

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1956

of the

**Cherokee County
Soil Conservation
District**

Cherokee County, Iowa

BY YOUR COMMISSIONERS:

Vere Corrington

J. F. Ralston

Arthur Dorr

New Year's Resolution - - 1957:

I resolve that I will manage my land so that the water that falls upon it is of maximum benefit to me and no detriment to the neighbors below me.

Water is no longer looked upon as just the primary concern of the West. It has been driven home to us (disastrously so in 1956) that water is a very important and limiting factor in agricultural production. The drouth of 1956 and the resultant crop failure affected our whole community (farmers, landowners, business men and workers).

It is very apparent to all of us that water management must be one of our most important conservation activities from here on. It is also clear that water management is inseparable from land management and use. Practices that conserve water also conserve soil and soils that are managed to keep them in good tilth will absorb more water.

At the Clarinda Experimental farm, where terracing, contouring and a rotation of crops has been carried out, the loss of water through run-off has averaged only about one inch each year.

Nineteen Fifty-Seven is an especially good year to start terracing and contouring; with little or no soil moisture available, making maximum use of the rain that falls is a stern necessity.

Cherokee's District Commissioners

Vere Corrington of Cherokee, Arthur Dorr of Marcus and Ford Ralston of Washta served as District Commissioners during 1956. Vere Corrington is now serving as chairman and also as Cherokee's representative on the Little Sioux Works Committee. Louis Bengtson of Cherokee continues to serve as District Treasurer and Extension Director Forrest Kohrt has continued as District Secretary.

Highlights of District Commissioner's activities during 1956 include the following:

- January 11, 1956 Watershed meeting in Harold Clark neighborhood to complete arrangements and agreements prior to installation of flood prevention measures.
- January 24, 1956 Regular meeting of District Commissioners (1955 annual report completed and approved for distribution).
- February 15, 1956 Watershed information meeting with group of landowners north of Washta.
- February 28, 1956 Regular meeting of District Commissioners (reviewed and approved 13 new cooperative agreements).
- March 5, 1956 Inspected proposed new watershed north of Washta, Iowa
- March 12, 1956 Met with County ASC Committees (discussed ASC practice program).
- March 22, 1956 Attended meeting of Association of District Commissioners at Primghar, Iowa.
- March 28, 1956 Little Sioux Works Committee meeting at Cherokee.
- March 29, 1956 Regular meeting of District Commissioners (decided that new watersheds will not be recommended for construction until terraces have been installed).
- April 26, 1956 Regular meeting of District Commissioners (approved construction plan for proposed work in watershed in Harold Clark neighborhood).
- May 14, 1956 Met with County ASC Committees (to discuss 1957 ASC program).

- May 22, 1956 Regular meeting of District Commissioners (voted to participate in Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture).
- June 14, 1956 District Election—J. F. Ralston elected to succeed himself as Commissioner for a six year term.
- June 15, 1956 Little Sioux Works Committee Meeting at Cherokee.
- June 19, 1956 Meeting to discuss provisions of 1956 Soil Bank program.
- June 26, 1956 Regular meeting of District Commissioners (re-organization meeting—Vere Corrington elected chairman).
- July 24, 1956 Regular meeting of District Commissioners (completed arrangements for judging farms for Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture contest).
- August 10, 1956 Special meeting to discuss construction problems in Clark neighborhood watershed.
- August 13, 1956 Pilot Rock Plowing Match (assisted with plowing events and judging).
- August 16, 1956 Inspected construction work in Clark neighborhood watershed.
- August 28, 1956 Regular meeting of District Commissioners (supplemental memorandum of understanding with Soil Conservation Service reviewed and approved).
- September 21, 1956 Congressional Sub-Committee inspected Fee neighborhood watershed work.
- September 26, 1956 Regular meeting of District Commissioners (discussed following question: Should expensive structures be recommended on farms having little or no other conservation practices).
- September 28, 1956 Terracing demonstration north of Washta on Vollmar farm.
- October 5, 1956 Chairman Corrington served as a southern area judge for Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture Contest.
- October 23, 1956 Regular meeting of District Commissioners (discussed need for regular inspection of all completed watersheds, catch maintenance needs before they become costly).

- November 1, 1956 Awards banquet at Sioux City for participants in Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture contest.
- November 8, 1956 Sub-Committee of Little Sioux Works Committee inspected new watersheds requesting priorities (Vere Corrington on committee).
- November 15, 1956 Meeting of Little Sioux Works Committee to pass on priority requests.
- November 21, 1956 Met with County ASC committees on 1957 ASC program.
- November 27, 1956 Regular meeting of District Commissioners (analyzed 1956 accomplishments and discussed 1957 work load and goals).
- November 30, 1956 Inspected all completed watersheds projects in Cherokee District.
- December 5, 1956 Meeting of Association of District Commissioners at Hartley, Iowa.
- December 18, 1956 Regular meeting of District Commissioners (20 new cooperative agreements reviewed and approved).

Report of the Treasurer

L. C. Bengtson - - Cherokee, Iowa

December 31, 1956

CHEROKEE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

GENERAL FUND

Cash Balance on January 1, 1956	\$ 389.04	\$
Received from State Soil Conservation Committee	118.15	
Received from Sioux City Chamber of Commerce (Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture)	100.00	
Cost of Treasurer's bond		17.50
Stamps purchased		35.00
Paper, envelopes, stencils, etc., purchased		21.25
Film purchased		11.26
Material for exhibits		16.80
Pilot Rock contour plowing award		16.52
Pamphlets purchased		16.00
TOTALS	\$ 607.19	\$ 134.33
Balance on Hand December 31, 1956		472.86
TOTALS	\$ 607.19	\$ 607.19

MAINTENANCE FUND

Cash balance on January 1, 1956	\$6,153.90	\$
Watershed Maintenance payments received:		
Mrs. Rosa Brewer	125.00	
Doyle Simonsen	150.00	
F. O. Mortenson	210.00	
P. M. Peterson	90.00	
Harold Clark	155.00	
Ross Pinkerton	50.00	
R. L. Little	100.00	
Clarence Pennington	155.00	
Interest from funds on time deposit with Farmers National Bank of Aurelia	223.98	

TREASURER'S REPORT [Continued from Preceding Page]

Interest from funds deposited with Sioux Valley Savings & Loan of Cherokee	26.30	
Paid to Moore Abstract & Title (for certificates of title)		19.50
Paid to Cherokee County Recorder (fees)		17.80
Cost of deed to lot		25.00
TOTALS	\$7,439.18	\$ 62.30
Balance on hand December 31, 1956		7,376.88
TOTALS	\$7,439.18	\$7,439.18

NOTE: As of December 31, 1956, the \$7,376.88 in the District maintenance fund is disposed of as follows: \$5,223.98 is on time deposit at the Farmers National Bank of Aurelia; \$1,526.30 is deposited with the Sioux Valley Savings and Loan Association of Cherokee, and \$626.60 is deposited in a checking account at the Farmers National Bank of Aurelia.

The \$472.86 in the District General fund is deposited in a checking account at the Farmers National Bank of Aurelia.

[Treasurer's Report Continued on Next Page]

Soil Conservation Service

During 1956, the Soil Conservation Service provided the Cherokee County Soil Conservation District with the following technical staff:

1 Supervising Soil Conservationist, 12 months.....	Harvey Lindberg
1 Soil Conservationist, 9 months.....	Wallis Tonsfeldt
1 Soil Conservationist, 5½ months.....	Charles Claas
1 Conservation Aid, 12 months.....	Glen Craft
1 Conservation Aid, 12 months.....	Monas Nixon

Harvey Lindberg has now been with us for 12 years and Glen Craft for 10½ years. Charles Claas received a promotion in June and moved to Rock Rapids, Iowa. Monas Nixon has been with us for 1 year and 8 months. Wallis Tonsfeldt was employed by the Soil Conservation Service in April and was immediately assigned to Cherokee. He is a graduate of Iowa State College and comes from Remsen.

In addition to the above, the District received part-time assistance from an Area Conservationist (George Lamp), the Area engineering staff, Soil Scientist and the flood control design staff of the Soil Conservation Service.

State Soil Conservation Committee

The State of Iowa, by legislative appropriation, makes funds available for use in promoting soil and water conservation in Districts. These funds are administered by the State Soil Conservation Committee.

The Cherokee County Soil Conservation District received \$2,788.96 from this source during the calendar year of 1956. This money was expended as follows:

Office supplies (paper, envelopes, stamps, etc.)	\$ 101.63
Printing	69.95
Conservation awards	16.52
Equipment (adding machine and typewriter)	348.70
Commissioners mileage and expenses	207.16
Clerical help	2,045.00
	\$2,788.96

These funds make possible the employment of Mrs. Gladys Schroeder as a clerk-typist, which in turn relieves Soil Conservation Service employees assigned to the District of most of the office routine work (especially records), making it possible for them to spend their time on the planning and application of soil conservation practices. Mrs. Schroeder reports that there were 1,249 office calls at the Cherokee office during 1956 (during April, May and June there were 354 of these calls). Mrs. Schroeder also reports handling almost 400 telephone calls.

Spreading Information On Soil and Water Conservation

- January 4, 1956 Drainage information meeting at Cherokee.
- January 9, 1956 Marcus Township Farm Bureau (presented information on soil and water conservation).
- January 11, 1956 Watershed meeting in Harold Clark neighborhood.
- February 13, 1956 Vocational Guidance Day at Cherokee High School (information was presented on careers in soil conservation).
- February 15, 1956 Watershed information meeting in Albert Meyer neighborhood.
- April 23, 1956 Boy Scouts Wildlife planting day (Multi-flora Rose).
- May 9, 1956 Cherokee High School Agriculture classes (given information on soil and water conservation and district activities).
- May 10, 1956 Watershed tour for Cherokee High School Agriculture classes.
- May 22, 1956 Organization meeting for group drainage in Earl Demaree neighborhood.
- June 1, 1956 Group drainage meeting.
- September 26, 1956 Marcus Ladies Club (presented information on soil and water conservation with use of slides).
- September 28, 1956 Terrace building demonstration.
- November 8, 1956 GI Night School at Aurelia (presented information on soil and water conservation).

Summary of Practices Installed in 1956

- 7,664 acres on which guide lines were laid for contour farming (on 150 farms).
- 14,013 rods of contour field divisions laid out to facilitate contour farming operations and fit planned rotations (on 57 farms).
- 62½ miles of terraces constructed (on 39 farms).
- 127,753 lineal feet of tile drains surveyed and checked (on 39 farms).
- 15 miles of gullies or ditches shaped into waterways (on 45 farms).
- 8 erosion control dams constructed (on 8 farms); a total of 55,000 cu. yards of dirt was moved in constructing these 8 dams.
- 21 farm conservation plans were completely revised for old cooperators.
- 53 additional farmers became District Cooperators (10,104 acres).

To date, there are 609 farmers cooperating with the Cherokee County Soil Conservation District in applying soil and water conservation practices on 118,984 acres. These farms are grouped in Cherokee's 16 townships as follows:

MARCUS 11	LIBERTY 28	CEDAR 27	SPRING 23
AMHERST 34	SHERIDAN 25	CHEROKEE 32	AFTON 26
TILDEN 41	ROCK 55	PILOT 53	PITCHER 45
GR. MEADOW 51	WILLOW 63	SILVER 65	DIAMOND 30

Local contractors installed most of the permanent conservation practices listed above. Jess Akin, Pete Klinker and D. J. Scothorn (all of Cherokee) and Marion Flewelling (of Mowille) all constructed terraces for cooperators during the past year; with both bulldozer and motor patrol. Waterway shaping was done by Jess Akin, Pete Klinker, Roy Robinson and D. J. Scothorn (all of Cherokee), Bill Radcliffe (of Marcus), Boyd Ward (of Correctionville) and Marion Flewelling (of Mowille). The 8 erosion control dams listed above were built by Jess Akin of Cherokee, Boyd Ward of Correctionville and Marion Flewelling of Mowille.

Little Sioux Flood Control Program

During 1956, the installation of flood prevention measures was completed in the small watershed in the Harold Clark neighborhood (east of Quimby). District Cooperators with land in this watershed include Carl Selk, Herbert Kamradt, Andrew Jessen, Chris Larson, Clarence Pennington, R. L. Little, Loren Steemke, Harry Jenness and Harold Clark. Actual construction was on the Harold Clark, Clarence Pennington, Harry Jenness and Chris Larson farms. The major items were a large erosion control dam on the Pennington farm and a large detention dam on the Clark farm. Outside of building more terraces, all planned work is now completed in this watershed.

An inspection, by your commissioners, of all watersheds in the Cherokee District which were completed in previous years revealed no maintenance problems. All structural work was in good condition. Due to the dry year, some seedings did not look too good and there are areas (on earth fills and waterways) that may have to be reseeded; however, to date, there is no damage to these areas. A few willows were noted in wet areas in some waterways. As commissioners, we would like to point out the importance of destroying these before they get any size; a growth of willows can ruin a good waterway and they are very detrimental on an earth fill.

Agricultural Conservation Program

In carrying out their responsibilities under this program, our local Soil Conservation Service technicians serviced 274 requests (from the local ASC office); of the 213 requests that required assistance with layout and installation, 153 completed the practices in good shape and were so certified. Practices certified as meeting ASC requirements included 62.5 miles of terraces, 8 erosion control dams, 15 miles of waterways and 127,753 lineal feet of tile drains.

Louis Bengtson, Harold Clark and Albert Meyer, as County Committeemen, and Clifford Chapman, office manager, are all doing a swell job and we look forward to working with them in 1957.

Wildlife Conservation

New Multiflora Rose plantings were made on two cooperator farms. Cherokee's Boy Scouts planted one of these areas and, in addition, replanted seedlings on several old areas where the stand needed improvement. This joint program, (of the State Conservation Commission, Little Sioux Rod and Gun Club, Cherokee District and the Boy Scouts) which has now been in operation several years, has added materially to the cover available for our song and game birds.

Sioux City Program For Permanent Agriculture

Forrest Spencer of Washta, Robert Florine of Quimby and Eldred Beeghley of Quimby, were selected by local judges to represent the Cherokee District in the 1956 Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture contest and they did it very well. The conservation program these men have applied on their land brought them home as area winners; the District receiving a plaque and a check for \$100.00 to be used in promoting soil and water conservation. Ed Miller of Meriden received a certificate for being selected the Cherokee District farmer making the most progress in applying conservation practices during 1956. Watershed co-operators in the Ralph Robeson neighborhood received a certificate for doing an outstanding job of applying a soil and water conservation program on a watershed basis—the Spencer and Beeghley farms are located in this watershed.

This year's area winning team is the fourth area winning team the Cherokee District has had since the inception of this program. Previous area winners were: Herbert Althaus, Peter Carsten and James Fee in 1947; Vere Corrington, Arthur Dorr and Ralph Kludas in 1949; and Clifford Chapman, Keith Fee and Harvey Harrison in 1955.

Goals for 1957

- 65 New District Cooperators
- 56 More farms with complete conservation plans
- 4,000 More acres soil mapped
- 8,000 More acres on the contour
- 60 More miles of terraces
- 13,000 More rods of contour field divisions
- 7 More erosion control dams
- 12 More miles of gullies shaped into crossable waterways
- 1 More mile of multiflora rose plantings

It is also expected that our Soil Conservation Service technicians will be called on to survey and check about 140,000 feet of tile drains.

