
Level Terraces	mi.	50	55
Parallel terraces *	mi.	26	25
Erosion Control Structures	no.	9	10
Drainage Ditch	ft.	11,900	20,000
Tile drainage	ft.	18,217	30,000
Grassed waterways	ac.	57.6	50
Land grading	ac.	60	100
Diversions	ft.	6,443	15,000

*Includes the new seeded back slope terrace.

The following farmers became cooperators with the District in 1964.

Robert Crawford	James Dermody	Myron Hough
Irvin Rath	Walter B. Cox	Edward Fischer
Art Rath	Clarence Pederson	Stanley Gardner
Richard Wenninghoff	Theo. Pederson	State Conservation Comm.
Donald Ward	Committee for Agricultural Development	John Dimon
Francis Slobodnik	Virgil E. Turk	James Peterson
Paul Wellman	Henry Lowe	Gilbert W. Cross
Schmidt & Dahl	Melvin Dohse	Laurine Wickersham
S. R. Hubbard	Lynn A. Henderson	Raymond Kenkel
Norman Driver	Don Sorenson	Harvey Ferris
Harry Fahrenkrog	Otto Falk, Jr.	Lloyd Haynie
Tri-Co	Joe Handbury	Donald A. Boeck
Concrete Const. Co.	Fel-Cam, Inc.	Walter Tyrdik
Knudson & Johnson	Richard Wenninghoff	Don Hartman
Elmer Wahle	Arthur C. Brittain	Herbert Seivers
Harry Anderson & Irvin	Ralph Parish	Richard J. Felton
Larsen	Alvin Strohbehn	John Schmielau
Floyd D. Foreman		

The following farmers made new basic farm plans for their farms with the assistance of the S.C.S. in 1964.

Parks Estate - Nelson	State Conservation Comm.	John Rodenburg
Taylor	Mrs. Etta Anderson	Wallace Green
N. B. Parks	Charles Wettengall	Gilbert Cross
Norman Thomas	Paul Perry	Melvin Dohse
George Hartje	Jerome Hayes	Mattie French
Clarence Rageth	Henry Warncke	Emil Lehmkuhl
Raymond Kenkel	A. G. Gertelsen	Carl Huber
Harvey Ferris	Lyle Jensen	Paul Wellman
Louise Everett (Ensel-	Bert Ettleman	Henry Hansen
man	Herman Kahl	Wickersham
Lynel Vallier	Lloyd Haynie	Robert Wohlers
Donald Thomas	H. A. Quinn	Richard Hansen
J. F. Nelson	Glen Osborn	Verne Bertlesen
Henry J. Schmitz		

The farmers names below revised their farm plans.

Herb Witt	Harry Anderson and
Julia McCabe	Irvin B. Larsen
Joe Osborn	Devere Watson
Mary Dillon	Everett Wright
Howard Darrington	Richard Smith
George Langdale	Delmar Carlson
	Darrell Geise

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE

Soil Conservation District

Room 234 Federal Building

Council Bluffs, Iowa