

1958

Sixteenth Annual Report

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Ia-SCD-27

Atlantic, Iowa.

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CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

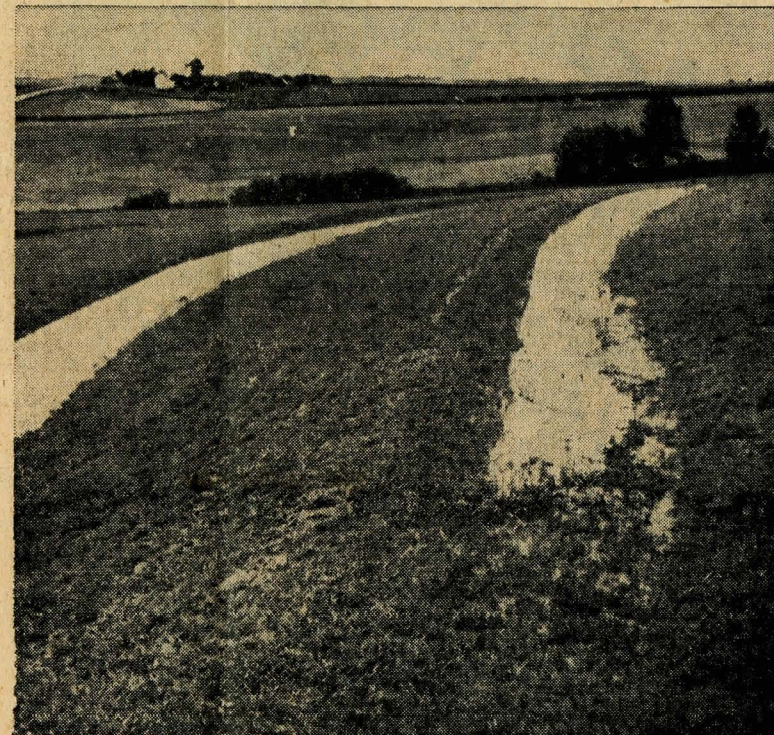
George Hosfelt, Chairman

Boyd Bailey, Member

Carl Keller, Member

Gayle R. Johnson
Gayle R. Johnson, Secretary

Cass County Soil Conservation Dis



TARRACES FULL OF WATER

COMMISSIONERS ACTIVITIES

ANNUAL BANQUET

Each year it is the custom of the Cass County Soil Conservation District to hold a banquet at which time cooperators and friends are invited to join in the banquet meal. The last week in January is the favored time for the banquet.

Guests at the banquet include contest winners honored in the County; State and Federal legislators; Representatives of various agencies and others who give valuable assistance to the Soil Conservation program.

The banquet thus serves to bring together many interested in Soil Conservation and to build a better understanding of the Soil Conservation program.

FALL FIELD DAY

A direct demonstration of putting conservation on the land with the use of a Conservation Field Day is considered one of the most useful activities of the District. The customary time for this event is in the Fall just before corn harvest.

A farm is chosen which has a need for the major soil conservation practices such as terraces and waterways. Then all available contractors are invited to come and complete the job in a day. With the usual good attendance many people have the opportunity to watch practices applied direct to the land which needs it.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE ASSISTS THE DISTRICT PROGRAM

U. S. Soil Conservation Service personnel work under the guidance of the District Commissioners in the planning and application of the soil conservation practices on individual farms and groups of farms.

It is generally considered that a sound plan is of first importance in applying a practical soil conservation program. In developing the plan for a farm the soil inventory gives the basic information as to the nature of the types of soils found on the farm.

With the Soil inventory available and the needs and desires of the farm operator considered the farm plan should be developed which provides maximum income for the operator with the soil loss reduced to a safe level.

In the selection of a field arrangement consideration should be given to ease of contour farming, convenience for pasturing and access to livestock water supply. The crop rotation and the field arrangement must be worked together so that a reasonable balance of crops can be secured with fields planned.

After the land use, rotation and field arrangement have been worked out, it is then desirable to consider the installation of terraces



DISTRICT
I. to r. Wendell Pe

CASS COUNTY

In the application of the conservation plan the upland treatment is installed.

The most successful is accomplished when held as near where

PRACTICES

Contouring
Waterways
Terraces
Dams
Diversion
Tile Drains
Open drains
Drainage
Cooperators
Farm Plans
ACP farms service

Office supplies
Comm. Mileage
Office expense
Rental

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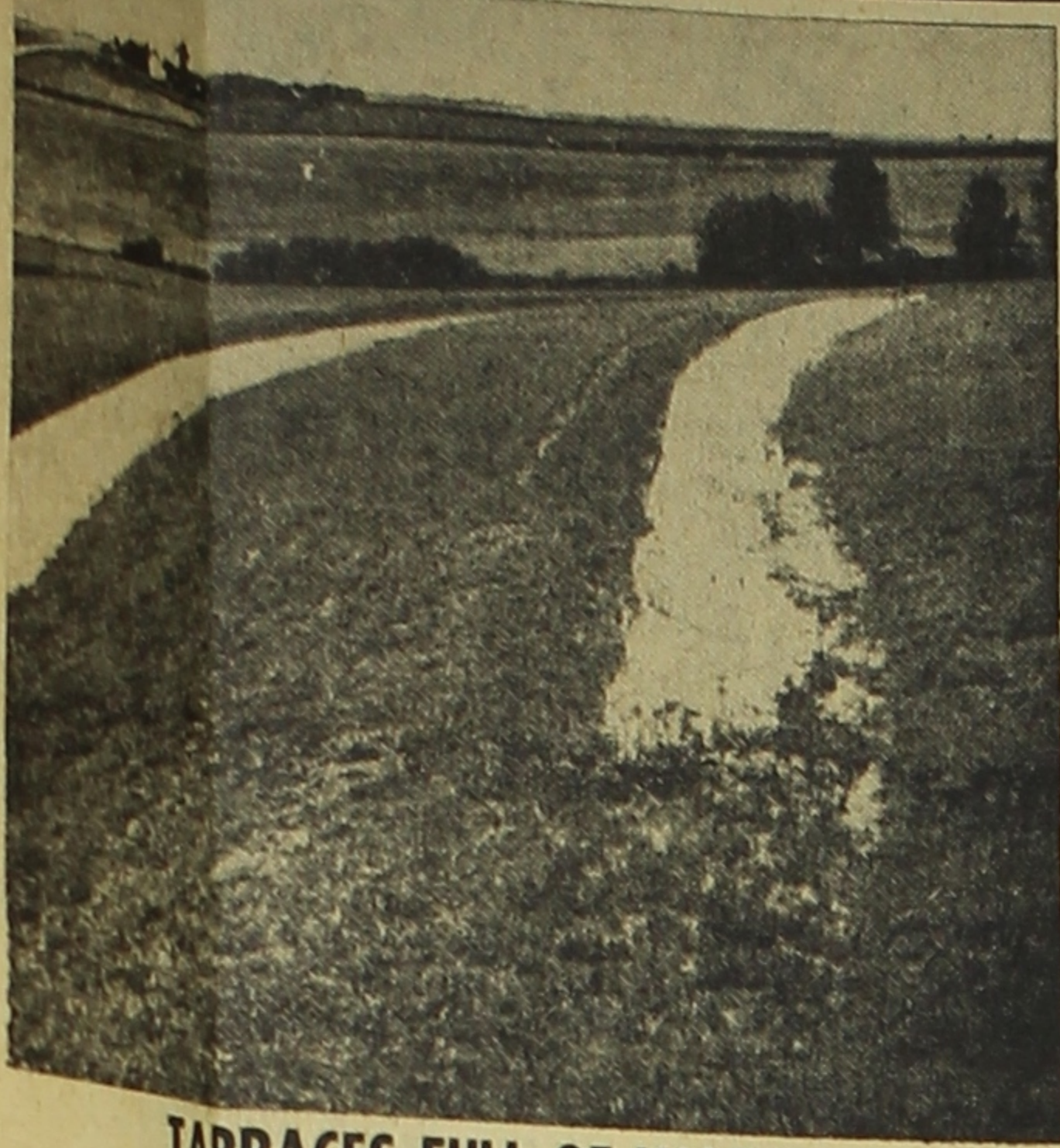
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CONTESTS

For a number of years the District has taken part in contests sponsored to promote good conservation farming. Each year at the Annual Banquet awards are presented to the contest winners. Farms are judged by a group of impartial judges and awards made on the basis of good land use and conservation accomplishments.

SHORT COURSE

Early in January, each year, the District Commissioners attend the Short Course held at Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa. The two day program features informative panel discussions and sessions on various phases of conservation work. New ideas of promoting more conservation on the land and better methods are always stressed. The evening banquet is a highlight with the address being given by a nationally known speaker.

LEGISLATIVE DINNER

For the past several years the Commissioners have been host at a dinner for the State Legislators. Following the dinner a discussion period is held which is helpful to both groups. Each is kept informed of the others activities which results in better relationships in all phases of the conservation program.

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In the selection of a field arrangement consideration should be given to ease of contour farming, convenience for pasturing and access to livestock water supply. The crop rotation and the field arrangement must be worked together so that a reasonable balance of crops can be secured with fields planned.

After the land use, rotation and field arrangement have been worked out, it is then desirable to consider the installation of terraces where necessary to reduce soil loss to a safe level. All gullies should be shaped and seeded to prevent cutting and for convenience in crossing with farm equipment. Occasionally a structure may be needed to give protection to a grassed waterway.

It is the duty of the staff of the Soil Conservation Service to assist with the planning of farms, to assist with layout and checking of practices and in general to assist with the Soil Conservation plan from the start until it is completely applied.



DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

I. to r. Wendell Pellett, Boyd Bailey, George Hosfelt, Carl Keller

CASS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In the application of a complete soil and water conservation plan the District emphasizes the importance of upland treatment first, before major downstream work is installed.

The most successful job of soil and water conservation is accomplished when each drop of rainfall is absorbed or held as near where it falls as is possible.

PRACTICES	ACCOMPLISHMENTS			Future Needs
	1957	To Date		
Contouring	Ac. 3,577	71,554		32,941
Waterways	Ac. 90	1,185		3,235
Terraces	Mi. 104	890		5,788
Dams	No. 5	325		229
Diversions	Mi. 4	40		1,183
Tile Drains	L.F. 156,029	949,933		1,048,582
Open drains	Mi. 3	70		179
Drainage	Ac. 429	4,343		3,425
Cooperators	No. 35	944		1,040
Farm Plans	No. 51	767		1,217
ACP farms serviced		594		

STATE FUNDS

Office supplies	\$ 64.91
Comm. Mileage	286.97
Office expense	5.00
Rental	8.00
Printing	1.50
Mat. for Demonstrations	15.00
Meeting expense	30.00
	\$411.38
Clerical and Technical salaries	\$4,014.04

YOUR LOCAL BANK AND YOUR SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT ARE AT YOUR CALL

The adoption of a complete soil Conservation plan, including sound land use and fertility improvement, is the soundest and most effective way for farmers to increase farm production, and farm income investment in a soil conservation program will show greater returns over the years than any other use of capital.

THIS ANNUAL REPORT SPONSORED BY

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**For Your Own
BENEFIT
Follow Sound
Conservation
Practices On
Your Farm**

THE LAND OUR GREATEST NATURAL RESOURCE

The Earth is a sphere 8,000 miles in diameter, 25,000 miles in circumference with a surface of approximately 200,000,000 square miles of which about one-third is land and two-thirds water.

A relatively thin layer of topsoil, which covers the land at an average plow depth of about seven inches, is the chief support of life. The world's annual production of food and fiber products comes largely from this soil layer. Less than half of the earth's soils is suitable for crop production.

The soil that supports life is created by the forces of nature — the action of the sun, atmosphere and water along with plant and animal life, on the materials that comprise the earth. Soil is a residue of weathered rocks, minerals and decaying organic matter. It supplies mechanical support for vegetation and raw materials for plant foods.

Many, many years are required by nature to produce a single inch of topsoil. Yet, all of this good work of nature may be destroyed by man in a relatively few years by careless land management.

Our soil is the foundation of our happiness, prosperity and progress. Deeply rooted in the earth are our independence, our safety and the welfare of our people.

America owes her position as a great nation to her soil and its produce. The power, wealth and vigor of our people are directly due to the marvelous productivity of our land.

We fought and won two great wars within 30 years and our victories were due, to a large extent, to the food and fiber produced on our farms. During World War II, despite shortages of labor, equipment and supplies, on our farm lands were grown the record-breaking food and fiber crops necessary to meet the demands of our 140,000,000 people and millions in other countries.

Today American farmers are faced with the task of not only feeding adequately an ever increasing population at home, but furnishing large quantities of food for other nations. Our continued world leadership and influence will depend largely upon the stewardship of our soil.

With wise management, our land can be kept productive to meet the growing needs of our people. There are areas of land in this country which have been cultivated continuously for nearly 300 years that are still as good or better than ever before.



WATER HOLDING CAPACITY OF TERRACES

THE ROLE OF EXTENSION IN THE DISTRICT SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Cass County Extension Service under the direction of the County Agricultural Extension Council is very much aware of the need for soil conservation and proper land use within the Soil Conservation District. This awareness for conservation has also been reflected by the people of the County through their requests for information from the Extension Service.

The Extension Service is charged with the responsibility of the educational phases of all the Department of Agriculture agencies in the County. The Extension Service and Soil Conservation District have worked hand in hand toward preserving our most precious resource—the soil. No farm is unimportant in our fight to save our soil in that the actions of one farmer will reflect on the well being of his neighbors as well as to the generations to come.

Over the past years, the Extension Service has designed its program to be of the greatest assistance in helping promote conservation activities. The Extension Service has had an active part in many of the programs such as the Conservation Field Day, Watershed Groups, and many other activities connected both directly and indirectly with the Conservation Service.

In the future the Extension Service is planning an educational program based on conservation and sound land use for the adults and youth of the County. This program will include understanding soils, how it is farmed, its capabilities, and limitations. Through this better understanding of soil, farmers will be in a better position to work out their land use pattern along with a sound soil and water conservation plan.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The soil and water resources of the farm and ranch lands of our Nation must be protected and conserved. This is essential in order that farms and ranches will continue to have the capacity to produce sufficient food and other raw materials to meet the future needs of the Nation.

All the people of this Nation, not the farmers and ranchers alone, have a stake in and a part of the responsibility for protecting and conserving our farm and ranch lands. Recognizing this the Congress appropriates funds to share with the farmers and ranchers the cost of carrying out needed soil and water conservation measures. The Agricultural Conservation program is a means of making this Federal cost-sharing available to farmers and ranchers.

The State and County programs are designed to encourage those soil and water conservation practices which provide the most enduring conservation benefits practicably attainable on the lands where they are to be applied. Costs are shared with the farmer only on satisfactorily performed soil and water conservation practices for which Federal cost-sharing was requested by the farmer before the conservation work was begun.

The purpose of the program is to help achieve additional conservation on land now in agricultural production rather than to bring more land into production. The program is not applicable to the development of new additional farm land by measures such as drainage, irrigation and land clearing.

OH GREAT SPIRIT IN THE SKY..



'BRING TO OUR WHITE BROTHERS THE WISDOM OF NATURE TO HEAL THE WOUNDS OF THE EARTH'



IT WILL RAIN DOLLARS FROM HEAVEN
IF
YOU HOLD THE MOISTURE



OUR SOIL ★ OUR STRENGTH

