

IDA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1957 Annual Report

Organization

District Commissioners

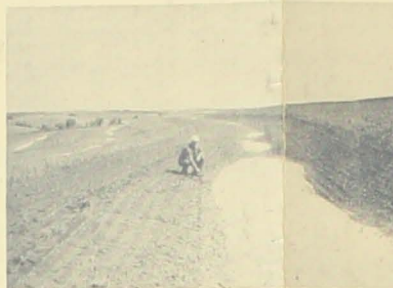
C. C. CHALLMAN, ChairmanGalva
WM. ROSSOW, Vice-ChairmanBattle Creek
W. F. BUROW, CommissionerBattle Creek

Appointed Officers

R. D. BRESNAHAN, TreasurerIda Grove
ARNOLD PUTENSEN, SecretaryHolstein

Assisted by SCS Personnel

KENNETH H. BURNETT, Work Unit Conservationist
HAROLD R. GODOWN, Soil Conservationist
GEORGE W. WITTERS, Conservation Aid
CHARLES P. BODHOLDT, Conservation Aid
MRS. GLADYS THORNHILL, State Clerk



Level terraces provide the best erosion control known, they also permit the highest acreage of row crop in a rotation. Each foot of terrace will trap 120 gallons of rain storm runoff. This is enough to grow 10 added bushels of corn per acre.

Accomplishments And Goals

		Accomplishments In 1957	Since 1945	Goals For 1958
New District Cooperators	(Number)	42	440	70
	(Acres)	7,427	81,577	14,280
Basic Conservation Plans	(Number)	40	349	49
	(Acres)	6,503	62,693	9,996
Revised Conservation Plans	(Number)	5		7
	(Acres)	839		1,421
Follow-up Calls	(Number)	186		200
Contour Layout	(Acres)	5,467	32,950	6,200
Contour Strip Cropping	(Acres)	0	1,400	100
Level Terraces	(Miles)	51	274	70
Diversion Terraces	(Miles)		4	1
Tile Drains	(Feet)	1,300	267,097	10,000
Grassed Waterway Shaping	(Acres)	21	424	25
Gully Control Structures	(Number)	4	14	7
Contour Field Boundaries	(Rods)	2,900	48,930	5,000



Level lister furrows will trap a one inch rain with ease. They are twice as effective as surface planting. It takes less power and labor to plant the crop this way.

Over One-Third Of Ida County Farmers Cooperating



Two jobs for the price of one. Road culvert provides a road crossing and dams a ditch.

Commissioner's Funds

GENERAL FUND (From various sources)

Balance—December 31, 1956\$ 50.01
Receipts, 1957
Expenditures—195735.25
Balance, December, 195714.76

MAINTENANCE FUND (Held in trust by the District for the maintenance of watershed structures)

Cash on Hand December 31, 1956\$ 735.89
Receipts—1957948.45
Expenditures, 19571,275.47
Cash on Hand, Dec. 31, 1957408.87
U.S. Government Bonds on hand
(Purchase Price) Dec. 31, 19577,804.00
U.S. Government Bonds on hand
(Surrender Value) Dec. 31, 19578,507.80

1-A BUDGET (Received from the State of Iowa for Commissioner's expenses)

Office Supplies\$ 64.26
Commissioner's Expenses220.21
Office Expenses66.00
Printing100.00
Equipment Rental5.50
Total Expended\$ 455.97

2-A BUDGET (Received from the State of Iowa for clerk salary and equipment)

Equipment\$ 0
Clerk1,929.93
Total Expended\$1,929.93

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1957

The District is now 13 years old. 1957 was the best year that the District has experienced. More terraces were installed and more contour farming practiced than in any year since the District was established. The frost was generally out of the ground on March 15, and with this early start, 51 miles of terrace were installed during the year.

Mr. Bryce Vollmar has carried out an unusual job on his 800 acre farm, located 2 miles north of Cushing. In the past two years he has installed 20.5 miles of terraces, built 4 water impounding dams, and shaped 4.5 acres of waterways. In addition he arranged cooperatively, with the Iowa Highway Commission to raise the intakes an average of about 12 feet on 5 road structures on the south side of his farm (the relocation of U. S. Highway 20).

During the past year that part of this District draining into the Boyer River has been informally organized into a watershed to be handled under Public Law 566. This is a joint operation with the Sac and Crawford County Soil Conservation Districts.

The Rossow Watershed has also been organized as a part of the Little Sioux Flood Control Project. The Rossow comprises about 5,000 acres and is a joint project with the Woodbury Soil Conservation District.

The Ida Grove Kiwanis Club was given an award partly for their conservation efforts in a local forest reserve. The award was won in competition with Kiwanis Clubs in Iowa and Nebraska.

Our County Board of Supervisors wherever practical is arranging the design of their culverts so that head wall extensions may readily be installed by the adjacent land owner. When this is done road structures serve a double purpose and the cost of gully control is materially reduced. In some cases a broken back or a flume outlet culvert is the cheapest road structure that can be installed. The District Commissioners feel that wherever possible road structures should be used to control erosion.

Soil conservation farm planning continues to be a top priority item in the annual work load of the District. Without adequate plans it is possible to waste effort in the application of farm practices.

The ultimate goal of the District is a basic farm conservation plan in operation on every operating unit in the District. This plan includes the proper use of each acre for crop land, pasture, etc., and the proper treatment of each acre with contouring, terrace or strip cropping, so that the soil resource remains intact forever.

As long as net farm income is closely related to the acreage of row-crop produced farm plans must necessarily provide for the maximum acreage of row-crop. This can be accomplished only by providing for the maximum application of level terraces. Such a program is beginning to find favor in the District.

The following is a summary of the application of terraces in this District since it was chartered:

Year	Miles of Terraces Installed
1946	11
1947	5
1948	10
1949	10
1950	15
1951	6
1952	7
1953	29
1954	69
1955	43
1956	44
1957	51

The newspapers in the District have rendered a distinct service in publishing notices, news stories and feature articles. This cooperation is gratefully recognized.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Ida County Soil Conservation District and its officers gratefully acknowledge all of the assistance it has received. It is certain that many of the accomplishments listed above could not have been attained without the unqualified cooperation of many individuals and groups.

Due to this high degree of cooperation it has been a pleasure to serve the people of Ida County as their Soil Conservation Commissioners.

C. C. Challman, Chairman of the District
Wm. Rossow, Commissioner
W. F. Burow, Commissioner