

1950 ANNUAL REPORT

CEDAR COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT TIPTON, IOWA

The Cedar County Conservation District was organized in the spring of 1946. Thus the district is in it's fifth year of operation. Progress to date has been somewhat slow in terms of farm conservation plans and the adoption of a complete soil conservation program by individual farmers. On the other hand, many farmers are trying out various types of conservation practices. We as commissioners feel that the over all progress has been satisfactory.

With the demand for high production on a long time pull we need to take advantage of what Mother Nature taught us, plus available use and information and the will to keep our productive top soil at home along with improving our soil tilth. So lets make 1951 a banner year and start using good soil conservation practices, with proper rotation and protect our fields for future years.

ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the Cedar County Soil Conservation District was carried on by the commissioners with the assistance of the Soil Conservation Service and Extension Service personnel at 11 regular and two special meetings. The district was also assisted by members of the state Soil Conservation Committee.

In addition to the regular commissioners meeting the commissioners attended nine interest and four farm planning meetings; also assisted in conducting demonstrations and tours for farm people.

The commissioners have to the best of their ability, budgeted the funds available from the State of Iowa. The \$500.00 or 1 A budget which allots equal amounts to each district, was partially expended as follows: prizes for contest on Soil Conservation, posters and display material, film and newspaper maps, pictures, postage and commissioners mileage. Total of \$230.72 was expended. The 2 A budget or funds for extra technical help and equipment is set up on a need basis by district. A total of \$691.24 is being expended for equipment.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

District activities were quite varied and directed by the commissioners in carrying out their responsibilities as the governing body of the Cedar County Soil Conservation District. In general, these activities were aimed at furthering the over-all conservation movement and particularly that of the Soils District.

Conducted regular monthly business meetings for district administration, reviewed and approved farm conservation plans and approved application for assistance from the district.

Participated in Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company contest for the purpose of promoting more soil and water conservation and obtaining better district administration.

Participated in with Soil Conservation District activities.

Held annual meeting---February 1950

Sponsored a conservation snap book contest and essay contest in cooperation with County Banks and Sportsman Clubs. Contest was open to elementary and high school students.

Floyd Fawcett, West Branch attended short course for Commissioners in Ames during January 2, 1950.

One day meeting for prospective cooperators on economics of Soil Conservation was held in February.

Commissioners and other interested farmers took a trip to La Crosse, Wisconsin to the experimental farm in September. They conducted layout demonstration and result observation for interested people of the county.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The educational activities of the district were directed toward the advancement of sound soil conservation and to acquaint the people, rural and urban, with the needs for conservation of soil and water. Also results obtainable. These activities were carried out jointly with the Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service.

	Numbers	Attendance
Field Tours		
Farmers	6	123
Teachers	1	36
Demonstration	15	105
Interest Meetings	11	99
Form Group Meeting (general)	23	690
Civic & Commerical	4	560
Film Shows	12	540
Meeting with Schools		
Pupils	9	450
Teacher & Administrators	3	105

County Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Gill has done an excellent job providing teaching material and carrying on conservation work in rural schools.

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Through the very fine cooperation of the local newspapers and radio stations the district has tried to keep all people informed of it's work.

News Releases	37
Radio Transcriptions	5

PROGRESS

The districts main objective remains that of getting " Soil Conservation applied to the Land of Cedar County Farms." This to be accomplished through the development of a complete Farm Conservation Plan with proper application of needed soil conservation measures. Progress will be speeded up as more farmers realize the needs for following a good soil conservation program. This program is to include the adoption of longer rotation, with sufficient legumes and grasses, along with adequate mechanical practices, which in turn will raise the yields on a per acre basis and at the same time make a deposit in their Soil Bank.

The major work of the Cedar County Soils District during 1950 consisted of the development of Fifty (50) Farm Conservation Plans and the application of these plans plus 31 previously developed. In addition 72 farmers were assisted with starting practices.

The Farm Plans were developed by holding a series of planning meetings and doing individual work with each cooperator.

The conservation practices applied included the following:

	<u>1950</u>	
Contour Farming	8060	Acres
Strip Cropping	981	Acres
Wildlife Area Improves	16	Acres
Open Drains	1.3	Miles
Tiling	38023	L. Ft.
Waterways Constructed & Seeded	16.9	Miles
Establishment of Field Boundries	2164	Rods
Pasture Improvement	131	Acres
Improved Rotation	23634	Acres
Soil Survey	10629	Acres
Drainage	187	Acres

OBJECTIVES

It is our desire to see more layout demonstrations held for farmers to better enable them to acquire necessary knowledge and skills to successfully farm with mechanical practice. (Contouring, Terraces, and Strip Cropping) also to see more and better utilization of pasture land and more grassed Waterways.

We further strive to get a higher acreage of clear tilled crops on the contour as a means toward obtaining high production. Our main aim is to obtain maxum production without cutting potential productivity, for it appears that high production will be needed for a period of years under present tension.

ACKNOWLEDGE

The Commissioners wish to acknowledge the assistance given to the Cedar County Soil Conservation District by the Soil Conservation Service and their staff at Tipton, along with the local County Agriculture Extension Director. Also wish to recognize the assistance rendered by the following organizations and agencies in assisting with the soils work in Cedar County. These being P. M. A. Voc. Agriculture, State Conservation Commission, Farm Loan Association, Farm Bureau, Production Credit, rural and urban schools and local civic and commercial organizations. Also we wish to express our appreciation for the fine cooperation and assistance recieved from the Banks in carrying out our program.

COMMISSIONERS

Arnold Meier, Clarence, Iowa
George Kiser, Wilton Junction, Iowa
Wm. Wertbaugher, West Branch, Iowa