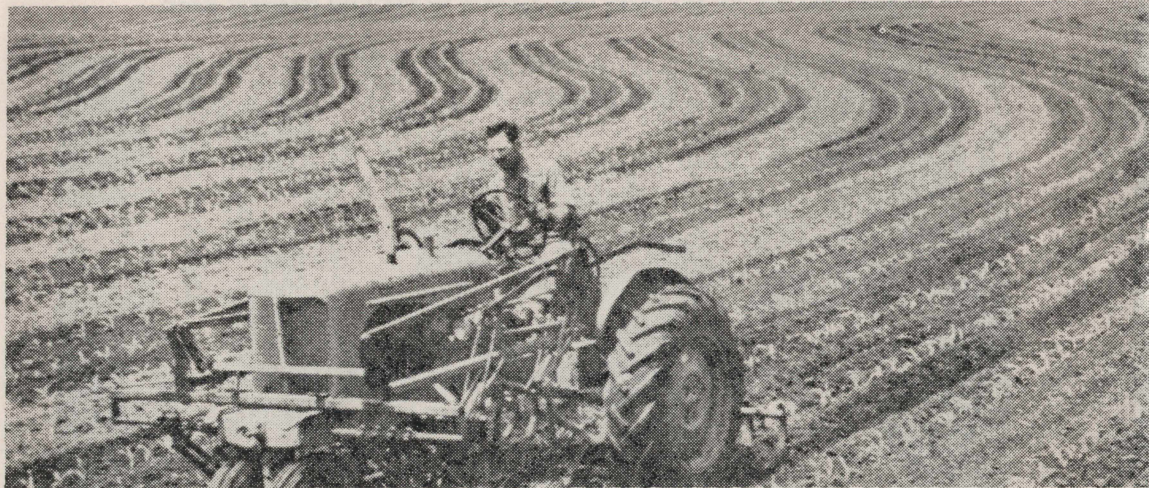


West
Pottawattamie Soil
Conservation District



1963
Annual Report
Council Bluffs, Iowa

WEST POTT. DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Again we look back briefly to review the conservation activities of the past year. During the year the Commissioners held 12 regular meetings and 2 special meetings. Jack O'Hara was elected to fill the unexpired term of Louie Fahrenkrog, long time chairman, who retired January 1st. At that time, Don Bladt of Minden was elected chairman of the District.

The Soil Conservation Awards banquet was held in the Ballroom of the Hotel Chieftain on November 18. The Council Bluffs Kiwanis Club sponsored the event and invited cooperators of the West Pottawattamie District to attend. Three award plaques were given for achievement in conservation farming. The recipients were Floyd Fisher, Erich Geise and Alvin Schutt.

A booth showing the progress of the conservation work in the District watersheds was displayed at the Pottawattamie County Fair in August. The fee for the booth was donated by the City National Bank.



Pictured above is the West Pottawattamie District booth at the County Fair. Ervin Goos and Herman Volkens discuss the watershed information.

In July District winners were selected in the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards program. They were: Division I, Eldon Schultz, Silver City; Division II, Charles Mielke, Council Bluffs and Paul Weaver, Bradenton, Florida; and Division III, Richard Wenninghoff, Council Bluffs. In August, Wenninghoff was selected as the Regional winner in Division III. This region covers twelve counties in the Southwest corner of Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Wenninghoff were given a barometer at the Regional Banquet at Prescott, Iowa on November 21.

1963 DISTRICT BUDGET

The Commissioners of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District are grateful to the Iowa Legislature and the Governor for providing funds to help run the District. By the use of these funds much more is accomplished in the conservation of our soil and water than would otherwise be possible.

1M BUDGET 1963

Commissioners Expenses	\$ 210.08
Office Supplies	\$ 41.68
Printing	\$ 76.00
Office Expenses	\$ 210.68
Material for demonstration	\$ 5.65

TOTAL \$ 544.09

2M BUDGET 1963

Clerical	\$2,594.33
Technical	\$2,245.71
Equipment & travel	\$ 207.03

TOTAL \$5,047.07

WATERSHED REPORT

The application of upland conservation practices such as terraces, waterways and basin terraces is continuing in the watersheds in the District. Ryan-Henschal Watershed and Indian Creek Watershed are in the construction phase of the program. A goal of twelve erosion control structures in the two watersheds has been set for 1964. Some additional conservation work is needed in the hills above these structures. Work is expected to get underway in 1964 on two structures on County roads to replace bridges.

There is continuing progress in the application of conservation practices in North Pigeon, Simon Run, Twin Ponies and Mamie Creek Watersheds. The first three watersheds named have been approved by the State Soil Conservation Committee and are now awaiting planning priority.

PROGRESS REPORT

Dry and warm weather late into the Fall has helped make this one of the better years on conservation accomplishments in the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District. Terrace building continued until December 10 and a total of 82 miles were built during the year. Also 60 acres of waterways were shaped and seeded, 44,872 feet of tile were laid, 96 acres of land leveling completed, 5,685 feet of drainage ditch dug, 6,080 feet of diversions built, six grade stabilization structures built and 14,463 feet of basin terraces were constructed. To accomplish the above work, 417 cooperators were contacted by SCS technicians to give advice and to do practice layout.

During the year 50 farmers became cooperators with the West Pott. Soil Conservation District. Also during this time 43 conservation farm plans were developed and 20 old farm plans were rewritten and revised to bring them up to date. The owners and operators of these farms formulated their plans with the assistance of the District personnel.



PERSONNEL

DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY

Donald Bladt, Shelby, Iowa, Chairman
Eldon Ravlin, Underwood, Iowa, Commissioner
Jack O'Hara, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Commissioner
Joe Osborn, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Assistant Commissioner
Louie Fahrenkrog, Carson, Iowa, Assistant Commissioner
Clifford Johnson, Secretary and County Extension Director

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

Walter Weiss	Area Conservationist
Leon Foderberg	Work Unit Conservationist
Oliver Hall	Conservation Technician
Perry Thomas	Conservation Technician

STATE EMPLOYEES

Mona Mackey	State Clerk
Terry Ravlin	State Aid, Part-time
Howard Angeroth	State Aid, Part-time

SOMETHING NEW IN TERRACING

Seeded back slope terraces is a way of doing the same old thing in a new and better way. This new type of terrace will not replace the standard level terraces that have been used for many years, but will supplement them. On the flatter parts of your fields with slopes of 3% to 10 %, you will still use the standard level terrace.

On down the hill to slopes up to 16%, you will use the new type terrace. The chief advantage of this type of terrace is that it can be built on the steeper slopes and, with the exception of about 20 feet on the back slope, the field can be farmed. In fact, the construction of this terrace on a field reduces the slope from 2% to 4% instead of increasing it that amount with standard terraces.

This terrace is built from the lower side with a little finish work on the upper side as contrasted with the standard terrace which is built from the upper side. The back slope of this terrace is not farmable, but neither is the back slope of a standard terrace on this kind of a slope. In addition the cut slope above a standard terrace on slopes around 13% to 16% are very difficult to farm. Therefore, very few terraces are now being built on the steep slopes. These slopes are being farmed, however with a high percentage of corn. The soil loss on a 14% slope contour farmed with a three year rotation of corn, oats and hay averages about 65 tons per acre each year. With this 65 tons of soil goes its crop producing values, plus the fertilizer you have applied. In addition, you may have a much lower stand number due to washing out of plants.

Terraces on these slopes prevent much of this soil erosion and at the same time holds water up on the hillside where it is needed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We the Commissioners of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District would like to take this opportunity to say how much we appreciate the cooperation we have enjoyed this year with the Soil Conservation Service, the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service, the County Board of Supervisors, the local newspapers and all of the District Cooperators who had conservation work done on their farms.

The offer of assistance from our office is open to any land owner or operator in the county who has a conservation or drainage problem on his farm. Phone 328-1543, Extension 24, or come to the office at Room 234, Federal Building in Council Bluffs.

DONALD BLADT, Chairman
West Pott. Soil Conservation District

West Pottawattamie

Soil Conservation District

Room 234 Federal Building

Council Bluffs, Iowa