

1950

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Ia-SCD-27

Atlantic, Iowa.

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FARM PLANNING AND APPLICATION

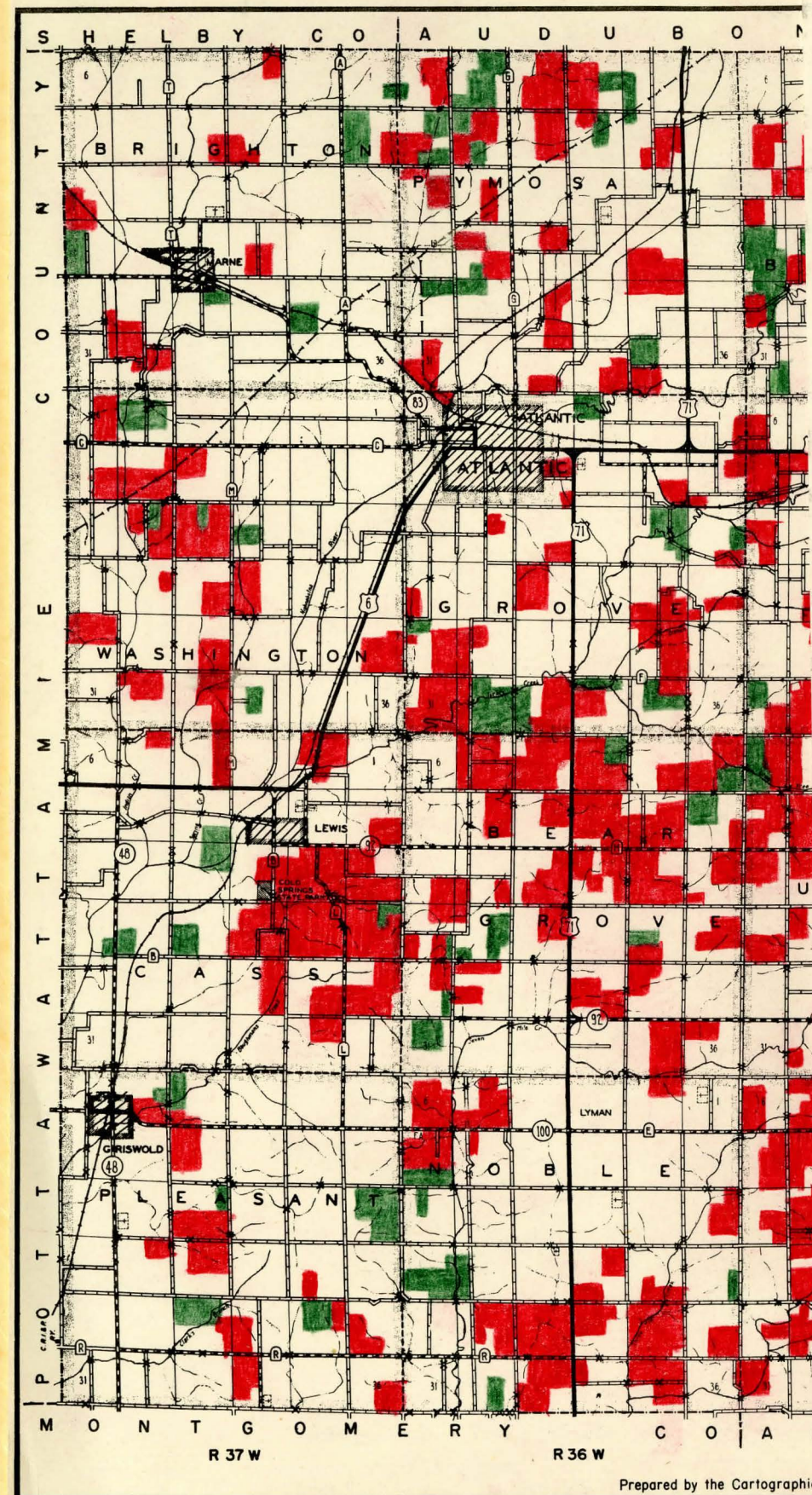
Since the District was organized in 1942, we have 358 farm plans which were developed by the farmers in the District, assisted by the Soil Conservation Service technicians. Plans developed include 30 groups of farmers. The farm planning done in the District is done by the group approach method, which we feel is the most efficient way to assist farmers with their planning. We have 102 remaining active applications on file, which have been approved by the District Governing Body, for assistance with the developing of soil and moisture farm plans.

DEMONSTRATIONS, FIELD DAYS, CONTESTS

We entered the Omaha World-Herald Soil Conservation Contest and the Goodyear Soil conservation Awards Program. Although we did not win either of the above contests we feel that they were very much worthwhile, as much good is accomplished from contests of this nature and assists us with furthering our program.

We held 10 terrace building demonstrations this year for the purpose of promoting more terraces in the District, and more of these will be held in the future.

A good representation from this District attended the Field Days at Clerinda, Castana and other Field Days such as the ones sponsored by Radio Station WOW and the Des Moines Register.



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COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS

Our regular meeting date is the first Friday of every other month, and special meetings are called whenever necessary. During the year we held 13 District Commissioners' meetings.

At these meetings we invite approximately three guests, in order to familiarize the people with the activities of the District. These guests include farmers, businessmen, personnel of various agencies and organizations and others. Commissioners have attended State and Regional meetings, also a District meeting held in Oakland this year.

TRAINING WORK

The U. S. Soil Conservation Service technicians assigned to the District, and the Extension Director, have been working with vocational agriculture instructors, G. I. Instructors and others in our District, assisting them with their teaching of soil conservation, in developing outlines to be used in their soil conservation classes, and with farm planning. Gilbert Lacey, Commissioner, assisted G. I's in training work.

FOLLOW-UP

A considerable amount of time has been spent on follow-up work with the older cooperators. We feel this is very important and the need will be greater with the addition of more plans.

JOB AHEAD

It is our goal to have all the land in the District under a soil and moisture conservation farm plan, as we believe it is necessary for every farm to have a plan and apply it.

Our goal is to get a good land use program, on every farm, based on the capability of the soil and have all the land terraced that needs terraces, every acre on the contour, and all other practices needed to be applied as soon as possible.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

The Soil Conservation activities in the 4-H club organization were confined to talks by individuals, 4-H club members and leaders at local 4-H club meetings. Six of the local clubs have included in their program definite work on Soil Conservation relating to the value of conservation practices such as, terracing, contour cultivation, strip cropping and grassed waterways. These practices in turn have been carried to the parents and in all cases have encouraged adaptation of these practices on respective farms.

Willard Roeske, State-employed technician conducted a contour demonstration for the Union township 4-H boys at the Eugene Pettinger farm.

COOPERATION

The farmers in our District have gone a long way toward the establishment of soil and moisture conservation practices and we commend them on the excellent job they are doing. We especially want to commend the District leaders for their efforts and time spent in promoting soil and moisture conservation. We especially appreciate the assistance furnished us by the United States Soil Conservation Service, assisting farmers in the District on the planning and application of soil conservation practices on their farms. We also express our appreciation to the Extension Service for their fine cooperation, the Production and Marketing Association, Farmers Home Administration, Vocational Agriculture instructors, newspapers and all other agencies and organizations who have contributed their cooperation.

The State Funds that were made available are being used to good advantage, and we now have a full time office assistant, which is appreciated very much especially by the farmers, as now they can be assured that someone is in the office to discuss their problems with and make appointments for the Soil Conservation technicians to assist them. Approximately 600 farmers have contacted the clerk at the District Office for information regarding activities of the District. Field personnel have been relieved of

considerable office work such as, developing capability maps, land use maps and assembling farm plans so that they can spend more time in the field. Correspondence and bookkeeping for the District and for other field personnel has been taken care of by the clerical assistant.

State Funds were also used to employ a technician's helper which assisted us greatly in getting more soil and moisture conservation on the land.

This State Aid worked with the Soil Conservation Service Technicians in applying all kinds of conservation practices. He assisted with running engineering surveys and with the supervision of construction of permanent structures, four of which were constructed in the Cold Springs watershed area this year.

STATE-OWNED TERRACING MACHINE

The State-owned Whirlwind Terracing machine operated by the Cass County District has been used on 42 farms and has been used to construct 16 miles of terraces.

AIR TOUR

The Atlantic Chamber of Commerce, the Atlantic Flying Club and the District sponsored the Cass County Soil Conservation Air Tour on June 11th. 125 passengers made the 50 mile tour covering a route over Lewis, Cumberland, Wiota and Atlantic.

The Flying club furnished the planes for the trip with the passengers supplying the operating expenses. The weather conditions were good and all seemed enthusiastic over the success of the day.

STATE PARK LAKE PROJECT

An artificial lake in Cold Springs State Park, near Lewis, had silted almost full in 1949 and was no longer useful for recreational purposes. Last year a diversion was constructed to divert the major part of the flow around the lake while the spillway was raised by the State Conservation Department to increase the depth and normal surface area of the lake. The Conservation Department had already asked the Soil Conservation Service and the Cass County Soil Conservation District

for help in protecting the lake.

In the spring of 1949 a watershed treatment program was developed. It calls for complete farm conservation plans on the 17 farms in a 2,400 acre watershed and 15 to 18 structures, one of which was constructed in 1949 and 4 more were constructed this year. The Regional Engineering Division is furnishing technical help including engineering designs.

Silting basins are planned behind all of the structures located in the upper parts of the watershed. These will provide recreational lakes or stock water supplies for a period of not less than 25 years, as well as stop sediment which otherwise would go into the main lake. Installation of the conservation control measures on the farm land may make the desilting basins last much longer than the minimum of 25 years.

Since the entire state park is built around the lake, the Department of Conservation considers protection of the lake of vital importance. The State Conservation Commission is paying for the cost of the structures but the Soil Conservation District is requesting each landowner on whose land a structure is built to contribute \$500.00 toward the cost. Approximately 50 percent of the watershed treatment was established on the land this summer.

NISHNABOTNA AND NODAWAY WATERSHEDS

We have been cooperating with the above watersheds in a proposed flood control project and we are advocating a good land use program for all the land in the watersheds, preparing these watersheds for further flood control operations.

Both these watersheds have been organized into flood control associations. A number of meetings have been held by the directors of these associations. Gilbert Lacey is Vice-President of the Nishnabotna Association and Clarence Pellett is a Director from the Cass District. Gilbert Lacey is also a Director on the Nodaway watershed.

A number of sub-watersheds have been working considerably in the establishment of soil and moisture conservation plans and application. We are in the hopes of having more sub-watersheds groups organized and functioning during the year.

RURAL SCHOOL NOTEBOOK CONTEST

The District Commissioners, in cooperation with the County Superintendent of Schools, sponsored a contest on Wildlife conservation. Notebooks and exhibits were handed in by pupils from 30 rural schools in the County. Each was judged by a committee composed of one commissioner and two other individuals interested in Soil Conservation work.

Prizes in the amounts of \$15.00 first, \$10.00 second and \$5.00 third, were awarded to the winners at the Rural School promotion day exercises held at the High school. The teacher and pupils of the winning school, Edna # 9, along with a Commissioner, appeared on a television broadcast over WOV-TV.

Plans are in progress to sponsor a similar contest this winter on Water Conservation.

Gilbert E. Lacey, Chairman
District Governing Body,
December 4, 1950.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE DISTRICT - 1950

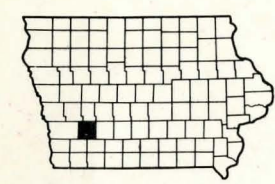
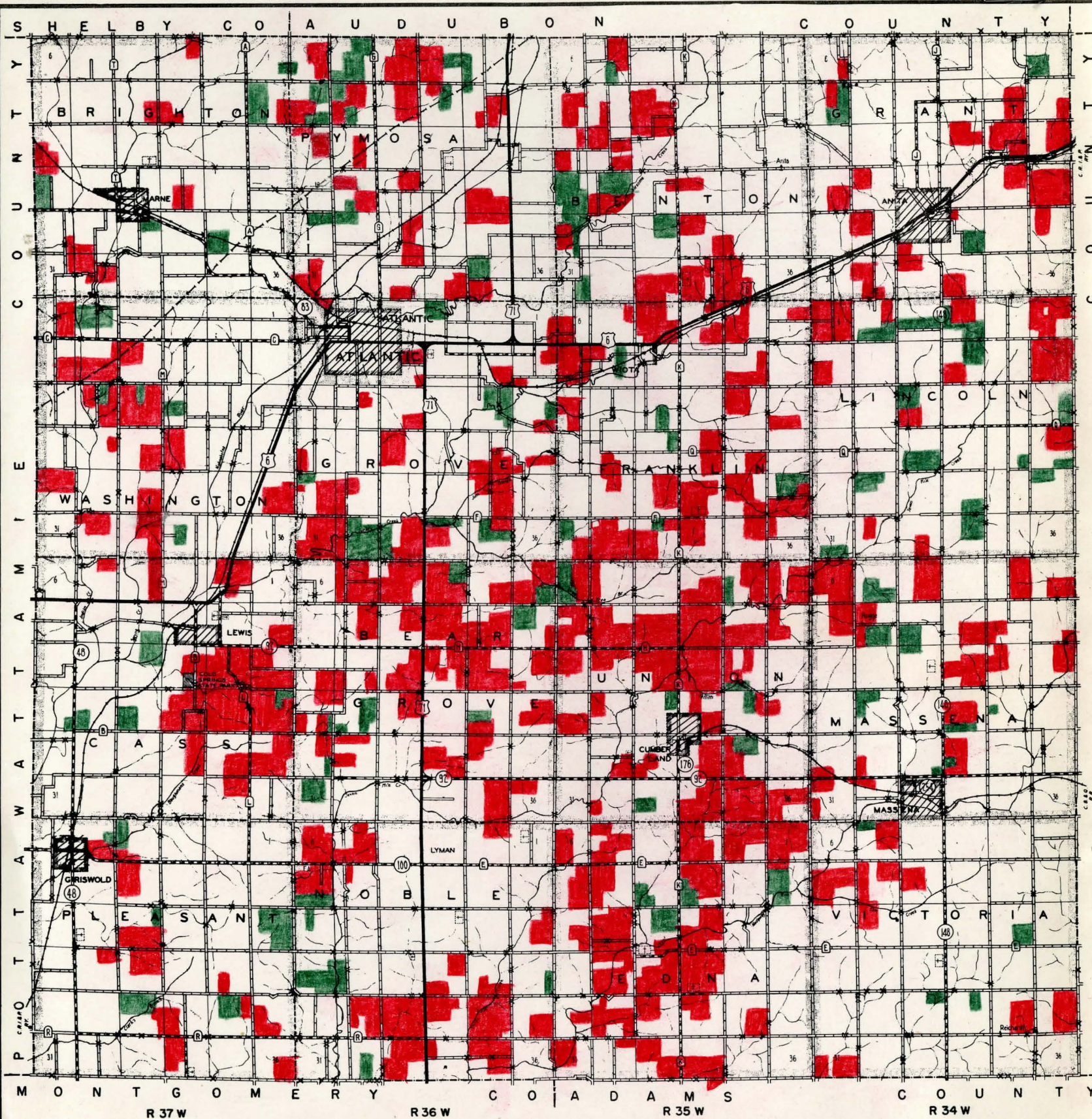
<u>PRACTICE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>
Intertilled Crops (Contoured)	Acre		56,851
Terraces	Mile	51.9	216.9
Dams	No.	50	375
Grassed Waterways	Mile	79.9	395.9
Farm Plans	No.	62	358
No. Requests for farm plans on hand	No.	102	

Soil Conservation District
ANNUAL REPORT OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

DISTRICT Cass Atlantic, Iowa.
(Name) (Headquarters of Dist. Gov. Body)(State)

Period Jan. 1, 19 50 to Dec. 31 1950

ACTIVITY		This Year	To Date
Educational Meetings	Number	6	72
	Attendance	85	2934
Tours	Number	4	24
	Attendance	243	791
Demonstrations	Number	10	90
	Attendance	200	3037
Leader Training Meetings	Number	6	25
	Attendance	150	804
Exhibits	Number	1	12
Radio Talks	Number	2	2
News Articles	Number	82	394
Commissioner meetings	Number	13	



LOCATION IN IOWA

 EXCLUDED AREA

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Approximate Acreage 350,622 acres
exclusive of incorporated cities and towns.

 358 farm plans completed

 102 requests for farm plans.

