

KOSSUTH SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1955

Algona, Iowa

We usually hold our regular meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month. This year we held about twelve meetings with an average of two governing body members. Those who usually attend our meetings in addition to governing body members include assistant commissioners Glen Jenkinson, Walter Campney and Joe Skow; Extension Director Dean Barnes; Work Unit Conservationist Lyle Riedinger; Conservation Aid Sidney Johnson and Clerk Elizabeth Hoover.

All three members attended the annual conference for district commissioners, and two members attended area meetings.

Attendance at our annual meeting for district cooperators last year was 250. The outstanding part of our meeting was the speaker, Fred Gilmore, Vice-president of the Federal Land Bank of Omaha and the election of Ernest Heidecker as District Commissioner.

The Extension Service has a memorandum of understanding by which it agrees to help us carry out our educational program. General meetings dealing with soil and water conservation for adults held last year were as follows:

1. Banquet arranged by Soil Conservation District, Extension Service and Cooperators Club with attendance of 250.
2. Two Township Farm Bureau meetings with thirty-eight attending.
3. Twenty-two 4-H Club meetings. Special activity in February and March on rotations and weed control with an enrollment of 52 4-H Club leaders.

Of the activities listed, we believe the district benefited most from the annual cooperators club banquet and program.

Several 4-H Club demonstrations on grass waterways and soil erosion were entered into the county 4-H demonstration contest in 1955. Twenty-two 4-H boys studied weed control as a special activity. Phases of rotations and land use were brought into the program. About 450 boys 4-H Club members participated.

The district has distributed conservation signs to members of cooperators club and copies of the annual report to all Soil Conservation District cooperators during the past year.

Our governing body and cooperating groups prepared one news article a month and made number of talks in schools. In order to interest teachers in soil and water conservation we have "The Teaching of Conservation" handbooks for their use.

During the past year the number of new Farmer-District agreements signed was 35. This makes a total of 365 agreements signed to date out of 2,879 operating farms in the district. Practices applied on cooperators farmers for the year 1955 were as follows:

- Contouring - 76 acres
- Tree Planting - 2 acres
- Tile Drains - 61,578 L.F. and on other farms other than district cooperators - 408,537 L.F.
- Open Drains - 2.7 miles and on other farms other than district cooperators - 8.9 miles
- Drainage - 233 acres and on other farms other than district cooperators - 1040 acres.
- Waterways - 2 acres
- Soil Surveys - 5,100 acres

The Kossuth County A.S.C. has transferred to S.C.S. 5% of the county allocation to provide assistance to A.C.P. participants in their soil and water conservation program.

Assistance devoted to district work received from - -

STATE - Clerical & Technical Assistance

Elizabeth Hoover - Clerk
Ronald Harlan - Aid (Part Time)

U.S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE - Technical Assistance

Lyle R. Riedinger - Work Unit Conservationist
Sidney D. Johnson - Conservation Aid
Robert Becknal - Conservation Aid
Ronald Harlan - Conservation Aid (Part Time)

SERVING THIS AND OTHER DISTRICTS

Joe M. Colgan - Area Conservationist
Allen Ray Hidlebaugh - Soil Scientist
Eldon DeWall - Area Engineer

KOSSUTH SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

J. C. Skow - Chairman
T. E. Lagerstrom
Ernest Heidecker

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS FOR KOSSUTH COUNTY

Glen Jenkinson - Treasurer
Walter Campney
Joe Skow

SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Dean Barnes - Extension Director.

We believe the Soil Conservation Service should furnish more help to our district for the year beginning next July 1 and ending June 30 the following year. Here are the reasons: Total number of operating units are twice as great as an average district in Iowa. Each year the demand for assistance for farm planning grows greater.

The greatest hinderance to our program the past year has been the lack of technical personnel.

Through the Soil Conservation Service the district get it's technical assistance. The technicians serves the Kossuth County farmer with information, soil surveys, surveying, farm planning, laying of contouring, rotations and any other problems confronting a farmer in soil and water conservation.

SIGNED:

Chairman, District Governing Body