

1961 Report



"Let's Twist" —

OUR conservation practices
into soil and water savers!

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FINANCIAL REPORT

F O R W A R D

It would be wonderful, if we could show the progress most favorable to all who read this report. However, we find that as with farming operations, we must work as the weatherman dictates, to a very large degree.

Thirty-five new basic soil and water conservation plans covering 7668 acres for 1961, is progress. However, while these thirty five were being written and applied to the land, a few have been cancelled, due to death, retirement, sale of farms, or reasons beyond the control of the cooperator.

The average age of the farm owners and operators is getting very high. New, young, operators, starting in proportion to older operators leaving the farm, is low. Good or bad, this is the trend in Davis Soil Conservation District.

We are glad to hear and read of the national emphasis being placed on recreation and wildlife management.

Forty farm ponds and permanent structure reservoirs were stocked with fish in 1961, adding to the hundreds that are already producing food and recreation.

As we move into the watershed development stage of our conservation program, the recreation phase of our District will be greatly benefited. Protection of our highways, highway surfacing, bridges and farm land will be other benefits from the watershed programs.

This should increase our wealth as a district, attract and hold the kind of a citizen we want and need in our community.

COMMISSIONERS' ACTIVITIES

At the January 1961, Commissioners' meeting, Clay C. Barnett, was elected Chairman of the District, Dale Blackwell was re-appointed Treasurer, and Loretta Augspurger, Secretary. Assistant Commissioners appointed were Charles Chickering from Lick Creek Township, Lionel Herteen from West Grove township, Sam Botts, Jr., of Wyacondah township and P. W. Spilman of Lick Creek township.

Harold Baughman and Dale Blackwell were delegated to attend the National Association of Soil Conservation District's Annual Meeting in Memphis, Tennessee. However, due to conflicting situations, only Mr. and Mrs. Baughman were able to attend the convention.

During the March meeting, of the Commissioners, we voted to pay the tuition of two teachers of the Davis County Schools to attend the Springbrook Conservation Camp.

Wesley Beecher, Conservation Officer, reported that the state would take fish orders from farmers of the county until May 1, 1961.

During our April meeting we accepted the invitation from the Old Settlers' Reunion Committee, in Drakesville, to hold the "Queen of Conservation Contest" in conjunction with their reunion. We ordered the necessary material for all ministers in the District to use in stewardship week services. This material was received prior to our regular meeting in May and distributed. A tour for ministers to cooperators' farms to inspect and observe applied conservation practices was conducted on May 16 by Work Unit Conservationist, Verle Arnold.

We ordered 1000 copies of "Help Keep Our Land Beautiful" in May, to be placed in Davis County schools.

Development of the Work Plan on Big Wyacondah Watershed was started by the state Soil Conservation Service survey party.

At the July meeting, Bill Morton and Burton Shumate, farmers in the Fox River Watershed, met with the Commissioners and explained what had been done

(Commissioners' Activities, Con't)

on fox River Watershed. They reported on their favorable reception at Washington D. C., when they presented a petition with 300 signatures of land owners and operators, asking for federal assistance on the Fox River problem.

The following cooperators were considered for the Register and Tribune Conservation Contest:

- Class I (new cooperator) Raymond Howard
Dean Grim, Trenton Hopkins,
Chester Adams
- Class II (landlord-tenant) I. O. Weed &
Mable Goode, Teddy & Dale Dixon
- Class III (owner-operator) Robert Evans, Alva
White, Rex Blackwell, Don Altheide

Final selections of the contest were:

Class I - Chester Adams (who went on to win
in the Regional Contest)

Class II - Dale and Teddy Dixon

Class III - Rex Blackwell

All Commissioners and wives attended the Annual Meeting of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation Districts, in Des Moines, Iowa, on September 17 through 19, 1961.

Attending our October 1961 meeting were Richard Wilcox, Assistant State Conservationist, Leonard Larsen of the Watershed Survey Party, and Lyall Mitchell, Area Conservationist from Fairfield, Iowa. Main discussion centered around the Big Wyacondah Watershed and progress and problems on the proposed Fox River Watershed.

The District's annual meeting was discussed and the date set for November 8 1961, 7:00 p.m., for a banquet type meeting to be held at the Bloomfield Legion Hall. Reverend Steffenson of the First Methodist Church, Ottumwa, Iowa to be the main speaker.

(Commissioners' Activities, Con't)

Plaques were presented by the Bloomfield Newspapers at the Annual Meeting, to Chester Adams, Rex Blackwell, Dale and Teddy Dixon, in recognition of their soil and water conservation accomplishments.

Conservation Practices

No major changes were made in the design or application of conservation practices during 1961. The ACP cost-sharing rate is practically the same as in 1960 and will be in 1962.

The 80% cost-sharing rate for planting trees is the highest. Cost sharing per acre for tree planting, may be as high as \$45 per acre for both trees and planting.

Extremely heavy rainfall prevented construction of terraces during the fall of 1961. Large acreage of beans and corn are still in the field.

Temperature, Rain and Snow Fall for 1961

Many of us in Davis Soil Conservation District will have two crops of beans and two crops of corn to harvest in 1962. The rainfall through April to October of 1961 was near normal, but was poorly distributed.

Rainfall was 2.2 inches below normal in May, 4.5 inches below in June, 3.0 inches over in July and 3.0 inches below in August. September is where our trouble began. 10.7 inches of rainfall or 7.2 inches above normal, fell during the month. By January 1, 1962, it was still wet, with heavy snow on the unfrozen ground.

At no time during the year, did temperatures come up to normal.

The total rainfall for the year was 40.26 inches. The heavy rains in the months of September and October when many conservation practices were to be applied just would not permit heavy equipment in the fields.

Big Wyacondah Watershed

The work plan for the Big Wyacondah Watershed is nearly completed. A rough copy of the plan has been reviewed and tentatively approved by the local sponsoring organization. The plan will be presented to the people living in the watershed, early in 1962.

(Big Wyacondah Watershed, Con't.)

Present plans are to submit the plan to Congress in the spring of 1962 for their review. If approved, construction work in the watershed will probably begin within a year.

The completed plan will include flood water retarding structures, grade stabilization structures, stream channel improvement on the Little Wyacondah and structural waterways.

There is all or part of 228 farms in the watershed. The benefits from this watershed project as well as the needed land treatment measures that the farmers have and will apply on their own, will have far reaching affects on the inhabitants, the land, and the facilities in the watershed. The entire county and community will benefit from the project in many ways.

North Wyacondah Watershed

North Wyacondah Watershed is a 72,000 acre watershed that heads just South of Bloomfield and runs diagonally Southeast through Davis County into Scotland and Clark Counties in Missouri.

The drainage area involves some 18,800 acres in Davis County, 3700 acres in Van Buren County, 38,200 in Scotland County and 11, 300 acres in Clark County.

Major watershed problems are gully erosion damage to agricultural land and flood water damage to crops, pasture, roads and buildings.

Some 126 farms -- all or in part, lie in the Davis County portion of the watershed.

At a meeting, held in Memphis, Missouri, on October 24, 1961, a committee was selected to further the study of North Wyacondah Watershed. Members of said committee are Clay Barnett of Davis County, Hugh Barker of Van Buren County, Raymond Austin, Scotland County, and Wendell Kapfer, Clark County, Missouri.

The Davis Soil Conservation District Commissioners plan to hold meetings in 1962 with farmers living in the watershed to discuss the possibility of a watershed program for North Wyacondah.

(North Wyacondah Watershed) Con't.

This will be an attempt to develop a watershed control program, between two county soil conservation districts in Missouri and two in Iowa.

Fox River Watershed

Fox River Watershed originates in Appanoose County and runs east through Davis and Van Buren counties in Iowa, and Clark County in Missouri. Some 143,000 acres of the watershed lies in Iowa. Nearly half of this total acreage is in Davis County.

Major watershed problems are gully erosion damage to agricultural land. Stream bank cutting and flood water damage to crops, pasture, roads and buildings are also included.

All or parts of 462 Davis County farms, are in the Fox River watershed. To date, 205 farms, totaling 40,000 acres, are cooperators with the Davis Soil Conservation District. The Corps of Engineers is currently making a study to determine flood damage from Fox River. After completing and evaluating their study, they will make a report of their findings and present their recommendations.

Many Davis County landowners in the Fox Watershed recognizing the need for both flood control and stabilization measures in the watershed have contacted the soil conservation office about a watershed program for the watershed. The Commissioners have asked for a member of the watershed party of the Soil Conservation Service to look over and evaluate the feasibility of a watershed program for Fox River Watershed. It is expected, that this will be done in the spring of 1962.

The results of this evaluation will determine whether or not, a petition for watershed assistance should be presented to the State Soil Conservation Committee for their consideration.

Watershed enthusiasm for Fox River did not start and interest did not develop accidentally. All worthwhile projects must have someone or some group of people doing the ground work. In this case, the people were: Mr. and Mrs. Donald McWilliams, of Mt. Sterling, Iowa, Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Sheppard, Mrs.

(Fox River Watershed, Con't)

Stanley Creswick, Paul Cox and Mr. and Mrs. Don DeVoss of Cantril, Iowa, in Van Buren County and Bill Morton of Bloomfield, in Davis County and Floyd Dienst, Alexandria, Missouri from Clark County.

This group met with the Senate and House Committees on appropriations. Congressmen, Fred Schwengle and John Kyl appeared with the group as did Iowa's Senators, B. B. Hickenlooper and Jack Miller. They also presented their problem to the Bureau of Budget and Corps of Army Engineers. Congressman Kyl complimented the group on the splendid job of preparing the report. Mr. Morton presented a good report to the Davis Soil Conservation District Commissioners at their July 1961 meeting.

The Senate and House Committee approved the project for study and \$55,000 was authorized by the Corps of Engineers for a study of Fox River.

The Corps of Engineers held a hearing on the Fox River Basin at Mt. Sterling, Iowa. Several county groups submitted statements, regarding damage done by the river. Davis District submitted a statement showing conservation work actually accomplished to date, and the number of District cooperators.

Carter Creek Watershed

Carter Creek Watershed is a 24,500 acre watershed in the West and South part of Davis County. It heads at Moulton, Iowa, in Appanoose County and runs East and South through West Grove, Wyacondah and Grove townships in Davis county. Some 1500 acres of the drainage area is in Appanoose County.

This watershed receives considerable damage from floodwater each year. Gully erosion is also a major problem in the watershed.

Some 185 farms, all or in part, lie in the Davis County part of the Carter Creek watershed. Farmers living in the watershed interested in a watershed stabilization and flood control program for the watershed, should contact the Davis Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

"Queen of Conservation"

Since 1956, the Davis District has sponsored the "Queen of Conservation" Contest. The 1961 contest was held during the Drakesville Old Soldiers and Settlers' Reunion. From a field of 16 candidates, Miss Diana Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Miller, Rt. 4, Bloomfield, Iowa, Grove Township, was chosen as Davis County's "Queen of Conservation". Miss Miller represented this District at the Regional Contest which was held at Fairfield, Iowa. Accompanying her to Fairfield was Miss Linda Harris, runner-up in the local contest and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Harris of West Grove Township.

Judges of the local contest were Mr. and Mrs. Burdette Stamps, Soil Conservation Aid and State Clerk, from Donnellson, Iowa and Barbara Shaw, local beautician from Centerville, Iowa.

Wildlife and Recreation

Every pond in the District properly fenced and planted to wildlife cover and food plants provide the best of wildlife habitat. New ponds can now be fenced on a cost sharing basis. ACP sharing a portion of the fence around their ponds at a very reasonable cost.

40 farm ponds were stocked this year with fish from the Federal Fish Hatchery. The federal hatchery will stock channel catfish as well as bass and bluegill in ponds of 1.0 surface acres of water or more.

Deer are on the increase in the District. Many reports received of farmers seeing 6-8 deer at a time in timbered areas.

Multiflora rose and shrubbery plantings were made on the Don Walley, Robert Boatman, and D. C. Bollman Farms. Each planted 2000 rose plants for fence and wildlife food and cover.

FORESTRY

Farmers in Davis Soil Conservation District should be planting more trees than they are, but, we're glad for the progress being made. Seven cooperators planted 29,000 trees in 1961. Norman Hansen planted 9.0 acres, Esco Campbell, 6.0 acres, Robert Bailey, 2.5 acres, James Bailey, 4.0 acres, R. E. Rasmussen, 2.0 acres, Robert Boatman, 5.0 acres.

Health and Education

Another duty has been added to the responsibilities of the Work Unit Conservationist in the District, which has to do with our health as well as education.

On February 2, 1961, Verle Arnold, our Work Unit Conservationist, and Eugene Francis, Conservation Aid, were called to Des Moines for training in radiological monitoring at the Civil Defense School, Ft. Des Moines Army Reserve Training Center.

The course was sponsored by the Soil Conservation Service. The Davis District Unit is now equipped with instruments to measure radiation in event of nuclear attack.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Applied-1961</u>	<u>Applied To Date</u>
Cooperators	No.	100	812
	Acres	19234	171, 260
Basic Plans Written	No.	35	511
	Acres	7668	109,305
Contouring	Acres	1053	39,099
Conservation Cropping System	Acres	4500	54, 571
Pasture Renovation	Acres	521	14,189
Tree Planting	Acres	20	156
Land Grading	Acres	-----	36
Drainage Structures	Number	-----	7
Gully Control Structures	Number	15	118
Farm Ponds	Number	49	1238
Terraces	Mile	30	505
Diversions	Mile	7	114
Grass Waterways	Acre	93	1067
Mains & Laterals	Mile	3	30
Surface Field Drains	Mile	3	64
Drainage Improvement	Acres	210	4865
Strip Cropping	Acres	-----	2694
Fishpond Stocking	Number	40	824
Soil Mapping	Acres	8740	187,407
Wildlife habitat Development	Acres	160	1879

Financial Report - 1961

Royalties received during the year	\$ 3243.26
Royalties paid during the year	2511.89
Total income during the year	3561.40
Total expended during the year	4355.65
B alance brought forward, Dec. 31, 1961	\$661. 53

The preceding report was read and approved during a regular meeting of the District Governing Body, held on March 7, 1962, in the local Soil Conservation Service Office.

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Secretary