

Sept.  
1954

# Soil and Water

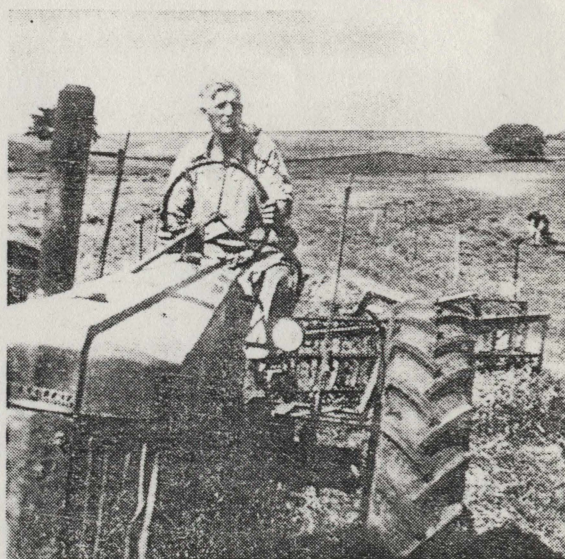
Official Publication of the Iowa Association of Soil District Commissioners and the Iowa State Watersheds Association



Will Strohbehn, Council Bluffs, Iowa



Louis Fahrenkrog, Carson, Iowa, Chairman



Ernest Harms, Underwood, Ia.

(Cover Story page 2)

*Dedicated to the practice of water and soil erosion control*





Aerial View of Council Bluffs, Iowa

## William Strohbehn Has Been Commissioner For Over Eight Years

William Strohbehn has been a Commissioner for over eight years. The Strohbehn 427 acre farm is located seven miles south of Neola, Iowa.

Will retired from active farm work several years ago, and Mr. and Mrs. Strohbehn moved to Council Bluffs.

Strohbehn and his tenant, Darrell Hartje, are in partnership in their farming operations. Darrell moved onto the farm without any previous experience in conservation farming, however, he had the determination to do a good job of farming and he has made good. Their relationship is an excellent example of what can be accomp-

lished by cooperation of both landlord and tenant.

Strohbehn's farm is completely terraced and all of the fields are laid out on the contour. They normally raise 400 - 425 head of hogs and feed out 200 head of feeder cattle.

Will and Mrs. Strohbehn have two daughters, both married. One lives in Idaho and the other in Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Strohbehn are members of the St. John's E. & R. Church in Council Bluffs where they are quite active in church work.

Will is a Director of the West Pottawattamie Seed Cooperative and spends considerable time in 4-H, Extension and Farm Bureau work.

## Louie Fahrenkrog Has Been Commissioner Since March 1952

Louie Fahrenkrog has been an active Commissioner since March 1952. Prior to that time he was an Assistant Commissioner for several years. He is currently serving as Chairman of the Board.

Louie and Mrs. Fahrenkrog live on a 320 acre farm located four miles southeast of Treynor, Iowa. They have three children. Their daughter graduated from high school this year and is presently working in Omaha. The two boys, Warren and Joel, attend school in Carson, Iowa and they both help their parents with the farming operations.

Fahrenkrog raises 200 head of hogs each year and usually feeds

Continued on Page 3



out 200 head of cattle. He has been milking 10 head of cows, but plans to quit the dairy business because of the labor involved.

Louie has been quite active in District affairs and has attended all of the State and National conventions for the past several years. He has also held various State and Regional offices.

## Ernest Harms One Of District's Most Ardent Soil Promoters

One of the District's most ardent backers and promoters is Ernest Harms. Ernie helped organize the District and has been a Commissioner since the District was founded in 1944.

Mr. and Mrs. Harms own and live on their 240 acre farm, located three miles west of Underwood Iowa. They have five children. One daughter, her husband and little girl live in a new house located on the farm, and they help with the farming operations. The youngest son is in the Army. The other three children are married and live away from home.

The production of pork and beef are the main enterprises on the Harms farm. They normally raise about 250 head of hogs each year and have a herd of 25 Hereford cows. In addition, they usually feed out another 25 head of feeder cattle.

Ernest is a very strong supporter of grass and usually has one half or more of his farm seeded to brome and alfalfa.

Mr. and Mrs. Harms are members of the St. John's E. & R. Church in Council Bluffs. They are quite active in church and community affairs.

Mrs. Harms' hobbies, aside from the grandchildren are her flowers and her love for fishing. Her only complaint is that she can't get Ernest away from home long enough to enjoy all of the fishing that she would like to do.



## Iowa Weather Report

July, 1954

courtesy of  
Iowa Department of Agriculture  
Clyde Spry, Secretary

July 1954 was the warmest in 18 years, and in only one year (1947) out of the past 18 years has it been drier. Temperatures over the state average near 77 degrees, which is almost 2 degrees above normal. It was warmer than normal during the first 20 days of the month except for brief periods of cooler weather near the 8th and the 16th. During the last 10 days of the month there were minor variations above and below the normal.

The abnormal lack of moisture continued in the southern portion of the state. Precipitation totals for the month in the southern third of Iowa averaged only 25% of the normal and in the southwest the average was only 16% of normal. By contrast, rainfall in the north central area was 3% more than normal, with the excess occurring in a few counties along the northern border. In the state as a whole the precipitation total for the month was only 1.75 inches which is less than half of the amount normally expected for this month.

Showers during the first 9 days of the month were quite general. They were moderate in the north, light in the south, and almost nonexistent in the south central portion. From the 17th through the 23rd there were again general showers, but following the previous pattern they were considerably lighter in the south. It was during this period that Ankeny, in the central portion of the state, received 3.50 inches of precipitation most of it in two heavy showers. The final period of shower activity was from the 27th through the 31st, with heavier amounts again occurring in the north and lighter amounts in the south.

On the 1st hail destroyed crops in the vicinity of Atlantic, and lightning destroyed a barn in O-

Brien County. Heavy showers on the 2nd caused some flooding of small streams in the Clayton County area. Lightning on the 4th damaged a school in Wright County. Crops were damaged on the 5th and 6th by hail and wind in the Monona area and in Clinton and Dubuque Counties and on the same dates farm buildings were damaged by wind in Cherokee and surrounding counties. Considerable damage also occurred in the north central area from wind on the 6th. Wind was responsible for damage to buildings and crops in the southeast corner and in the north central area of the state on the 7th. A house was damaged by lightning in Lyon County on the 9th. Lightning damage was reported from various parts of the state throughout the period from the 17th through the 20th. Strong winds damaged buildings and crops on the 30th.

Soybeans and corn made good growth during the month, but both crops suffered from the lack of moisture in the southern part of the state. Wheat and oat harvest was completed, with good yields and generally good quality.

Precipitation averages for the month are tabulated in the following table:

|               | Average<br>Inches | Normal<br>Inches |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Northwest     | 2.69              | 3.38             |
| North Central | 3.60              | 3.49             |
| Northeast     | 2.67              | 3.91             |
| West Central  | 1.65              | 3.55             |
| Central       | 1.10              | 3.66             |
| East Central  | 1.30              | 3.73             |
| Southwest     | .56               | 3.56             |
| South Central | 1.01              | 3.51             |
| Southeast     | 1.14              | 3.66             |
| STATE         | 1.75              | 3.60             |

State Savings Bank

BEDFORD

IOWA



# IOWA SOIL AND WATER

Merle Travis, President, Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

Address changes: Mail to Iowa Soil & Water, 1719 Leland, Des Moines, Ia.

Barr Keshlear, President, Iowa State Watershed Association

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office, at Des Moines, Iowa

## Publication Board:

Dr. George M. Browning, Assoc. Director Exp. Station, Iowa State College.

Frank H. Mendell, Iowa State Conservationist.

L. L. Garton, Alta, Ia., Farmer Member State Soil Conservation Committee Chairman, Little Sioux Flood Control Committee.

H. L. Crittenden, Industrial Representation.

Merle Travis, President, Iowa Assn. of Soil Conservation District Comm.

Barr Keshlear, President, Iowa State Watersheds Association.

BARR KESHLEAR, Publisher

ALLEN R. SCHRODER, Editor

Iowa Soil and Water is published jointly by the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the Iowa State Watershed Association as information for proper conservation of each acre of agricultural land within its capabilities. The publication supplies information for members of both groups and others interested in soil erosion control and flood prevention.

VOL. 2

AUGUST, 1954

NO. 8

25 cents per copy

\$3.00 per year

## Editor's Report

For the first time in the History of Iowa Soil Conservation Districts, Commissioners will hold their Annual Convention in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Our September Issue of Iowa Soil & Water SPOTLIGHTS the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the conservation program they have directed and carried out for the past eleven years of this organization.

Conservationists in Iowa have long been familiar with the names of Don Anderson, Louis Fahrenkrog, Ernest Harms, and Bill Strohbehn, West Pott. District Commissioners. These men are anxious for all Iowa Commissioners to attend the annual meeting, Sept. 12, 13, 14, 1954, in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Therefore the WEST POTT. SOIL CONSERVATION DIST. COMMISSIONERS, THE PUBLICATION IOWA SOIL & WATER, THE IOWA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DIST. COMMISSIONERS, INC., THE STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE, respectfully urge you to make every effort to attend YOUR EIGHTH ANNUAL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT CONVENTION.

## COOPERATION UNEXCELLED!

Program Planning Committees in the past have always had fine cooperation and support from host Convention cities-- but never before has this Committee enjoyed such fine assistance, just prior to its annual convention, as this year.

The Agriculture Committee of the Council Bluffs Chamber has carried full responsibility in the detail work, award preparation cost, etc., for the "Best Balanced Livestock Contest" for Iowa Soil Districts.

The Council Bluffs NonPariel, has taken full responsibility for the carrying out and cost of the "Outstanding Soil Conservation District Commissioner" Awards Program. C. W. McManamy, Farm Editor of the Nonpariel has given a great deal of his time as Co-Chairman for the Planning Committee for the Conference; Yes, to these Western Iowa folks, we send our sincere appreciation and thanks for their untiring efforts!

KFNF

920 on your dial

SHENANDOAH, IOWA

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS LEO HOEGH, CLYDE HERRING, DON WILLIAMS

\* \* \* \*

The 8th Annual Soil Commissioner Conference, Sept. 12, 13, 14, at Council Bluffs, Iowa, will bring a top array of Speakers for what is expected to be the largest attendance ever anticipated for an Annual Soil Comm. Conference.

Our Monday night Banquet, Sept. 13, will bring to Iowa the Top man of the U. S. D. A. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE, from Washington, D. C., Mr. Don Williams, Administrator of this Division. Mr. Williams has been with Iowa Districts before, but never in his new capacity as Head of the popular S. C. S. His tenure began with the reorganization of the S. C. S. last year. He is a proven leader, and Iowa Soil & Water, and the Iowa Soil Districts Association salute him for the leadership he has provided his men since the reorganization of their agency.

ALL IOWA WILL BE WATCHING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER this year, because of political elections, but in September all Iowa Conservationists will have the opportunity of seeing and hearing the Honorable Leo Hoegh, Republican Candidate for Governor of Iowa; and the Honorable Clyde Herring, Democratic Candidate for Governor of Iowa. These two distinguished men will appear on our Tuesday night, Sept. 14, banquet. Now, I ask you, can you afford to miss this Conference?

## \$189,000 ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO IOWA EXTENSION SERVICE

Word received recently reports the Iowa Extension Service will receive an additional amount of \$189,000 from this session of Congress.

Iowa Soil Conservation District Commissioners and their State Association urge that these funds be used somewhat in the line of what Extension Leaders have proposed in the past, that being added extension personnel in the field. This for the purpose of facilitating the soil conservation district program and the Water-



shed Program already accepted by the farmer and the public.

How the funds are used in Iowa remains to be seen, but we are confident that extension leaders will not fail to call on Iowa Soil District Leaders to help them in any way possible to plan for and carry out the use of these public funds for the benefit of all concerned.

Frankly, we feel that there is nothing more basic than our Natural Resources and that this new appropriation could give the conservation of these Resources a real boost in the right direction.

## Welcome to West Pottawattamie Soils District Convention

We, the Commissioners of West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District, are very proud to be hosts to the Eighth Annual Meeting of the State Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners. We wish to take this means of wholeheartedly welcoming you to Council Bluffs and Southwestern Iowa.

This undoubtedly will be the first visit to Southwest Iowa by many of you. We hope you will avail yourselves of every opportunity to become better acquainted with us and with the agricultural conditions in our locality.

Agriculture is really big business in Pottawattamie County. In Iowa, Pottawattamie County (which includes both East and West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation Districts) ranks first in:

Value of all agricultural products sold

Acres of alfalfa

Grapes harvested on farms

Corn— Acres and Bushels

Value of domestic animals on farms

Land pastured

Cattle feeding

We rank near the top in hog, dairy and poultry production.

Again we say, welcome to



The Honorable Leo Hoegh, Attorney General of Iowa, and Republican Candidate for Governor of Iowa, Chariton, Ia.



The Honorable Clyde Herring, Polk Co. Attorney and Democratic Candidate for Governor of Iowa, Des Moines, Ia.

(Editor's note. Mr. Herring will be one of the guest speakers for the Commissioner Annual Conference, Sept. 12, 13, 14, 1954.

He will appear with Mr. Hoegh on the Tuesday evening Banquet program, Sept. 14, 1954.

Council Bluffs on September 12th, 13th and 14th.

West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District

Commissioners:

Louie Fahrenkrog, Chm.

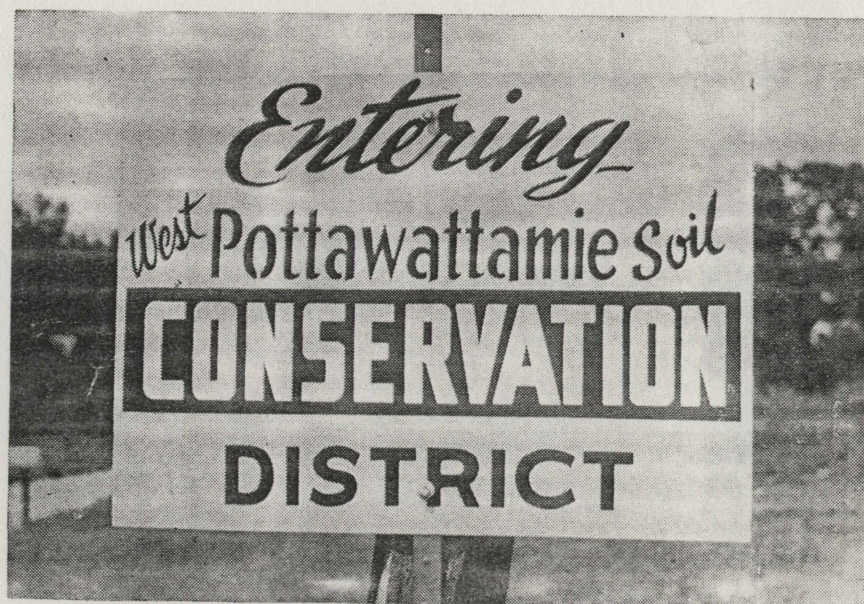
Ernest Harms

William Strohhahn.

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## Monona Type Soils In Western Iowa

by Walt Weiss,  
Area Conservationist  
Soil Cons. Service  
Council Bluffs, Ia.

The Monona soil type shown above is one of the major upland soils found in the Monona-Ida-Hamburg soil association of West Pottawattamie County. It is a part of the long hilly and steep belt of soils bordered on the west by the Missouri River bottomlands extending from North of Sioux City, South into Missouri and varying in width from 40 - 50 miles at the north to just a few miles where it leaves Iowa.

This important soil association covers about 3,000 square miles of which only 40 - 50% of the hill land is in cropland, due to its hilly topography. The steep bluff area along the river is known as Hamburg soils marked by "Catstep" formations which appear in small bench-like terraces and is used mostly for limited pasturing. One of the major soils of the area is the Ida series, having had very little surface soil. It occupies most of the side slopes in conjunction with the Monona soils which are found mainly on the broad ridges and lesser slopes.

This whole soil type association is distinctly different than any other found in Iowa. Formerly covered by two great ice-ages or glaciers, the unusually hilly landscape of coarse silt was blown from the flood plains of the Missouri River bottoms. Very little glacial material is exposed in the area, being more dominate in other sections of Iowa not having the deep loess deposition. Aided by high winds and dry climatic conditions the loose soil picked up was the result of debris from the receding and melted glaciers. It is common to find silt deposits up to 140 feet in depth next to the steep bluffs - diminishing in depths eastwardly. Windblown soils such as these are very low in clay content, are drouthy, well drained, and because of their

Continued on next Page

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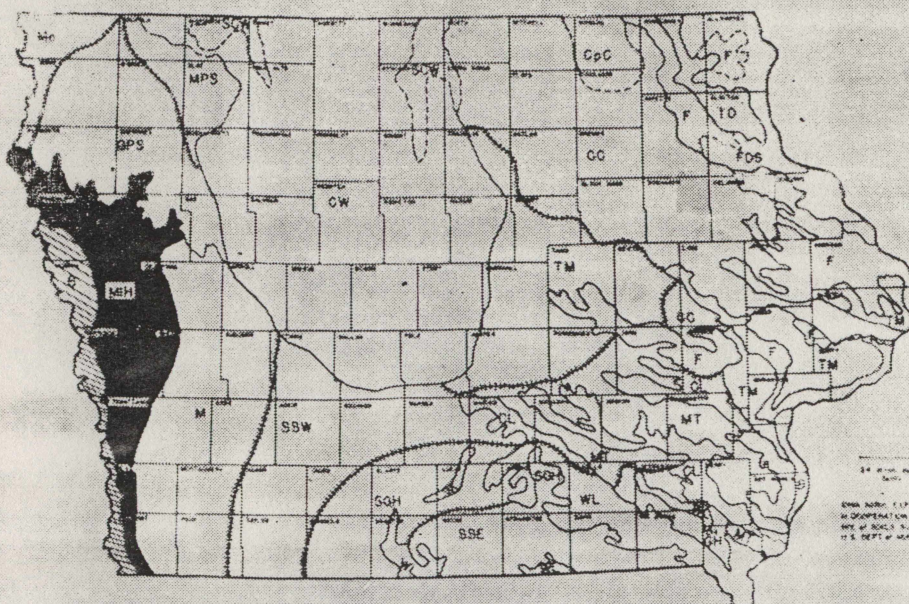
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## PRINCIPAL SOIL ASSOCIATION AREAS IN IOWA



## PRINCIPAL SOIL ASSOCIATIONS

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CC CARRINGTON AND CLYDE  
TM TAMM AND WISCONSIN  
H SOILS OF BOTTOMLANDS  
TO TAMM AND CORNELL  
MT MARION AND TOWN  
CL CLINTON AND LINCOLN

SSW SWEET, SHAWNEE, AND WINTERSETT  
F FAYETTE  
FDS FAYETTE, DUNDON, AND STONY LAND  
SSS SHELBY, SHAWNEE, AND LAC  
GH GRANT AND HAMILTON  
M MARSHALL  
NO NEOSHO  
MEH MARION, ELKHART, AND HAMILTON

NEW NAMES NOT ON COUNTY SOIL MAPS

MPS MARION, POTTAWATTAMIE, AND SHELBY  
SSW SHELBY, SHAWNEE, AND WINTERSETT  
SSS SHELBY, SHAWNEE, AND LAC  
WL WELSH AND LINCOLN  
SC SHELBY, SHAWNEE, AND CORNELL  
FAYETTE, DUNDON, AND STONY LAND  
GRANT AND HAMILTON  
TENTATIVE BOUNDARY  
GRADUATION BOUNDARY

hilly slopes are very erosive. Gullies and road-cuts having a "straight" or "Vertical wall" effect are not uncommon due to soil washing and uncontrolled erosion.

The Ida-Monona soils contain free lime, but usually lack available phosphate and nitrogen. All the practices such as contouring, level terracing and cropping rotations which will help store and absorb water and control erosion are very important and essential in this locality.

This section of Iowa with its topography features, soil management problems, weather and erosion hazards and high production records, must continue to be protected by only the best conservation measures.

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Don Anderson

Don Anderson is Chairman of the National Association Watershed Committee, and contributed largely to what is now known as the Pilot Watershed Project and other watershed legislation for Soil Conservation Districts in America. He presently is co-chairman of the Iowa Association Watershed Committee.

### Don Anderson One Of First Commissioners On District Board

Don Anderson was one of the original Commissioners elected in 1944. He served on the District Board until March, 1952.

Don and his wife recently built a new home on their 428 acre farm located six miles northeast of Crescent, Iowa. They have three children. Jane graduated from High School this year and plans to enroll at Iowa State College this fall. One son, Jay, helps his folks on the farm, and the other son, Allen, is pre-kindergarten age.

Anderson's farm is about three-fourths hill-land and the rest is Pigeon Creek bottomland. His main enterprise is the production of beef. He has a herd of 40 Hereford cows and usually feeds 300 head of feeders.

Don has been active in agricultural work, serving on the Township and County AAA committees and as State President of Iowa Association of Soil Cons. Dist. Comm. Inc. He is currently associated with the Federal Crop Insurance Program.

Don served two terms as a Director on the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts. He was very active in this Association and over the long period of years made tremendous contributions to legislation both on a State and National level.

While serving as President of the Iowa Association of Soil Districts, he pioneered a state appropriation for Iowa Soil Conservation Districts, which now stands first in the United States.



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"The West. Pott. Seed Coop. is backing their Soil Conservation District, and extend greetings to all the soil conservationists attending the State Association meeting in Council Bluffs, Sept. 12, 13, 14, 1954

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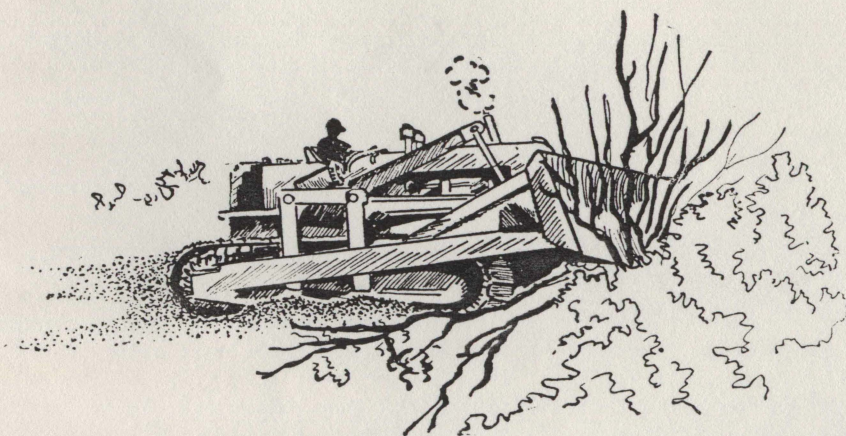
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| <b>Wilbur Nielsen Co. - Co. Bluffs -</b> | <b>Ph. 5476          Blencoe, Ia.</b> |

We, the above Contractors, wish to Congratulate the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District and its Commissioners and personnel for the Outstanding and High Quality conservation job they have carried on in this District for the past 11 years.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th, 1954

2:00 P. M. REGISTRATION Hotel Chieftain

6:30 P. M. SMORGASBORD Hotel Chieftain

ENTERTAINMENT

Presiding: Louis Fahrenkrog, Chairman District Governing Body, West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District.

8:00 P. M. OPENING REMARKS  
Merle Travis, Pres.,  
IASCDC Association.

INTRODUCTIONS

James Foster, Chairman,  
State SCS Committee

WELCOME William Keenan,  
Mayor of Council Bluffs

SOCIAL HOUR Participation by all

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th, 1954

Hotel Chieftain — Terrace Room

8:00 A. M. PRESIDING J. Fred Ingels

INVOCATION

WELCOME Carl Eckert,  
Pres. Council Bluffs Chamber  
of Commerce

INTRODUCTIONS Louis Culver,  
Vice President of the State  
Association

8:30 A. M. PANEL "Organize to get the job  
done". William Darbyshire,  
Past Member of the State Com-  
mittee - Presiding.

Members of Panel: Representatives  
of the Soil Conservation Serv-  
ice, Extension Service, State  
Committee, State Ass'n., State  
ASC Committee, State Voca-  
tional Agriculture, FHA, Pub-  
lic Instruction and Natural Re-  
sources Council.

10:30 A. M. Recess

10:40 A. M. Report of State Water Policy and  
Watershed Committee

INVOCATION

11:45 A. M. Noon Luncheon Chieftain Hotel -  
Ballroom. James Foster, Pre-  
siding.

PRESENTATION OF "HALL OF  
FAME AWARDS"  
Merle Travis

1:00 - 5:00 P. M.

TOUR OF CONSERVATION PROJ-  
ECTS - Tour leader: Verle M.  
Arnold, Work Unit SCS, West  
Pottawattamie Dist.

INVOCATION

6:30 P. M. BANQUET - Chieftain Hotel Ballroom  
Merle Travis - Presiding

PRESENTATION OF STATE  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS -  
James Foster

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER -  
Frank H. Mendell, State Con-  
vationist, SCS.

ADDRESS D. A. Williams, Chief,  
Soil Conservation Service,  
Washington, D. C.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th, 1954

7:30 A. M. Soil Conservation District Action  
Committees to meet for break-  
fast in assigned Committee  
Rooms. Committees: Fi-  
nance, Legislation, Program  
and Education, Publicity and  
Watersheds.

9:00 - 10 A. M.

Caucus - (Regions I, V and IX) elec-  
tion of Directors and Alter-  
nates.

Caucus - (Regions I, II and III) (IV,  
V, VI) (VII, VIII and IX) Elec-  
tion of their Area Vice-Presi-  
dents.

Executive Session of Iowa Soil Com-  
missioners, Merle Travis, Chm

Meetings and Report of Nominations  
Committee for President and  
Vice-President of IASDCD

Members of Panel: Chairmen of the  
Five Soil Conservation District  
Action Committees - Don An-  
derson.

INVOCATION

12:00 Noon LUNCHEON Hotel Chieftain,  
Ballroom. Louis Culver, Vice-  
Pres. of the State Ass'n., Pre-  
siding.



Presentation of "Balanced Forage and Livestock Contest" award — Gaylord Noblitt, Chm. Agricultural Committee, Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce.

Presentation of Nine Outstanding Commissioner Awards, C. W. McManamy, Farm Editor, Council Bluffs Nonpareil.

Invitations for location of 1955 Conference.

1:30 P. M. Panel: District Commissioner Activities - Hotel Chieftain, Terrace Room. Co-Chairmen: Kenneth Wagner, Member of State Committee; Ed. Baur, Director of the Nat'l. Ass'n. — Past Prest. of the State Association.

Panel Members: To include one District Commissioner from each of the nine Regions in the State of Iowa

4:00 P. M. DISCUSSION - on location of meeting place for 1955.

6:00 P. M. BANQUET Hotel Chieftain - Ballroom  
C. W. McManamy, Presiding

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS - James Foster, Chairman of the State Committee; Merle Travis, Pres. of the State Association.

SPEAKERS - Leo Hoegh, Attorney General; Clyde Herring, Polk County Atty.

AWARD PRESENTATION — Iowa District Commissioner of 1954 - C. W. McManamy

ADJOURNMENT

## LADIES' PROGRAM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th, 1954

Chieftain Hotel — Committee Meeting Room

9:00 A. M. Breakfast and Business Session — Mrs. Merle Travis, Pres. State Ass'n. - Ladies Aux. Presiding.

12:00 Noon Luncheon - Hotel Chieftain - Ballroom

1:30 P. M. Tour of the Iowa School for the Deaf - Tour Leader: Mrs. Louis Fahrenkrog.

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Handy, easy-to-move feeder goes through any door. Ideal for sows in farrowing pen, creep-feeding little pigs, or later use with minerals or supplement. Heavy galvanized steel construction with cast iron trough insures long life. Rotating principle makes pigs eat slowly, the natural way . . . for faster gains.

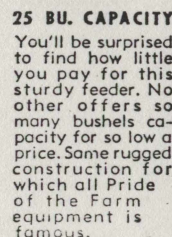
#### 10 BU. CAPACITY

Use from farrowing to market. Just the thing for pig starter, minerals, concentrates, a balanced ration. Goes through any hog house door. Never clogs. Rotating principle cuts waste and puts on faster gains by making pigs eat slowly. Built for many years' service.



#### 20 BU. CAPACITY

Largest rotating feeder in Pride of the Farm line. Combines all the pork-building advantages of the rotating principle with labor saving benefits of a big feeder. Excellent for larger pigs.



#### 25 BU. CAPACITY

You'll be surprised to find how little you pay for this sturdy feeder. No other offers so many bushels capacity for so low a price. Some rugged construction for which all Pride of the Farm equipment is famous.



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## Past 15 Years show Great Strides in Soil Conservation Work

Over the past 15 years the United States has become well awakened to the need for a national soil conservation program. The term "Soil Conservation" is heard and read frequently and has achieved a virtue of its own in every day thinking, yet conceptions of what soil conservation really is vary widely.

To one person it may mean terraces, contouring and contour strip cropping. Such an observer may drive miles through flat lands where neither terracing nor contouring were needed and report he had seen no evidence whatever of soil conservation practices adopted to that kind of land.

To the Soil Conservation District technicians, however, soil conservation means farming the land according to its natural capabilities.

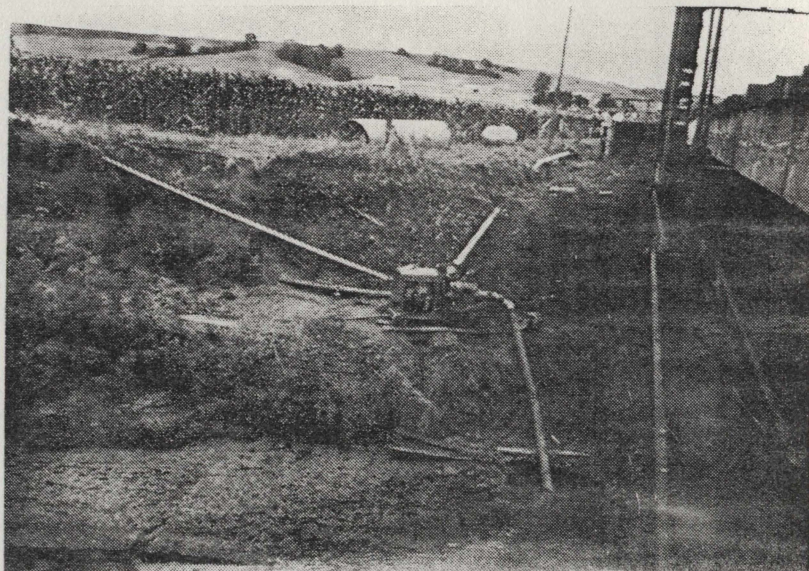
Modern soil conservation is sound land use and treatment of land with all the proven measures which are needed to keep it permanently productive and producing to its maximum.

It means terracing land which needs terracing, it means contouring, strip cropping and stubble mulching the land as needed, along with sod producing crop rotations, cover crops, lime, fertilizer and manure. It means gully control, grassed waterways, building farm ponds, locating farm roads and fences on the contour, planting steep eroded lands to grass and trees, developing good pastures and proper management after they have been developed.

Modern conservation moreover consists of doing these and still other necessary things. Where land is too wet, modern soil conservation calls for drainage; if it is too dry it calls for irrigation; if it is subject to wind erosion it calls for wind stripping, tree planting and stubble mulch farming. If plant nutrients have been depleted



Watching water flowing into the irrigation ditch on the Ed Olsen farm are, left to right, George Holmberg, Soil Conservation Service, Mr. Olsen and Mr. Olsen's son. The irrigation of the field was started July 21. This particular field is planted to hybrid seed corn.



Shown here is the pump which forces the water from the Willow to the fields of Ed Olsen west of Logan. The water is brought from the river through aluminum 6-inch pipes to the north and south edges of the corn field. There the water flows into irrigation ditches and from the ditches the water flows into the furrows. Both north and south edges of the corn field are higher in elevation than the center, and the water is carried down the rows.

ed it calls for fertilization.

Modern soil conservation also calls for the use of the best of the most adaptable varieties of crops as well as the most efficient tools available to farmers.

These planned conservation measures are not just a single year or cropping season. Like Savings Bonds or savings deposits in the bank, they increase in value and return on the original investment as the years go on.

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### County Extension Work In Pottawattamie

by Clifford Johnson,  
County Extension Director  
West Pottawattamie County

The West Pottawattamie Soils Commissioners take an active part in the development of the County Extension Service educational program and we as Extension Agents in the County work closely with the soils district in conducting the educational phases of the soils conservation program.

During years gone by, the district and the County Extension Service have held special educational training schools on soils and crops for elected community leaders. This program served the purpose of giving advanced information to fifty to seventy-five "key" people each year. The program continued for several years. The policy of the soils commissioners now is to assist in promoting all of the Extension Service Programs that concern soil and water conservation.

We have several special projects in our county that are sponsored jointly by the district and our office.

Of special interest is the promotion of a "4-H Grass-Grain" Junior Cattle Feeders Project. The rules were written and prepared by the Commissioners and approved by the 4-H Boys Commit-

Continued on page 17

## Money Spent In Western Iowa Helps Improve Western Iowa

VISIT OUR NEW  
MODERN AIR-CONDITIONED STORE

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## Welcome Iowa Soil Conservation District Commissioners To Your

8th Annual Soil Conservation  
District Conference, Sept. 12, 13, 14, 1954

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For The Continued Success of  
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## Council Bluffs Savings Bank

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Always ready to assist the Southwest Iowa farmers in  
Conserving their Valuable Soil

A Strong Bank Since 1856





Left to right: Verle Arnold, WUC, Oliver Hall, Tech., John Arrick, Technician, Perry Thomas, Technician.

## West Pottawattamie Makes History During Past Fifteen Years

Over fifteen years ago the farmers of West Pottawattamie county realized the need for some kind of soil saving practices.

Their District was formed in 1944, but it was in the early 1940s that many farmers and others in the County became increasingly concerned with the damage being caused by erosion to their farms.

They realized that it was a problem that could not be controlled by each individual farmer; that they would need to work together and to obtain assistance from the Department of Agriculture and the College and others. So the proper legal and voting procedures were followed and on April 28, 1944, the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District was formed.

Ernest Harms, Underwood, Glenn Craft, McClelland and Don Anderson, Honey Creek, were elected as the Governing Body of the District.

Memorandums of Understandings were signed with the Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service so that technical assistance could be obtained from these agencies.

In 1945 William Stronbehn replaced Glenn Craft as a Commissioner and in 1952 Louie Fahren-

krog replaced Don Anderson. Fahrenkrog is presently serving as Chairman of the District and Clifford Johnson, County Extension Director, serves as Secretary-Treasurer.

At present Verle Arnold, Work Unit Conservationist, Oliver Hall, Perry Thomas and John Arrick are assigned as technicians working in the District, with Patricia Hoffman as District Clerk. The office is located at 11 Pearl Street in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The Commissioners adopted the policy of working with organized groups of farmers throughout the District whenever possible. To date over 40 groups comprising over 500 farms have been organized.

At present 800 farmers are co-operators with the District, 590 of these have a basic conservation plan developed on their farms. These cooperator farms a total of 137,000 acres, or approximately 45 percent of the cropland in the district.

A summary of some of the accomplishments on Cooperator farms in the District is as follows:

50,000 acres of corn planted on the contour annually.

1300 miles of terraces (laid and to end would go from Council Bluffs to New York City.)

23 miles of Diversion Terraces.

1,083 acres of sod waterways.

52 miles of open ditch benefit-

ting 5,820 acres.

30 gully control structures.

62,000 rod of fence reorganization.

Probably the most outstanding accomplishment that farmers in the District have made in the past ten years is the tremendous increase in brome-alfalfa acreage for hay and pasture. This acreage has increased from practically none to about an average of 40% of the rotation land on most co-operator farms. The farmers in the District are to be highly commended for this advancement. To quote Ernie Harms "Grass made this country, and grass will hold it."

Although the accomplishments seem small in comparison to the total needs, the District is very proud of the accomplishments that have been made by the farmers in the District during its first ten years of operation.

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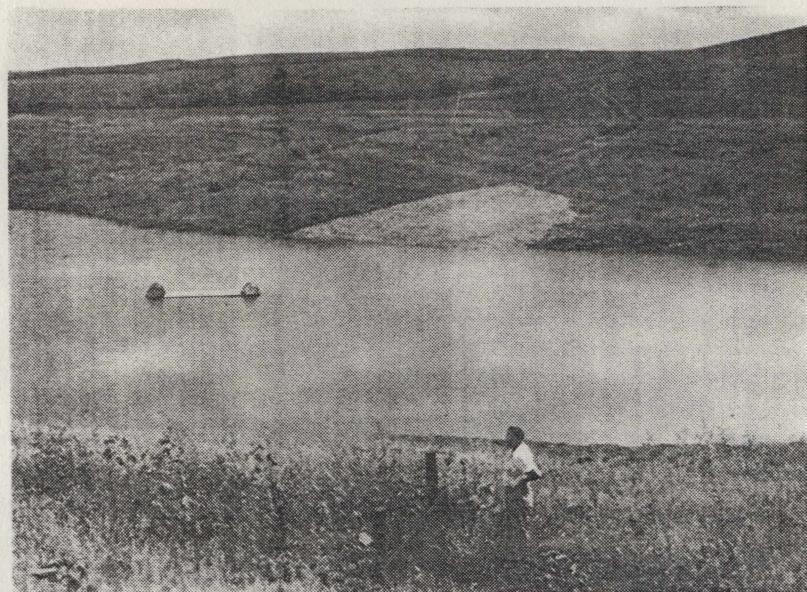
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Spitman Bros., Council Bluffs, Ia. Gully Control Structure. Verle Arnold, W. U. C. standing by riser. Note sand beach in background.

## Gully Control Built on Spetman Bros. Farm Near Council Bluffs

This spring a drop inlet gully control structure was built on the Spetman Brothers farm north of Council Bluffs.

Approximately 10,000 cubic yards of earth went into the fill and 120 feet of 26 inch iron pipe was used for the main spillway. Each foot of pre-cast 36-inch concrete pipe was used for the riser.

The drainage area above the structure is 150 acres. Until silting occurs Spetman will have approximately a two acre surface pond varying in depth up to 12 feet. Temporary storage of 18-acre-feet was designed to temporarily store water during intense storms.

In addition to receiving benefits from gully and flood control, Spetmans are developing the site into a recreational area. A diving board has been constructed and a sand beach established on one side of the pond. As the pond fills with water it will be stocked with fish.

## Lawrence Dittmer Ass't Soils Commissioner

Lawrence Dittmer was appointed Assistant Commissioner early this year. Dittmer has been very active in promoting conservation in his locality and has done an excellent job on the farm that he operates. His rented 240 acres is located about two miles southeast of Minden.

Lawrence and his wife have two small children.

Pork production is the main enterprise on the Dittmer farm. He normally raises about 300 head per year.



Lawrence Dittmer, Minden, Iowa, West Pott. Asst. Comm.

## Area 7 Host To Iowa Soils Meeting; Show Area Accomplishments

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District is proud to have the honor and pleasure of being host to the Annual Meeting of the State Association of Soil Conservation Districts. It is also proud of the accomplishments over the first ten years of its organization.

Area 7 in Iowa, which includes Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Harrison, Shelby, East Pottawattamie and West Pottawattamie districts, is also very proud of its accomplishments.

In order that you might compare your Area's records with that of Area 7, we herewith place our accomplishments on the line for the first six months of 1954. We challenge any Area to show a better record.

|                      |       |          |
|----------------------|-------|----------|
| Basic Farm Plans -   | No.   | 224      |
| New Cooperators      | No.   | 432      |
| Contouring           | Acres | 304, 350 |
| Open Drains          | Miles | 42       |
| Closed Drains        | L. F. | 259,095  |
| Terraces             | Miles | 412      |
| Waterway Development | Acres | 735      |
| Drop Spillways -     |       |          |
| Drop inlet type      | No.   | 20       |



## Great Progress Since 1946 in Soil Program

What good conservation farming will do is definitely shown at the Max Bebensee 256 acre farm located 7 miles east of Council Bluffs.

"In 1946 when I came back from the Army, the side hill east of the house had thirteen ditches on it that we couldn't cross with machinery, and there were spots on the hills so thin that they seldom produced an ear of corn" says Eugene Krohn, Bebensee's son-in-law and operator of the farm.

Today, the farm land is altogether different. Nearly seven miles of level terraces have been built, all of the ditches have been made into grassed waterways, and one can drive a car anywhere on the farm. All of the fields are laid out according to their conservation plan and each field can be pastured from the building site.

Krohn follows a five year rotation of Corn-Corn-Oats-Meadow-Meadow, using alfalfa, red clover and brome for his seeding mixture.

Bebensee and Krohn farm 50-50 in their operations. Normally they feed 50 to 60 head of feeder cattle and raise 160 to 170 head of hogs.

Mr. and Mrs. Bebensee moved to Council Bluffs when they built a new home a few years ago. They have three children. Their son, Bruce, an Iowa State College graduate, works for Flintcote Company in Mississippi and one daughter and son-in-law operate the farm. The other daughter lives in Washington, D. C.

Through improved farming methods, conservation practices, proper land use, improved seed varieties and proper fertilization, the Bebensees have very materially increased their corn yields in the past ten years.



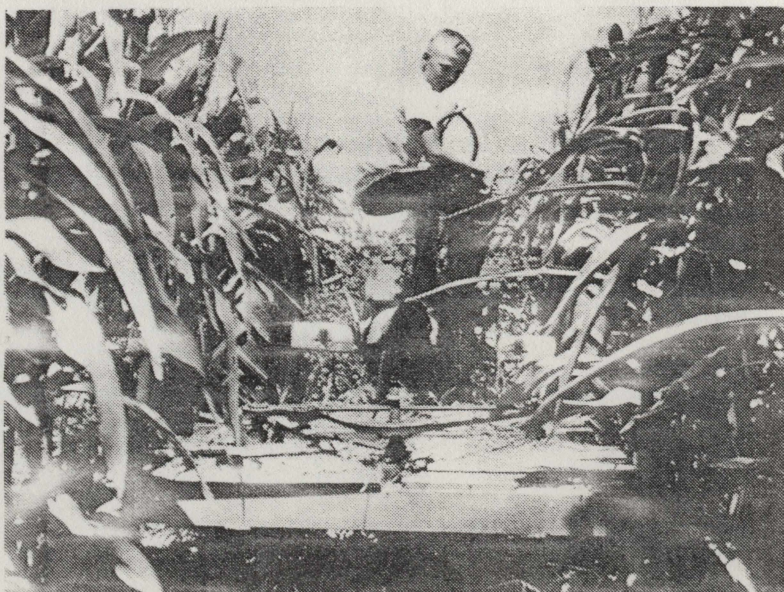
Max Bebensee on the left, Eugene Krohn on the right, standing on terrace

### THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL BLUFFS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WELCOMES YOU

To the Iowa Soil Conservation District  
Commissioners' Annual Conference,  
September 12, 13th, 14th, 1954

(For information about Council Bluffs while here, contact our office  
at 19 North Main St.)

Sponsors: "Best Balanced Livestock Awards, 1954"



Jay Anderson using a 5 ft. rotary chopper - designed by his Dad. Home-made gadget!

Houghton State Bank

RED OAK

IOWA

Harlan National Bank

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## A. J. Fischer Was Early Cooperator in Soils Program on 160 Acres

A. J. Fischer was one of the early cooperators with the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District. His home farm of 160 acres located three miles east of Underwood, Iowa was plan No. 100 with the District. In addition, he has a plan developed on the 280 acre farm that his son operates and on 160 acres that he recently bought which is operated by his tenant, Clarence Aughe.

When Fischer purchased his home farm in 1922 erosion had already caused considerable damage and several gullies had formed. He attempted to stop the ditches by using brush and trees, but they kept gradually getting larger.

Fischer realized that it was going to be necessary to hold the water where it fell if he was going to control his erosion problem. In the early 1940s he started terracing. To date he has a total of 8 miles of terraces on the three farms.

Tony says, "Sometimes the terraces are somewhat of a nuisance to farm, particularly the short rows, but I much prefer them to turning out for ditches and gullies".

Fischer said, "Good conservation farming has made his farm more productive and makes the hill-land produce like bottom-land".

A five year rotation of Corn-brome-Corn-Oats-Alfalfa Brome-Alfalfa Brome is followed on most of his land. He normally handles about 120 head of feeder cattle and raises between 200 - 300 head of hogs each year. His hogs are pastured on clean ground each year and his watering setup is such that he can pipe water to each hog pasture. He has been putting 40 acres of grass silage in a trench site the past several years.

Mr. and Mrs. Fischer have six children. Two of them help with



A. J. Fischer, Underwood, Ia., West. Pott.

the farming operations. The youngest daughter is a student at Iowa State College. The other three are grown and live away from home.

"It sure looks good to me" says Fischer, "to go out in the cornfields after a rain and see the water standing between the contour rows instead of seeing it washing down the hillside and on down to the Missouri River."

Continued from page 13

tee. In this project, attention is given to efficiency of gains through use of good pastures. Prizes were awarded by the district.

When farms are selected for special achievement to compete in contests, the District and Extension cooperate in the selection. Our District has been fortunate in having won many contests in competition with other districts.

The "Ten Acre Contour Corn Yield Contest" has been a jointly sponsored project also. We have developed programs that bring the value of soil and water conservation to various segments of the population in the County including programs with the Farm Bureau Womens Board, 4-H Clubs, service clubs, schools, veterans groups, township Farm Bureau groups and others. By this ap-

proach all members of the family have a degree of knowledge of the importance of soil and water conservation and when the family group sits down together to plan the farming program and the wisest use of their funds, all members can contribute toward the value of a well-planned conservation and production program.

We also have a family approach at Commissioners meetings. Most of the meetings are held at homes and the entire family attends.

The Commissioners in our district have the philosophy that education is important in the conducting of a good soils and water program and have called on the County Extension personnel to assist with the District Programs. Likewise they have been able to get good cooperation from all other agricultural agencies and groups and through schools in the County.

We, in the County Extension office enjoy working with our soils district and appreciate the good cooperation we have in the County between the District and Extension Program committee in developing a good soil and water conservation program.



# TAYLOR SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

INVITES ALL IOWA TO  
ATTEND THE 1954 SOIL CONSERVATION FIELD DAY & STATE  
**CONTOUR & LEVEL LAND PLOWING MATCHES**  
**SEPTEMBER 9, 1954**

8 MILES EAST OF BEDFORD, IOWA ON HIGHWAY NO. 2 ON THE DON AND PAUL THOMPSON FARM!

SEE!

Conservation practice Demonstrations; Iowa's top Plowmen in action; Home Demonstrations for the Ladies; State & National Conservation Leaders. Food served.

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## Mrs. Don Anderson Views Farming Area On Airplane Tour

"I Was Up In The Air Over This  
Soil Conservation Program"

by

Mrs. Don Anderson,  
Honey Creek, Ia.

Our West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District Commissioners sponsored an air tour in June of this year. Each plane was to carry three passengers and each trip would last from 30 to 40 minutes, with the individuals in each plane being flown over their respective farms. My husband obtained three tickets, one for our 15 year old son, one for himself, and the other one for me. I had never been higher from the ground than on the fourth step of my step-ladder, and was quite content to just fly-low in an automobile. Well, these men are just plain insistent, with certain things, especially their wives, and on the morning of the air tour, there we three were waiting at the airport before anyone else was there and before any of the planes were even ready to take off. I was the first passenger aboard!

I had on numerous occasions wondered why the soaring hawk cocked his head, as he peered downwardly as if to say "I wonder if they know what they are doing?" Now I can partially understand his perplexing situation — he doesn't read the "Iowa Soil and Water" publication and hasn't heard of the Conservation on the land program.

Those rows of corn and the terraces do just seem to go round-and-round. The pastures, small grains, and hay crops, all showing the same round and round pattern, with a few amount of wooded areas dotting the landscape, all revealing a picture of good management, with careful and considerate cooperation with Mother Nature. Our country is rolling to just plain hilly, and there is a very visible need for a Conservation program, by just driving along our road ways, but from the air, the scope is much broader. A great deal has been



Wm. Strohbehn, tenant Darrel Hartji - Grassed headland



Verle Arnold, Work Unit Conservationist, Council Bluffs, West Pott.

done in the right direction, but it's a big job that will take years to rebuild as it has taken years to destroy that valuable top soil and for those gulleys to form. From the air the perspective broadens—the neighbors' farm is more closely tied in to the conservation plan on our own farm; the farm over on the far side of the township is tied in more closely; the entire county is just one small project, but what an important project it is. They are all dependent upon each other. The teachings and assistance of the Soil Conservation Service, and the other cooperating agencies, is beginning to show up. But they have had rather a hard struggle to get we

farmers to stop long enough to listen and to see the advantages of a Conservation plan on our farms. Seeing is believing, education is important; let's be good listeners — their story will have a happy ending. So look for yourself, look at your farm, the community, look ahead for our children's children! The best we can leave them is a good soil. I'm sure you would find an air tour in your own county an equally interesting and an instructive experience. And the next time our District Commissioners plan another such tour, I'm going to be mighty unhappy if my husband doesn't get a ticket for me, too!



## Salute Women As Silent Partners In Farming Operations

Most farmer's wives are their silent partners. At times not so silent on the subject of soil conservation, and all share the enthusiasm of their husbands with regard soil conservation.

From our personal acquaintance with the wives of West Pott. Soil Conservation District Commissioners, Olga Harms, Gretchen Fahrenkrog, Ruth Anderson, Lillie Strohhahn and Jean Dittmer, we feel they deserve much credit for their part in promoting soil conservation, insidious though it may be, in their acquiescence of their husband's soil conservation activities and interests - and in their acceptance of extra responsibilities on many occasions that result from their husband's absence from the farm to assume the duties of a Commissioner.

Too, we are often recipients of their friendly welcome and wonderful hospitality via coffee and luscious homemade cakes, etc., when wives and husbands convene for Commissioners' meetings, or when you casually drop by (naturally to discuss "Soil Conservation").

Our hats off to these ladies.

Of Interest—Jean Dittmer is the granddaughter of J. R. McKeown who has been a very good co-operator and was one of the first members of the District Governing Body in Shelby District. A second generation carrying on. We wish to extend a welcome to the silent partners - or wives attending our meetings, and know you will leave our City with the memory of visits with other women - like yourselves - who play a part in promoting soil conservation.

—Anonymous.

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RED OAK IOWA

Griswold State Bank  
GRISWOLD IOWA

# Allen's Alley

by ALLEN R. SCHRODER,  
Executive Secretary, Iowa Association  
of Soil Conservation District  
Commissioners., Inc.

1719 Leland, Des Moines

September is an important month for Conservationists in Iowa. Two State events will capture the eyes of Iowans on September 9th, and Sept. 12, 13, 14, 1954.

The Taylor Soil District will be host to the Annual Soil Conservation Field Day and State Contour and Level Land Plowing Matches, sponsored by Radio Station WHO and WHO-TV and cooperating agencies.

The West Pott. Soil District will be host to the 8th annual meeting of Soil Conservation District Commissioners, Sept. 12, 13, 14, in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Conservation's good friend, C. W. McManamy, Farm Editor, Council Bluffs Nonpareil will be the Main Speaker at the Plowman's banquet, Wednesday evening, Sept. 8, at Bedford, Iowa. On the day of the field day four Candidates for public office will make short appearances at the farm of Paul and Don Thompson, just 8 miles east of Bedford, Ia.

Let's all support these events by making sure we attend.

### (3) ASSOCIATION REGIONS REACH 100% QUOTA!

Bill Mitchell's Region No. 5, in Central Iowa just recently reached the 100% Quota mark. Districts in Mitchell's region are Hamilton, Hardin, Grundy, Boone, Story, Marshall, Tama, Dallas, Polk, Jasper, Poweshiek. Congratulations to these Districts and a Great Big Thank You for Your financial support.

Alvin Peterson, Region No. 3

Director in Southwest Iowa, also is 100% in the Quota race. Districts 100% in Director Peterson's area are: West Pott., East Pott., Cass, Adair, Mills, Montgomery, Adams, Union, Fremont, Page, Taylor, and Ringgold. We send thanks and congratulations to these and the many other 100% District Boards for their continued financial support in Iowa.

Other Iowa Regions rapidly approaching the 100% mark are, Northwest Iowa, Director Kermit Kloppenburg; Region No. 1; Region No. 2, Western Iowa, Louis Culver with only Monona and Calhoun to be heard from; North Central Iowa, Region No. 4, A. J. Marken, Regional Director with Palo Alto and Cerro Gordo to be heard from. Region No. 6, Gilbert Fridley, with only Appanoose to be heard from.

Yes, the IASCDSC is nearing the end of its fiscal year with the Council Bluffs Annual Conference but there is still time for districts not in the 100% Column to take positive action by Conference time. Do it now!

\* \* \* \*

GOVERNOR BEARDSLEY DESIGNATES STATE SOIL COMMITTEE TO APPROVE LOCAL WATERSHEDS!

Watershed Development in Iowa took several steps forward during the month of August. First of all the Conference Committee in the U. S. Congress agreed on amendments to the Hope-Aiken Watershed Bill, and the bill then

Continued on page 23

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# OUREN SEED COMPANY

**WHOLESALE SEED DEALERS**

POULTRY FEED AND  
ALL KINDS OF GRAIN

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA

"Congratulations to the West Pott. Soil Conservation District Commissioners, Wm. Strohbehn, Ernest Harms, Louis Fahrenkrog, Don Anderson, for bringing the Annual Iowa Soil Conservation District Commissioner Conference to Council Bluffs, Iowa, Sept. 12, 13, 14, 1954.



Continued from page 20

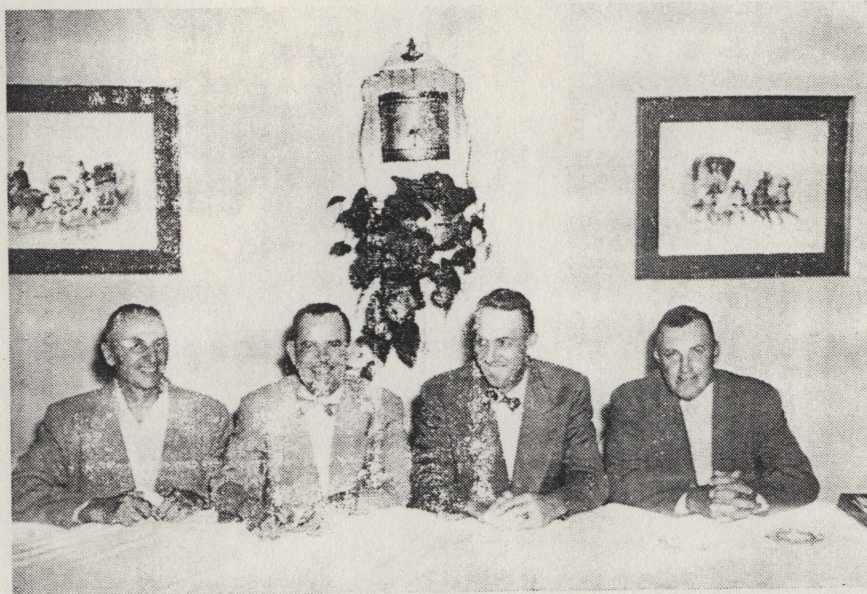
proceeded through the Senate and the House and was signed by President Eisenhower on August 4. (A victory for Soil Districts)

Just a few days ago Gov. William S. Beardsley designated the State Soil Conservation Committee to act for him in reviewing and approving applications from local groups interested in flood control and Watershed development.

Governor Beardsley has notified James Foster, Chairman of the Committee, and Frank Mendell, State Soil Conservationist of his decision. Actually this new approval means the State Committee will either approve or disapprove recommended Watershed Projects coming from the local district level for the purpose of receiving Watershed funds made available by Congress amounting to \$2,800,000 in federal assistance for watershed projects in the U. S.

Iowa has a State Watershed Advisory Committee working with these two groups. The State Association is represented by Merle Travis, President. Other interested groups also have representation on the committee.

Before the decision was made, there was some speculation that the Natural Resources Council of Iowa might be the designated agency.



Iowa Soil Conservation District Leaders discuss relationships and the Conservation program in general with Waters S. Davis, President, National Association of Soil Conservation Districts. Left to right, R. Ed Baur, Van Meter, Ia., Davis, Merle Travis, President, IASDC; Louis Culver, Vice-Pres., IASDC, Dunlap, Ia.



Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioner Board Members; in a recent meeting in Des Moines in August. From left to right: Back row, R. Ed. Baur, Advisor; Merle Travis, President, IASDC, Bedford, Iowa; Louis Culver, Vice-Pres., Dunlap, Ia; Front row—left to right, Hubert Beasley, Area Vice-Pres. Central Iowa; Garden Grove, Ia.; Bill Mitchell, Grundy Center, Ia.; A. J. Marken, Hampton, Ia.; and Gilbert Fridley, Director-Treas., Indianola, Ia. "Editor's Note: The above Board members will be in Council Bluffs to greet you for the Annual Commissioner Conference.

Other Board members not present are, Kermit Kloppenburg, Hartley, Ia.; Al Peterson, Stanton, Ia.; Ed Hoffman, Nora Springs, Ia.; Ed Kadera, Iowa City, Ia.; Fred Cherry, Rowley, Ia.; and Lee Stephenson, Eldon, Iowa. Come and get acquainted!"

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## HONEY CREEK WATERSHED TOUR HUGE SUCCESS!

The 4-River Council on the Upper Tributaries of the Des Moines River held a very successful field tour of the Honey Creek Watershed Project, and met later in Chariton for an evening meal. Over 120 conservationists were represented from the Warren, Madison, Marion, Clarke, Lucas, Monroe, Adair, Guthrie, Dallas, and Polk Soil Conservation Districts. Judge Levis of Chariton, Ia. and Vogel Smith, along with Gilbert Fridley conducted the successful meeting. Ed Baur is President of the Association. Iowa Soil & Water will carry a story and pictures on Progress in the Honey Creek Watershed in one of its future issues. Watch for it.

## ASSOCIATION SURVEY ON APPROPRIATIONS!

Before the last session of the State Legislature met, the IASDCD made a survey asking Iowa Soil Districts what their needs were in the way of personnel and funds. Now seems to be an appropriate time to review what these needs were.

A total of 70 Iowa Soil Districts replied to the questionnaire in the nine Association Regions in this state. An Average of the replies reveals that Iowa Districts need an average of 1.9 employees per district. Total amount of money to employ these people amounted to \$4,420. per district or a total of \$442,100. This, you must remember, was on a pay scale set up in 1952 and 1953. The Association eventually supported an appropriation for Iowa Districts of \$500,000 per year. The Legislature saw fit to appropriate \$350,000. (an additional \$50,000 increase over the past biennium).

Certainly the need has not decreased, since requests for assis-

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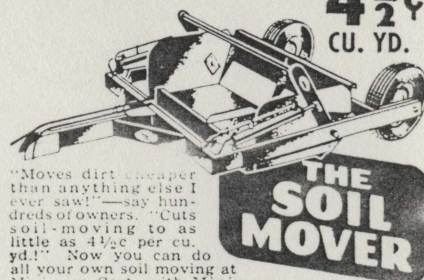


Looking over the publication, "Iowa Soil & Water" are left to right; Waters S. Davis, President, National Association of Soil Districts, League City, Texas, Merle Travis, President, IASDCD; Allen R. Schroder, Sec'y, IASDCD and Editor of Iowa Soil & Water, Des Moines, Ia.

tance from Soil Conservation Districts has increased. With less appropriations from the Federal Government for soil and water conservation, it appears that we must look both to the local level, and the state level for additional assistance. Soil Conservation Districts in Iowa take the view that nothing is more Basic than the conservation of our Natural Resources. Aloud for now, and I'll see you in Council Bluffs.

Allen R. Schroder.

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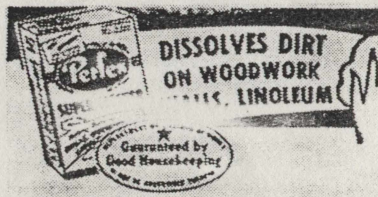
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