

*Office
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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1963

of the

*Cherokee County
Soil Conservation
District*

Cherokee County, Iowa

BY YOUR COMMISSIONERS

VERE CORRINGTON

ARTHUR DORR

DONALD DEWITT

1594

849 Cherokee County farmers are now tilling their land on the contour. There are 1,631 farms in Cherokee County (1962 Iowa Census) and about 200 of these are nearly level.

Rock is the leading township with 86 farmers on the contour. Row crops on the contour can be seen in everyone of the 36 sections in this township. Grand Meadow, Silver and Willow follow with contouring observed in 34 of the 36 sections in each of these townships.

191 farms now have one or more terraced fields. Pilot township leads with 33 farms having terraces.

Marcus 9 0	Liberty 52 6	Cedar 29 8	Spring 39 9
Amherst 45 7	Sheridan 55 4	Cherokee 55 15	Afton 26 6
Tilden 65 11	Rock 86 19	Pilot 69 33	Pitcher 54 4
Grand Meadow 84 20	Willow 68 31	Silver 73 16	Diamond 40 2

Top Figure: number of farmers contouring

Lower Figure: number of farms with terraces

There are now 809 district cooperators and 667 of them have basic plans.

YOUR DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners serving the district during 1963 were Donald DeWitt of Washta, Arthur Dorr of Marcus, and Vere Corrington of Cherokee. Vere Corrington also served as chairman and as our representative on the Little Sioux Works Committee; Vere also represents northwest Iowa as a director of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

Following is a listing of some of the activities of your commissioners during 1963.

11 business meetings during 1963.

- 1-8-63 Vere Corrington and Donald DeWitt attended the annual short course for commissioners at Iowa State University.
- 1-15-63 Meeting with O'Brien and Buena Vista commissioners on common watershed problems.
- 2-11-63 Meeting of directors of Sutherland Experimental farm at Primghar.
- 3-19-63 Completion of revised Memorandum of Understanding with U. S. Department of Agriculture.
- 3-22-63 Attended regional meeting of commissioners at Primghar.
- 3-28-63 Watershed information meeting at Washta. (Stratton Creek watershed.)
- 4-18-63 Completed a revised Memorandum of Understanding with the Extension Service.
- 4-24-63 Little Sioux Works committee inspection of new watersheds being presented for priorities.
- 6-3-63 Regular meeting of Little Sioux Works Committee held in Sioux City.
- 6-7-63 Inspection of all structures in completed watersheds in the Cherokee District

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YOUR DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS Continued—

- 7-15-63 Completed printing of Conservation Needs Inventory for Cherokee District.
- 8-30-63 Selected farms to represent Cherokee in the Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture.
- 9-9-63 Public hearing on Little Sioux River at Ida Grove, sponsored by Army Engineers.
- 9-9-63 Annual conference for commissioners at Des Moines.
- 9-18-63 Meeting on new soil testing procedures, sponsored by Extension Service.
- 9-20-63 Selecting area winners for Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture.
- 10-3-63 Watershed organization meeting (Grand Meadow) held at Robert Rawson home.
- 10-10-63 Inspection of completed work in the Pilot Rock watershed and acceptance by the District.
- 11-16-63 Regular meeting of Little Sioux Works Committee, held in Sioux City.
- 11-16-63 Banquet at Sioux City for area and county winners in Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture.
- 12-11-63 Banquet at LeMars for regional winners of Des Moines Register's soil conservation achievement awards program.
- 12-16-63 Minor repairs to structures in completed watersheds finished and bills approved. (work done by Joe Werthman).

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

- 4-24-63 District watershed program explained at a meeting of Cherokee Chamber of Commerce.
- 5-7-63 Conservation Field Day at Martin Access Area (for 6th grade students at Marcus Public Schools).
- 5-16-63 Conservation tour of Earl Ebert farm by 9th and 10th grade students of Marcus Public Schools.
- 5-23-63 District watershed program explained at meeting of Aurelia Kiwanis club.
- 9-4-63 Conservation Field Day at Martin Access Area (for 6th grade students of Marcus Public Schools), will be in fall hereafter.
- 10-17-63 Conservation tour of Pilot Rock watershed by Cherokee High School agriculture class.
- 10-17-63 Conservation Field Day at Martin Access Area (for 6th grade students of Cherokee Immaculate Conception School).
- 11-23-63 Boy Scout Troop, under Scoutmaster Wallace, assisted in completing requirements for Conservation merit badges.
- 12-2-63 Boy Scout Troop, under Scoutmaster Wallace taken on tour of Pilot Rock watershed.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The technical assistance that the District makes available to Cherokee County farmers is furnished by the Soil Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (as per a memorandum of understanding entered into with the U. S. Department of Agriculture).

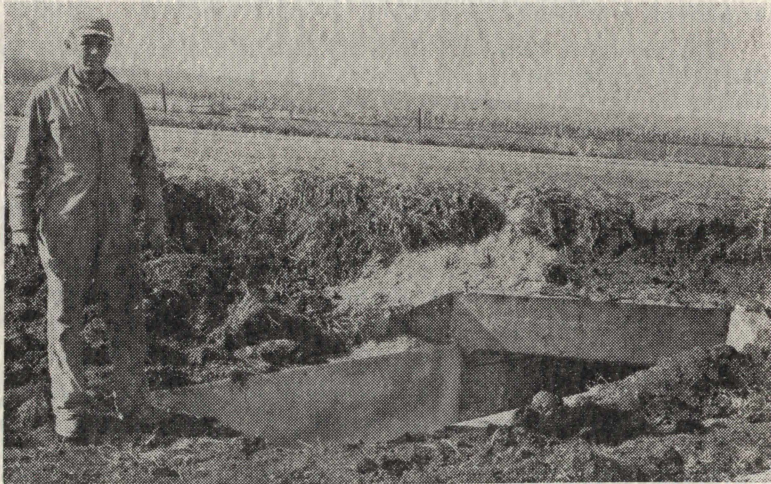
During 1963, the following personnel were assigned to the Cherokee District by the Soil Conservation Service:

Work Unit Conservationist (12 months)	Harvey Lindberg
Soil Conservationist (2 months)	Duane Frederickson
Soil Conservationist (4½ months)	Thaine Hogue
Conservation Technician (12 months)	Glen Craft
Conservation Technician (12 months)	Monas Nixon

Duane Frederickson resigned, effective March 1st, to start farming near Turin, Iowa. Thaine Hogue was employed August 19th, to fill this vacancy. Thaine received his education at Iowa State University at Ames, coming originally from Van Buren County.

In addition to the above, the District received assistance, as requested, from Area Conservationist George Lamp and his staff. This included assistance from the area engineering staff (design and inspection of 22 structures), flood control staff (design and inspection of all installations in Pilot Rock watershed), soil scientists (soil mapped: 3,460 acres).

ROAD CULVERTS AND EROSION CONTROL



Riser on county road culvert on the Guy Rae farm

The Board of Supervisors, County Engineer William Bennett and the State Highway Commission have made it possible for many Cherokee landowners to construct economical erosion control structures (by attaching a riser to existing road culverts). Plans for the risers are drawn by Soil Conservation Service engineers, approved by county or state engineers, and installed by the landowner. They provide stable outlets for grassed waterways and make excellent tile outlet structures. 4 of these risers were constructed in 1961, 5 in 1962 and 7 in 1963.

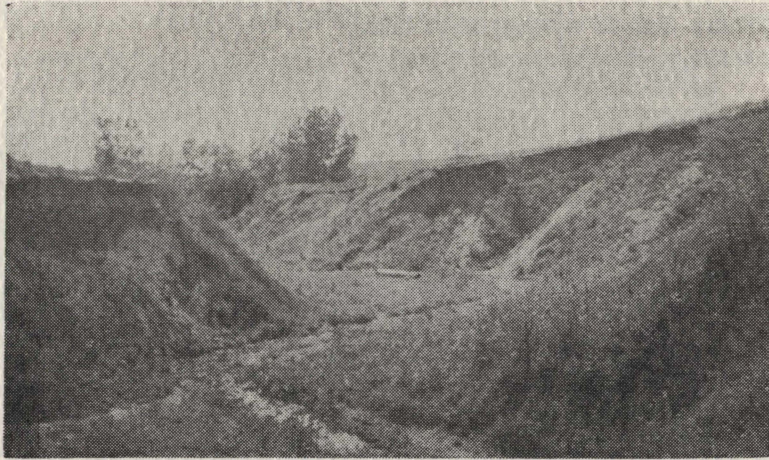
CONSERVATION PROGRESS IN 1963

- 117,212 feet of terraces on 27 farms
 - 128,314 feet of tile on 65 farms
 - 44 acres of waterways on 40 farms
 - 2,275 acres of new contouring on 43 farms
 - 1,450 acres of contouring re-established on 29 farms
 - 7 risers on road culverts benefitting 6 farms
 - 3 stockwater dams on 3 farms
 - 2 concrete weir notch dams on 2 farms
 - 9 earth dams with pipe spillways (for gully control) on 9 farms
 - 3.6 acres of wildlife cover established on 3 farms
 - 36 new district cooperators
 - 25 basic conservation plans
 - 9 conservation plans revised
 - 3,460 acres of soil surveys completed
 - 524 farmers received assistance from district technicians during 1963
 - 140,000 cubic yards of earth moving was involved in building the dams and shaping the waterways listed above
- Note: the above does not include work done in Pilot Rock watershed (5 dams and 7 acres of waterway) which is described on next page.

WILDLIFE PLANTINGS

Cherokee County farmers purchased (from the State Conservation Commission Nursery) and planted 21,000 Multiflora Rose 4,500 Honeysuckle, 2,500 Pines and 2 Wildlife packets. The planting was done with the treeplanter owned by the Izaak Walton League. Conservation Officer Frank Starr sparked the planting program. Information on wildlife plantings is available at the District office or from Frank Starr.

LITTLE SIOUX FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAM



Gully in Pilot Rock Watershed before being treated

Installation of flood prevention and gully stabilizing measures in the Pilot Rock watershed was completed in 1963. This small watershed, located about 3½ miles south of Cherokee, totals 2,265 acres and involves 19 landowners. 5 grade stabilizing structures were built and 7 acres of gully shaped into waterways. 4 of the 5 dams provide temporary storage for flood control and form ponds varying from 1.1 to 5.5 acres in size. Land treatment measures (contouring, terracing, waterways, small dams, grass headlands and wildlife plantings) were installed by landowners prior to this year. This is the 8th small watershed, in the Cherokee District, to be completely treated in this manner.

Another watershed, located in Grand Meadow township (sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18), has been given a work plan priority by the Little Sioux Works Committee. Surveys will be made of this watershed, in 1964, and recommendations will be submitted to the landowners. If they approve, the next step will be to request a construction priority from the Little Sioux Works Committee.

SIOUX CITY PROGRAM FOR PERMANENT AGRICULTURE

Sponsored By

Sioux City Journal-Tribune and Sioux City Chamber of Commerce

Leo Corrington of Cherokee, Grover Gunnerson of Cherokee and Harry and Robert Nelson of Meriden represented the District in this year's program. Ervin Olson of Meriden was the District's progress winner. These men, all excellent conservationists, received awards at a dinner in Sioux City on November 16th.



IOWA SOIL CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS PROGRAM

Sponsored By

Des Moines Register and Tribune

Representing the Cherokee District in the 1963 awards program were Eldred Beeghly (owner-operator division), A. W. Krause and Clyde Petty (landlord-tenant division) and Elmer Brehmer (progress division). All of these men received awards from the Des Moines Register. In addition, Eldred Beeghly of Quimby and the combination of A. W. Krause (Cherokee) and Clyde Petty (Quimby) won regional awards as the outstanding conservationists in northwest Iowa in their respective divisions. These three men received additional awards, along with the regional sweepstakes winner from Plymouth County, at a dinner in LeMars on December 11th.

Regional award winners of past years (from the Cherokee District) include Robert and Walter Mortenson, Bryce Vollmar and Clifford Chapman.

AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION

208 requests for cost sharing assistance were approved, by the county A.S.C.S. committee, for the establishment of conservation practices that are considered to be of a permanent nature. The Soil Conservation Service has technical responsibility for the design and installation of these practices; work unit conservationist Harvey Lindberg reports the following disposition of these requests:

- 54 for waterways with 38 completed and 1 partially completed
- 37 for terraces with 26 completed and 2 partially completed
- 27 for erosion control dams with 16 completed
- 3 for livestock water dams with 2 completed and 1 partially completed
- 1 for a wildlife dam with 1 completed
- 79 for tile drains with 65 completed
- 2 for treeplanting with 1 completed
- 1 for wildlife planting with 1 completed
- 1 for open ditch with 0 completed
- 3 for diversions with 1 partially completed

Also, 13 requests covering work started in 1962 were disposed of as follows: 3 for waterways with 2 completed; 1 for terraces and it was completed; 4 for dams and all were completed; and 5 for tile with 4 completed.

IOWA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Funds appropriated by the General Assembly to assist soil conservation districts in furthering their programs are administered by the Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee.

On the basis of a budget submitted by your district commissioners the following funds were allotted to and used by the Cherokee County Soil Conservation District during 1963:

Commissioner expenses.....	\$ 272.88
Office Supplies.....	122.40
Demonstration material.....	3.90
Tuition for one teacher to Iowa Conservation Education Council.....	25.00
Printing annual report.....	97.30
Printing Conservation needs inventory.....	100.00
Misc. office expense.....	3.77
Sub-Total.....	625.25
Clerical help employed by the District (includes social security and state retirement).....	\$3,535.14
Purchase of office equipment.....	48.92
Sub-Total.....	3,584.06
State funds expended during 1963, Total.....	\$4,209.31

Our district clerk reports that, during 1963, there were 1,487 visitors to the office and that she handled 801 phone calls.

DISTRICT GENERAL FUND

Cash Balance on Jan. 1, 1963	\$202.86	
Received from State Soil Conservation Committee	155.07	
Expenditures:		
Postage and office expense		102.67
Soil Stewardship material		7.50
Bond for treasurer		15.00
Office supplies		17.70
Iowa Association of Soil Conservation		
District Commissioners dues		35.00
Iowa Soil & Water magazine		10.00
Tuition for one teacher to Iowa Conservation Educational Council		25.00
Printing (Conservation Needs Inventory)		19.50
	<u>\$357.93</u>	<u>\$232.37</u>
Balance on Hand Dec. 31, 1963		125.56
	<u>\$357.93</u>	<u>\$357.93</u>

Note: The \$125.56 in the District General Fund is deposited in a checking account at the Farmers National Bank of Aurelia.

WATERSHED MAINTENANCE FUND

Balance on Hand Jan. 1, 1963 \$14,228.52

Maintenance payments received during 1963:

Mary Vollmar	121.33
Donald and Leland Smith	125.00
Neil Warner	45.00
Whitfield Adamson	500.00
Lewis Shea	400.00
Mrs. Ray Meylor	45.00
Robert Alff	10.00
Francis Herron	75.00
Chester McTasney	100.00
Walter Mortenson	157.50
Robert Mortenson	52.50
Mrs. Elsie Conley	45.00
E. E. Beck	24.25
Forrest Spencer	30.34
Milo Bergeson	100.00
Harold Clark	70.00
Ralph Simonsen	48.50
Mrs. Ralph Robeson	65.00
Lewis Shea	90.00
James R. Fee	45.00
Joe Nelson	87.00
Robert Mortenson	52.50
Donald and Leland Smith	125.00
Clarence Pennington	70.00
Whitfield Adamson	127.00
Mrs. Elsie Conley	45.00
Earl Ebert	121.33
D. W. Simonsen	150.00

Other Income:

Interest on time certificate	393.38
Interest on Bonds	80.00

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WATERSHED MAINTENANCE FUND Continued—

Expenditures:

First Abstract & Loan (ownership & encumbrance reports)-----	\$	32.00
County Recorder (recording agreements and easements)-----		25.00
Joe Werthman (repair work done in completed watersheds)-----		48.59
TOTALS-----	\$17,629.15	\$ 105.59
Balance on Hand December 31, 1963-----		17,523.56
	\$17,629.15	\$17,629.15

Note: As of December 31, 1963, the \$17,523.56 in the District Maintenance Fund is disposed of as follows: \$2,000.00 in H Bonds, \$10,227.92 in Certificate of Deposit and \$5,295.64 in checking account at The Farmers National Bank at Aurelia, Iowa.

L. C. Bengtson, District Treasurer

