

ANNUAL REPORT
CEDAR COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Tipton, Iowa
January 1, 1948 - December 31, 1948

The Cedar County Soil Conservation District was organized in 1946 and has completed its 2nd year of operation with assistance from the Extension Service and Soil Conservation Service. Considerable delay has been experienced due to personnel changes along with a slowness in acceptance of a complete soil and moisture conservation program by farmers. Thus the progress to date has been rather slow, with 26 Farm Conservation Plans, 5269 acres, completed in 1948. To date 46 Farm Conservation Plans.

The District Commissioners feel that the future of Cedar County depends on its soil, for as the ability of land to produce decreases or becomes poorer so will its people become poorer. Poorer not only in an economic sense but also on the physical side for peoples health is related directly to the soil from which we live. Thus it is hoped that many more will avail themselves of the assistance available from the soil conservation district to start on a sound soil and moisture conservation program which will build soil structure, increase organic content in the soil, keep topsoil in Cedar County and protect more acres for the future children of Cedar County. Also our present standard of living has been made possible by the ability of our land to produce abundantly and provided the wherewith for people to purchase and use the modern conveniences so commonly found in the farm homes.

The District Commissioners held their regular election in March, in conjunction with a county wide soil conservation and fertilizer meeting at the City hall in Tipton. Floyd Fawcett was reelected for a 6 yr. term. Mr. Fawcett was filling the unexpired 2 yr. term of Mr. Suchomel, to which he had been appointed by the state committee in 1947.

The district has taken an active part in research work (1) studying the comparative value, to our soil and future yields, by leaving the hay crop - harvesting one cutting only and removing both cuttings. (2) fertilizer combination with (1) above. (3) harvesting of corn from poor and rich ground for use by Iowa State College in conducting nutritional feed studies. This study is now in its 3rd year.

Member of commissioners was on the panel covering nutritional value of feeds at the short course for commissioners in 1948.

Cooperating with State Conservation Commission and local sportsman club in obtaining planting stock and planting game cover area on farms cooperating with the soil conservation district.

The District held 9 regular meetings and assisted with 6 interest meetings for development of 6 groups. These groups being developed for purpose of working with the district in planning and applying a soil and moisture conservation program. 10 Farm planning meetings were held to assist in developing Farm Conservation Plans.

Conservation practices established as a result of District's activities:

	<u>1948</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
Contour planting	1937 acres	3985 acres
Strip cropping	150 acres	298 acres
Terraces	1784 feet	2784 feet
Pasture Improvement	29 acres	33 acres
Tiling	2245 feet	2245 feet
Establishing field boundaries	33066 feet	34566 feet
Constructing waterways	40260 feet	57640 feet
Improved rotation	4115 acres	6584 acres
Conservation surveys	6930 acres	25630 acres

The educational program as carried out by the district in conjunction with extension director and Soil Conservation Service personnel was:

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
News releases	32	
Demonstrations	6	80
Educational meetings	8	241
Interest meetings	6	72
Civic & Commercial groups	4	125
Tours	2	32
Top. Farm Bureau	18	450

The Commissioners wish to acknowledge the assistance given to the Cedar County Soil Conservation District by the Soil Conservation Service personnel and their staff at Tipton, along with the local county agriculture Extension Director. Also wish to recognize the assistance rendered by the following organizations and agencies in assisting with the soils work in Cedar County. These being AAA, Voc. Agriculture, State Conservation Commission, Farm Loan Association, Farm Bureau, Production Credit, rural and urban schools and local civic and commercial organizations. Also wish to express our appreciation for the fine support given by local papers and radio stations.

Cedar County Soil Conservation
District Commissioners

Robert Kelly
Robert Kelly, Chairman

Commissioners

Robert Kelly, Clarence, Iowa
Arnold Meier, Clarence, Iowa
Floyd Fawcett, West Branch, Iowa