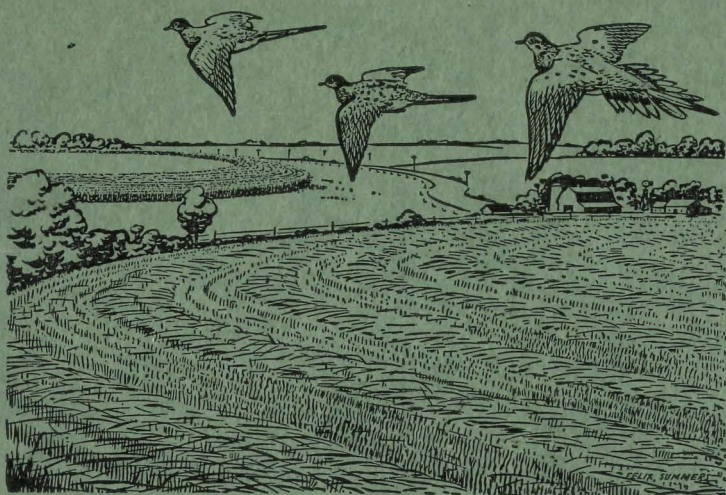


Sixteenth
ANNUAL REPORT



Iowa County
SOIL CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

1961



Thou shalt inherit the earth as a
faithful steward



HERBERT VOGEL, KEYSTONE, STATE WINNER

Top Yield for 1961 in Master Corn Growers Contests, sponsored by Iowa Crop Improvement Association, was won by Herbert Vogel of Keystone planted on contour with Funk's G-72.

Use Blight Resistant Funk's-G on Your Farm

FUNK BROS. SEED COMPANY

Belle Plaine, Iowa

INTRODUCTION

By Carter H. Atkinson, Chairman

This report explains the progress in soil and water conservation that was made in the Iowa County Soil Conservation District during 1961.

1961 saw the retirement of Ralph Bush after 15 years in Iowa county. John Baker assumed the duties of WUC in June.

A dry spring, then a perfect summer was followed by a very wet fall. This caused a heavy emphasis on tile which caused a very heavy work load for the district.

A new era of Soil and Water Conservation started in Iowa county with the completion of several jobs of parallel terraces. We Commissioners feel the introduction of parallel terraces will be one of the leading factors which will start Iowa county on the road to being one of the leading counties in Soil and Water Conservation in the State of Iowa.

There will be no less emphasis put on strip cropping as this is one of Iowa county's major conservation practices on land that does not lend itself to terracing.

Besides the additional tiling the acres of waterways increased by about 30% and the number of erosion control structures doubled.

We Commissioners wish to thank all individuals, organizations, and other agencies that made possible the accomplishments listed on the following pages.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST



*Ralph Bush retires after 15 years of service with the Soil Conservation Service. Bush, the fellow with the old felt hat and big brown pipe, will be remembered by a lot of Iowa county Conservation farmers for a long time to come.

Replacing Ralph is John T. Baker who along with Darwin Hoeft and Roger Sharp make up the present permanent staff.

It is the wish of the above personnel and the commissioners to dedicate this annual report and the accomplishments of the district to Ralph and his wife.

Ralph's new home is in Des Moines, 5505 Shriver Ave., in care of the Myers Apt.

SCS STAFF



Left to right standing: Darwin Hoeft and Roger Sharp
Left to right sitting: Sharon Hagen and John Baker

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1961

The world's first Range Conservation postage stamp was issued in 1961.

Don Eash was elected commissioner for the Iowa County Soil Conservation District to replace Robert Wallace.

Sharon Hagen replaced Clara Lacher as district clerk last January.

Mervin Zuber was hired as State Aid to replace Bob Wallace who resigned.

The District sold its toe-wall forms to Ronald Ahrens of Harper. Ronald has been contracting most of the concrete jobs for the district.

MEETINGS OF 1961

The Commissioners held 12 regular meetings in conducting the business of the District. New applications for assistance and new conservation farm plans were reviewed and approved along with general supervision of the District activities.

Don Eash attended the annual commissioners conference in Des Moines in October.

Carter H. Atkinson along with Darwin Hoeft attended the area commissioners meeting held in Cedar Rapids during February of 1961.

Don Eash along with John Baker attended the Iowa Soil Conservation Field Day held in Marshall county during September. Don officiated at the field day as a referee for the plowing contest. Incidentally Don's plowman won the state contour plowing title.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Conservation Booth

The Iowa County Soil Conservation District sponsored a conservation booth at the Boy Scouts Exposition held in Marengo. Prizes were awarded in a weight guessing contest.

Conservation Tour

During the month of May Roger Sharp and Darwin Hoeft took Cub Scouts from Dens 1-2-3-4 and 8 in Marengo on a field tour. They visited the farms of Ervin Schmuecker, Jake Roemig and Noble Brockschink on which they observed Soil Conservation in action.

Soil Stewardship Week

The District furnished material on Soil Stewardship to all churches in Iowa county to help emphasize the need for conservation on the land.

Soil Conservation Week

A window display featuring a model conservation farm and photos of conservation practices was displayed in the Western Auto Store in Marengo.

Queen of Conservation

This contest, co-sponsored by the Co-operative Elevator of Conroy was held in August at the 4H Night Show at the Iowa County Fair. The contestants were judged on the basis of personality, intelligence and natural attractiveness. The Extension Service co-operated in signing up contestants through their 4H clubs. Judges for the contest were Virginia Koch, Marengo; Bruce Tarbox, North English, and Mrs. Howard Beyer of Belle Plaine. The SCD commissioners and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Webb of the Conroy Elevator

entertained the contestants at a banquet held in their honor. Corsages were given to each contestant.

The co-winners, Nancy Sue Hahn of North English and Karmen Rae Heller of Ladora went on to represent Iowa county at the Regional Contest held at Monticello during the Great Jones County Fair, Aug. 25.

Community Meetings

Three community meetings were held during the year in various sections of the county in an effort to arouse further interest in conservation. Information was presented on the requirements necessary to be eligible for 566 watershed funds.

Information Activities

The newspapers of Iowa county gave wonderful cooperation by giving excellent coverage to conservation pictures and news stories.

The commissioners of Iowa county SCD wish to express their appreciation to the newspapers of Iowa county for their part in bringing soil conservation to the notice of the public.

District Equipment

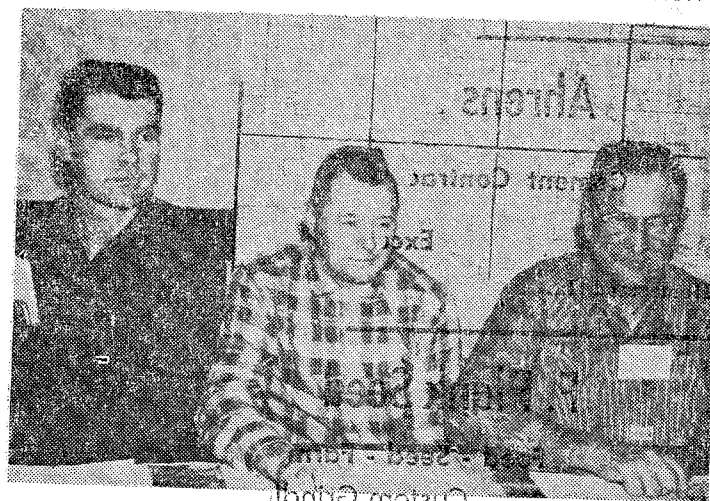
The District toewall forms used to construct concrete ditch stabilization structures were sold to a private contractor this year as the number of such structures put in has reached a point where the work unit staff is unable to furnish all the help needed. ACP cost-sharing and the contracting of the construction of such structures relieves both the SCS and the farmer of much labor and involvement.

The District still has a sod cutter available for anyone who wishes to cut sod to repair waterways or place reed canary sod in ditches.

A tree planter is available for anyone interested in the tree planting program which converts isolated or nearly worthless ground to an area of beauty and productivity.

Springbrook Conservation Camp

Miss Kathryn Slaubaugh of Iowa county was sponsored to Springbrook by the Iowa County Soil Conservation District. The district sponsors teachers to this camp who are interested in acquiring further knowledge of Soil Conservation to help in their teaching career. Three semester hours of on campus graduate or undergraduate credits are earned during each three week course.



IOWA COUNTY SCD COMMISSIONERS

From left to right: Don Eash, Fillmore township; Harold Sherman, Honey Creek township and Carter Atkinson, Sumner township. Carter is the chairman of the SCD. Not shown is Howard Beyer, Honey Creek, who is an assistant commissioner.

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STATE ASSISTANCE TO DISTRICT

The financial assistance listed below was furnished to the SCD by the State of Iowa to further Soil Conservation in 1961.

1-M Budget

Office Supplies	\$ 158.67
Commissioners Expenses	133.39
Office Expenses	157.27
Total	\$ 449.33

2-M Budget

Technical	\$1322.79
Clerical	2845.03
Total	\$4167.82

STATE PERSONNEL

Sharon Hagen	Clerk
Robert Wallace	State Aid
Mervin Zuber	State Aid

U. S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL

John T. Baker	Work Unit Conservationist
Darwin Hoeft	Soil Conservationist
Roger Sharp	Conservation Aid
Mervin Zuber	Conservation Aid

OTHER SCS PERSONNEL ASSISTING DISTRICT

Dale Shadle	Area Conservationist
Stanley Barker	Area Clerk
John Highland	Area Soil Scientist
George Fonken	Area Engineer
James Kosar, Jr.	Engineer

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Member F.D.I.C.

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

By A. Robert Koch, County Supervisor

The Iowa County Farmers Home Administration office serves eligible farm operators with credit and needed technical assistance with farming problems.

A three man committee certify eligibility of applicants, determine suitability of farms and serve as an advisory committee. The Iowa county committee consists of Arthur Tibben, Dick Owens and Delmar Wetjen.

In preparing an OPERATING LOAN for a family, it is the policy of the FHA committee to recommend a conservation plan for the best use of land resources and money spent for power, equipment and fertilizer. The committee feels that families must make the best use of their resources in order to be successful in the present agricultural situation.

When a farm is purchased, enlarged or refinanced under the Farm Ownership program the committee feels a conservation plan is essential to the best use of financial aid offered through the program. Each family is urged to follow a land use program developed by the Soil Conservation District.

RURAL HOUSING LOANS are made to build new homes, or other essential buildings on a farm or in a community under 2,500 population. The FHA committee feels the loan is protected when the farm is operated under a soil and water management plan.

SOIL AND WATER LOANS are made to initiate and complete any soil and water conservation practice outlined in the Agricultural Conservation Program Handbook. The FHA committee must be sure that there is an adequate and functioning soil conservation plan before the Soil and Water Loan is certified.

The Iowa County FHA office is located in the Iowa County Savings Bank Building in Marengo.

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Williamsburg

Iowa

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CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

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Ph. Drake 7-1595

THE IOWA COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE

By Donald Goering, County Extension Director

Informal education is the basic purpose of the Extension Service in Iowa county and nearly always follows the theme of "helping people to help themselves".

The Iowa County Extension Service has continued to cooperate closely with Soil Conservation Service in many activities for the betterment of land use in Iowa county. In a continued effort to make more people aware of the benefits of Soil Conservation work, several youth contests are held. Working with the Soil Conservation staff and the Soil Conservation district commissioners the 1961 Queen of Conservation contest saw seven contestants entered and the crowning of two, Nancy Hahn and Karmen Heller at the annual 4H Night Show.

The Extension Service, being concerned with the improvement of soil fertility, completed 125 fertilizer recommendations and tested 250 samples for lime treatment for Iowa county residents which will result in a higher fertility level and hence a higher total standard of living for Iowa county residents.

The soils on which a person lives are the most important single factor in today's agriculture; hence if prosperity is to be long-lived and the benefits to increase as time goes on, all of the people must take an active part in the use of all resources including the wise use of our soils. Closely connecting with the above mentioned activity the ground work has been laid for a three-day Agronomy School, at which time the Soil Conservation Service and the Extension Service will again exhibit their fine cooperation by presenting to some 50 Iowa county farmers now enrolled, a practical solution for a given farm to maximize crop returns per dollar invested, taking to account all soil management aspects. This will be the final activity of the three-day school which will be preceded by two days of instruction on soil capabilities and plant functions taught by Iowa State University Extension Agronomy specialists.

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with metered clean-burning, Phillips 66 fuel oil.

IOWA—1992

Carl I. Mantz, Manager Iowa County ASC Office

I'm doubtful if I'll be present on the above date and you may be too. But very likely our sons and daughters and their off-spring will be around to enjoy our beautiful Iowa in this very wonderful United States of America.

Can't help wonder if they'll be able to count their blessings by sitting up to a bountiful table like our present generation. Will there still be an abundance of all the fruits and all the vegetables and all the roast beef and steaks and chops and chicken and turkey, etc., etc.? Let's hope so, and let's further hope that the hunger and famine of India and China and the Mediterranean countries is never a reality here. Remember in 1992 we may have as many as 260 million people in these United States.

Why this somewhat morbid trend of thought. Well take a "for instance". For instance on any of the several roads to Williamsburg on my way to and from work, are farmers who plow and disc and harrow and plant and cultivate up and down the hills. The soil and water runs down those hills to the ditches and creeks below. Some of these same farmers plow through the ditches and through the waterways and the soil and water runs down to form bigger and bigger ditches. They have only to lift their eyes to a neighbors fields to see grassed waterways or contouring or terraces being used to save the soil.

How long will this kind of farming provide a bountiful table? Should we continue to excuse or shrug our shoulders at those so indifferent to the proper care of our natural heritage?

There are many words and codes to live by. May I repeat one that goes so well with good farming, profitable farming and conservation farming. "Leave your particular habitat on earth a better place than you found it". Could be the Iowa folks of 1992 would appreciate it.

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Williamsburg, Iowa

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Extra Quality

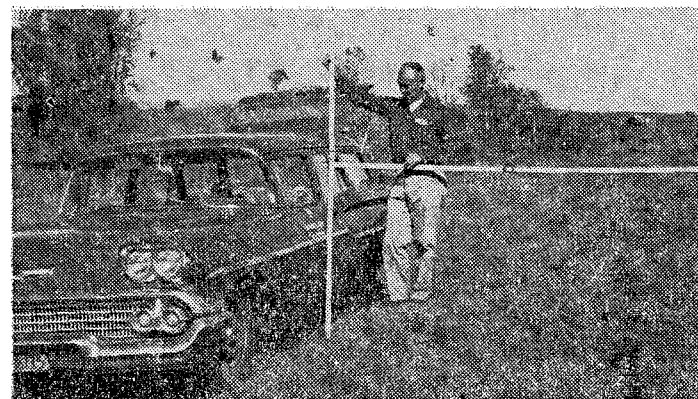
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At No Extra Cost

* Our drain tile meets ASTM and ASC standards.

Carlisle, Iowa



Roger Sharp is showing 4 feet of soil build up in a fence row from the field above. The lack of ditches in field above, gives evidence of the great loss of soil through sheet erosion.



The cost of erosion takes many forms. The drifts of top soil here are smothering crops. The hillsides from which it came are also becoming bleached and scarred. It goes without saying, the land was meant to be used—not used up.

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- Central System Air Conditioner & Heat Pumps

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1961 DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Major Practices	Unit	Amount
Contour Farming	Acres	1,890
Strip Cropping	Acres	157
Terraces (std)	Ft.	17,492
(cut in fill)	Ft.	12,050
Erosion Control Structures	No.	10
Ponds	No.	21
Tile	Ft.	475,309
Diversion Terraces	Ft.	12,250
Waterways	Acres	78

OTHER PRACTICES

Pasture Renovation	Acres	538
Seeding Headlands	Feet	12,540
Drainage Improvement	Acres	913
Open Drainage	Feet	9,187
Fish Pond Stocking	No.	39
Stock Water Development	No.	31

PLANNING PRACTICES

New Cooperators	No.	49
Basic Farm Plans	No.	37
Revised Farm Plans	No.	4
Farms Serviced	No.	357
Farms Applying Cons. Practices	No.	226

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Stanley Barker	Area Clerk
John Highland	Area Soil Scientist
George Fonken	Area Engineer
James Kosar, Jr.	Engineer

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INVENTORY OF SOIL CONSERVATION ACTIVITY BY TOWNSHIP

Honey Creek	Marengo	Washington	Lenox
1. 36	1. 62	1. 35	1. 26
2. 14	2. 14	2. 14	2. 8
3. 3	3. 5	3. 1	3. 1
4. 0	4. 0	4. 2	4. 1
Hartford	Sumner	Hilton	Iowa
1. 30	1. 38	1. 40	1. 14
2. 14	2. 26	2. 27	2. 16
3. 1	3. 3	3. 0	3. 0
4. 3	4. 2	4. 0	4. 0
Lincoln	Pilot	Troy	York
1. 38	1. 43	1. 39	1. 48
2. 18	2. 25	2. 28	2. 26
3. 3	3. 1	3. 0	3. 0
4. 3	4. 1	4. 0	4. 19
Dayton	English	Fillmore	Greene
1. 54	1. 80	1. 68	1. 81
2. 38	2. 64	2. 43	2. 36
3. 2	3. 6	3. 3	3. 4
4. 3	4. 7	4. 3	4. 5

Legend:

No. below corresponds to No. in township squares.

1. Is the number of Soil Conservation cooperators in twp.
2. Is the number of farms assisted by SCS in 1961.
3. Is the number of new conservation plans written in 1961.
4. Is the number of new cooperators signed up in 1961.

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The ditch above is the result of losing roughly 5400 cubic yards of soil. A contractor to dig such a ditch at \$.20 a cubic yard would charge \$1080 dollars. The soil lost is irreplaceable.



The same ditch after Henry Schutterle of Lenox township had it reshaped and reseeded. A comparison of the two pictures shows that erosion can be controlled.

NOTE—Man standing in ditch in top picture.

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2. Serves as a blueprint for the most profitable use of your resources.
3. Is a guide for improving and maintaining a permanently productive soil.
4. Is a record of your decisions for applying needed conservation practices.
5. Combines your knowledge, experience and desires with the skill of conservation technicians.
6. Effectively applied makes a better place to live.
7. Helps protect the productive future of this country and keep America strong.

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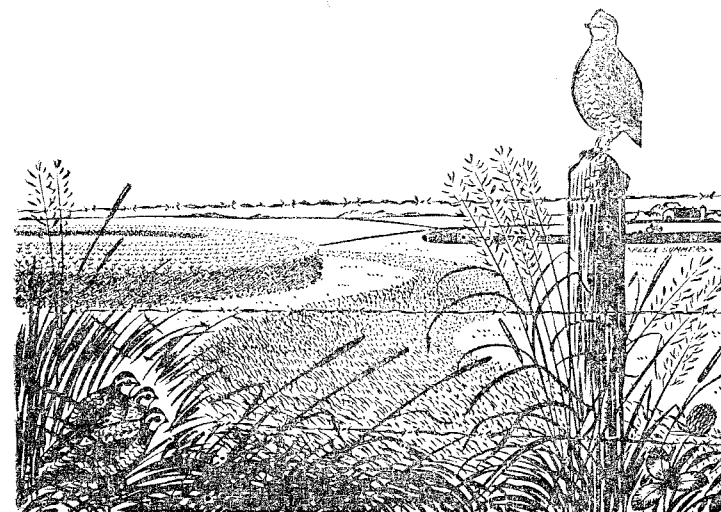


Box 352, Ottumwa, Ia.



The Iowa County Soil Conservation district takes this opportunity to welcome the newly organized Izaak Walton League in Iowa County.

The Ikes and SCS have many common goals. They include caring for our land, water and wildlife.



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