

23RD ANNUAL REPORT OF PROGRESS - FISCAL 1969

Clarke Co. Soil & Water Conservation District

FORWARD

We, the Clarke County District Commissioners and our Assistants, are pleased to give you this report of accomplishments and activities.

We have come a long way with the work, but the demand on our soils continues to increase every year, so the importance of soil and water conservation is "Vital To All."

Our goal is to conserve our natural resources through good land use. We are striving to make Clarke County a better place to live — now and for future generations.

We take this opportunity to say thanks to all our cooperators, rural and urban, civic groups, contractors and all the U.S.D.A. agencies for your fine cooperation.

District Conservationist Reports

by Charles H. Ford

Conservation may have a different meaning to different people, but conservation is a planned management of all our natural resources, that is, wise use without undue waste. We need to apply and maintain a comprehensive plan to our whole environmental resources to insure future use. We could add conservation is preserving, guarding, and keeping safe, the preservation of our natural resources for happiness.

Let's talk about farm conservation — farm conservation planning covers many areas. The purpose is to use each acre of agricultural land within its capability and treat these areas according to their need for protection and improvement. Land capability maps and soil maps could be made available for every farm in Clarke County.

The purpose of a farm conservation plan is to control erosion, maintain productivity and provide a balance of operations for the individual farmer's needs. Control of erosion is the application of conservation practices to the land in the tillage operations such as contour, terraces, waterways and crop-

ping sequence.

If good yields are to be maintained, decisions must be made as to which conservation practices should be used to protect the loss of erosion of soil, water, fertilizer, seed and chemicals. Grassland management includes rotation grazing, weed and brush control, fertilization and renovation and seeding to grasses and legumes. In this area this includes birdsfoot trefoil alone or in a combination of grasses with clover.

Consideration should be given to wildlife habitat either in farm ponds or odd areas in fields. Mowing of waterways should be delayed (yet not forever) until after ground nesting of birds.

With approximately 30,000 acres of timberland in this county when properly managed and protected from grazing, can result in a profitable land use and add to scenic beauty. Much is involved in setting up and maintaining a good workable soil and water conservation farm plan. Research information and the experience of many farmers has proven that soil and water conservation may cost, yet it is profitable.

—SWCD—

First Program Set for Iowa

First Resource Conservation and Development project program to be formed in southern Iowa.

A Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) project, first to be considered in Iowa, was discussed at a meeting in Clearfield with well over a hundred persons in attendance and voted to launch a Resource Conservation and Development program for the seven southern Iowa counties.

In April, Chuck McCarty was detailed to work with the seven counties. During this interval various committees were established and these committees are now accepting possible project proposals to be considered in the planning of this project.

Clarke County's six member steering committee is Project Affairs — Alfred Jones; Agriculture — Harry Kearney; Land and Water Use — Doyle Miller; Business and Industry — Eddy Saylor; Community Facilities — Supt. Russell Ward; and Recreation and Beautification — Bob Cooley.

—SWCD—



District Accomplishments

FARM PLANNING AND SERVICING

ACTIVITY	UNIT	1969	TO DATE
District Cooperators	No.	32	891
Farmers Assisted	No.	313	
Farmers Applying Practices	No.	149	
Basic Plans	No.	28	570
Plans Revised	No.	17	
Referrals Received	No.	104	
Referrals Serviced	No.	84	
Office Callers	No.	876	
Telephone Calls	No.	593	
News Stories	No.	75	

PRACTICES APPLIED ON FARMS - FISCAL 1969

Contouring	Ac.	688	23445
Diversion Terrace	Ft.	9165	466446
Farm Ponds	No.	39	1301
Waterways	Ac.	44.3	2090.9
Drainage Field Ditch	Ft.	700	35595
Terraces	Ft.	1315	791826
Tile Drains	Ft.	3002	237858
Pasture Renovation	Ac.	335	9136
Pasture Planting	Ac.	8664	17046
Wildlife Habitat	Ac.	98	927

District Operates With 2 Budgets

Provided by the State of Iowa

STATE 1-M BUDGET

Allocation from State	\$500.00
Committee	
Carry over from	
Fiscal - 68	\$ 62.00

Expenditures:

Commissioners	
Expense	\$367.81
Office	
Supplies	\$ 66.42
Printing	\$ 50.00
Materials for	
Demonstration	\$ 31.30
Office	
Expense	\$ 13.19

STATE 2-M BUDGET

Provided on a Need Basis

Allocation from State	\$5,228.00
Committee	
Clerk & Technician	
Salaries	\$8,302.33
Retirement & FICA	
(District Share)	\$ 674.42
Travel	\$ 28.30
Health Ins.	
Credit	\$ 144.00
Total Expended	\$9,149.01

The District fund is a non-appropriated fund received from donations from cooperators and businessmen. This fund is used to pay state and national dues, local awards, contest expenses and prizes. Donations received during fiscal 1969 were \$684.00, expenses were \$736.16, the balance on hand June 30, 1969 is \$958.31.

The Commissioners wish to thank all those from whom donations were received. It is these funds that make it possible to carry on the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District's program. Again a hearty thanks.

—SWCD—



DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Doyle Miller	Chairman
Adrian T. Fuller	Commissioner
Jack Ames	Commissioner

ASSISTING THE COMMISSIONERS

Richard Gonseth	Assistant Commissioner
Jerry Kelly	Assistant Commissioner
Lowell Moran	Assistant Commissioner
Fred Wood	Assistant Commissioner
Harold Hadden, County Extension Director	
Serves as Secretary	
Mrs. Arlene Garner, State Employee, District Clerk and Treasurer	
Dale Chidester, State Employee, Planner Aid, (full time)	

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL ASSIGNED

Clarence H. Ford	Work Unit Conservationist
T. J. Laing	Conservation Technician

OTHER SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL ASSISTING

Daniel E. Holmes, Shenandoah	Area Conservationist
Richard Birchmier, Shenandoah	Civil Engineer
Lawrence Dorgan, Creston	Civil Engineer
Lewis A. Clark, Shenandoah	Soil Scientist
John R. Nixon, Shenandoah	Soil Scientist
Blanch V. Oline, Shenandoah	Area Clerk
Margaret Haley, Shenandoah	Area Clerk

See Changes in Methods Of Conserving Resources

By Charles Bacon, ASCS Office Manager

In the fifty states there are nearly 2.3 billion acres of land. About 80% of it, including our forests, can be used for agriculture.

Without conservation measures, large amounts of topsoil, sometimes acres and square miles of land, can be lost due to the action of water. However, soil, water, grass and forests are endlessly renewable. With the means and methods of production based on the knowledge now available, land can be used and replenished indefinitely.

Land usable for agriculture production requires water. For farm purposes, land is of no value without water. In the average year some 30 inches of precipitation falls on the 48 states of the mainland, U.S.A. over the years this does not vary significantly. Two thirds of all this water is used by vast acreages of crops, pastures, rangeland and forests. The other one third runs off in streams and is used for navigation, recreation, power generation or directed for irrigation and other purposes. As our nation grows, the use of water will

Clarke County AC Program for 1969

During fiscal 1969 year 10 regular and 2 special meetings were held.

In July the Assistant Commissioners appointed to serve for one year were Richard Gonseth, Jerry Kelly, Lowell Moran and Fred Wood.

August was a very busy month. The District had a booth at the County Fair, sponsored by the Clarke Co. State Bank. A meeting was held to present the Resource Conservation and Development program to the people in Clarke County. Dan Holmes, Area Conservationist, helped with this meeting.

The Commissioners' Annual Conference was held at Mason City, Iowa in September with Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Fuller, and Arlene Garner in attendance.

October 19 was moving day for the S. C. S. District office. We have been located in the basement of the Post Office for several years, but now moved into a new building at 820 A North Main Street. Mrs. Winona Nayler attended Teachers Conservation Workshop at the 4-H camp at Madrid in October.

On November 22nd, the three agencies in this building, ASCS, FFA and SCS held open house, and were well pleased with the good turn-out. At the regular Commissioners meeting this month, John Stokes, State Forester, attended to bring the Commissioners up-to-date on the Forestry Department.

A Defensive Driving course was held December 4 and 5, which was attended by Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Fuller and the of-

fice personnel. The Annual Award meeting was held December 11, at which time the Register and Tribune Awards, Outstanding Conservation Teacher, and Goodyear Awards were presented. William Greiner, Director, State Soil Conservation Committee was guest speaker. This meeting was also attended by State Representative, Perry Christensen.

In January, Jack Ames and Clarence Ford attended the Commissioners Annual Short Course at Ames.

Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Miller attended the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Convention at Atlanta, Georgia in February, at which time the National dues were paid by the District.

Also in February Jack Ames and Adrian Fuller attended the hearing in Des Moines on the conservancy districts law, proposed to legislature.

At a joint meeting held at Cornum, Iowa, the Decatur County Commissioners and the Clarke County Commissioners agreed that State Aide, Dale Chidester, will be employed in the two districts on a weekly basis in each, starting in March.

Clarence Ford talked to the Sophomore Voc-Ag class in March when they visited the Soil Conservation Service Office. The boys took out soil maps of their farms for study. Clarence Ford and Charles Bacon, ASCS office manager, spoke at the Murray Adult Farmers class in March.

T. J. Laing, Clarence Ford, and Dale Chidester attended

the Minimum Tillage Field Day at the Joe O'Hara farm, April 24. The Clarke Co. State Bank and United Federal Savings each furnished \$25.00 to go toward the printing of a brochure for the R. C. & D. program.

In May a five man planning party from the State Office, visited the White Breast watershed area. The District ordered seven soil moulth boards which will be used in classroom instruction in the Voc-Ag classes.

Soil Stewardship Week was observed May 11-18. Twenty-five booklets were sent to all ministers in the County for this observance.

The Commissioners voted to help sponsor Mr. Larry Rohr and Mrs. Faye Leaps to Conservation Camp, at their May meeting.

The Commissioner election was held Monday, May 26 at the Osceola Sales Company. Doyle Miller was elected to fill the 6 year term and Richard Gonseth was elected to the 4 year term.

The June Commissioners meeting was busy with plans for the coming fiscal year. The election of officers was held, and the new officers are Jack Ames, Chairman, Harold Hadden, Secretary and Arlene Garner, Treasurer. Soil Conservation Week was observed in June. Two Neighborhood Youth Corps employees, Pat Goff and Steve Ellis started work June 9. These two students were a great help in the office and out in the field.

—SWCD—

Farmers Home Administration Office Provides Assistance

By Mark A. Stelze, FFA Supervisor

The Farmers Home Administration had its inception in the mid 1930's when it started working with farmers, administering a program of supervised credit. This early predecessor of the present day Farmers Home Administration was known as the Resettlement Administration. It later became known as the Farm Security Administration, and in 1946 was named the Farmers Home Administration.

The Farmers Home Administration (F. H. A.) has three main objectives which it strives to accomplish in administering its program: 1. Strengthen family farms, 2. Assist Rural Communities, 3. Alleviate rural poverty. To accomplish these objectives, it has ten different

loan programs. These include: operating loans, community facility loans, rural housing loans, emergency loans, watershed loans, economic opportunity loans, shift in land use loans, recreation loans, soil and water conservation loans and farm ownership loans.

The Farmers Home Administration works hand in hand with the Soil Conservation Service in several of these loan programs. These include the shift in land use loans, soil and water conservation loans and farm ownership loans. In connection with these loans, the Soil Conservation Service is asked to develop a farm plan with the borrower who is receiving the loan, and to make recommendations on the soil and water conservation work needed on the land and workup an estimate of the cost of these practices. This work

includes pasture improvement, construction of livestock ponds and erosion control structures, construction of terraces, shaping and seeding of waterways and filling or draining of wet lands, as well as other conservation practices.

The Farmers Home Administration is interested in seeing that all conservation work needed on farms on which they make a loan is corrected and included in the loan funds for doing this work.

The Farmers Home Administration has appreciated the fine working relationship it has enjoyed with the Soil Conservation Service in Clarke County in the past and has appreciated the assistance rendered to its borrowers and its program. We look forward to a continued good working relationship in the future.

"YES SIR, THATS OUR BABY"

