

FORWARD

The narrative portion of this report covers the 1978 calendar year (January-December). Because the Department of Soil Conservation (DSC) operates on a different fiscal year, the financial report covers the period of July 1, 1977, through June 30, 1978.

The 1978 Annual Report was released to all local news media. Copies available to the public are on file at the District Office.

1978 PERSONNEL DIRECTORY

DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY:

Claude Sealy, chairman
Wendell Christensen, vice-chairman
James F. Antoine, commissioner
Kenneth Brunas, commissioner
Luther Kirne, commissioner
John Reding, assistant commissioner

John Ley, Extension Director, secretary to the commissioners

FIELD OFFICE STAFF:

Lyle Riedinger, District Conservationist
Loren Bishop, Soil Conservation Technician
Carolyn Marshall, District Clerk
John Skilling, State Aide (Jan-Apr)
John Metzger, State Aide (permanent parttime) (May-Dec)
Todd Kirkgaard, Soil Conservationist Student Trainee (Jun-Aug)
Laurie Williams, PSE (Jan-Jun)
Douglas Johnson, PSE (Jan-Sep)
Mike Struecker, PSE (Jun-Sep)

SOIL SURVEY STAFF:

Robert Jones, Party Leader
Richard Lensch, Soil Scientist
Willie Bragg, Soil Scientist (Jan-Aug)
Robert Wilson, Soil Scientist

1978 ANNUAL REPORT

1978 has been another noteworthy year for conservation in Kosuth County. Ninety-nine farmstead and field windbreaks were planted; technical assistance provided by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) staff aided by Department of Soil Conservation (DSC) and District employees. Thomas Antoine, Bancroft, and Wendell Christensen, Wesley, cooperated to plant a half-mile wildlife border of honeysuckle on the adjoining property line of their Ramsey Township farms. Ms. Marilyn Knester established a 2400-foot shelterbelt of scotch pine on a farm in Union Twp.

Five farm ponds were constructed throughout the county: Paul Arand, Portland Twp.; Dorothy Scott, Union Twp.; Donald Larson, Plum Creek Twp.; Douglas Helmke, Seneca Twp.; and, William Hellman, Portland Twp.

Nineteen district cooperators constructed terraces on their farms this year. Nearly 43,000 feet of parallel tile-outlet terraces were built.

Fifteen resource inventories and evaluations were prepared for local units of government.

Education and Information

A two-day soil conservation information meeting was held in February for a four-township area at Swea City. Topics of discussion included the standard soil survey, conservation tillage, use of herbicides and insecticides with conservation tillage, terraces, wildlife needs, windbreaks, and cost-share programs. There were fifty people in attendance.

A field day at Stinson Prairie for high school students was conducted in May. Three area schools participated.

Four thousand church bulletin covers and inserts were provided to Kossuth churches in the annual May observance of Soil Stewardship Week.

The first county meeting on the Resource Conservation Act of 1977 (RCA) was held at Bancroft in July. The purpose of the meeting was to solicit public opinion to identify local concerns regarding soil, water, and related resources.

Four presentations were given by field office staff to the Youth Conservation Corp at Union Slough in August. Flora, entomology, broad land use, and conservation practices were studied.

In September a field trip was conducted for 60 NIAC students from Mason City including horticulture, agri-business, and farm operations. The tour concluded with discussion of native flora on the glacial outwash of the Algona Moraine.

Mr. Ernie Behn, a Boone County farmer, presented a program on conservation tillage to an adult education class at Algona in December. The District co-sponsored the event.

The District, working cooperatively with the Kossuth County Conservation Board, developed a brochure about Stinson Prairie, 31 acres of virgin prairie in the southwest part of the county.

The District again sponsored a booth at the Kossuth County Fair. The Department of Soil Conservation's state fair exhibit was on display in the booth.

A year-end tally shows that 20 news items were prepared for local newspapers. Twenty-seven programs on conservation were presented to

various groups. District Conservationist Lyle Riedinger conducted 47 fifteen-minute radio programs aired over local radio KISL.

Recognitions Received

Commissioner James F. Antoine was awarded the distinction of Outstanding Soil Conservation District Commissioner for 1978 in IASDCB Region 2, a 13-county area. Antoine was recognized for his contribution to the local district's program as well as his participation in various regional and state functions.

The District Commissioners announced the 1978 county winners of the Iowa Achievement Awards Contest in July: W. H. Grover, Algona, in the owner/operator division and overall county winner; Leroy Meyer of Fenton, in the new cooperator division; and, Hardman and Hoenk, owners, and John Rath and James Dodds, operators (all of Algona) in the owner/tenant-operated division. These people were recognized for the outstanding job of conserving their soil and water resources.

Marion Casey of La Verne was presented the 1978 Izaak Walton League windbreak award. The certificate noted, in part: "In Recognition of An Exemplary Windbreak Planting Program That Is Helping To Conserve America's Natural Resources." Casey's winning windbreak which was established in 1970 was planned by the local SCS office.

Standard Soil Survey

Less than a thousand acres of Kosuth farmland remains to be mapped under the Standard Soil Survey. The survey which began in the spring of 1972 is slated to hold the "final acre" ceremony in April, 1979, in La Verne Township.

The published survey including soil maps of the entire county and information about each soil type will be available to all landowners in the county at a future date. The last soil survey was published in 1925.

State Cost Share

Nineteen state cost-share applications to build terraces and diversions were approved during the 1978 calendar year. Of these, fourteen were completed; two, construction underway; and, three cancelled.

There is an unobligated balance of \$3779 in the state cost-share account as of December 31, 1978. Applications will be taken after January 1, 1979, for those projects with spring construction planned.

Poster Contest

A county-wide conservation poster contest for third and fourth grade students was sponsored by the Kossuth Conservation Youth Board. Ribbons were presented for the three best posters for each grade. In addition, first place winners Mike Elsbecker and Todd Renger, students at St. John's of Bancroft, were awarded checks in the amount of \$5.

Commissioner Elections

James F. Antoine, Ramsey Township, was re-elected to a 6-year term as Kossuth Soil Conservation District (SCD) Commissioner in the November general election. This marked the first time that the election of a Kossuth SCD Commissioner has been included on the general ballot as established by the 66th Iowa General Assembly. Prior to 1975, special district elections were held each year in which a commissioner's term expired.

SOD commissioners presently serve six-year terms with no salary. The other commissioners are Claude Seely, Plum Creek Twp. (chairman), Wendell Christensen, Wesley Twp. (vice-chairman), Kenneth Brown, Eagle Twp., and Luther Kimes, Laverne Twp. John Reding, Riverdale Twp., was appointed to serve as an assistant commissioner.

208 Planning

The Kossuth County Resource Coordinating Committee (RCC) met in February. Serving on the Board are: Wendell Christensen (SOD Commissioner), president; Nick Scholer (Algona Municipal Utilities), secretary; and, James F. Antoine (SOD Commissioner), county representative to the Des Moines River Conservancy District Advisory Committee.

The Kossuth RCC, provided for under Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, was organized in 1976 to provide local input into planning for pollution control from non-point sources. Membership is open to all interested residents and representatives of local government.

Trees and Intakes Sold

More than 16,500 trees and shrubs were sold for windbreak planting during the spring of 1978. Fifty-seven metal terrace intakes were also sold by the District. The additional income from these projects supports various local activities. The two services will be continued in the coming year.

Commissioners' Meetings

The District Commissioners conducted eleven regular meetings and two special sessions in 1978--in January a joint meeting with the Kossuth

ASCS county committeemen and in July a conservation tour of farm entries in the Iowa Achievement Awards Contest.

Commissioners Antoine, Christensen, and Brones attended a two-day commissioners' short course in Ames in January. Also attending were Lyle Riedinger, D.C., and district employees Laurie Williams and Douglas Johnson.

In March Commissioners Antoine and Kinne attended the Spring Regional Commissioners' Meeting at Ft. Dodge. Antoine and Riedinger represented the District at the Fall Regional Commissioners' Meeting held at Ft. Dodge in November.

Commissioners Christensen and Brones and District Clerk Carolyn Marshall attended sessions of the annual conference in November.

Commissioners Brones, Christensen, and Antoine served on the Kossuth temporary Land Preservation Policy Commission (LPPC) which met three times during the year. This committee is charged with developing land use policy recommendations for a state and a county land use policy. Christensen also attended an area-wide LPPC meeting at Storm Lake in April.

Tillage Test Plot Being Considered

Planning began in November for a conservation tillage test plot in Kossuth County scheduled to be implemented in 1979. One major point of interest involves chisel plowing versus moldboard plowing. The Kossuth SCD plans to sponsor the project in cooperation with several private companies and government agencies.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 1977 - June 30, 1978

1-M ACCOUNT:

Allocation received..... \$ 2,221.15

Disbursements:

Commissioners Expense	\$ 887.02
Office Supplies	678.36
Printing	42.00
Meeting Hall Rental	22.00
Prizes for Contests	11.08
Office Expense	559.44
Material for Demonstrations	.69
Meeting Expense	20.56
Total disbursements.....	\$ 2,221.15

2-M ACCOUNT:

Allocation received..... \$16,350.00

Disbursements:

Salaries	\$13,528.57
Travel	86.74
State Retirement	681.52
Social Security	805.81
Health Insurance	362.98
Life Insurance	66.00
Long-term Disability Insurance	56.13
State-owned Equipment Expense	60.00
Released to state committee	702.25
Total disbursements.....	\$16,350.00

Financial Statement (con't)

3-M ACCOUNT:

1977-78 allocation received..... \$46,000.00

Funds Paid Out

Terraces \$45,498.00

Diversions 502.00

Total Paid Out..... 46,000.00

Balance of funds in account..... \$ 0.00

1978-79 allocation received..... \$28,000.00

Funds Paid Out

Diversion \$ 95.00

Terraces 13,577.56

Total Paid Out..... - 13,672.56

Funds obligated, practices not completed..... - 10,548.40

Balance of unobligated funds..... \$ 3,779.04

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

January 1, 1978 - December 31, 1978

District Cooperators	46
Individuals and groups assisted.....	366
Total services rendered to individuals and groups.....	1,037
Individuals and groups applying conservation practices.....	259
Conservation plans, individuals (Jan-Sep).....	22
Conservation plans, groups (Jan-Sep).....	5
Conservation plans revised (Jan-Sep).....	3
Inventories and evaluations.....	91
Units of government assisted.....	3
Inventories and evaluations for resource planning.....	15
Ponds.....	5
Farmstead Windbreaks.....	23 ac.
Field Windbreaks.....	8,700 ft.
Conservation Tillage.....	14,149 ac.
Parallel Terraces.....	42,860 ft.
Tile Drainage.....	17,047 ft.

