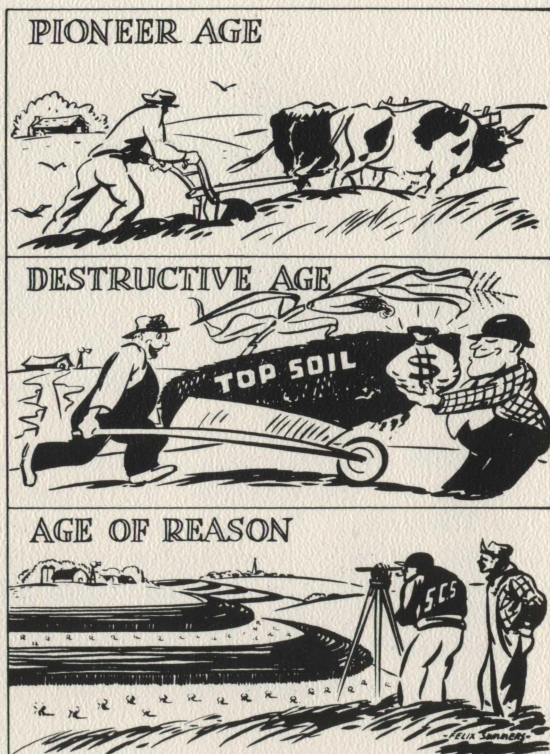
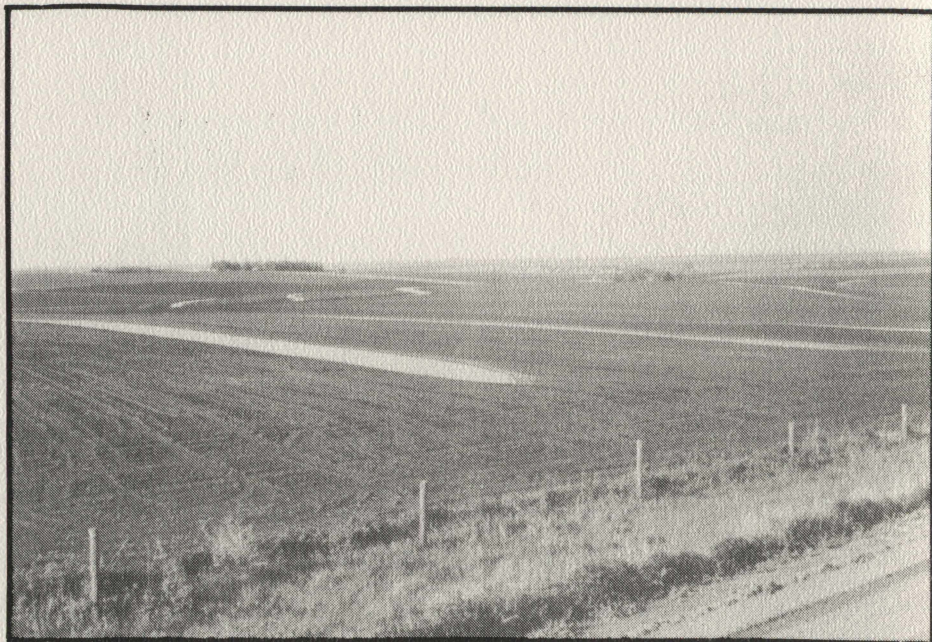


Cherokee County *SCD* *Annual Report*



1977



WATER STORED in the channels of level parallel terraces on the McWilliam's farm operated by James Herron and managed by Joe Timmins. These terrace channels filled with water in May 1977. 11,000 feet of terraces constructed on this farm in the fall of 1976 have a storage potential of 1,760,000 gallons of water on this farm. This is water allowed to soak into the subsoil rather than run off, causing erosion and contributing to down stream flooding.

FORWARD

Another year of conservation accomplishments are behind us and we thank all of you who contributed to further our conservation needs goal. First the cooperator who added another conservation measure to his land, the agencies responsible for assisting and cost-sharing, if applicable, the contractors who worked fast and furious during our short span of construction weather and the news media who gave us informational exposure. We are looking forward to another great year in 1978 and we invite you to share in this endeavor.

CHEROKEE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Vere T. Corrington Max E. Mugge
Vere T. Corrington Max E. Mugge
Chairman, Cherokee Vice-Chairman, Cleghorn

Joe V. Dessel
Joe V. Dessel, Treasurer
Cherokee

Donald L. DeWitt
Donald L. DeWitt, Little
Sioux Works Committee
Representative, Washta

Elmer O. Brehmer
Elmer O. Brehmer, Education
Board Member, Aurelia

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Meetings attended by one or more commissioners:

12 regular commissioners meetings

16 consultation meetings

5 watershed meetings

5 208 meetings

2 regional meetings

4 miscellaneous meetings

A twilight conservation tour was conducted jointly by the Cherokee County SCD Commissioners, Cherokee County Extension Service and the Cherokee Chamber of Commerce on June 14th. Farms toured were the 1977 district and area award winning farms for the Marc Cox Awards Program co-sponsored by the Sioux City Journal and Sioux City Chamber of Commerce. A tour of the Verdean Bumann, Loren Schuett and Bob Carstens farms was followed by an evening weiner roast and picnic at the County Conservation Board Silver Soo Access property.

Gladys Schroeder, Max Mugge and D. C. Bernard Braband attended the IASDC Annual Conference in Fort Dodge in November.

Joe Dessel presented the 208 program and the Cherokee SCD progress at two Farm Bureau meetings, one county meeting and a regional meeting.

Joe Dessel and Max Mugge were chosen Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively on the newly formed Temporary Commission to preserve prime agricultural land commonly

known as the 210 program for Cherokee County. Other members of the commissioners serving on this commission is Elmer Brehmer.

D. C. Braband presented a talk on land use to the Cherokee Women's Club on January 27th.

D. C. Braband, Tom Neal, Wildlife Biologist and Duane Bedford, Forester, conducted a windbreak seminar on Feb. 18.

D. C. Braband assisted on a regional Family Farm program held at the Methodist Church on March 28th.

D. C. Braband assisted the Extension Service in a four day outdoor conservation field day for all 6th grade students in Cherokee County May 9-12th.

D. C. Braband assisted Tom Neal, Wildlife Biologist in conservation talks to the Cherokee School 5th graders on May 20th.

Ashton Creek Watershed organization meeting held at Holstein August 24th.

Larry Meier interviewed the three Cherokee County Marc Cox Area Award winning farmers on October 25th. Recognition Banquet was November 22nd.

Jerry Peterson was chosen as Cherokee County's entrant into the Izaak Walton League Windbreak recognition program.

Trees and shrubs were sold and distributed in April.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(Based on a 15 month period)

7/1/76 - 9/30/77

	Unit	This Year	To Date
District Cooperators	No.	45	1,083
Conservation Plans	No.	37*	867
Plan Revisions	No.	10	-
Terraces	Ft.	139,075	3,640,688
Structures and Ponds	No.	10	267
Waterways	Ac.	84	1,830
Tile	Ft.	121,883	2,974,803
Contouring	Ac.	210	-

* Includes seven group job plans

COST-SHARE PROGRAMS IN CHEROKEE COUNTY

1. The State of Iowa, since 1974, has authorized a cost-share program to cooperator landowners who desire to install soil and water conservation practices. In the 1976-77 fiscal year, Cherokee County received an allocation of \$33,000.00 for this purpose. The funds are administered through approvals by the Soil Conservation District Commissioners for priority practices such as terraces, erosion control structures and dams.

The cost-share rate allowed is 50% of the cost with the upper limit to the cost of the project at the discretion of the commissioners. So far, any terrace job has had no limit, in other words, the commissioners have approved cost-sharing on any amount of terracing the owner is willing to do.

One stipulation on approval of a practice is that the cooperator agrees to maintain that practice for a period of ten years.

2. A second cost-share program available for terraces only in areas approved for watershed study is a 75% cost-share rate for terraces in a designated watershed which has a planning priority assigned by the Little Sioux Works Committee. Areas in Cherokee County eligible for such cost-sharing are the Railroad Creek, 8400 acres; Stratton Creek, 3950 acres; Four Mile Creek, 8700 acres and late in 1977, Ashton Creek, 2600 acres.

3. The third cost-share program on conservation practices is the familiar ACP Program. The practices and rates of cost share available are administered by the USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Office in Cherokee and they will gladly assist you with this information.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1-M Budget Allocation \$ 1,425.00

Expenses:

Commissioners Expenses	\$ 446.47	
Office Supplies	268.17	
Contest Prizes	78.30	
Office Expense	120.34	
Meeting Expense	16.66	
Released to Department of Soil Conservation	495.06	
	<u>\$ 1,425.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,425.00</u>

2-M Budget Allocation \$ 9,455.00

Clerical Salary, FICA, IPERS, Travel and Insurance	\$ 9,346.44	
Equipment Expense	18.50	
Released to Department of Soil Conservation	90.06	
	<u>\$ 9,455.00</u>	<u>\$ 9,455.00</u>

3-M Budgets

75-76 Allocation		\$ 22,000.00
Funds Paid out (including LTA's)	\$ 17,483.43	
Released to Department of Soil Conservation	4,516.57	
	<u>\$ 22,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 22,000.00</u>
76-77 Allocation		\$ 33,000.00
Funds Paid Out	\$ 9,525.98	
Funds Obligated	12,797.50	
Funds Unobligated (as of 6-30-77)	10,676.52	
	<u>\$ 33,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 33,000.00</u>

District General Revolving Fund

Balance On Hand 7/1/76	\$ 1,776.04	
Income	1,083.60	
Total	<u>\$ 2,859.64</u>	
Expenses	1,131.36	
Balance on Hand 6/30/77	<u>\$ 1,728.28</u>	

District Watershed Maintenance Fund

Balance on Hand 7/1/76	\$ 50,065.41
Watershed Payments	416.00
Interest	2,497.18
Check refund	.30
Total	<u>\$ 52,978.89</u>
Expenses	5,818.93
Balance on Hand 6/30/77	<u>\$ 47,159.96</u>

WATERSHEDS

Ashton Creek land treatment watershed was organized in Holstein, Iowa on August 24, 1977.

This is the first of two such watersheds established in the Little Sioux River Watershed. Ashton Creek is a drainage area of nearly 17,000 acres in NW Ida and SW Cherokee Counties. This watershed contains much cropland in need of conservation treatment, but was determined as leaving little justification for larger erosion control structures. The land treatment program of terracing and small erosion control structures will consist of the treatment program for this watershed.

With Ashton Creek, three other watersheds now have a planning priority for development in Cherokee County. Stratton Creek, east of Washta, Four Mile Creek, south of Quimby, has had new aerial photos taken in the spring of 1977 to study proposed structure sites and Railroad Creek, west of Cherokee is presently undergoing economic feasibility studies with meetings among watershed sponsors and landowners scheduled for early in 1978. Information meetings are also scheduled in 1977 for Four Mile Creek Watershed.

Conservation work during 1977 was off to a slow start in the spring because of a shortage of moisture and a resultant prospect of a short crop. However, throughout the growing season timely rainfall seemed to prevail and a much better than expected yield was harvested. As a result, an increase in conservation practices was noticed in the fall of the year. The main efforts in applying soil and water conservation practices were directed toward the interest of small erosion structures, both earthen dams and concrete structures, and in terracing. In the case of terracing, more farmers are interested in the construction of push-up grassed backslope wide foreslope terraces. The reason for the wide foreslope is the increased size of farming equipment. The push-up feature is coming in for more favor because a terrace constructed in this manner flattens the slope of the hill between terraces by creating a flat bench below the terrace ridge. With more normal rainfall, broom grass is more easily established on the steep backslope. The reasoning for the grassed backslope is that on a conventionally built terrace, the backslope of the terrace may become too steep to safely work on with a self propelled combine. An additional benefit in the grassed backslope terrace is the area provided for nesting wildlife.

Bernard Braband
District Conservationist



SECTION 208, PL 92-500

Section 208 of the 1972 water quality control act passed by Congress entreats the Environmental Protection Agency to arrive at a plan to control non-point pollution in the nation's streams, lakes and waters.

Non-point pollution is the contamination of surface waters which can not be traced as coming from a single point as is the case of a discharge from a city sewage disposal plant or an industrial waste discharge. Such non-point pollution is the sediments, chemicals and fertilizers entering the surface water from farmland.

The Cherokee County Water Quality Control Committee formed to formulate a plan for such control of the county farmland pollution is well on their way to finalizing the plan which represents the public input to form this plan as stipulated in the original act.

These people actively involved in the formulation of the Cherokee County plan have been Tom and Linda Bindner, LeRoy Pingel, Dale Smith, Ruby Peterson, Loren Schuett, Ross Pinkerton and Harvey Lindberg.

____ Joe Dessel and Jack Montgomery, Co-Chairmen

WILDLIFE AND THE FARMER

If you like having wildlife around your farm, this is a good time to look around and see what the animals are lacking. If you miss the wildlife that we had in the "good old days", ask yourself some questions as you look over your farm.

Where on your farm can pheasants find shelter from a storm? Does your windbreak provide good cover or is it grazed by cattle or hogs?

Is there unplowed corn stubble on your farm? If not, where do the pheasants and other wildlife find food? How far is it from cover areas to food supplies? The farther animals travel to feed, the fewer make it through the winter.

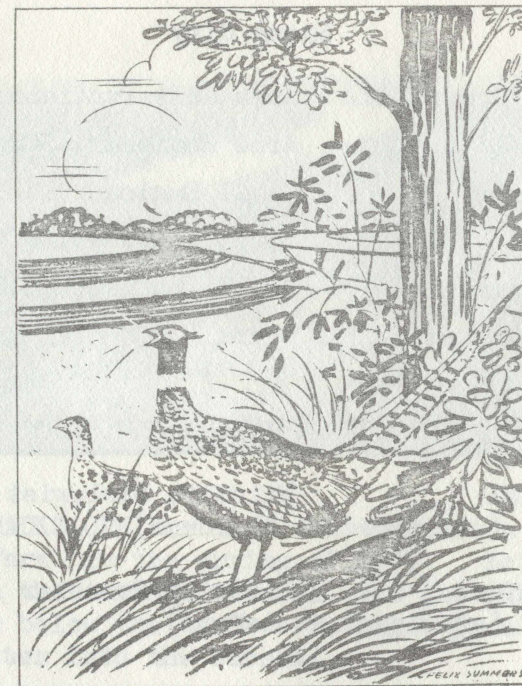
Sure, you have rabbits right around the buildings. That's because they have food (spilled grain) and cover (under buildings). How long has it been since you've seen a rabbit on other parts of your farm?

How many farm groves and fence rows have been cleared out in your neighborhood in the past 10 years? What happened to the wildlife that lived in them?

Finally, where can wild animals nest and raise their young on your farm? Pheasants, partridge, quail, and other wildlife need grass or small grain for nesting and it's a deathtrap if it is mowed before July. Oats provide good cover for nesting pheasants. How does the acreage of oats on your farm compare to 10 or 20

years ago? Pheasants and partridge also nest in road ditches. How much of the road ditch do you mow? Is it really necessary to mow it while wildlife is nesting in June? Perhaps you could put off some mowing until July. Think about these things if you are concerned about wildlife.

Tom Neal, Wildlife Biologist



CONSERVATION *is* SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT

OFFICE STAFF

Cherokee

Bernard Braband	District Conservationist, SCS
Monas Nixon	Conservation Technician, SCS
Duane Hollenbeck	WAE Technician, SCS
Gladys Schroeder	Clerk-Secretary, District

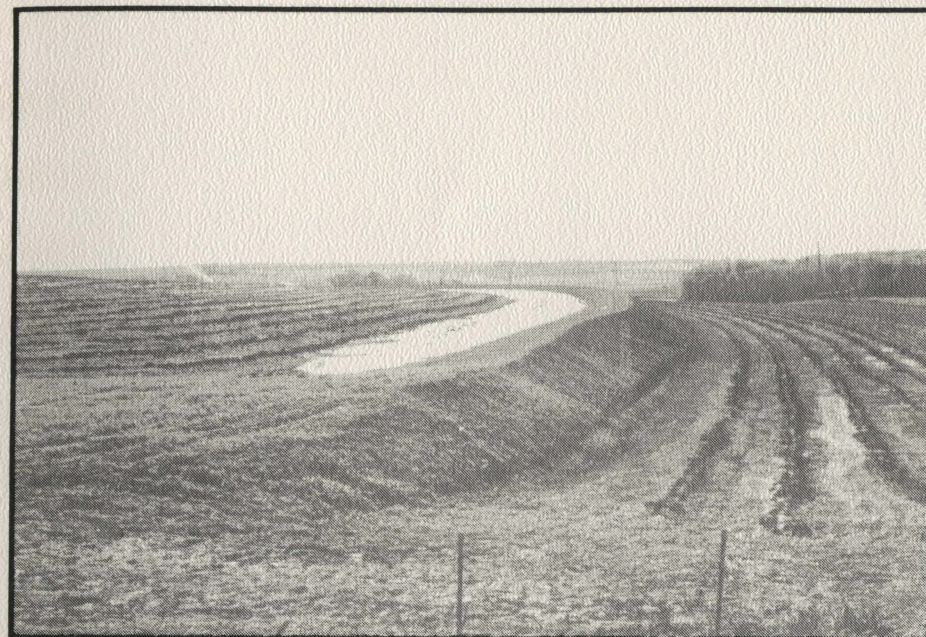
AREA OFFICE STAFF

Sioux City

Wallis R. Tonsfeldt	Area Conservationist, SCS
Richard Hall	Area Engineer, SCS
Wayne Eberly	Civil Engineer Technician, SCS
Lee White	Civil Engineer, SCS
Wayne Ducommun	Civil Engineer, SCS
Margaret Walker	Clerk

IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thomas Neal	Wildlife Biologist (stationed at Cherokee)
Duane Bedford	District Forester (stationed at LeMars)



GRASSED BACKSLOPE terraces constructed on the Roderick Waller farm in the spring of 1977. Note the water stored in the terrace channel and the subsoiling done above and below the terrace to allow greater insoak of runoff water into the subsoil.

