

observing 40th anniversary in 1985

9—Hardin County Index, Friday, March 29, 1985

1984 Annual Financial Report

IM Budget - District Allocation	2,900.00
Expenses	
Commissioners mileage, meals, hotel	848.20
Office supplies & expense	1,874.65
Total	1,998.45
Released back to Department of Soil Conservation	177.15
Balance on hand June 30, 1984	0.00
IIIM Budget (Voluntary cost share program)	
81-82 voluntary cost share funds	
Allocation (received 03/84)	5,400.00
Obligated or spent	4,516.50
Released back to Department of Soil Conservation	883.50
83-84 voluntary cost share funds	
Allocation	85,219.00
Obligated or spent	83,689.34
Balance unobligated	1,529.66
Revolving Loan Funds (no-interest)	
Allocation	8,097.00
Obligated or spent	7,302.95
Balance	794.05
Revolving Account	
July 1, 1983 balance	309.96
Receipts - St. Comptroller	2,140.48
Disbursements - Office supplies	1,947.95
June 30, 1984 balance	426.01
Conservation Club Account	
July 1, 1983 balance	683.20
Receipts	
Donations	526.00
Flags	212.30
Miscellaneous	26.58
Total	764.88
Disbursements	
Publications	55.00
Education program expense	624.85
Soil Stewardship	79.57
Essay contest	45.00
IASCD dues	150.00
Flags	152.18
Gifts, memorials	66.69
Petty Cash	15.00
Total	1,188.29
June 30, 1984 balance	684.05

1984 Accomplishments Report

New cooperators	54 No./7,383 Ac.
Farms contacted	267 No.
Individuals & groups applying practices	148 No.
Conservation plans	5,210 Ac.
Contouring	609 Ac.
Grade stabilization structure	2 No.
Grassed waterway	10 Ac.
Terraces	57,380 Ft.
Sediment & water control basins	29 No.
Reduced erosion on cropland	11,406 Ac.

Success with no interest loan program

The no-interest loan program is designed to give eligible landowners a loan up to \$10,000.00 at no interest. The landowners have up to ten years to repay the loan. These loans are for construction of permanent soil conservation practices. The program has several guidelines that should be followed by the landowners and financial institutions, reports Anthony White, Soil Conservationist.

Mike Broer is one of the landowners who participated in the program during 1984. Mike has the following comments about the program:

- "I found out about the program from Hardin Soil Conservation District Commissioners. The procedures to apply are very simple. The no interest loan program is a good deal."
- "The best thing about the program is you pay no interest on the loan. In a few years the practices pay for themselves."
- "It helps farmers get the benefit of soil conservation practices on their farms."
- "It helps farmers who are not financially able to participate in the regular cost-share program."
- "In the long run the no interest loan is just as good as the 50% cost share."
- "We put the land into set aside acres so that all the construction work could be done during the summer. This really worked out well because the contractor could get in and complete the work on time."

Banks play a very important part in making the no interest loan program work. Roger Bjorenson, Iowa Falls State Bank, assisted Mike in applying for the loan. Mr. Bjorenson comments, "The no interest loan program is a very good program. It enables a farmer to apply soil conservation practices without having to borrow money at 13 1/2 to 14% interest. On a large loan the interest payments can really add up. Participating in the no interest loan program was a good experience for the bank. The soil conservation staff and especially the clerk Susie Reece were very helpful and made the paper work 'much easier.' Soil conservation is beneficial to the bank's customers as well as the bank and if the customer is happy, the bank is happy."

The Hardin Soil Conservation District Office has money available for no interest loans for soil conservation practices. In order to be eligible, certain requirements must be met. If you are interested or even have questions concerning the no interest loan program, please contact the Soil Conservation Service in Eldora. We are located at 1334 Edgington in the basement of the post office. Phone - (515) 858-5892.



Mike Broer, RR, Iowa Falls, points out the water level reached this winter on one of his water and sediment basins. Mike participated in the no interest loan program available through the Hardin Soil Conservation District.



Erosion control structures are now built with reinforced concrete and sometimes with aluminum and concrete. Pictured is a gully control structure installed by Frank Cook of New Providence in 1979.

Conservation still needed

By Carroll J. Hobson, Chairman

Iowa's great need for soil and water conservation is still with us and will be in the foreseeable future. The need for conservation of all our resources including money is open ended, it's a day to day struggle. Society has a tendency to waste anything that it perceives to be in plenty whether it's water, soil, or money. A national debt of 1.8 trillion dollars boggles my mind when I think of it. Soil losses of 10 tons per acre per year have the same affect.

In my humble view we could do a far better job conserving all our resources than we are. We need strong leadership and enthusiastic citizen participation or we don't have a hope to accomplish the job that needs to be done. Hardin County farmers have done a creditable job accepting soil conservation in its many different forms. Interest in conservation has been strong for many years. Our soil district is celebrating its birthday this year on April 12th.

The district was organized by Chester Vigers, Eldora, B.R. Wood, New Providence, and C.J. Kelsey, Iowa Falls. James C. Halasey of the Soil Conservation Service provided the technical assistance and E.I. Rosenberger, County Extension Director, served as secretary. We can be proud of all the men who preceded us with their inspiration and sweat. The charter members had to install the soil conservation measures on their own farms then try to persuade their neighbors to follow suit. It wasn't easy. They were laughed at by some of their peers who believed in deep clean plowing and sometimes up and down the hill, a practice that started gullies. Those men had the courage to take a new approach to handling soil and water. They hoped to keep as much of the fertility and water on the upland as possible.

These ideas have proved to be highly successful. Today the terraces have been modified to be much more convenient for the farmer, however, the principle is the same. Those of us who came along later have tried to build on these past successes and experiences. Hardin County has 40% of its land protected by conservation measures. This protection has been accrued over these 40 years.

We have been blessed with a great deal of state and federal help. Our district has had several outstanding district conservationists over the years. We certainly had our share of good state conservation aides and clerks, too. I know of no other task where cooperation is more necessary than it is in producing soil and water conservation measures. I think it's remarkable that the system works at all since farmers, landowners, federal officials, state people, and neighbors all have to get along together or the job can't be done. In spite of a few hitches over the eighteen years I've been associated with it, a very great deal has been accomplished and our citizen taxpayers can be proud of the overall results. All the commissioners thank you for your help and participation.

I'm not suggesting we should relax now, a lot is yet to be done. We cannot let down until we take care of every acre that requires work. Occasionally we see terraces that need maintenance. Nothing is so sad as spending tax money to build terraces and then letting them go to pieces. Trees grow up in them and pipes are sometimes allowed to plug, causing a reservoir overflow which can cut them out. Maintenance is not great, but it needs a watchful eye to avoid expensive repairs. Nobody has figured out a feasible way to recover soil after it leaves your own property.

Everyone needs a plan if he or she intends to save their land heritage. If you don't have such a plan, call our district office tomorrow. You will get prompt, courteous help. If you feel you can't afford terraces, see our office personnel about conservation tillage - everyone can afford reduced tillage. Hopefully, those of us who are enjoying our short tour here on earth will leave the land a little better than we found it. Look at your children and grandchildren. Are they the people you want to leave handicapped or destitute? I doubt it very much.

Soil Conservation Commissioners



In 1985 -

Carroll Hobson, seated right, serves as 1985 chairman of the Hardin Soil Conservation District Commissioners. Other commissioners, seated left to right: Martin Broer, vice chairman, and Gary Walters, treasurer. Standing, left to right: Harry Lawless, assistant commissioner, Caleb Knutson and Gene Roberts.



In 1945 -

The three original Hardin County Soil Conservation District Commissioners, pictured in 1945, were, left to right: Chester Vigers, B. R. Wood and C.J. Kelsey.

Farming efficiently with ridge-till or no-till

By Gary Walters, Commissioner, Hardin SCD

Today's agricultural economy dictates efficient farming practices. Ridge-till or no-till fill these needs for many farmers. When a farmer can plant, spray, and cultivate his crop with 1.25 gallons of fuel per acre, that's economical fuel use. Combining will take about 1.75 gallons per acre, bringing the total fuel consumption to 3 gallons per acre.

Labor savings are about half of conventional tillage operations. A farmer can handle more acres with ridge-till or no-till than the conventional way. Additional springtime labor can be cut drastically or eliminated.

Erosion control is the most important economical savings to the farmer. For instance, if the typical Iowa farm loses the state average of about 10 tons per acre, the value per ton is \$5.00 in lost fertility. This is worth a staggering \$50.00 per acre per year - lost forever in the wind or down the river. Remember, this is just the average! Many farms are losing up to 5 times this amount of soil, fertility, and dollars!

Another side benefit that is valuable to the ridge-tiller or no-tiller is the ability of the crops to withstand drought or dry periods during critical parts of the growing season. During the drought of 1977, a central Iowa ridge-till farmer had average corn yields of 65 bushels per acre, while conventional farming neighbors had zero to 15 bushel per acre yields. 1984 yields were outstanding with ridge-till and no-till in spite of rainfall of .25 inches in August.

Herbicide and insecticide costs may be higher, initially, to the ridge-tiller or no-tiller. With experience one can use the same or less than with conventional tillage, depending on whether the herbicide is banded or broadcast.



Erosion control practices such as this gully control structure south of Eldora were built by the C.C.C. (Civilian Conservation Corp). The C.C.C. worked in Iowa from 1934-1942. Their work was done by hand with pick and shovel and horses. Even though this structure is approximately 40 years old, it is still in fairly good condition.

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