



CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT
1954

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Hoffelt

Pellett

Bailey

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Wendell C. Pellett Chairman
George W. Hoffelt Member
Boyd D. Bailey Member

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL

Gilbert Wehrman Work Unit Conservationist
Stanley Bennett Conservationist
Werner Blunk Conservation Aid
Wayne Raasch Conservation Aid

STATE PERSONNEL

Gayle R. Johnson District Clerk

OFFICE LOCATION

Farm Credit Building, 17 W. 4th St., Atlantic, Iowa
Phone 1374

EXTENSION SERVICE PERSONNEL

H. E. Codlin Extension Director

1954

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

As we begin another annual report we want, first of all, to express our appreciation to all those who have contributed to our success thus far. We express our appreciation to all the other agencies, schools and civic organizations for their fine cooperation through the years and hope in the future we may warrant the same fine cooperation.

We also want to thank our own personnel for their interest and faithfulness to the job of conserving our Natural Resource — the soil.

In this booklet we will attempt to point out some of the various activities in which the District participates and some of the accomplishments that have been attained during the year 1954.

ANNUAL SHORT COURSE

The Ninth Annual Short Course was held in Ames, January 20 to 22nd, 1954. James Winston, Wendell Pellett, George Hosfelt and Gilbert Wehrman attended the meeting on Wednesday, January 20th and heard the evening address by Mr. Gladwin Young, Deputy Administrator of the Soil Conservation Service in Washington, D. C.

Mr. Young serves as the Deputy Administrator to Don Williams, the new Administrator of the Soil Conservation Service in Washington, D. C.



ANNUAL MEETING

The third annual Cass County Soil Conservation Banquet was held February 15th, 6:30 P. M. in the dining hall of Zion Lutheran church. 190 cooperators and guests were present. Marvin Anderson, Associate Director of Extension, Ames, Iowa, was the featured speaker. Guests included Chris Jensen, member of the State Soil Conservation Committee; Val Silkett, Assistant State Conservationist; Gus Kuester, State Representative; and Jay Colburn, State Senator.

Awards in the Iowa Register and Tribune contest were presented to the winning contestants. The winners were Adolph Pettinger, long time cooperator; Keith Kerkman, new cooperator; and Kenneth Joyce and C. E. Fuhrer as Landlord and tenant cooperator.

Mr. Warren Duncan, county agent at the time the first soil conservation work was done in Cass County, discussed the early history of Soil Conservation.

Mr. Gilbert Wehrman, Cass County Conservationist, discussed the progress of soil conservation work since the formation of the district in 1942, and Mr. Wendell Pellett served as master of ceremonies at the banquet.

COMMISSIONER NAMED "FARMER of the WEEK"

Mr. Wendell Pellett, Chairman of the Cass County Soil Conservation District Commissioners, was chosen to appear as "Farmer of the Week". He appeared with his family, in a T.V. interview with Mal Hansen over WOW-TV in Omaha.

SOIL CONSERVATION WEEK ACTIVITIES

The week of June 13 to 20th was designated by proclamation of Governor William S. Beardsley as "Soil Conservation Week". Special recognition was given the local District by newspapers in the County. Pictures and news stories of local conservation work emphasized the need for conservation practices and progress made was shown by the construction of terraces, dams, tile drainage and other conservation measures.

On June 29th the Commissioners assisted in sponsoring a tour of the Clarinda Experimental Farm for 4-H boys and their leaders. A fine group of boys and their leaders participated and reported an educational as well as enjoyable day. The Clarinda Experimental Farm has been in operation a number of years and information and observations to be obtained from a tour is priceless.

SOIL CONSERVATION MOTION PICTURE

A color movie entitled, "Soil Conservation Districts and Iowa People" was purchased jointly by 5 districts within this area. This film very clearly relates how a Soil Conservation District is organized and how a farmer can obtain the technical services required to do conservation work on his own particular farm. Showing time is approximately 45 minutes and it is available for group meetings, etc. The District Commissioners will make the film available to the public without charge. If interested contact your local Soil Conservation District office.



4-H ACTIVITIES

The District Commissioners and Soil Conservation Service supported and encouraged 4-H boys and girls in their projects, particularly those relating to Soil Conservation. A tour sponsored by the Commissioners for 4-Hers interested in the soil conservation projects was held in June. Approximately 40 boys and leaders visited the Clarinda Experimental Farm and were given an opportunity to observe first hand the experimental work carried on there. The tour included visits to a large nursery and a Hybrid seed corn plant in Shenandoah.

Cash awards were also given for outstanding records in the soil conservation special activity. The soil conservation technicians rendered materials and help for the programs of many of the local 4-H organizations.

Shown above is the first 4-H Welcome Road sign, one

of five similar signs installed on principal highways leading into Cass County. It is located on the Kenneth Pierce farm, three miles northeast of Anita on Highway 6. The persons seen here assisted in the construction and installation of the sign. They are left to right, Bruce Behrends, Ted Jessen, Jr., Kenneth Pierce, Dwain Pierce and Austin Wedemeyer.

CASS COUNTY SIX POINT SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

1. Use proper land use and Crop rotation suited to the condition of the land.
2. Contour plant all cultivated crops.
3. Terrace upper slopes where needed.
4. Control gullies by shaping and seeding, using permanent structures where needed.
5. Improve production on permanent pastures with the use of lime and fertilizer and seeding legumes, such as Birdsfoot Trefoil.
6. Improve production of poorly drained land by using tile or surface drainage.

CROP ROTATIONS

In a complete soil conservation plan, first consideration should be given to choosing a rotation suited to the needs of the land and the livestock program on the farm. The three common rotations to be considered on rolling land in Cass County are:

1. One year corn, one year oats and one year meadow.
2. Two years corn, one year oats and two years meadow.
3. One year corn, one year oats and two years meadow.

In order to maintain permanent production on our sloping land it is necessary to reduce the soil loss to 5 tons per acre per year. The reduction of soil loss to 5 tons per acre can be attained, on average slopes, by using a four year rotation with one year of corn, with a few terraces at the top of the slope. If the three year rotation is used a greater number of terraces will be needed to keep the soil loss to the amount considered safe.

CONTOUR FARMING

No record is available as to the per cent of hill land in Cass County which is contour farmed. It is generally agreed that about one half of the hill land is now farmed on the contour. One of the most urgent problems now facing the Cass County Soil Conservation District is to get contouring established on those farms not now contouring.

TERRACE CONSTRUCTION

During the 12 years of District activity in Cass County 462 miles of terraces have been built which is an average of 39 miles per year. During the 1954 year 129 miles have been built on 142 different farms. This heavy increase in terraces in 1954 indicates probably that we have reached the point where terracing will move ahead much more rapidly. Terraces have been constructed with various types of machines, including Dozers, Road Patrols, Elevating graders, Disk terracers, Whirlwind terracers and a common moldboard plow. There has been a trend away from the smaller equipment to the use of dozers and road patrols for the larger jobs.

ESTABLISHED GRASSED WATERWAYS

Consistent progress is being made in seeding and sloping waterways. Common farm equipment is being used on the smaller waterways leaving the larger jobs for the heavy dozers. Seeding mixtures most commonly used include timothy and brome grass for average dry waterways and Reed Canary for the wet and more critical locations.

In gully shaping and seeding occasionally a job can not be successfully accomplished without the aid of a permanent dam. These sites often are found at the junction of side waterways and the main stream. The standard earth fill with a drop inlet metal pipe is in common use where there is need for protection in the waterway.



PASTURE IMPROVEMENT

It is generally recognized that on many of our over-grazed, sod bound pastures, production could be greatly increased by a complete renovation program. This pasture improvement program might include the following steps:

1. Disk or shallow plow to prepare a seedbed and to retard the growth of grass while legumes are being established.
2. Lime and fertilize in the amounts indicated by a soil test.
3. Seed legumes to improve the supply of nitrogen for grass production. (Birdsfoot Trefoil is one of the most promising legumes for permanent pasture improvement.)

LAND DRAINAGE

There are two general conditions which cause land to be excessively wet. Wetness may be due to seepage from ground of higher elevation. This type of condition may occur on hill slopes or on flat land. Wetness due to seepage is generally best eliminated with the use of tile to intercept the seep line before it reaches the surface layer.

Wetness due to the inability of surface water to get away can best be eliminated by the use of surface open ditches.

MULTIFLORA ROSE

Multiflora Rose plantings in Cass County were again numerous this year. Some 16,000 plants were purchased and planted this spring. 3,000 plants were purchased by the Pioneer Theater Corporation and planted as an ornamental hedge around the Corral Drive-In Theater at Atlantic.

Multiflora rose is an Asiatic plant that has been used in this country for a long time as an ornamental shrub. Its new use for soil conservation and erosion control has resulted from more than 10 years of trials by farmers working with the Soil Conservation Service. Multiflora rose does not spread and on the best soils it reaches a maximum height of 10 feet and about the same width.

When fully developed, multiflora rose provides an excellent living fence for pastures where livestock is grazed. It is suitable for contour fences and its thorny, thick-growing canes make useful cover for farm wildlife.

A transplanter owned by the Game Conservation Club is available for use by Cass County farmers. Anyone interested in using this machine or ordering plants for spring delivery may contact members of the Game Club or your local Soil Conservation District office for further particulars.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

	1954	To Date	Needed
Cooperators			
Number	54	668	
Acres	10,665	125,790	
Farm Plans			
Number	47	546	1,434
	7,715	102,021	255,033
ACP Farms Serviced			
Number	826		
Contouring			
Acres	1,984	54,388	50,107
Waterways			
Lin. Ft.	106,250	1,225,748	7,731,236
Terraces			
Miles	129	462	6,280
Dams			
Number	76	258	275
Diversion			
Miles	3	35	1,197
Closed Drains			
Lin. Ft.	105,801	710,508	1,394,199
Open Drains			
Miles	5	57	192
Drainage			
Acres	328	3,301	4,467



Conservation Pledge

I GIVE MY
PLEDGE AS AN AMERICAN
TO SAVE AND FAITHFULLY TO
DEFEND FROM WASTE THE
NATURAL RESOURCES OF
MY COUNTRY—ITS SOIL
AND MINERALS, ITS
FORESTS, WATERS,
AND WILDLIFE

TO: _____

