

A BRIEF REVIEW OF SOIL CONSERVATION HISTORY ORGANIZATION

The Federal Soil Conservation Act in 1935 suggested that Soil Conservation Districts be formed as local sub-divisions of state governments.

The 48th General Assembly of Iowa in 1939 passed the law under which the local Soil Conservation Districts are organized. These Districts are legal segments of the State Government. Their purpose is to take care of the soil and water conservation problems in Iowa; and the State Soil Conservation Committee administers the law under which they operate.

The State Soil Conservation Committee consists of five farmer members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. These members are at present: M. Wayne Casey, Peterson, Iowa; Bryan Weberg, Kiron, Iowa; Fred Cherry, Rowley, Iowa; Donald L. Johnson, Fairfield, Iowa and Wendell Pellett, Atlantic, Iowa. Also ISU Dean of Agriculture, Floyd Andre; State secretary of Agriculture, L. B. Liddy; Frank Mendell, State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service is an advisory member.

In April 1940 the 1st District in Iowa was organized - the 100th District in February 1952. Each county has a District except Pottawattamie - which is divided into East and West Pottawattamie Districts.

The Delaware County Soil Conservation District was organized in 1944. The District is governed by three farmers elected by landowners and operators of the District and Assistant Commissioners as appointed by the State Soil Conservation Committee.

The following men are serving as District Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners at the present time: Donald Eibey, Chairman, Verne Hermann, Paul Gienapp; and assistant commissioners, Maurice Minor and Kimbal Gates.

The Soil Conservation District has a memorandum of understanding with the Extension Service to furnish assistance with soil conservation education and also an agreement with the USDA Soil Conservation Service to furnish technical assistance for planning and establishing conservation practices. One of the main functions of the Soil Conservation District is to coordinate soil conservation programs in the county.

Assistance is available to any farmer or land owner without charge. A simple request-agreement form is signed by the farmer and approved by the Commissioners.

The Soil Conservation District cooperates closely with other groups and agencies, but its functions and activities should not be confused with:

- (1) The Delaware County (ASCS) Committee (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service) local committee who administers such USDA programs as Soil Bank, Feed Grain program, Grain storage and price support loans, and Government Cost Sharing for establishment of conservation practices.
- (2) The Delaware County Conservation Board, who administers the county program of county recreational areas, county parks, etc.
- (3) The State Conservation Commission, who administer State Parks, Fish and Wildlife Conservation activities and laws, etc.
- (4) The Soil Conservation Service, which is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, this agency (SCS) works very closely with the District in providing technical help to farmers who are cooperating with the District.