

1958
ANNUAL REPORT
POWESHIEK COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION
DISTRICT
MONTEZUMA, IOWA



DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

OF 1958

1. Conservation workbooks judged and awards made to 175 school children.
2. Soil stewardship Sunday observed in county's churches.
3. Conservation week celebrated by special conservation issues in county's papers.
4. Twilight tour held on Harold McLennon farm. Sponsored by Jefferson township Farm Bureau.
5. Conservation Achievement Awards made. Poweshiek County candidate in landlord-tenant division declared winner in Region V in State competition.
6. Increased interest in gully control structures and tiling noted.
7. Interest developing in watershed around Diamond Lake.
8. Queen of the Furrow Contest.

THE HISTORY OF THE

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FORWARD

With the arrival of the New Year the Commissioners present this report as a record of the accomplishments of the Poweshiek County Soil Conservation District.

Again, as in the past, we wish to thank all who have helped in any way to make 1958 a year of progress in conservation on our farms.

It is well that we pause to consider last summer's 4 and 6-inch rains-- and excessive loss of soil and water resulting.

When we consider such losses it is easier to see in the look ahead the extreme need of proper land use and conservation practices if our land is to be properly protected.



DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS & STAFF

Left to right, standing: Marvin Blain, Conservation Aid; David Anthony and Kenneth Dieterich, Commissioners; Morton James, Work Unit Conservationist. Seated: Archie Casebolt, Conservation Aid; Lauren Wright, Commissioner; and LaVonne Byers, Clerk.

CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 1958

POWESHIEK COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Almost enough standard and diversion terrace was built to extend across the county.

Over 3,300 acres of new contouring was added to 18,000 acres of contour farming already in the county. A little less than 1,200 acres of new strip cropping was established.

138,000 cubic yards of earth were moved in filling and shaping 111 acres of gullies.

17 new farm ponds were constructed, requiring 60 thousand cubic yards of earth. To date 241 farm ponds have been built in Poweshiek County under the supervision of the Soil Conservation Service.

Gully control structures were built on 8 farms. Several were started but not finished due to cold weather.

Over 7 miles of interior field boundaries were re-located to make conservation farming more convenient and efficient, 74 acres were set aside for wildlife, 6 1/2 miles of fence-row developed for wildlife, 1 1/3 miles of multiflora rose fence planted, and 50 farm ponds stocked with black bass, bluegill and channel catfish.

Complete conservation plans including field layout, rotations and practices were developed on 31 new farms. 100 farmers having conservation plans were visited and 8 of these plans were revised.

ACCOMPLISHMENT SUMMARY

1. Terraces and diversions	20.03 Miles
2. Ponds completed	17 - 60,000 Cu. Yds.
3. Structures	8
4. Contour farming	Estimated 21,300 Acres
5. Strip cropping (additional staked)	1,178 Acres
6. Waterways	111 Acres - 137,651 Cu. Yds.
7. Tile	13,723 Rods
8. Field boundaries established	2,050 Rods
9. Fence row developed for wild- life	6.5 Miles
10. Hedgerow (Multiflora rose)	430 Rods

NEW COOPERATORS FOR 1958

1. F. W. McLain
2. William P. Rempp
3. Harold VerSteege
4. James Manatt
5. Mike Amman
6. Marvin Himschoot
7. Herbert Meyer
8. Harry Van Roekel
9. Stanley K. Swift
10. Burdette Farley
11. Ray Cleland
12. Harold Bryan
13. Karl Fleming
14. Raymond Hull
15. Guy Hildebrand
16. Ed McNeil
17. Berniece R. Wisecarver
18. R. H. Souter
19. T. K. Barber
20. Ritter Estate
21. Wilbur L. Schnell
22. Lauren W. Wright
23. Wayne Fox
24. Clair Bradford Jones
25. Mrs. Elizabeth Moeckl
26. Burdette Cranston
27. Tunis Fynaardt
28. Eldon Peterson
29. Ralph J. VanWyk
30. Phil Eichhorn
31. Fred Smith
32. Howard Hicks

BASIC CONSERVATION PLANS FOR 1958

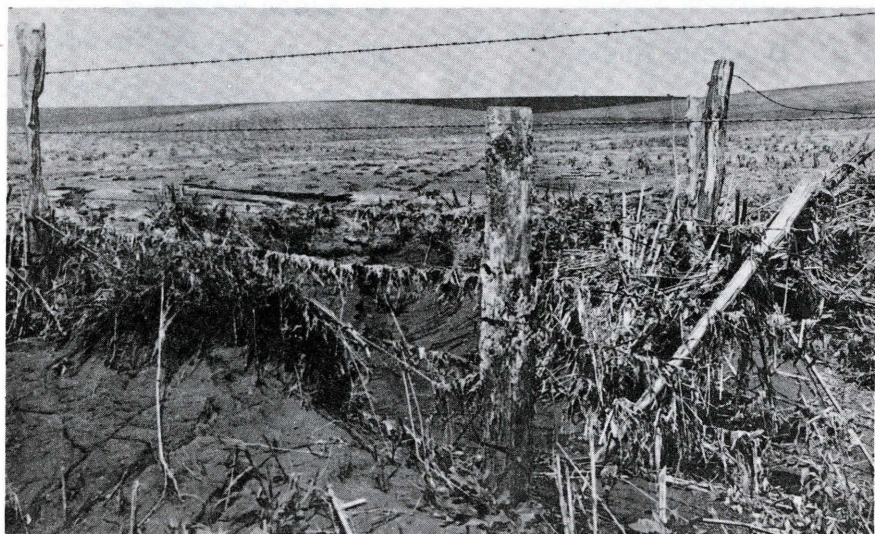
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|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Lauren Henry | 16. Harry Van Roekel |
| 2. G. D. Hudnut | 17. Maytag Farm |
| 3. Sam Simpson | 18. B. L. DeMeuleanere |
| 4. William Rempp | 19. Charles Manly |
| 5. Beven Wilcox | 20. LaVerne Lamb |
| 6. Kenneth Haworth | 21. Bud Criswell |
| 7. Anthon Powlak, Sr. | 22. Harry Ryan |
| 8. James Manatt | 23. Warren James |
| 9. Herbert Meyer | 24. Eldon Peterson |
| 10. Burdette Farley | 25. A. E. Ahrens |
| 11. Burdette Farley | 26. Guy Hildebrand |
| 12. Harold Ver Steegt | 27. Karl Fleming |
| 13. Dale DeHoedt | 28. Benedict Peterson |
| 14. Delight Tims Svacina | 29. Mabel Provin |
| 15. Chester Freshour | 30. E. L. York |
| | 31. Daryl Goodlow |

NEW COOPERATORS FOR 1958

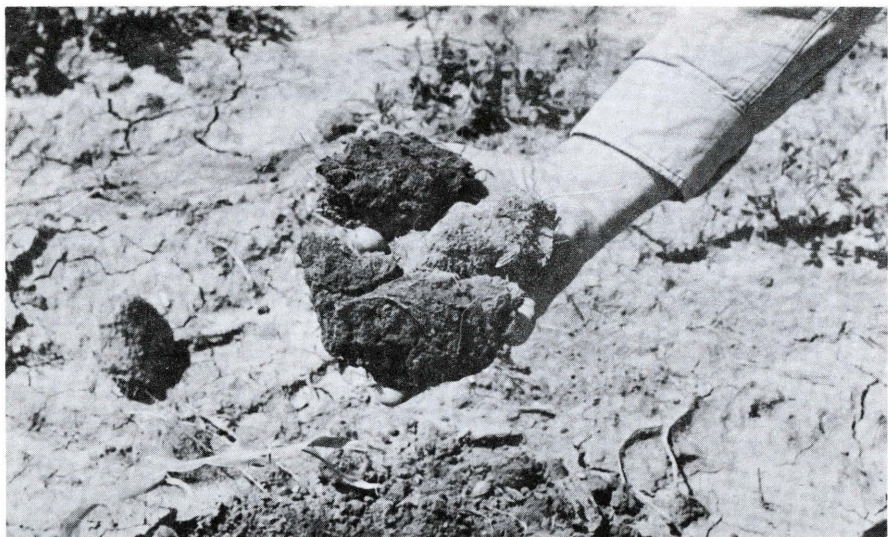
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| 3. Harold VerSteegt | 19. T. K. Barber |
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| 14. Raymond Hull | 30. Phil Eichhorn |
| 15. Guy Hildebrand | 31. Fred Smith |
| 16. Ed McNeil | 32. Howard Hicks |



Sheet erosion removed almost a ton of soil for every bushel of corn produced on this field. Photo June 1958.



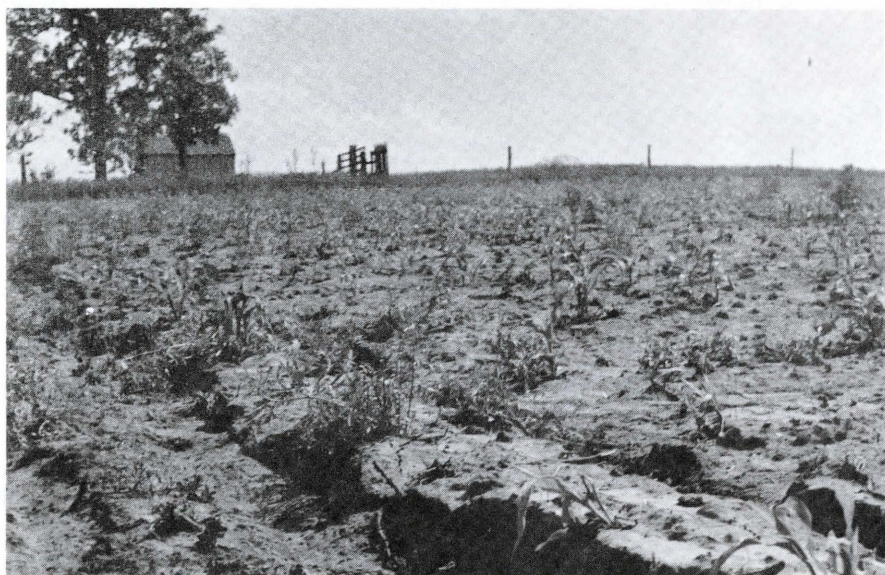
Fences are hard to maintain where erosion is not controlled.



This soil lacks humus, is clody, tills hard, and erodes badly. Note photo below.



This soil has "built in" resistance to erosion, absorbs water rapidly and tills easily. Note the tremendous amount of root material from the brome sod - often 5 tons or more in the top 5 inches.



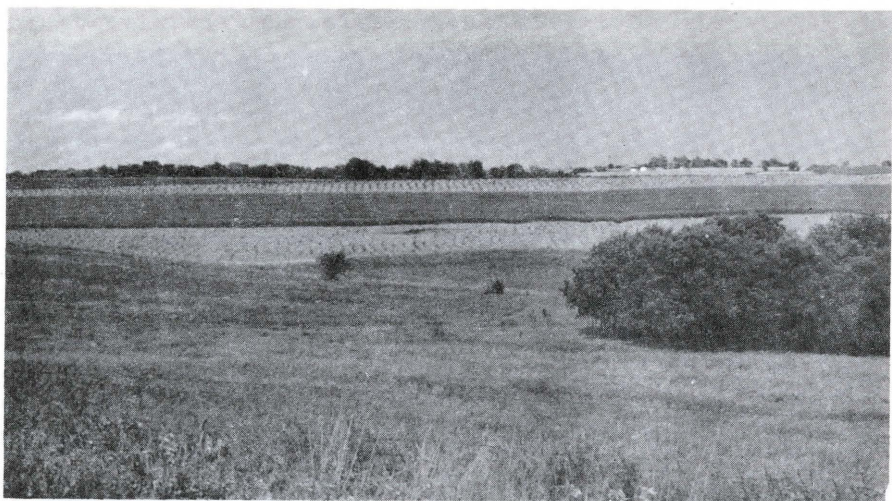
Rows up and down the end of the field.



Rows on the contour. Photo taken 50 feet from the above picture.

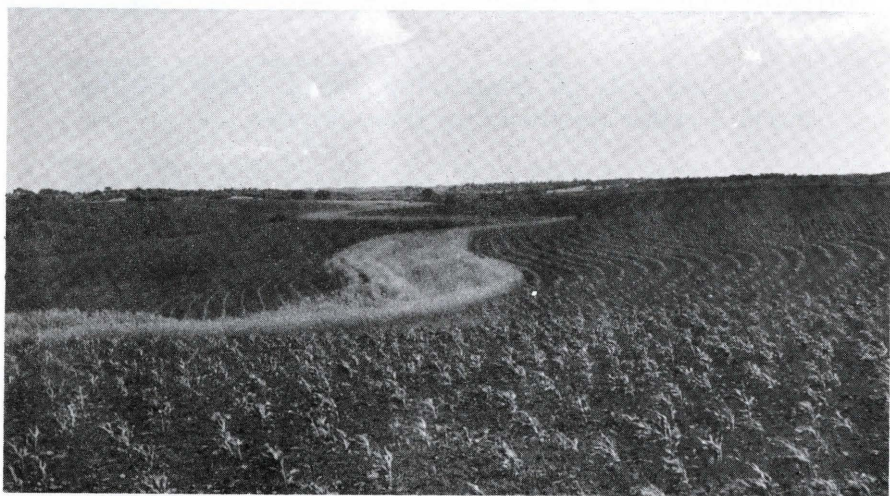


A good job of contouring on the Arlo Taylor farm 3 miles southeast of Deep River.



Strip cropping saves soil on the Harold VerSteegt farm 2 1/2 miles southwest of Montezuma.

Strip cropping saves twice as much soil as plain contouring.



A diversion terrace helps contour farming on the Gilbert Phipps farm, 4 miles south of Montezuma. Terraced water must "walk" to grass waterways before it can "run" down hill.

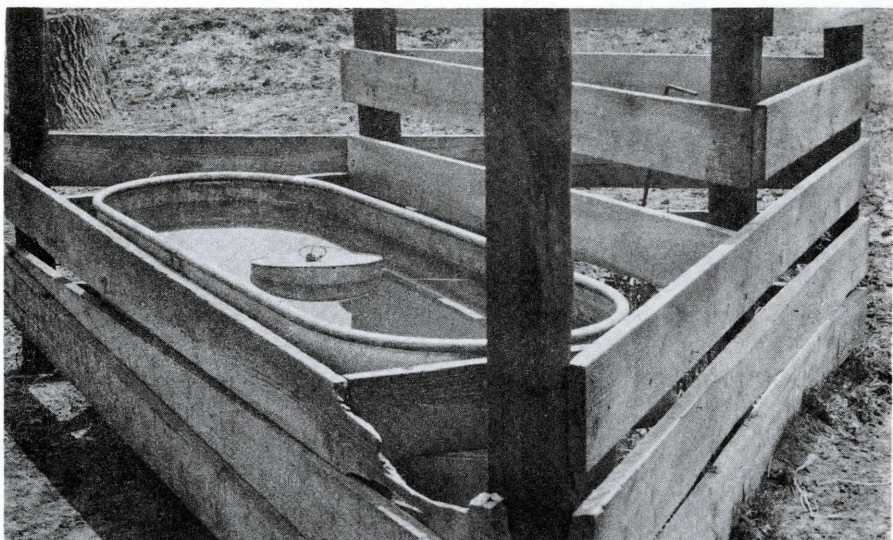
Winter rye has been used as temporary cover on this newly built diversion.



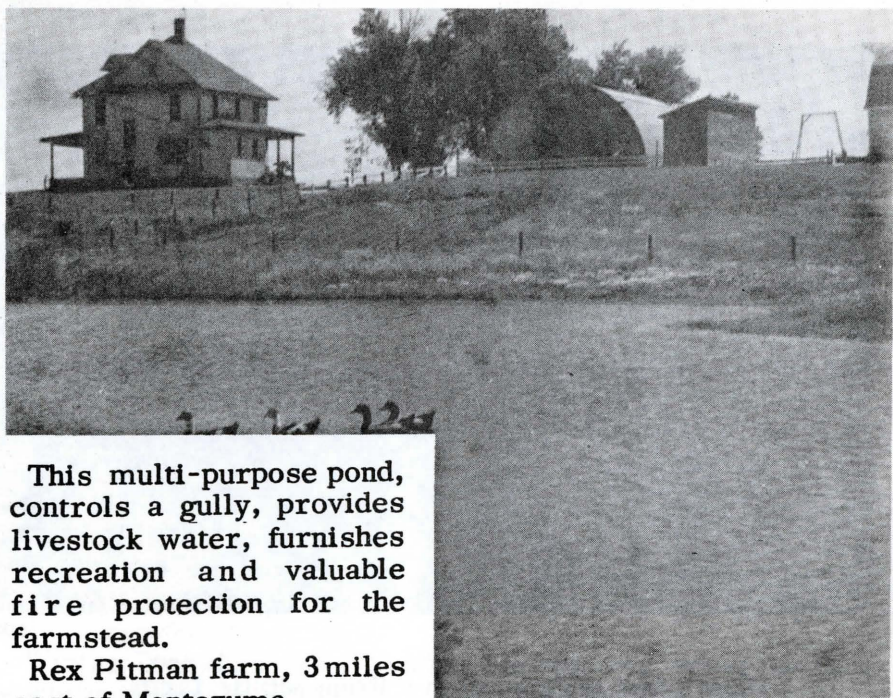
Pond site before construction - Ross Mintle, 3 miles northeast of Grinnell.



Pond after construction - Ross Mintle farm.

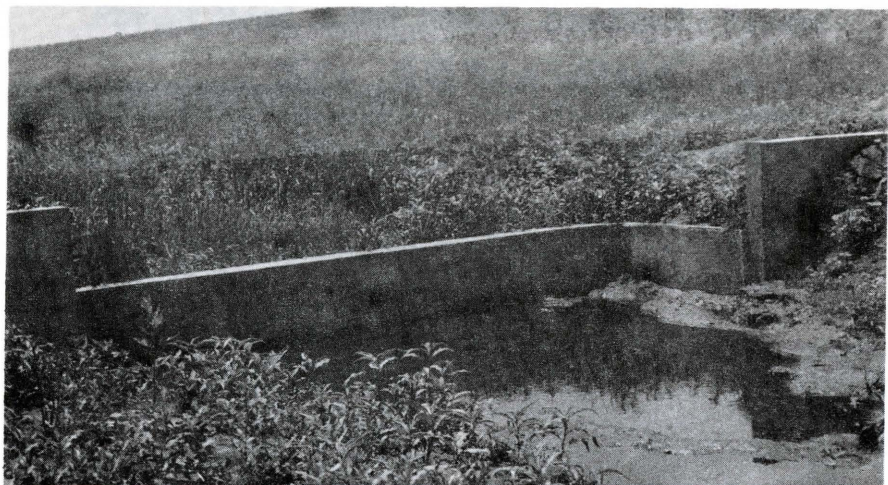


Tank and automatic float control for Ross Mintle Pond. A recommended design.



This multi-purpose pond, controls a gully, provides livestock water, furnishes recreation and valuable fire protection for the farmstead.

Rex Pitman farm, 3 miles east of Montezuma.



One of the many toe-wall structures installed to control 2 - 3 foot overfalls.

J. A. Miller farm, 4 miles west of Brooklyn.



This evergreen planting was an eroded hillside 5 years ago.

These Douglas Fir trees were 2 year seedling, when planted 5 years ago. The area is on the Dean McWilliams farm, 2 miles southwest Deep River.

WINNERS OF POWESHIEK COUNTY'S 1958 CONSERVATION AWARDS PROGRAM

LAWRENCE WALLIS: OWNER - OPERATOR

Lawrence Wallis, Grinnell, winner of Division I of Poweshiek County's 1958 Conservation Awards Program.

This Division recognizes owner-operator for completeness of conservation treatment on the farm.

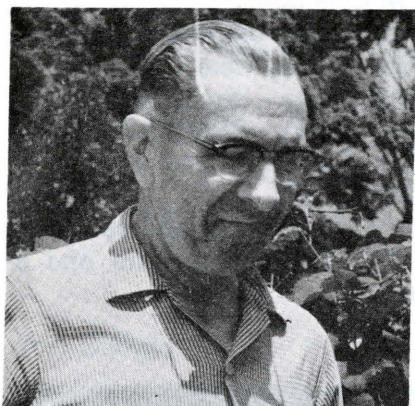
Wallis developed a conservation plan with the Poweshiek District 7 years ago. The Wallis land is farmed to a 5-year rotation of corn, corn oats, meadow, meadow, all fields are accessible for rotation pasturing and all crops produced are fed to black Angus cattle and market hogs.

All land is contour farmed and almost two miles of terraces further reduce soil losses. On the farm are 1-1/2 mile of grass waterway. Six years ago, a windbreak was planted which has now started to pay dividends.

The Wallis family consists of a wife, a son and two daughters.



Forest Read, Keith Davis: Landlord - Tenant



Forrest L. Read, landlord, winner on Division II, Poweshiek County's Soil Conservation Awards Program. Also winner in Region V of state competition.

Division II is for landlord-tenant farms who have done an outstanding job of soil conservation through joint effort.

Mr. Read is recognized for maintaining a consistent program of soil conservation on his farm the past 11 years.

During the time three operators have tenanted the farm. The present tenant is Keith Davis.

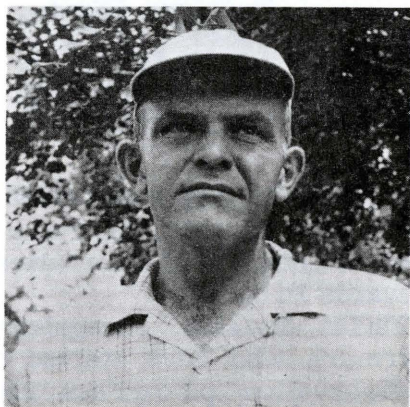
In addition to a good rotation all land is farmed on the contour, one mile of grass waterways have been shaped and maintained.

To reduce soil losses further, one mile of terraces have been constructed.

Read has long been connected with farm organizations and

farm programs. He served on the County Committee of the old P M A for 11 years and was on township committee several years prior to that.

The Read farm is located 9 miles NW of Brooklyn.



Keith Davis, Brooklyn, tenant winner of Division II, Poweshiek County's Conservation Awards Program. Also winner Region V, State competition.

Division II is for landlord and tenants who have achieved outstanding results in conservation by joint effort. Davis has operated the Read farm the last three years, using conservation practices and following the plan developed years before.

The plan includes a rotation with brome-alfalfa, all crops on the contour terraces and grass waterways.

Davis, has a wife and three daughters-ages 11, 10, and 8.



Gilbert Phipps, Montezuma, winner of Division III, Poweshiek County's Conservation Awards Program.

This division recognizes farmers who have started a conservation program not over two years ago and have made outstanding progress in that short time.

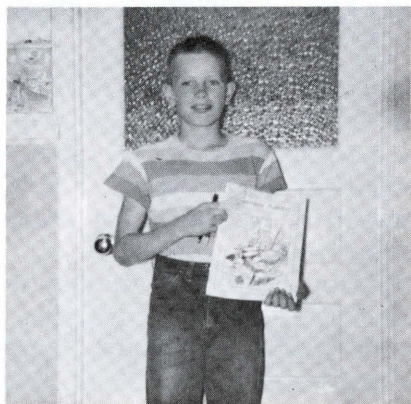
Phipps is commended for the installation of many conservation practices, including improved crop rotation, pasture seeding, over two miles of grass waterways, over a mile of diversion terrace, all land farmed on the contour, and

strip cropped.

Along with the use of conservation practices has been a remarkable improvement of productivity and value.

The farm is 378 acres of rolling land.

The Phipps family consists of a wife, three sons and a daughter.



Lanny Fahlenkamp - the first pupil to claim his prize in the Soil District Conservation Workbook Project. 232 Jr. High grade pupils participated in the contest.



Vocational Agriculture class from Brooklyn High School tours the Kenneth Dieterich farm to study soils and conservation.

EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE STATE OF IOWA 1957 - 58 Fiscal Year

I-A Budget

Commissioners, Mileage, Meals, Hotels	\$184.94
Office Supplies	188.40
Prizes for Contests	112.25
Materials for Demonstrations	3.50
TOTAL	\$489.09

II-A Budget

Salary-Clerk	\$2,392.00
Salary-Technician	828.00
Mileage-Technician	12.81
State Retirement	110.11
Federal Retirement (Social Security)	72.47
TOTAL	\$3,415.39

THOSE IN THE COUNTY WHO HELP WITH THE DISTRICT PROGRAM

1. Soil Conservation Service
2. State Soil Conservation Committee
3. County A.S.C. - (A.C.P. Program)
4. County Extension Service
5. State Conservation Commission (Iowa Fish and Game Agency)
6. Federal Fish and Wildlife Service
7. The County Farm Bureau
8. The Farm Grange
9. Public Schools
10. 4-H Clubs
11. Boy Scouts
12. County Supervisors
13. State and National Assn. of District Commissioners
14. Kiwanis Club
15. Jaycee's
16. Ministerial Association
17. Implement Dealers
18. Newspapers
19. Radio and T.V. Stations
20. Professional and Businessmen
21. Earth Contractors

