



YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY!



Albert Washburn, Chairman Bill Stacy, Commissioner Glen Sell, Commissioner Myron Jones, Commissioner Harold Tackett, Commissioner Sherry Bass, Ass't. Comm. Henry Pein, Ass't. Comm. Roger Jackson, Ass't. Comm. R.ew Burgoon, Ass't. Comm. (Not Pictured)

Commissioner's Comments

We the Commissioners of the Mills County Soil Conservation District respectfully submit this Annual Report for Fiscal Year 73 for the review and consideration of the citizens of Mills County.

We are elected public officials with the responsibility of making conservation work for you. It is a demanding job, but rewarding. Not in dollars and cents, but in the knowledge that we are helping conserve our natural resources, specifically soil and water, for our future generations. An ounce of prevention is still worth a pound of cure. We would like to say "Thank You" to the Department of Soil Conservation, Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service, County Extension, Schools, Service Clubs, Banks, Churches, Newspapers and all the many other groups who helped us carry out a successful Soil and Water Conservation Program.

REMEMBER: POLLUTION IS A CONVENIENCE—NOT A NECESSITY!

The Commissioners

Soil Loss Limit

Iowa farmers, landowners, developers and citizens are responsible for conservation of soil and water resources. Power to enforce these responsibilities is vested with six conservancy districts and 100 soil conservation districts. Both groups are political subdivisions of the state of Iowa.

The Conservancy District Law charges commissioners of the 100 Iowa soil conservation districts with establishing and administering regulations limiting rates of soil erosion on land in the district. Public Hearing was held on October 4, 1972 at 2:00 P.M. in the Soil Conservation Service Office in Malvern.

41 soils had a 5 ton limit
5 soils had a 4 ton limit
1 soil had a 3 ton limit

The soil loss limits were legally adopted on October 4, 1972.



L-R—Preston Grissom, District Conservationist; John Nixon, Party Leader; Soil Survey; Willie Bragg, Soil Scientist; Ruth Stevens, District Clerk; Leo Van Fossen, S.C.S. Technician; Area Office Staff; E.O. Aust, A.C.; Dick Birchmeyer, Area Engineer; Robert Coletti, Area Clerk.

Conservation Practices Applied

By Preston Grissom, D.C.

Fiscal year 73 is now history. There is nothing we can say or do that can change or alter the events of the year. However I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the major conservation practices applied on the lands of District Cooperators in the Mills County Soil Conservation District during the 73 year.

Conservation of our soil, water and related natural resources is a continuing, never ending process. The clear water we drink, the quality of water in our streams, the pure air we breathe, and the good wholesome food we eat are products of conservation of our resources. With each new year we can see the increasing demands on our dwindling resources. At all levels, local, state and national, no matter what our occupation, or where we live, we are duty bound to more wisely use, conserve and maintain our remaining natural resources to insure the wholesome quality of our environment for present and future needs.

There were 22 new cooperators signed during the year. In addition, 61 Resource Conserva-

tion Plans were developed by landowners in the district, with technical assistance from S.C.S. personnel. These resource plans include efforts of individual landowners both farm and urban, golf courses, schools, etc.; groups and units of government. A conservation plan is the basis for progressive resource conservation planning. This would include a detailed soils capability map of a given unit. The plan is developed on the basic conservation principle of "using each acre within its capability to produce and treat it according to its needs." This in effect, results in sustained production and conservation.

Many cropland practices were applied during the year. These include nearly 15,000 acres of conservation cropping system, more than 9,000 acres of contouring, and better than 16,000 acres of crop residue management.

Grassland practices established included approximately 1600 acres of hayland planting and more than 300 acres of pasture and hayland management. Wildlife practices included 4192 acres of wildlife habitat management and woodland practices included windbreak and tree plantings.

Structural practices completed were 117,000 feet of parallel terrace systems, 4500 feet of tile drainage and 12100 feet of field ditch drainage.

All of the above conservation practices have contributed to more than 6700 acres of land adequately treated. This means that many rolling and sloping fields are tied down by the green of pastures; the growth of trees hiding the scars of erosion, protecting farmsteads and feedlots from wind, providing wildlife with food and shelter, a terrace gracefully bending around a sloping field stopping erosion, controlling the destructive runoff water. Keep in mind that these things did not just happen, but are the results of wise land use, management and conservation. These will ultimately benefit us all and conserve the resources for future generations.

"God has lent us the earth for our life. It is a great entail. It belongs as much as to those who are to come after us, as to us, and we have no right by anything we do or neglect, to involve them in any unnecessary penalties, or deprive them of the benefits which was in our power to bequeath." Ruskin.

Soil Survey Report

By John R. Nixon, Soil Scientist
Soil Survey Party Leader

A Standard Soil Survey of Mills County was started in the fall of 1972 with approximately 20,000 acres mapped by July 1, 1973.

All soil conservation farm plans and conservation practices are based on the capabilities of the various soils. This information is used in many ways in the planning of terraces, tile, contouring and use of the different soils on the farms.

The soil survey report of Mills County will contain information that can be applied in managing farms and woodlands; in selecting sites for roads, ponds, buildings or other structures; and in appraising the value of tracts of land for agriculture, industry, or recreation. All of the soils of Mills County will be shown on the detailed maps that are to be in the report. This is done by plotting this information on aerial photographs on a 4-inch to the mile scale. Each sheet will be numbered to correspond with numbers to be shown on an index to the map sheets.

On each sheet of the detailed map, soil areas are outlined and are identified by a symbol. All areas marked with the same symbol are the same kind of soil.

Information on the progress of the survey can be obtained at the Soil Conservation Service Office in Malvern.

The second member of the soil survey party is Willie Bragg, soil scientist recently transferred from Iowa City.

Wildlife

By Robert C. Moore
Wildlife Management Biologist

There is a close relationship between land production and wildlife production. Likewise, soil and water conservation practices are very important in determining wildlife abundance.

The vast majority of the state's wildlife is produced and harvested on privately owned lands, therefore, our wildlife program is directed toward the individual landowner. This extension type program provides free technical advice in regard to wildlife management and establishing & improving habitat that is compatible with agricultural interest. Windbreaks protect livestock and buildings, but also provide winter cover for wildlife. Another example is a grass seeding used to control soil erosion that also provides safe nesting cover.

The Farm-Game Habitat program is popular with farmers. Briefly it is a cooperative agreement, signed with each party's obligations outlined. The Conservation Commission may provide grass seed, trees, shrubs, fence material or labor in exchange for a plot of ground around a pond fence line or any other area that will provide wildlife habitat.

Financial Report

1972-73 STATE BUDGET

The District Commissioners wish to thank our State Representatives and State Soil Conservation Committee for their confidence in Soil and Water Conservation work by making funds available to help carry out our District Program.

1-M Funds	
Commissioner Mileage	\$ 104.20
Office Supplies	267.18
Contest Prizes	40.60
Demonstration Materials	3.12
Office Expense	751.77
Meeting Expenses	10.43
TOTAL EXPENDED	\$1177.30
2-M Funds	
Clerical Assistance	\$4965.00
State Retirement	173.78
Federal Retirement	275.72
Health Insurance Credits	144.00
Life Insurance	33.69
Travel for Clerk	48.87
TOTAL EXPENDED	\$5641.06

Education Committee

The Mills County Soil Conservation District has a very active Education Committee. In the fiscal year 1973 they distributed more than 1500 Conservation Comic Books to our grade schools; sponsored a Speech Contest; Helped with the Malvern High School Outdoor Classroom; held a poster contest (400+ entries); Gave slide talks on the Schools of the county; spent many hours of diligent work on the tree sales; and promoted Soil Stewardship Week, to name a few of their activities.

It seems only fitting that these three people, Roger Jackson, Henry Pein and Sherry Bass get special recognition for their superb work and their tireless efforts in promoting a great education program for the county.



Gerald I. Bower, S.C.S. Technician retired on June 22, 1973 after 27 years of Government service. His knowledge and his presence will be greatly missed, however, we wish him well in his retirement.

Mills County Soil Conservation District