

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT
of the
WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Council Bluffs, Iowa
1978

DO YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT? NEED SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED? OR
JUST INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE OF WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT?
CALL THE OFFICE (328-2489), OR STOP BY FOR A VISIT -- OUR
OFFICE PERSONNEL WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU; OR CALL THE
COMMISSIONERS AT THEIR HOME -- WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!!!!
THE COMMISSIONERS WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF
THE WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Room 221 Federal Bldg.
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501
Phone: 328-2489

THIRD CLASS

FOREWORD

From the very beginning, the District has been the heart, soul and life blood of the soil and water conservation effort. It is well then that once a year we examine the condition of our district, and note that which is happening. The following is such an examination. It is the annual report of the West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District.

This report together with reports from other districts in Iowa and in the nation reveal the "state of the nation", if you will, with respect to the all important matter of soil and water conservation.

For many years soil and water conservation was a "country cousin" so to speak, involving practices applied to the land and affecting those who lived on that land, conservation was little noted, and less understood by most of the rest of the nation.

Today that has changed. Towns, cities and urban communities have become aware that they, too, have problems of erosion, siltation and runoff. They need and want conservation.

In addition, the average citizen has become aware that the conservation practiced on land, many miles away, can have a very real impact on him and his family's way of life.

Soil and water conservation has come of age. Because it has, and because it now plays an increasingly important part in every citizen's life, it would be timely for everyone to study this report.

In so doing they would come to realize that the welfare of the land and the waters which fall on it are in dedicated hands. Hopefully it shall always be that way.

C. W. McManamy
Assistant Commissioner

DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY

Eldon Ravlin, Chairman, 1222 Harrison St., Council Bluffs (328-0951)
Derald Blois, Vice-Chairman, Honey Creek (545-3418)
Floyd Fischer, Commissioner, Rt. 5, Council Bluffs (366-1804)
Lloyd Brokman, Commissioner, Rt. 1, McClelland (566-2633)
Clint Goos, Commissioner, Rt. 1, Council Bluffs (526-2195)
C. W. McManamy, Assistant Commissioner, Rt. 3, Council Bluffs (322-8069)
Louie Fahrenkrog, Assistant Commissioner, Carson (484-2241)
Steve Hardiman, Assistant Commissioner, 1416 Ave. M, Council Bluffs
Don Untiedt (County Extension Director), District Secretary (325-5551)

STATE EMPLOYEES

Mrs. Oneta L. Riggs, State Clerk Kevin E. Holcombe, Engineering Aide II

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES ASSISTING THE DISTRICT

Cal Cox, District Conservationist
Ronald Williams, Soil Conservationist
Warren A. Vorthmann, Conservation Technician
Steven Stover, Area Conservationist
Mrs. Karen Hazen, Area Clerk
Norman Koester, Civil Engineer

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DISTRICT PROGRESS

	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
NEW COOPERATORS	30	30	46
INDIVIDUALS & GROUPS ASSISTED	202	243	303
FARMERS APPLYING PRACTICES	171	180	183
CONSERVATION PLANS PREPARED	32	30	33
CONSERVATION PLANS REVISED	9	10	7
RESOURCE PLANS PREPARED	2	2	3
INVENTORIES & EVALUATIONS (Units of Government)	3	3	5

MAJOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES APPLIED

GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURES	4	3	7
CONSERVATION TILLAGE	3,095.1 ac./30,084 ac./95,918 ac.		
TERRACES	67	82	89.2

OTHER ACTIVITIES

COMMISSIONER MEETINGS	11
SPECIAL COMMISSIONER MEETINGS	44
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COUNCIL MEETINGS	11
MEETINGS WITH OTHER AGENCIES	4
REGIONAL MEETINGS	2
COMMISSIONERS ANNUAL SHORT COURSE	1 (2 days)
COMMISSIONERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE	1 (2 days)
RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS	12
"208" PLANNING & RESOURCE CONSERVATION ACT MEETINGS	6
METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING AGENCY MEETINGS	5
OFFICE CALLERS	663
RADIO TALKS	7
TALKS TO SCHOOLS & CIVIC GROUPS	8
6th GRADE CAMPOUT (200 students attended with a sponsor for every 5 students)	
CONTRACTORS MEETINGS	1

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FINANCIAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 1978 Budget

Soil Conservation Districts receive funds from the State of Iowa to assist them in carrying out local programs. These funds are allocated to the Districts (sub-governmental units) by the Department of Soil Conservation on a need basis evidenced by work loads and budgets submitted by District Commissioners.

The allocation is broken down into two separate funds. They are, the 1M Budget used for commissioners expenses, office supplies, printing and other office expenses; and the 2M Budget which is used to employ a clerk for the office, and a full time aide to help with field work..

1M Budget

ALLOCATION	2,000.00
COMMISSIONERS EXPENSES	
(Mileage & Meals)	1,151.85
OFFICE SUPPLIES	324.45
OFFICE EXPENSE	436.98
MEETING EXPENSE	52.30
CONTESTS	24.42
PRINTING EXPENSE	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDED	1,990.00
Returned to Department of Soil Conservation	10.00
	<u>2,000.00</u>

2M Budget

ALLOCATION	19,916.50
SALARIES - Clerical and Technical	17,162.00
CLERKS & AIDES TRAVEL	209.78
DISTRICT EQUIPMENT	194.87
DISTRICT SHARE OF IPERS AND SOCIAL SECURITY	1,922.63
STATE EMPLOYEES INSURANCE	427.22
TOTAL EXPENDED	19,916.50
Returned to Department of Soil Conservation	0.00
	<u>19,916.50</u>

The District has a revolving fund to help them finance programs for which the 1M and 2M funds cannot be used. Some of the programs are: Conservation Education materials, information programs, dues to State & National Associations of Soil Conservation Districts, and Watershed Construction.

Working Balance 12-31-77	688.34
1978 Reciepts	814,231.87
1978 Expenditures	814,809.40
Balance on hand 12-31-78	110.81

The district also maintains a savings account for emergency use. The balance of that account is \$2,035.91.

STATE COST-SHARE

Through appropriations of State funds by the Iowa Legislature the past several years to the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation, and proportioned to the 100 districts (or counties), additional conservation practices have been applied that otherwise could not have been accomplished.

The West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District received \$50,000 in the first allotment of funds and received a second allotment of \$42,690.50. All but \$7,732.23 has been used to share the cost of terrace construction on a 50% cost-share basis. These cost-share funds did not meet all of the requests for assistance.

The District Commissioners believe terracing is the one best long range soil conservation practice to control erosion and soil loss. 89.2 miles of terraces were built in West Pottawattamie District last year, of which 42 miles were built with state cost-share funds.

All District Cooperators are eligible for cost-share assistance. They must agree to maintain the practice for ten years, and have a conservation farm plan with the district.

The principle of public investment to share the cost of establishing conservation measures that benefit the farmer and the public, have long been accepted.

Money is allocated on a first come - first served basis.

Landowners planning on applying conservation practices this year should first stop in at the District Office, Room 221 Federal Building in Council Bluffs and sign a cost-share application; their contractor must be secured to do the work before asking for approval on their application.

All cooperators asking for cost-share assistance are requested to read the cost-share agreement carefully, and understand all the details, before signing the agreement, and leaving the district office. The State Clerk or any of the technicians will be glad to answer any questions. The Commissioners of the District will also help answer any questions.

Due to the uncertainty of spring and fall weather, we suggest that the landowners try and plan their cropping system, and set aside acres, so that more conservation practices can be applied during the summer months.

The state cost-share agreement procedures are set by Iowa law, and not by your district governing body. Your Commissioners are only the administrators of the law.

Eldon Ravlin
District Chairman

WATERSHED REPORT

In North Pigeon Watershed, seven structures were built and seeded in the year of 1978, at a cost of \$860,818.25. The year 1989 should bring the contract that will virtually complete watershed construction in this particular area. Why do I mention this one? Because this happens to be Hometown, America. Anyway it has been home since highschool days. This has been progress since around 1960, so it has been part of my days for many years. May the years ahead see many benefits from these structures.

Simon Run Watershed has other ground work to be done, with possibly a contract being worked out. This will be the second contract, as three structures were built in 1977.

Twin Ponies Watershed is organizing to meet in public meetings after going into planning approval which is a necessary step in the procedure of the watersheds.

We now have a watershed inspector checking the structures already in operation. These are thoroughly inspected in the spring for growing trees, animal problems, and rills or erosion occurring on the dams. The number of structures made it impossible for commissioners to spend enough time on this inspection at the proper time of year.

Ryan-Henschal was completed several years ago; and Indian Creek is apparently doing it's job to help keep the silt out of the city limits, and the lower region below the city.

Mamie Creek is apparently needing some local interest and leadership to surface into a project. Many benefits would be found in this area.

This may not pertain to watersheds in general, but I now beleive with the energy being on everyone's mind, these ugly dead trees will soon be used in someones fire place or stove, and we will be making our farms and creeks much more appealing to the eye.

I enjoyed writing a few thoughts to friends of conservation in general, and may each of us continue to educate one another in this critical area, no matter what age the next person involved may be.

Derald Blois
District Commissioner

WORKING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

District Commissioners are elected every six years. This year we had two Commissioners re-elected to serve six year terms with the West Pottawatomie County Soil Conservation District. They were Clint Goos and Lloyd Brokman. Commissioners are elected in the General Elections held in November. We have five Commissioners and three Assistant Commissioners.

The District is involved with Environmental Education, Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA), The Western Iowa Conservancy District, The Southern Iowa Conservancy District, Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), Region 13 Soil Conservation Districts, The Resource Conservation Act (RCA), and "208" Planning.

The District works with other organizations such as: Iowa Department of Soil Conservation, Conservation Commission, Soil Conservation Service, FHA, Extension Service, National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), County Board of Supervisors, ASCS, Rural Development Committee, ARS, News Papers, Radio, Television, Schools, and many others.

Our jobs are becoming more important with new laws being passed and new programs being initiated, such as the Iowa Conservancy District Law, Resource Conservation Act (RCA) & "208" Planning, and Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D). We work with all of these organizations, as well as running our own fundamental organization.

Deciding who gets cost-share assistance and how much; who is accepted as a cooperator; who is cancelled; and working with watersheds, are normal business.

The Commissioners wish to extend their gratification to all organizations for their cooperation in helping make the District a success.

Floyd Fischer
District Commissioner

CONSERVATION TILLAGE FIELDS
PERFORM WELL

Nine Pottawattamie County farmers cooperated with the Soil Conservation District and County and Area Extension Office in conducting tillage demonstrations this summer. A variety of tillage systems are used by the farmers that included: Gerald Bostwick, Rt. 4, Missouri Valley; Don Casson, Rt. 2, McClelland; Clint Goos, Rt. 1, Council Bluffs; Rod Graalfs, Rt. 3, Council Bluffs; Jack Hester, Rt. 1, Honey Creek; David Storjohann, Rt. 1, Minden; Ken Strohhahn, Rt. 2, Council Bluffs; Fred Sudmann, Rt. 1, McClelland; Bill Vorthmann, Silver City (Treynor A.R.S. Farm).

Systems used on corn include a combination of chisel - disk operations, no till, and buffalo till planters. With soybeans middle busting, heavy disks, and a chisel plow were used in various stages. Residue measurements were made shortly after planting. The range was from a high of 5,880 lbs. per acre to 1,260 lbs. with an average of 2,802 lbs. per acres. All of this residue aides immensely in holding the soil when heavy rains come after planting. 2,000 lbs. of residue cover is considered very desirable. Certainly the project cooperators are to be commended for the levels that were measured. It should be remembered that the nature of the previous years crop and whether or not cattle grazed on the field over the winter months has a bearing on the residue measurement.

Once planting was completed, signs identifying the fields were placed in an easy to spot location. Red mail boxes furnished by the Council Bluffs Nonpareil may have caught the eye quicker however. Passers-by may have initially wondered if corn fields had taken to reading the local newspaper! Inside the boxes, however, viewers found a brief description of the tillage system used on the field that they were viewing. The brochure also showed the location of other fields in the county that were looking for viewers. It is hoped that several farmers took advantage of the opportunity to see first hand how the crops were performing in these fields throughout the season.

Perform -- that these fields did! Of course, this was an exceptional year, a terrific crop year for all Pottawattamie County farmers. Several men told me that this was a year like they have never seen, and I suspect it may be awhile before we see these yields again. Relating to the tillage fields, yield estimates were made by September 27th. Projected yields ranged from 130 to 183 bushels per acre. Weed control was evaluated in late June. Various combinations of herbicides were used. Like conventional plantings, weed control varied from fair to excellent.

Cooperators shared their experineces at a crop producers clinic in Council Bluffs on January 17th. The audience listened intently, as the men told why they changed to their present systems; the problems that they've encountered; and the satisfactions that they have had. It is evident that many West Pottawattamie County Farmers are experiencing satisfactory results with their tillage systems. Many fields of corn and soybeans haven't been plowed for periods ranging from 2 to 20 years. If you're interested in changing your system, or just plain want to talk tillage systems, drop in at your County Extension Office or the West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District office to visit with us.

Don Untiedt
County Extension Director

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

1978 was another very productive year for the West Pottawattamie County Environmental Education Council.

Under the auspices of the West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District, the highlight of the year was, as in the past, the annual sixth grade campout.

The campout was held the last weekend of April at Lake Arrowhead. The approximately 200 sixth grade students from throughout the county participated in activities such as Forest Habitat and Soil Building, Fishing, Star Gazing, and many other activities designed to broaden their educational backgrounds. The ten active members of the Education Council held eight monthly meetings at Iowa Western Community College, at which all preparations for the campout were made.

In addition to the annual campout, 1979 holds promise for the return of Environmental Education Work Shops.

In 1978 the Council promoted a graduate level course taught by Dr. Bernard Clausen of the University of Northern Iowa, held in June.

Steve Hardiman
Assistant Commissioner

GOLDEN HILLS RC&D

The Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program is still in the waiting stage. There were no new applications approved this last year, and appropriations were cut to a bare minimum. This caused a lot of dissatisfaction; a lot of letters were written, asking the Department of Agriculture to reconsider.

A Task Force Study Committee was appointed, and there was a public hearing held in St. Paul Minnesota in September for anyone caring to voice their opinion. Cliff Stille was sent as a representative from this County, and there appears to be some hope of being accepted in the future.

The Agriculture Committee planted a Minimum Tillage test plot south of Oakland; two field days were held in spring and fall, and the results have been tabulated and are available on request.

The Road Erosion Control Committee have finished their survey. We feel our projects are important and hope to carry them out in the near future.

Lloyd Brokman
District Commissioner

"208" PLANNING AND RCA

PL-92-500 Sec. 208

Another year has come and gone. 1978 was the year for the deadline for "208". On November 1, 1978, a plan was to be ready for implementation on PL-92-500 Sec. 208, the Clean Water Act. The Conservancy District Advisory Committee (CDAC) met on several occasions at Onawa, Denison and Storm Lake. In August, the Statewide Policy Advisory Committee, of which Cliff Stille of Macedonia is Chairman, met in Des Moines for a two day session. CDAC members were invited to attend, as well as any interested parties. Most all CDAC members are determined that this should be a voluntary program. At this time, no money is available for cost-sharing.

PL-95-192 RESOURCE CONSERVATION ACT (RCA)

The Resource Conservation Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-192) was signed into law by President Carter late last year. This piece of legislation offers soil conservation districts the long sought after opportunity to project budget on the basis of need, and develop a five year plan for USDA Conservation Assistance. Here again, the soil conservation districts are named in preparing the program. In 1978 the West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District held a public meeting in the Central Fire Station at Community Hall in Council Bluffs, to identify local concerns and start the appraisal process.

Surveys were also taken at farm organization meetings and through a booth at Westfair. Out of these meetings is to come the first appraisal of the nations soil, water and related resources. This must be completed by December of 1979.

Hopefully, these appraisals will show the President and Congress the need for cost-share funds to help complete this big job of protecting the nations greatest resource -- topsoil.

For more information, feel free to stop in at the West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District Office at Room 221 Federal Bldg., Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Clint Goos
District Commissioner

SOIL SURVEY

The Pottawattamie County Soil Survey resumed in the spring of 1978, in both the East and West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation Districts.

Mapping of the Missouri River Bottomlands was completed in 1975, and these maps are now available for public use.

At present time there are 156,800 acres mapped in the district in Lewis, Keg Creek, Garner, Hazel Dell, and Boomer Townships. Of this, 40,000 acres were mapped this past year.

In 1979, time will be divided between the two districts in the county, East Pottawattamie and West Pottawattamie.

Farmers in the district will be notified by mail when the Soil Scientists are in their area. If they have any questions, please contact the Soil Conservation District Office in Council Bluffs.

When mapping is resumed in the West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District, it will be in Boomer and Neola Townships.

The Soil Scientists making the survey are John Nixon (Party Leader), Charlie Branham, Willie Bragg and Steve Frisch.

John Nixon
Soil Scientist

CONTESTS

GOODYEAR AWARDS:

Goodyear Conservation Awards Program provides recognition for outstanding accomplishments by Soil and Water Conservation Districts and their cooperating landowners and land users. Your West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District placed first in 1975, in the Southern half of Iowa after placing second in 1973, AND -- WE'VE DONE IT AGAIN!!!! Not being eligible to win first place, due to a time limit of 5 years, we were presented a gold medallion, which means that had we been eligible, we might have captured the coveted prize. It also shows that the quantity and quality of our accomplishments are consistently outstanding. Gene George of Honey Creek was chosen as the 1978 outstanding cooperator.

The landowners, cooperators, and friends of Soil and Water Conservation have a good reason to be proud of their districts accomplishments. The Goodyear Awards Program was founded in the Midwest in 1947, and expanded to all 48 continental states in 1953 and all states and territories in the early 1960's. More than 2700 conservationists have been guests of the rubber company on these awards tours, to Litchfield Park, Arizona, since the program began in 1947.

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WORLD HERALD SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRAM:

The district also enters the World Herald Soil Conservation Program each year. The contestants in this conservation program include districts in Western Iowa and Nebraska. The contest is based on performance of district activities and accomplishments. Your West Pottawattamie District was 1st place winner for Western Iowa in 1975.

NACD-LLIS CHALMERS Environmental Conservation Education Awards Program was founded in 1975. That year your West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District won 1st place in the Regional competition and placed second in the upper Mississippi Region.

IOWA SOIL CONSERVATION AWARDS PROGRAM:

This Program is presented each year. Local winners are chosen by a committee from the Districts governing body. This past year your district has chosen the following winners in their respective divisions:

Robert Campbell (Division I - Owner-Operator). Robert farms 495 acres, has 105 acres protected by terraces, and 423 acres of cropland.

Mary Fischer-Dean Fischer (Division II - Landlord-Tenant). This farm has 260 acres. 84 acres are protected by terraces, and 182 acres of cropland.

Don Orme (Division III - New Cooperator). There are 165 acres of cropland in this 280 acre farm. 50 acres are protected by terraces.

Robert Campbell was also chosen as the District Sweepstakes Winner. All of the winners are to be congratulated for a job well done.

SOIL CONSERVATION SPEECH CONTEST:

Your West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District, sponsors of the West Pottawattamie County Environmental Education Council, holds a Speech Contest for students in grades 7 through 12. The district winner then goes to the Regional contest, and if he wins 1st place at that level, goes on to the state competition. The District Winner in 1978 was Dale Osbahr, Senior at Tri-Center School, Neola. Dale entered the Regional competition, and though he did not win at that level, we congratulate him for a fine job performed amidst stiff competition.

IZAACK WALTON LEAGUE WINDBREAK PROGRAM:

This is a new program initiated in 1978. Kenneth Minssen, a District Co-operator since 1959, was chosen at the District level. There were 52 entries in the state competition and although Kenneth did not win in the state competition, he was among the top ten who were given honorable mention at the Commissioners Annual Conference.

Louie Fahrenkrog
Assistant Commissioner