

DAVIS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REPORT FOR 1948 YEAR

The Davis County Soils District contains 316,707 acres of land or an average of 177 acres for 1789 farms. Around 30% of this land is considered tillable conservationally speaking. For the 5 years 1943-47, 13.1 and 3.8 percent of the land in this county was in corn and beans respectively. A total of 37.2 percent of the land was in crops during that period. With the loss of the legume seedlings last year and the increase in the market value of intertilled crops, it is feared that the amount of land which has been put in these erosive crops has increased by a large percent during the past year. We commissioners are well aware of the responsibilities this has given us if we are to conserve the land resources for the oncoming generations.

We are quite encouraged with the amount of interest that farmers and city people are showing in conserving our soils and other natural resources. On the other hand, we have the dissappointment of seeing some good boosters of soil conservation not carry out these practices on their own farms. In a few communities some people have not accepted soil conservation practices as the right method of farming but we are grateful that this is being overcome. To help this we have provided as many services as we have funds available to finance them. We often feel handicapped with the lack of funds and personnel to carry on this work. One thing that is particularly needed is full time office help.

In the Cooperative Agreement with the Soil Conservation service and the Soil Conservation District, the Extension Service is responsible for the educational program. The County Extension Director, as representative of the Extension Services, directs the educational program. We realize our responsibilities to help the local Farm Bureau in formulating and helping to carry out the most desirable educational program for local conditions.

A series of 4 conservation schools were held during the year. Approximately fifty farmers completed the entire course. These represented all townships in the county. In addition to these meetings, 18 meetings were held with 6 groups in Farm Planning. A County Plowing Match was held with some 1500 people in attendance. The district assisted in carrying out a conservation program through the 4-H clubs. Every effort was made

through the use of news articles, letters, and radio to get farmers interested in conservation practices.

Considerable work was done last year on raising of funds for the experimental farm. We will make every effort that is needed to help get this plot into operation.

The term for Fred Melvin expired this year. At the Soils District election Mr. Melvin was re-elected to serve another term. The soils District has had another successful year of producing high quality limestone at the rock quarry at Selma. During the past year 20,000 tons of limestone was furnished for farmers in this area. Two bull dozer operators cooperated with the district during the past year with good results. A whirl wind terracer is being provided free for the oncoming year. Two hundred pounds of Reid Canary Grass for grass waterways was given free to farmers. Birdsfoot Trefoil will be given to farmers next year. It is our belief that the prosperity of the farmers of this area is very closely tied up with the development of a high quality grassland type of farming. We believe the development of a sound livestock program will make this type of farming yield us larger returns per farm and it will also help us to conserve our soil and other natural resources.

The A.A.A. and the F.H.A. have been very helpful during the past year. We wish to commend Doyle Schmitter of the F.H.A. for his assistance. The fast development of Joel Stansberry to master soil conservation techniques has been a great help to Farm Planner Leland McCord in the technical service given to farmers during the past year.

The following is a summary of the districts activity for the year:

Number of new farm plans	34
Number of old farm plans	110
Number of unwritten plans	10
Number of miles of terraces	4
Number of miles of diversion ditches	2.2
Number of acres of contours laid out	1802
Number of acres of strip cropping	272
Number of farm ponds laid out	2
Number of conservation schools	6
Number of contour demonstrations	7
Number of terrace demonstrations	2
Number of acres pasture improvement	641

Treasury Report for 1948

Receipts

Royalty on Agricultural Limestone and Road Rock	\$4025.17
Earth Moving Contract	180.75
Total Receipts	<u>\$4205.88</u>

Cash Balance January 1, 1948	<u>1061.49</u>
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GRAND TOTAL - - - - - \$5267.37

Disbursements:

Royalty on Limestone and Road Rock	\$3365.91
Advertisement on Earth Moving Contract	63.45
Other Advertisement	7.13
Dinners	239.05.
Mileage and telephone	23.50
Bond	2.50
Hall rent	7.50
Short Course	8.00
1948 Commissioners' Dues	15.00
Reed Canary Grass Seed	151.65
Postage and State Dues	16.90
National Convention	51.95
National Dues	5.00
Pictures	13.13
Gun repair	31.70
4-H Club premiums at Co. Fair	<u>10.00</u>

Total Expenses	\$4012.37
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Cash Balance January 1, 1949 - - - - - \$1255.00

P. W. Spilman
P. W. Spilman-Chairman

Dale Blackwell
Dale Blackwell-Sec.-Treas.

Fred Melvin
Fred Melvin-Commissioner