

ANNUAL REPORT  
Cass County Soil Conservation District

1942

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
CASS COUNTY, IOWA  
DEC. 31, 1942

To The Honorable Claude R. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.:

Narrative Report

The first action in the formation of the Cass County Soil Conservation District was taken at a meeting held on January 23, 1942, with 47 farmers present. Frank Mendell, State Co-ordinator of the Soil Conservation Service, explained the purposes and advantages of such a district. This was a very valuable meeting, as the farmers offered their suggestions and asked questions on features they did not understand. Petitions were passed out to the members of the committee, which was composed of the Farm Bureau directors and one other man interested in soil conservation from each township.

The petitions were sent in during April, with 330 signers. The district hearing was held on May 12, 1942. About 100 farmers and other landowners attended. Clarence Pellett was selected to act as Chairman. Members of the State Soil Conservation Committee were present, and the date of the county referendum was set for June 20, 1942. The vote for approving the district carried with a 94% majority, with 181 votes cast for the proposal, and 13 votes against.

Joe Lawton<sup>4 Lewis</sup> was elected for a six-year term as commissioner, with 137 votes; Carl Euken of Wiota for a four-year term, with 114 votes, and Clarence Pellett of Atlantic for a two-year term, with 96 votes. Other candidates and the number of votes were Henry McCrory, Atlantic, 53; Raymond Warne, Lewis, 27; Henry Kuehn, Anita, 58; and Gilbert Lacey, Cumberland, 92.

Paul Jacobson helped the commissioners formulate the program of work, under a temporary arrangement as action Soil Conservationist. Wilbur Callison started working in the county on September 1, but was taken into the Navy on December 11. Gilbert Wehrman was in the county for several weeks in December and expects to be transferred.

Clarence Pellett was elected Chairman of the commissioners, and Lester Soukup, County Agent, was elected Secretary. Several meetings were held with Carl Smith, Ross Oliver, R. W. Oberlin and other soil officials.

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The memorandum of understanding was signed by the United States Department of Agriculture on August 2, 1942, and by the Iowa Extension Service on August 4, 1942.

The boundaries of the district are the county lines. The second week of each month was established as the regular meeting time. Leaders in each township were selected to assist the district commissioners.

The fact that 300 operators have contoured on their farms is an indication of an active growing interest. Considerable interest has been shown at various group meetings, such as evening schools, practice demonstrations, township Farm Bureau meetings and AAA meetings. One survey of an adult night school group at Cumberland, with 30 in attendance, revealed that 18 men who had previous experience in contouring would increase their contouring in 1943 by 53%. Four farmers who had not contoured in 1942 indicated their intentions of contouring in 1943.

The attitude of most newspapers in the county is good, except for the daily paper, which is only fair in interest and cooperation. The bankers and other businessmen in the county are very favorable toward the district program.

One of the most important problems is the development of ways to encourage the widespread adoption of contour planting of row crops, which will contribute to the 1943 production goals and prepare for more complete farm planning in the future. It is felt that township and community leaders will aid materially in getting this job done.

The rather rapid change in personnel due to the present emergency has been a handicap, as it takes some time for one to acquaint himself with the community and its leaders.

Full cooperation from the County Board of Supervisors is very much desired.

The cooperation and interest which the AAA has shown in conservation practices is of particular importance. The active part which the Farm Bureau had in starting the movement for the establishment of a district indicates the interest in soil conservation in Cass County. The Vocational Agriculture teachers are very active, both in day-time work and night schools.

Every government agency represented has helped in forming the district and they

are urging their groups to participate.

No special surveys have been conducted, and no county soil map of any type is available.

Four regular meetings of the district commissioners have been held. One meeting of township leaders was held to make future plans and to work up the work program for the county. Another meeting of county leaders and representatives of all government agencies was held to determine what each agency could contribute to soil conservation work in the county.

Fourteen attending an evening school in Cumberland placed applications for technical assistance. 30 additional requests have been received. It is estimated that an additional 50 men have made requests which have not been recorded. Conservation surveys have been completed on four farms with 900 acres.

There is no equipment, material or labor available at this location.

Form SCD-12  
(Rev. 12-10-42)

Soil Conservation District  
ANNUAL REPORT OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

DISTRICT Cass County Soil Conservation Atlantic, Iowa  
(Name) (Headquarters of Dist. Gov. Body) (State)

Period January 1 19 42, to December 31, 19 42

| ACTIVITY                 |            | This Year | To Date |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------|---------|
| Educational Meetings     | Number     | 4         |         |
|                          | Attendance | 250       |         |
| Tours                    | Number     | 1         |         |
|                          | Attendance | 40        |         |
| Demonstrations           | Number     | 4         |         |
|                          | Attendance | 75        |         |
| Leader Training Meetings | Number     | 1         |         |
|                          | Attendance | 30        |         |
| Exhibits                 | Number     | -         |         |
| Radio Talks              | Number     | -         |         |
| News Articles            | Number     | 26        |         |
|                          |            |           |         |
|                          |            |           |         |
|                          |            |           |         |

Report of Widespread Application of Conservation Practices to Further  
Production of Essential War Products

Many individuals have estimated an increase in yield due to contouring of 5 to 15 bushels per acre. A check of the number of farms contouring indicates about 400 farms have part or all of the clean till crops on the contour. This spread of contouring can be largely attributed to the activities of local organizations which were active in promoting contouring. Although the soil conservation district was established in the summer, the individuals active in the district were also active in securing a widespread application of conservation practices during the 1942 planting season.

At a recent meeting of the District Commissioners, the program was outlined for the winter and spring of 1943. The following points were outlined for the winter and spring program:

- a. Personal contacts would be made with each township leader chosen by the district commissioners to solve problems which confront them and to formulate a list of individuals in each township who will adopt one or more simple practices during the spring of 1943.
- b. Frequent news articles will stress the following subjects: Increase yields by contouring; Contouring can be done without buying additional machinery; Seeding of grassed waterways; and Utilization of all crop residues.
- c. Several service motion pictures will be used extensively during February. Organizations to which these pictures will be shown will include civic groups, evening schools, annual meetings of government agencies and high schools.
- d. Laying out of contour lines will be demonstrated at leader training schools and township demonstrations during early spring.

Soil Conservation District  
ANNUAL REPORT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES

DISTRICT Soil Conserv., Cass Co. Atlantic Iowa  
(Name) (Hdqtrs. Dist. Gov. Body) (State)

Period January 1, 1942 to December 31, 1942

|                           |                                             |                    |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| RECEIPTS (BY SOURCE)      |                                             |                    |
| 1                         | Balance Brought Forward                     | \$                 |
| 2                         |                                             |                    |
| 3                         | There have been no receipts or expenditures |                    |
| 4                         |                                             |                    |
| 5                         |                                             |                    |
| 6                         |                                             |                    |
| 7                         |                                             |                    |
| 8                         |                                             |                    |
| TOTAL                     |                                             | XXXXXXXXXX \$ None |
| EXPENDITURES (CLASSIFIED) |                                             | XXXXXXXXXX         |
| 1                         |                                             | \$                 |
| 2                         |                                             |                    |
| 3                         |                                             |                    |
| 4                         |                                             |                    |
| 5                         |                                             |                    |
| 6                         |                                             |                    |
| 7                         |                                             |                    |
| 8                         |                                             |                    |
| TOTAL                     |                                             | XXXXXXXXXX \$ None |
| BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD   |                                             | \$                 |

*Clarence A. Pellett, Ch.*

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK  
IN  
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS  
STATE OF IOWA

IOWA STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATING

EXTENSION SERVICE

AMES, IOWA  
May 22, 1943

TO COUNTY EXTENSION DIRECTORS:

As a follow up on the production practice program and as a guide for future educational activities, would you please answer the following questions as they pertain to your county? We would like you to include in this report all contouring demonstrations conducted and sponsored by various agencies and groups in your county.

Very truly yours,

*H. B. Cheney*

H. B. Cheney  
Asst. Ext. Agronomist

HBC:EID

I. Contour demonstrations.

1. Leader training meetings held. (Example - AAA Committeemen, Farm Bureau Board etc.)

Number 5 Attendance 64

2. General Method demonstrations.

Number 16 Attendance 240

3. Agencies or individuals assisting SCS, A.A.A., F.B.  
F.S.A.

II. Farmers Contouring Intertilled Crops (best estimate)

1. In 1943

Number 775 Acres 24,450

2. In 1942

Number 424 Acres 12,400

III. Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

*fix and a  
fence  
also grass  
mowing  
no c/2  
seeds*  
Cass

(County)

Oscar J. Rank  
(County Extension Director)

(Two copies are included, one for your files and one to be forwarded to the State Office)

# SURVEY OF CONTOURING IN CASS COUNTY

June 8, 1943

| Township         | Reporter           | No.<br>'cont. 1943<br>'1943 | 'Acres'<br>'1943 | No.<br>'cont. 1942<br>'1942 | 'Acres'<br>'1942 | Water-<br>'ways<br>'seeded | Water-<br>'ways<br>'seeded |                        |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Cass             | 'James Moon        | 20                          | 600              | 12                          | 360              | 10                         | 5                          |                        |
|                  | 'F. I. Northrup    | 20                          | 1365             | 12                          | 650              | 0                          | 6                          |                        |
| Total            |                    | 60                          | 2946             | 36                          | 1515             | 15                         | 15                         |                        |
| Edna             | 'James G. McLaren  | 55                          | 1100             | 30                          | 600              | 30                         | 20                         |                        |
|                  | 'Lyle L. Neary     | 13                          | 550              | 7                           | 320              |                            |                            | North 1/3 twp.         |
| Total            |                    | 55                          | 1100             | 30                          | 600              | 30                         | 20                         |                        |
| Union            | 'Carl H. Ruken     | 65                          | 2400             | 30                          | 1000             | 50                         | 20                         |                        |
|                  | 'Gilbert E. Lacy   | 18                          | 650              | 3                           | 150              | 1                          |                            | South 1/3 twp.         |
| Total            |                    | 55                          | 1100             | 30                          | 1000             | 50                         | 20                         |                        |
| Washington       | 'Henry O. Hansen   | 22                          | 500              | 15                          | 300              | 2                          |                            |                        |
| Total            |                    | 66                          | 1500             | 45                          | 900              | 6                          |                            |                        |
| Benton           | 'Kenneth L. Supple | 14                          | 160              |                             |                  | 10                         | 4                          |                        |
| Total            |                    | 42                          | 480              |                             |                  | 30                         | 12                         |                        |
| Brighton         | 'Claude McFadden   | 50                          | 2000             | 30                          | 1200             | yes                        | yes                        | 1/3 of twp.            |
|                  | 'A. W. Armstrong   | 15                          | 750              | 2                           | 110              |                            |                            |                        |
| Total            |                    | 48                          | 2061             | 24                          | 981              |                            |                            |                        |
| Franklin         | 'Ted Bell          | 55                          | 1400             | 25                          | 500              | yes                        | 'mostly'                   |                        |
|                  | 'K. Neary          | 110                         | 3300             | 60                          | 2000             | 150                        |                            |                        |
| Total            |                    | 110                         | 3300             | 60                          | 2000             | 150                        |                            |                        |
| Massena          | 'H. R. Perry       | 40                          | 1600             | 5                           | 200              | 5                          | 15                         |                        |
|                  | 'John Mattheis     | 3                           | 100              | 2                           | 65               |                            |                            | Only in this community |
| Total            |                    | 40                          | 1600             | 5                           | 200              | 5                          | 15                         |                        |
| Mohle            | 'F. W. Schuler     | 9                           | 400              | 5                           | 200              | 4                          | 4                          |                        |
|                  | 'Alvin Yehshuhl    | 5                           | 150              | 3                           | 60               | 1                          | 1                          | 1/3 of twp.            |
|                  | 'J. W. Mueller     | 15                          | 500              | 10                          |                  | 11                         |                            |                        |
| Total            |                    | 29                          | 1050             | 18                          | 260              | 16                         | 5                          |                        |
| Pymosa           | 'Walter J. Kuehl   | 12                          | 600              | 8                           | 300              |                            |                            |                        |
| Total            |                    | 36                          | 1800             | 24                          | 900              |                            |                            |                        |
| Grove            | 'Donald Wilson     | 6                           |                  | 4                           |                  |                            |                            |                        |
|                  | 'Clarence Acker    | 12                          | 450              | 9                           | 300              |                            | 3                          | 1/3 of twp.            |
| Total            |                    | 36                          | 1350             | 27                          | 900              |                            | 3                          |                        |
| Lincoln          | 'Thos. W. Bailey   | 40                          | 400              | 10                          | 60               | yes                        | yes                        |                        |
| Total            |                    | 40                          | 400              | 10                          | 60               |                            |                            |                        |
| Pleasant         | 'William Lary      | 19                          | 350              |                             |                  |                            |                            |                        |
| Total            |                    | 19                          | 350              |                             |                  |                            |                            |                        |
| Total Reported   |                    | 570                         | 19037            | 309                         | 9316             | 302                        | 90                         |                        |
| Total for County |                    | 760                         | 23430            | 448                         | 12420            | 604                        | 205                        |                        |

# SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS - August 1, 1942



