

1954

Mills County Soil Conservation District

P. O. Box 567 Malvern, Iowa Phone 2321

1954

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE



Blackman Dam. Mule Creek Watershed

District Commissioners

D. N. McGrew, Chairman
Emerson, Iowa
J. F. Wearin, Jr.
Hastings, Iowa
S. C. Lincoln, Sr.
Pacific Junction, Iowa
Richard S. Goos, Secretary
Malvern, Iowa
Lillian A. Campbell, Treas.
Malvern, Iowa

Soil Conservation Service Personnel

Ray W. Jones
Unit Conservationist
B. Jack Wederquist
Conservation Aid
Gerald I. Bower
Conservation Aid
Lawrence A. Jones
Conservation Aid

OUR GOAL: A COMPLETE CONSERVATION PLAN ON EVERY FARM

Malvern, Iowa
Jan. 1, 1955

Greetings to the Farmers of Mills County and all others interested in Soil and Water Conservation.

We, the Commissioners of the Mills County Soil Conservation District join with the District personnel to submit in this news letter some of the highlights of the year; the Summary of Activities and our Financial Report.

We would like for you to carefully go over the Summary of Activities and the Financial Report. Each has a story for you.

This has been a rather dry year but history says, wet years and torrential rains will come again. To you farmers on the hills we say — "Let's be better prepared to keep our soil and moisture at home" and to you men on the bottom land we say — "Let's be better prepared to drain off surplus moisture when it comes, and also offer encouragement to the hill farmers in their efforts to keep the moisture which falls on them at home, so it will not be a flood when it reaches you."

A well organized work program met the handicap of personnel shortage — due to sickness, limited funds and a near drought condition, so the over-all accomplishments are much better than we anticipated.

With this news Letter we are trying a new form of report. These letters will be sent to every farmer in Mills County on a quarterly basis regardless of whether he has a farm plan.

The January 1st issue will be our Annual Report. The April 1st, July 1st and October 1st letters will contain seasonal topics, human interests and outstanding accomplishments of individual farmers. Who knows, your farm may be mentioned in one of the letters. The Annual Reports that we have used in the past were received with many favorable comments, but after considerable study on the method of reporting, we decided on the News Letter. We think this method will better acquaint all the farmers of Mills County with soil conservation activities.

April was a red letter month for Mills County. On April 7, 1954 work on the Mule Creek Pilot Watershed was officially started, when ground breaking ceremonies were conducted at the site of the Blackman dam.

This day was also credited with the laying out of the 2000th mile of terrace on a farm north of Silver City, owned by Marjorie Raynor and managed by Rew Burgoin. Ray W. Jones came up with the figures that these 2000 miles of terraces would hold enough water to cover 2939 acres one foot deep. This is the water that washes away top soil and ends up as flood water to you bottomland farmers.

It was in June that Felix Summers of Milwaukee was assigned to our District to make a series of illustrated drawings of the Mule Creek Pilot Watershed.

Farmers in Mule Creek area, who received the Mule Creek News Letters, know of the structure progress to date and to you other farmers of the County, we report progress to be ahead of schedule. Five years was the time allotted for completion of all the work, but it now looks as if the work might be completed in less than four years. The Blackman, Hilton and Miller dams were completed about August 1, 1954.

The Timmons and Bass dams in December of 1954. The Chas. Wilson dam is about 90% completed; the Grudle dam about 50% and the Mintle dam is nicely started. The clearing on the Dickersbach and Conaway dams is well along. We invite you to drive through this area where the dams have been completed. You'll be surprised at the change in landscape and also will be able to visualize what all the structures in the watershed will do in keeping rain water at home.

A demonstration was conducted at the Harold Blackman farm in June of 1954 showing the Reeds Canary hay method of sodding pond banks and waterways. Fresh cut Reeds Canary grass was tramped into the mud at the water edge. This got off to an early start but dry

weather in July and torrential rains in August were a bit hard on the new seeding. A good percent of the plants did survive and the demonstration did show that a small amount of hay well tramped in was better than a large amount.

On September 23, 1954 our District was host to the Soil Conservation Service personnel and the District Commissioners of Southwest Iowa. Following their business session a tour of Mule Creek Watershed was conducted and in the evening, Mills County District was co-sponsor with the Soil Conservation Society of America for a dinner and panel discussion of watersheds.

We are very proud that the Mills County District was selected as a Repeat Winner in the 1954 World-Herald Soil Conservation Recognition Contest for continued progress in soil conservation. A recognition dinner was held the evening of November 23, 1954 with 187 enthusiasts present. Max Coffey and E. T. McClanahan of the World-Herald were present and the award — a Bronze Plaque and a fully equipped camera were presented to the District by Mr. McClanahan.

We are especially pleased with the camera, as the office personnel expect to make pictorial recordings of interesting things and events within the District.

OUTLOOK FOR 1955

From the funds allotted to us from all available sources it indicates that we will have personnel equal to four full time men and one part time. A study of our workload shows that — requests for new plans; revised plans; layout work; follow up work and A.C.P. compliance checking would require more than twice that number of men. This simply means that all the assistance needed cannot be given.

This situation can somewhat be relieved if you will make appointments with the technicians prior to the busy season, for work that you expect to do. They then can route their work and save both time and traveling expense. Ten days notice will be better than a phone call after the dozer has driven into your yard.

With a continued personnel shortage, the time may be near when we should establish priorities for certain practices.

Our 1954 program has, as usual, received the hearty cooperation of the County Board of Supervisors, Extension Service, Farm Bureau, A.S.C., churches and numerous other organizations. We thank them.

SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

	1954	To Date
District Cooperators, Number	34	462
Acres	6,370	102,178
Follow Up Assistance, Number	53	
Acres	15,940	
Soil Surveys, Acres	18,150	186,363
New Contouring, Acres	640	70,449
Terraces completed, Miles	116	2,071
Drainage, Open Ditch, Miles	5	101
Drainage, Tile, Lin. Ft.	5,562	34,668
Sod Waterways, Acres	150	1,298
Diversion Terraces, Miles	5	40
Group Demonstrations, Number	5	116
Attendance	290	1,808
Conservation Information Meetings, Number	26	159
Attendance	994	7,438
News Articles released, Number	16	228
Radio Broadcasts, Number	1	25
T. V. Broadcasts, Number	2	4
Commissioners Meetings, Number	13	118

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Receipts

Balance on hand January 1, 1954—	
Malvern Bank	\$ 1,670.71
Balance on hand January 1, 1954	
Mineola Bank	822.46
Farmer Contribution—	
Terraces	\$737.88
Drainage	62.43
Other	334.78
Total	1,135.09
State 2-A Budget	4,859.00
State 1-A Budget	529.29
A.C.P. 5% — (Personnel)	3,343.19
Total	\$12,359.74

Disbursements

Rodmen—	
State	\$2,649.00
A.S.C.	3,343.19
District	109.24
Total	\$ 6,101.43
Clerical—	
State	2,210.00
District	494.00
Total	2,704.00
District Operations—	
State	\$529.29
District	910.10
Special Fund	132.45
Office Supplies	76.19
Postage	72.00
Fuel & Utilities	602.24
Dues & Subscriptions to Organizations	46.06
Field Supplies	322.26
Printing	152.56
Photographic Supplies	193.26
Office Equipment	107.27
Total	1,571.84
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$10,377.27
Balance Cash, Dec. 31, 1954, Malvern Trust & Savings Bank	1,292.46
Balance Cash, Special Fund, Mineola State Bank	690.01
TOTAL	\$12,359.74

We would also like to express our appreciation; for a job well done—to Ray W. Jones, Unit Conservationist; Lillian A. Campbell, Office Clerk and Treasurer; Dick Goos, Secretary; and Conservation Aids, B. Jack Wederquist, Gerald I. Bower and Lawrence A. Jones.

If you have not made their acquaintance, we invite you to call at the office in Malvern and you have our assurance that they will do their best to be of service.
Yours for more Conservation,

D. N. McGrew, Chairman
District Commissioners