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ANNUAL REPORT
THE TAMA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
STATE OF IOWA

JANUARY 1, 1945 to DECEMBER 31, 1945

INTRODUCTION

Due to war time demands almost all the farms in Tama County were cropped beyond good farming practices. This heavy farming cannot continue too many more years without very serious results. Much more emphasis should be placed on methods that will help farmers adopt better farming and conservation practices in order to help hold our soil in place.

OPERATIONS

Thru the cooperation of all agencies in the county a schedule of assistance for wide spread practices was set up. It was deemed wise that as much of this assistance as could be given should be done thru a group approach. Thru this method the people of the County received instructions on how contour and buffer strips should be laid out on the land.

Starting Practices 1945

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Number of Farms</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Contouring	67	1672
Grassed Waterways	51	16

A goal of 40 Farm Plans was set up as the years work but due to changes in personnel we only had the assistance of a farm planner from January until May. This resulted in only 20 farm plans being prepared for the year. To date there are 102 active farm plans in the District.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Three general education meetings were held in the county thru the help of all agencies. These meetings were farmer business men get-togethers and were held at Tama, Traer, and Gladbrook. The first was a dinner meeting at which "Butch Wirkler" of McGregor, Iowa, Farmer-Conservationist, presented to the group his experiences with Conservation on his farm. At the meeting at Traer The group was entertained by "Kelly's Chalk Talk" on Soil Conservation. The last meeting was held on the 4th of July and took the form of an old fashioned picnic. V. W. Flickinger of the Iowa State Conservation Commission talked on the damage erosion has caused and the need for a very good Soil Conservation Program for the State of Iowa.

One educational meeting was held with each township Farm Bureau group. These meetings were conducted by some member of the Extension Service, AAA, District Commissioners, or District Technicians.

SPECIAL SURVEYS

A hearing was held after a survey and report was made by the District Technicians on 900 acres of land along the south side of the Iowa River south of Tama, Iowa. At this hearing the proposal was turned down because no decision could be reached as to the distribution of the cost of the project.

SPECIAL STUDIES

The District cooperated with the Iowa State and Soil Conservation Service Experiment Stations in conducting Direction of Row Plots, Mulch Culture, Tillage Studies, Legume Pasture Investigations, and Fischer Brome Grass Increase Fields. The results of these studies have not as yet been completely tabulated. The following table regarding contouring of Corn indicates one of the experiments.

Effect of Contouring on Yield of Corn

<u>Farms</u> <u>No</u>	<u>Cont</u>		<u>Str</u>		<u>Diff</u>		<u>Cont</u>		<u>Str</u>		<u>Diff</u>	
	<u>Av</u>	<u>Bu</u>	<u>Av</u>	<u>Bu</u>	<u>Av</u>	<u>Bu</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>St</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>st</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Stalks</u>
7	80.5		71.8		8.7		11492		9921		1571	

SOIL TREATMENT

Lime was made available to farmers by the Tama County Board of Supervisors, Cedar Rapids Concrete Materials Co., The Northwestern Quarries, and four additional smaller concerns. Summaries of the amounts spread are not yet available.

There was an increased amount of commercial fertilizers used during the past year, but the actual amounts used have not been totaled.

COOPERATION FROM LOCAL AGENCIES

A program of cooperation between all the agencies in the county was worked out early in the spring of 1945. This program had for its purpose a better and more informed agricultural program for the county. In this way each agency lent its support and advice to each of the other agencies and the whole agricultural program profited by this cooperation.

The newspapers in the county gave splendid support to the program and they can be expected to do an even better job in 1946.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 1946

1. To maintain a good wide spread practice program.
2. To develop Soil Conservation plans on farms where wide spread conservation practices were used in 1945.
3. To promote conservation work in all the critical areas of the County. This may be accomplished thru method demonstrations in the Spring.
4. To organize an effective educational program making use of all the local agencies.
5. To encourage all business mens organizations, clubs and town people that they have a part in the Soil Conservation District program.

REMARKS

The Tama County Soil Conservation District has been functioning for four years. During those four years the attitude of farmers toward Soil Conservation has shown a marked change. At first the Soils District had to sell Soil Conservation to farmers. Some openly apposed the work of the Soil Conservationist; others ridiculed it. Today the use of Soil Conservation practices has been largely accepted as a part of good farming. This change in attitude is due, in large measure to the effective educational program carried out in the county. During 1945 and again this year the AAA, Farm Bureau and the District are putting into practice a coordinated educational program with very gratifying results.

During 1945 we had a farm planner for only a part of the year. This with changes in the other SCS personnel made it impossible to meet all the requests made of the District. During 1945 many farmers in the county showed their interest in Conservation by using starting practices such as contouring, grassed waterways, etc. Many in this group are now thinking about farm plans. Thus the close of 1945 shows a live interest in farm plans which, no doubt, is indicative of a more expanded Conservation for 1946.

Signed Fred K. Breune
Chairman, District Commissioners

Date 1-29-'46

Commissioners

Fred K. Breune, Chairman
Robert Lyon
Wm. J. Kremenak

Soil Conservation District

ANNUAL REPORT OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

DISTRICT Tama County (Name) Toledo (Supervisor's Headquarters) Iowa (State)

Period Jan, 1945 to Jan. 1, 1946

ACTIVITY		This Period	To Date
Educational Meetings	Number	23	184
	Attendance	1265	5058
Tours	Number	0	4
	Attendance	0	50
Demonstrations	Number	1	78
	Attendance	100	509
Training School Meetings	Number	0	6
	Attendance	0	46
Exhibits	Number	0	11
Radio Talks	Number	0	2
News Articles	Number	10	112
Commissioners Meetings	Number	8	31
Group planning meetings Number		1	22
Attendance		10	164
Motion Pictures Times shown		0	67
Attendance		0	1119

AND

TO THE

THE COURT

13

December 31

17

January 1

21.50

1.00

Rate of Payment

25.50

None

12.28 - 12.20
12.28 - 12.20

0.00

25.50