

1974 ANNUAL REPORT

APPANOOSE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

It is our pleasure as Appanoose County Soil Conservation District Commissioners to present to you our annual report for fiscal year 1974 covering the period of July 1, 1973 - June 30, 1974. We are happy to report that this past year has been a very exciting and active period for soil and water conservation activities and accomplishments.

The most notable conservation accomplishments include: (1) A major roadside erosion control project in cooperation with the Appanoose County Board of Supervisors and the Appanoose County Engineer, (2) Placing top priority on the construction of parallel tile-outlet terraces to control the extensive sheet and rill erosion which has been occurring on our intensively farmed cropland soils.

We are very thankful for this past year's accomplishments and wish to thank the many individuals, groups, organizations and units of government which have actively assisted and utilized the services which are available through your soil conservation district. We are looking forward to working with each and every one of you again in the future in conquest of our common goal to develop as well as conserve the natural resources of Appanoose County.



APPANOOSE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS, left to right:
Roger Wells, Chairman; Ralph Turner, Vice-Chairman; Loren Eddy;
Leon Kauzlarich, Secretary-Treasurer; and Ronald Turk

State Cost-Sharing Assistance for Soil Conservation in Iowa

In July, 1973, the Iowa General Assembly enacted legislation which appropriated state funds to be utilized by the soil conservation district of Iowa to provide cost-share assistance to district cooperators who were interested in installing permanent soil and water conservation practices on agricultural land. The Appanoose County Soil Conservation District Commissioners were charged with the responsibility by state law to set priorities for the use of the state cost-sharing funds. The District Commissioners, after reviewing our District's conservation needs, established the following priorities for the use of state cost-share funds within the boundaries of Appanoose County:

- Priority #1 - Parallel tile-outlet terraces
- Priority #2 - Gradient Terraces
- Priority #3 - Grade Stabilization Structures
- Priority #4 - Diversion Terraces

The state cost-sharing funds were certainly appreciated by the District Commissioners and the farmers of Appanoose County, and we hope that the Iowa Legislature will continue this appropriation.

When the federal cost-share program administered through ASCS was released in the Spring of 1974 it became possible for Appanoose County landowners to receive up to 75% cost-share assistance for the construction of permanent soil conservation practices when approved for cost-share assistance from both ASCS (federal funds) and the District Commissioners (state funds).

Appanoose County Roadside Erosion Control and Stabilization

During fiscal year 1974 the Appanoose County RC&D Steering Committee, the Soil Conservation District Commissioners, the Appanoose County Board of Supervisors, the Appanoose County Engineer and many individual Appanoose County farmers cooperated together to make a major roadside erosion control project a reality. The Appanoose County Board of Supervisors and the Appanoose County Soil Conservation District co-sponsored a project for controlling roadside erosion along numerous Appanoose County roadside erosion sites. As a result of this project a total of 12 miles of roadside gullies are being stabilized by being reshaped into grass waterways. Approximately 3 acres of grass sod will be laid in the waterways in 8 to 12 foot widths to eliminate active gully erosion. The eroding roadside banks are being reshaped, fertilized, seeded and mulched. The Soil Conservation Service awarded a contract in 1973 to the low bidder of Ken Kiburz, Afton, Iowa, in the amount of \$132,473.40. Eighty percent of this contract will be financed by a \$105,978.72 grant secured from the Soil Conservation Service through the Chariton Valley RC&D Project. The remaining 20% of the project is being paid by County funds through the Appanoose County Board of Supervisors.

In addition to this project, a third roadside erosion control project was being developed for construction in 1974-75. This roadside erosion project will also be co-sponsored by the Soil Conservation District and the Appanoose County Board of Supervisors and will involve approximately 40 Appanoose County landowners. A cost-sharing rate of 75% federal and 25% Appanoose County funds is anticipated for this project. When all three of the erosion control projects have been constructed, all of the major Appanoose County roadside erosion sites will have been stabilized as a result of the assistance which has been available to the Soil Conservation District and the Board of Supervisors through the Chariton Valley RC&D Program.

We Commissioners are especially pleased that Appanoose County has been able to move forward with this project and be able to stabilize roadside erosion sites which previously produced many tons of sediment.

In order to recognize the Appanoose County Board of Supervisors for their interest and effort in securing the roadside erosion control projects, the Commissioners selected the Board of Supervisors as the outstanding soil conservation district cooperator for the 1973 Goodyear Conservation Awards Program.

We Commissioners believe that all Appanoose County residents benefit from stabilizing these roadside erosion sites by reduced road maintenance costs, elimination and prevention of serious traffic hazards, elimination of on-site erosion damages to the county road as well as to many farmer's fencelines and above all eliminating active soil erosion areas which had previously produced many tons of sediment which contributed to the siltation of ponds, lakes, streams, and rivers.

Pasture Planning Guide

During this past year, the Soil Conservation District with technical assistance from the Soil Conservation Service prepared a Pasture Planning Guide. This booklet was developed as a guide to assist Appanoose County landowners and operators in developing and/or improving their pasture planting and pasture management programs. The booklet discusses the various grasses and legumes which are adaptable to Appanoose County as well as listing their advantages and disadvantages. In addition to this information, the booklet provides several grazing examples which illustrate the pasture management tool of combining the advantages of the various pasture plants into a total pasture planning program. This allows a farmer to develop a planned grazing system which would provide for a full season grazing program which will result in increased pasture production and therefore increase the cow-calf carrying capacity of your farm. The booklet was developed to serve as a guide upon which each Appanoose County landowner or operator can develop his own personal pasture program which would be compatible with his soil resources, his general farming program and his own personal experiences and preferences.

If you have not received a copy of this Pasture Planning Guide, please stop by our District Office and pick up a copy.

District Highlights

Conservation education is an important aspect of our District's soil conservation program. In order to increase people's awareness of the conservation needs and conservation accomplishments within our District, we have sponsored several contests and other education activities during fiscal year 1974. The District also distributed 300 conservation workbooks to the 5th and 6th grades of Appanoose County Schools.

Among the conservation education activities we conducted were a conservation speech contest, a poster contest, co-sponsor of a soil judging contest, distribution of soil conservation material to churches for use during Soil Stewardship Week and numerous news articles released to the radio station and Appanoose County newspapers.

Several awards were given during the year. Keith Brockus won first place in the District speech contest and represented the District in the Region 9 speech contest earning second place. Richard Houser won grand prize in the soil conservation poster contest and the Centerville Voc-Ag. class won second place in the 4-county Chariton Valley Soil Judging Contest.

Outdoor Conservation Classroom

The Appanoose County Soil Conservation District was very pleased to obtain a five-year lease on an 11-acre tract of land just southeast of Rathbun Dam for an outdoor conservation classroom from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The District Commissioners appointed the following individuals to an Outdoor Conservation Classroom Committee in September, 1973: George Freidhof, Lee Schwerdtfeger, Jim Cool, Grayce Hill and Helen Triebswetter. The District Commissioners requested that the Outdoor Classroom Committee prepare a plan of action in order to develop the 11-acre outdoor conservation classroom site at Rathbun Lake into an environmental education center for Appanoose County schools. The Committee has been very active in developing the outdoor conservation classroom and in the Spring of 1974 approximately 1200 trees were planted by several classes from the Centerville School System. Future development to take place at the outdoor classroom is the construction of a small pond, additional tree planting and continued study of our environment by Appanoose County students.



Lee Schwerdtfeger, 5th grade teacher, Centerville School System, shows students how to plant a tree at the District's Outdoor Conservation Classroom as District Commissioner Leon Kauzlarich looks on.

Soil Conservation Progress

Landowners in the Appanoose County Soil Conservation District were very active in applying soil conservation practices in fiscal year 1974. During the year 15,805 feet of parallel tile-outlet terraces involving 61 terrace intakes were installed on intensively farmed cropland in order to control serious erosion problems. An additional 9,100 feet of gradient terrace utilizing sod waterway outlet were also installed to control cropland erosion. In conjunction with an active terracing program, 20,443 feet of drain tile were installed to serve as the outlets for tile-outlet terraces and also to remove excess subsoil moisture.

Twelve erosion control structures and farm ponds were constructed in order to control gully erosion as well as provide water for livestock. 19.5 acres of grass waterways were constructed in order to carry excessive surface runoff water safely off the land without additional erosion.

A total of 88 landowners became Soil Conservation District cooperators thereby requesting technical assistance and expressing their interest in conserving the soil on their land by applying soil conservation practices. A total of 105 conservation plans were developed by district cooperators, groups of farmers and/or units of government in order to develop a planned program for erosion control on the properties which they own or are responsible for.

324 landowners received technical assistance from the Soil Conservation District with 157 landowners applying one or more conservation practices to their farms while 4,128 acres of Appanoose County farmland were adequately treated with conservation practices during fiscal year 1974.

Appanoose County Soil Conservation District
Financial Statement
Fiscal Year 1974
July 1, 1973 - June 30, 1974

1M BUDGET

INCOME:

Fiscal Year allocation from State

Soil Conservation Committee. \$1,200.00
Total Income. \$1,200.00

EXPENDITURES:

Commissioners mileage and meeting

expense. 198.04
Office supplies 44.41
Prizes for contests 60.00
Office expense. 855.89
Total Expenditures. \$1,158.34

Released to Dept. of Soil Conservation

June 30, 1974 \$ 41.66

2M BUDGET

INCOME:

Fiscal Year allocation from State

Soil Conservation Committee. \$6,374.00
Additional allocation for State Aide. 4,725.00
Janice McElvain IPERS refund. 338.58
Total Income. \$11,437.58

EXPENDITURES:

State Clerk and State Aide's

gross salaries \$10,020.27
District share IPERS. 350.68
District share FICA 586.15
Travel expense for Aide 13.78
Equipment 96.21
Total Expenditures. \$11,409.64

Released to Dept. of Soil Conservation

June 30, 1974. \$ 71.65

IIIM BUDGET - State cost-share fund

Initial Allocation

July, 1973. \$14,800.00

Additional Allocation

April, 1974 5,900.00
Total. \$20,700.00

Obligated for conservation

practices. \$19,773.41

Balance of unobligated

1973-74 cost-share funds. . . . \$ 926.59

OFFICE STAFF

Roger A. Hansen, District Conservationist
Robert Dayton, Soil Conservationist
(beginning June, 1974)
Robert McNeal, Soil Conservation Technician
Ivan Wright, Soil Conservation Aide
(beginning November, 1973)
Marilyn Worley, District Clerk
(beginning November, 1973)
Janice McElvain, District Clerk
(July 1, 1973 - November, 1973)

1974

Appanoose County Soil Conservation District
12th & Washington Agriculture Building
Centerville, Iowa 52544

Agri. Bldg., 12th & Wash.