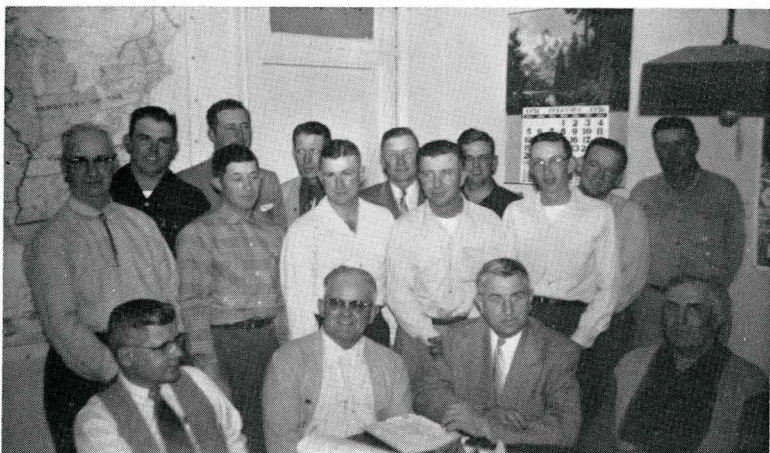


ELEVENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

Des Moines County
Soil Conservation District

Burlington, Iowa

1956



Seated: Horace Sutton, Treasurer; Homer Woodward, Commissioner; Walter Eyre, Chairman; C. E. Pilling, Commissioner. **Standing front row:** Hugh Jamison, former Commissioner; Associate Commissioners Eugene Schulte, Edward Breuer, Curtis Darbyshire, Walter Swank. **Back row:** Associate Commissioners: Keith Renner, Lloyd Schmeiser, Everett Anderson, Martin Beckman, Dwight Stucker, Ralph Anderson; and Lawrence Whipple, earth moving contractor.

Not present in picture: James C. Hodges, Secretary; Carl Anderson, Associate Commissioner; and John Henry, Associate Commissioner.

An additional valuable committee in the county is the temporary Yellow Spring Creek Watershed committee: Milford Kester, Edmond Scott, Theodore Berning, Doyle Moyers and Roy Anderson.

Forward

Since the establishment of the Soil Conservation District in 1946, the roads, dwellings and other farm buildings, have gradually improved. This is indicative of a rising production. It is gratifying news.

Higher yields on cropland and pasture of the county indicate better management; especially are the yields increasing where conservation practices and an adequate rotation are combined to conserve the soil, water and fertility and improve the soil tilth and water holding capacity of the soil.

Much of our low producing cropland has been shifted to high producing pasture. Much more land use adjustment for higher over all production must continue to be made to insure continued high yields for our children.

An outlet for our wood products from our timber land will in time prove more profitable than trying to derive a profit from timber pasture.

The interest aroused in the Yellow Spring Creek Watershed may develop into an example as to what is needed and practical on the more severely eroded and rugged land in the county.

The use of a mixture of deep rooted legumes with deep rooted grasses combined with lime and fertilizer, have probably done more for the soils of the county than has been realized. The combination of alfalfa and brome should be continued as a soil conditioner and builder even though it is difficult to seed and rather dangerous to pasture. The more roots in the soil the faster will the soil absorb rain water, and the more moisture it will hold without being water logged.

The production from our soils are very rapidly approaching the yields that will be greatly determined by the water available. Storing water in the soil of high organic content is cheaper than pumping it back on the land after it has been allowed to run off into a costly prepared reservoir.

PARTIAL SUMMARY OF YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

	Number	Attendance
Commissioners' Meetings	13	124
Movie Film Shown	5	963
Tours	3	42
Interest Meetings	2	63
Information Meetings	3	43
News Items Local Paper	62	



Walter Eyre, C. E. Pilling, Homer Woodward, and Hugh Jamison, past Commissioner and 1955 Chairman, have just received a ten year Certificate of Award from the State Soil Conservation Committee at the dinner meeting commemorating the District's tenth anniversary.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

JANUARY — C. E. Pilling was elected as District Commissioner to replace Hugh Jamison, who completed a six year term in that capacity.

FEBRUARY — Tenth year anniversary banquet was held at First Methodist Church in Mediapolis. Kenneth Wagner, Chairman of the State Soil Conservation Committee, was speaker and presented a ten year Certificate of Award to Hugh Jamison, 1955 Chairman of the District Commissioners, before a group of 75 diners.

MARCH — C. E. Pilling, along with R. H. Audsley, Work Unit Conservationist and Mrs. Isabelle Fuller, Clerk, attended the Regional Commissioners' meeting at Mt. Pleasant. Homer Woodward went on tour of Crandon Enterprises Paper Mill at Fort Madison.

APRIL — C. E. Pilling attended the training session for new Commissioners at Des Moines.

MAY — Soil Stewardship booklets were sent to 50 ministers in the county. Many sermons were given on Soil Stewardship and several ministers expressed their appreciation for the booklets.

JUNE — Homer Woodward, C. E. Pilling and about 15 additional farmers made a conducted tour of the farm land in the Iowa Ordinance Plant.

JULY — A small transit was received by the District, purchased from State funds.

AUGUST — Three Des Moines County school teachers attended Springbrook Conservation Camp. Fred Smith attended two sessions and Mrs. Fred Smith and Mrs. Hazel Garrison attended one session each. Tuition for the three was provided by the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District.

Janet Magel and Leola Lane were chosen to represent the District in the Regional "Queen of the Furrow" contest at West Liberty.

Contestants' farms in the Soil Conservation Achievement Award contest were judged and winners chosen. Winner in Division I — Paul Jackson, Division II — Warren Langwith and Barney Moore and Division III — George Colton.

Fish were distributed to twenty farmers by the Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.D.I.

SEPTEMBER — Special Commissioners' meeting held with Associate Commissioners and wives. Fred Smith talked to us about the Springbrook Conservation session he attended and Gordon White of Crandon Enterprises, paper pulp mill of Fort Madison, spoke on the possibility of using some land to grow pulp wood for a profit.

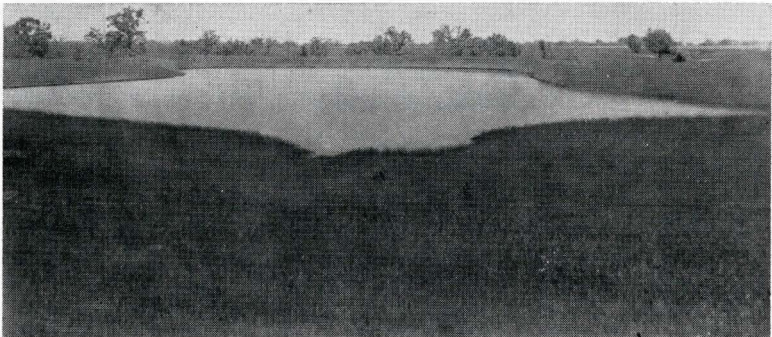
OCTOBER — Movie film shown to Horace Mann Junior High School biology classes. Attendance — 300.

NOVEMBER — Special Commissioners meeting, with Associate Commissioners from the Yellow Spring Creek drainage area, to discuss with personnel from the State and Area office the possibility of the development of a watershed in the above drainage way. Tour to Honey Creek Watershed near Chariton by 31 people from the county to obtain some idea of what could be expected in a watershed in this county.

DECEMBER — Interest and information meeting for farmers in Yellow Spring Creek Watershed area. Forty-one farmers present. A temporary watershed committee was chosen at this meeting.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 1956 AND TO DATE

	Units	1956	To Date
Contouring	acres	489	20,991
Strip Cropping	acres		341
Pasture Renovation	acres	191	2,918
Wildlife Improvement	acres	80	216
Fish Pond Improvement	no.	80	219
Hedge Row Planting	rods	805	6,760
Terrace and Diversions	mi.	7	70
Pond Construction	no.	68	217
Drop Inlet	no.	17	69
Concrete Dams	no.	4	53
Farm Drainage	acres	279	24,410
Tile	ft.	102,864	856,849
Open Ditch	mi.	0	139
Open Ditch	cu. yds.	0	64,283
Sod Waterways	ac.	15	195
Land Smoothing	ac.	12	26
Soil Survey	ac.	3,170	130,497



This pond probably produces more fish and is fished harder than any other pond in the county. One and one-third acres of water on Homer Woodward farm.

WORK UNIT STAFF



PERSONNEL ASSIGNED BY THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

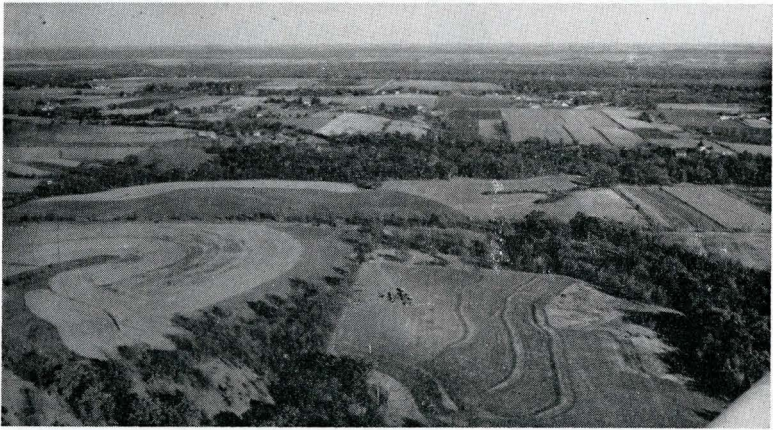
R. H. AUDSLEY Work Unit Conservationist
JACK JACOBS Conservation Aid
DAVID ASBY Part Time Conservation Aid

PERSONNEL PROVIDED BY THE STATE

MRS. ISABELLE FULLER State Clerk
DAVID ASBY Part Time State Aid

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL ASSISTING THE DISTRICT

LYALL H. MITCHELL Area Conservationist
LOTHAIR GRANT Soil Scientist
MARION CLARK Area Engineer
OREN CHAMP Engineering Aid
STANLEY SIMMONS Engineering Aid



Behind the charm of each rugged landscape on the horizon is the endless struggle of man's wants against the land's ability to produce. Could we but induce ourselves to expect and to demand of each acre only that which it is capable of producing continuously, and not destroy by erosion the portion that should remain for our descendents.