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KOSSUTH COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT 1950 ANNUAL REPORT

PLAN YOUR FARM



FARM YOUR PLAN





U. S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Foreword

To the farmers and all who are interested in the land of Kossuth County:

"Soil conservation is fundamental to the welfare of our country. Our strength, our prosperity, and our happiness will be measured largely by the effort we, as a Nation, devote to this worthy cause."

This is the firm belief of the men who carry forward conservation farming in the Kossuth County Soil Conservation District.

This annual report for 1950 was prepared by your soil conservation district commissioners, to acquaint you with the progress which has been made to date, and with the procedures by which any Kossuth County farmer, operator, or landowner, by his own voluntary decision, can avail himself of the services of the Kossuth County Soil Conservation District.

Your district was established in 1947 by a popular vote of landowners. It is administered by a committee consisting of three farmer-commissioners elected by the vote of landowners, and a secretary who is the county extension director. The technical services of the district are provided by a resident farm planner and his aid and a soil specialist and a drainage engineer, all of the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

It is the duty and purpose of your district to assist you with your drainage, soil, and water conservation problems. The district commissioners receive no remuneration, nor is the board a beneficiary of any local taxes.

If you elect to obtain assistance from your district, you must make an application to its commissioners, and it is reviewed by them. An approved application is usually assigned to a group of applications by neighboring farmers, so that the work — farm planning, field demonstration, and education — may be carried out with a group having similar problems and interests.

The purpose of the assistance which your district has been called on to furnish, in the majority of cases, has been to prepare a farm plan which gives an inventory of the capabilities of the land that is farmed. Based on this inventory and the kind of farming the farmer wishes to pursue, recommendations are made for a suitable crop rotation, fertilization program, waterways, drainage, contouring, windbreaks, shelter areas, livestock enterprises, etc., depending on the problems involved. These recommendations are arrived at upon discussion with the farmer and also consultation with the landowner, in instances where the owner of the land does not operate the farm.

The farm plan thus arrived at and agreed upon by all concerned in all details is then written and maps are provided showing the nature and capability of the soil on the farm, the recommended field layout, crop rotation, fertilizer program, drainage system, etc.

This blueprint of the farm and the conservation practices it provides becomes then the basis for a cooperative agreement between the farmer and the soil conservation district. The district will arrange for the technical help in putting the plan into operation. The farmer becomes a conservationist in carrying out this plan for better farming.

COMMISSIONERS, KOSSUTH COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

J. C. Skow, Chairman
T. E. Lagerstrom
Jerry Heetland
A. L. Brown, Secretary

Organization Of The Soil Conservation District

It seems relevant, at this place, to give a brief history of the soil conservation movement.

If we link man's domestication of his most important farm animal — the cow — to the beginning of man's endeavors with settled farming, then we can date this type of farming back to 10,000 B. C. We know that milk, butter, and cheese were common in Egypt in 3,000 B. C. and general farming, of which the cow was an important part, was in progress in Europe by 4,000 B. C. from whence it eventually was carried to this country.

As ancient as farming is, it remains a fact that for about 10 dozen centuries, man farmed largely in ignorance of everything but the most external aspects of soils, plants, and animals. It was not until the Seventeenth Century that the Renaissance set man searching into agricultural problems. The contributions of Justus von Liebig, "the father of agricultural chemistry," and of his contemporaries who established the first agricultural experiment station, gave farming a Science in the Nineteenth Century.

By our farsighted Federal legislation, development of agriculture in this country has been constant. Outstanding examples of government for agriculture in addition to the establishment of the U. S. Department of Agriculture are the Morrill Act of 1862 creating our agricultural colleges; the Hatch Act of 1887 which provided for the establishment of agricultural experiment stations. The Soil Conservation Service was established by law passed in April 1935. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration Act was passed in 1938. The objectives of the Soil Conservation Service and the long-time goals of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration were the Maintenance of the Nation's soil resources.

It was soon found that the problems of soil conservation could not be solved by action of the Federal government alone, and that State legislation was needed to provide a mechanism by which farmers could organize themselves for cooperative action. Consequently, Congress authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to require the adoption of suitable State legislation as a condition for Federal conservation aid.

This Act provides a procedure by which soil conservation districts may be organized, such districts to be governmental subdivisions of the State. The Act establishes a "State Soil Conservation Committee" which has power to define the boundaries of each district, to encourage the organization of districts, to bring about an exchange of information and experience among the districts in the State, and to coordinate the several district programs "so far as this may be done by advice and consultation."

Each district is an independent unit. Funds to finance the operations of the districts come from two sources: (1) Direct appropriations from the State Treasury, to be divided among the districts by the State Committee; and (2) Grants in aid made either directly to the districts or through the State Committee, by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service or other Federal agencies. The districts are not authorized to levy any taxes or special assessments nor to issue bonds.

The Legislature of the State of Iowa passed the "Districts Law" in 1939. Since then, 99 soil conservation districts have been organized. In accordance with this law, the elected officers of the State Committee and of the Kossuth County Soil Conservation District during 1950 are as follows:

Iowa Soil Conservation Committee

Wm. Darbyshire, Rockwell City, Chairman
Chris H. Jensen, Audubon
Kenneth Wagner, West Liberty
James W. Foster, Albia
J. F. Ingels, Maynard
Dr. Floyd Andre, Director of Extension, Ames
Clyde Spry, Secretary of Agriculture, Des Moines
Frank H. Mendell, State Conservationist, SCS, Ames
H. Wayne Pritchard, Executive Secretary, Des Moines

Kossuth County Soil Conservation District

Commissioners

J. C. Skow, Wesley, Chairman
Jerry Heetland, Lakota
T. E. Lagerstrom, Burt

Secretary

A. L. Brown, County Extension Director

The Kossuth County Soil Conservation District during 1950 received funds from the state to employ part time clerical and technical assistance. The employed were:

Bernadine K. Weir, Clerk
Melvin Hutchinson, Technical Assistant
Violet J. Sankey, Clerk

Personnel Furnished By U. S. Soil Conservation Service

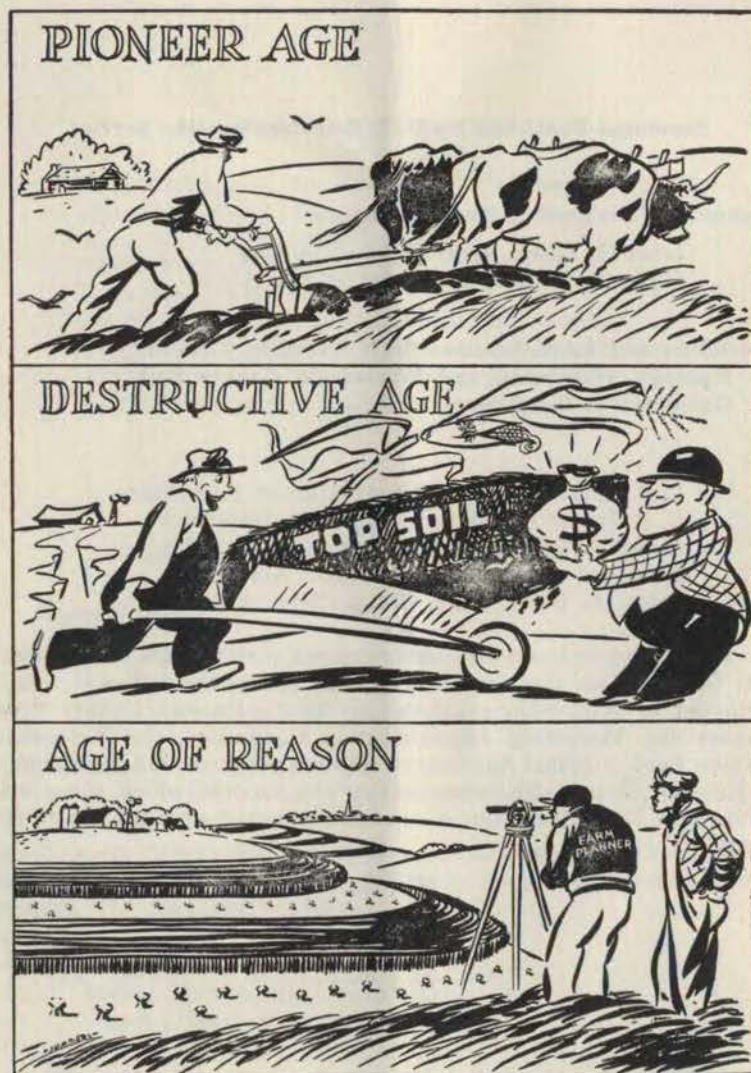
Technicians Assigned to Kossuth County

Leon H. Laird, Farm Planner, Algona
Oliver S. Carlson, Conservation Aid, Algona

Specialists and Administrative Staff Assisting Kossuth, Hancock, Humboldt, and Winnebago County Soil Conservation Districts.

L. E. Kuester, District Conservationist, Fort Dodge
C. R. Beem, Agricultural Engineer, Humboldt
James R. Devine, Engineering Aid, Humboldt
Donald A. Cowles, Soil Scientist, Algona
Grace A. Looft, Work Group Clerk, Algona

In addition to those directly connected with the Kossuth County Soil Conservation District, the cause of soil conservation is being furthered by such other organizations as the Kossuth County Production and Marketing Administration Committee, the Extension Service, the Vocational Agriculture training program, and the Schools of Kossuth County. The cooperation and support which these organizations have given your district are reported elsewhere in these pages.



U. S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE A3 10064

Soil Conservation Applied To The Farms Of Kossuth County

The year 1950 was the second year during which the Kossuth County Soil Conservation District had available the full and competent assistance of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, in farm planning, drainage problems, and educational activities. Accordingly, considerable headway was made in applying conservation practices to the land of the county.

From the district office in the Post Office Building in Algona, the work was carried forward by two U. S. Soil Conservation technicians, Mr. Leon Laird and Mr. Oliver Carlson.

The technicians assisted Kossuth County farmers in applying conservation practices in 20 townships by working with the farmers 209 man-days on planning farms, 231 man-days on field layout, soil and farm surveying, drainage problems, group meetings and educational and cooperative endeavors; and 22 man-days of follow-up, which consists of two visits annually to each cooperator for the purpose of keeping the cooperator up to date on new practices. The technical accomplishments are shown in the following table:

Practices	Unit	Planned 1950	total Planned 1949-50	Applied 1950	total Applied 1949-50
Contouring	Acres	389	627	130	250
Pasture Improvement	Acres	252	304	*	11
Seeding Permanent Pasture	Acres	12	57	*	35
Farm Drainage	Acres	323	403	60	101
Crop Rotations	Acres	7,242	14,746	3,331	4,667
Field Reorganization	Acres	3,324	8,185	3,898	6,018
Green Manure Crops	Acres	220	3,190	—	116
Closed Drains	Lin. Ft.	52,150	81,130	7,544	12,994
Waterways & Outlets	Lin. Ft.	11,160	52,800	5,280	30,254
Wildlife Areas	Acres	1,594	1,682	*	3
Covercrop	Acres	60	60	60	60

* These are the practices that were planned in 1950 but were not applied in 1950.

Conservation Farm Plans

	Number		Acres	
	1950	1948-50	1950	1948-50
Requests for Assistance Received	46	196	10,063	44,753
Plans Prepared and Signed	41	91	9,275	18,953

Miscellaneous

Activity	Number	Attendance
General Educational Meetings	16	750
Interest Group Meetings	1	15
Planning Groups	10	76
Demonstrations	3	3,100
Soil Conservation Films	8	160

Publicity:

Various special editions were published throughout the year in the following Newspapers:

ALGONA UPPER DES MOINES
KOSSUTH COUNTY ADVANCE
FORT DODGE MESSENGER

Goals — 1951

Farm Conservation Plans	50
Soil Conservation Surveys	15,750 Acres
Group Organizations	4
Contour Farming	250 Acres
Terraces	.5 Miles
Closed Drains	20,000 L. Ft.

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Cooperators In The Kossuth County

Soil Conservation District

Owner	Operator	Township
Marks, F. M.	Will, Fred	Luverne
Fritzemeier, F. C.	Will, G. M.	Luverne
Will, Frederick	Same	Luverne
Sorenson, Charles	Same	Luverne
Ehler, Harris W.	Sorensen, Chas.	Luverne
Chambers, Earl R.	Same	Luverne
Grimsehl, Geo. F.	Same	Luverne
Fett, F. F.	Same	Luverne
Wolf, George	Same	Luverne
Trenary, Mrs. Matie	Trenary, Robt. & Elmer	Luverne
Harr, Mrs. Edna I.	Olson, Geo. H.	Cresco
Anderson, Emil, Estate	Anderson, Orville	Luverne
Hobscheidt, John	Same	Luverne
Tracy, A. H.	Moore, Virgil E.	Seneca
Black, Hugh, et al	Black, Hugh M.	Irvington
Hutchins, H. D. & Black, Robert	Black, Robert	Irvington
Raney, Hugh	Raney, W. H.	Irvington
Pioneer Hi-Bred Corn Co.	Smith, David A.	Cresco
Raney, Hugh	Raney, W. H.	Irvington
Brack, Tice	Zielske, Arthur R.	Harrison
Capesius, Bernard	Same	Irvington
Lewis, Frank T.	Same	Ledyard
Lewis, Frank T.	Lewis, Hugh R.	Ledyard
Callies, L. E.	Steven, R. E.	Portland
Ruger, Walter	Same	Luverne
Voss, John, Sr.	Voss, John, Jr.	Luverne
Tindall, J. W.	Same	Luverne
Ernst, Amalie & Walter	Tindall, J. W.	Prairie
Cram, Carroll J.	Same	Luverne
Richardson, Clif	Same	Luverne
Heetland, Jerry	Same	Ledyard
Hobscheidt, George	Same	LuVerne
Elbert, Leo P.	Same	Prairie

Raney, J. A.	Danielson, Arnold	Irvington
Wise, Herman	Same	Prairie
Struthers, Mrs. Geo.	Struthers, Arnold	Garfield
Traub, Fred	Same	Garfield
Wiemer Estate	Klinksiek, Ervin	Ledyard
Ellingson, Melvin	Same	Garfield
Hackman, Mrs.	Chambers, Earl R.	Luverne
Bormann, Charles M.	Same	Whittemore
Kollasch, Fred H.	Same	Whittemore
Siems, Erwin H.	Elbert, August A.	Whittemore
Adams, Roy E.	Adams & Adams	Whittemore
Siems, Mrs. Emilie	Balgeman, Harlan	Whittemore
Fandel, Mrs. Anna	Fandel, Walter J.	Whittemore
Murray Farm Co.	Hunt, F. R.	Seneca
Nielsen, George K.	Nielsen, Harold A.	Seneca
*Nielsen, Albert C.	Nielsen, Melvin S.	Seneca
*Jones, Harold V.	Same	Swea
*Burlingame, Hattie	Raney, Lyle	Irvington
*Jacobson, Chas. O.	Klein, Roy D.	Seneca
*Hansen, Theron C.	Same	Wesley
*Meyer, Hugo	Same	Whittemore
*Lickteig, Louis	Same	Prairie
*Frimml, W. J.	Vitzthum, G. J.	Wesley
*Johnson, Albert H.	Same	Prairie
*Goplerud, June Adel	Nygaard, Charles	Prairie
*Skow, J. C.	Skow, Joseph A.	Wesley
*Smith, Mrs. Neal	Smith, David A.	Cresco
*Weber, John F.	Same	Irvington
*Herbst, Joel M.	Lemkee, A. M.	Irvington
*Runchey, William	Runchey & Smith	Garfield
*Runchey, Est.	Runchey & Smith	Riverdale
*Runchey, Effie	Runchey & Smith	Whittemore
*Gilmore, Katharine & H. L.	Hurn, Paul	Cresco
*Jensen, Est.	Jensen, Millen	Seneca
*Jensen, Est.	Willrett, A. R.	Lotts Creek
*Meyer, Herman, Est.	Meyer, Alfred H.	Whittemore
*Budlong, Mary H.	Tjaden, Wm.	Cresco

*Studer, Herman J.	Same	Prairie
*Jenkinson, Glen W.	Jenkinson, Frank C.	Union
*Dodds, Homer W.	Same	Union
*Union Slough		Ramsey
*Schenck, Mrs. Eliz. A.	Schenck, Lee	Union
*Turner-Volmer Land Co.	Troff, Peter	Ledyard
*Turner, C. G.	Work, Orval	Grant
*Kruse, F. H.	Wenger, Vernon	Eagle
*Roalson, Merton	Same	Eagle
*Ostergaard, Arne & Ingvard	Same	Eagle
*Phelps, Jess E.	Phelps, William R.	Eagle
*Paulsen, Anna	Paulsen, Elmer	Ramsey
*Weimer, W. E.	Reese, Chas.	Springfield
*Brack, Tice	Blome, Arlowe C.	Ledyard
*Boldridge, William N.	Same	Riverdale
*Yoch, Andrew	Girres, C. L.	Garfield
*Harms, Irvin	Same	Garfield
*Harms, Julius	Same	Garfield
*Dahlhauser, P. J.	Joynt, Irvin	Garfield
*Linde, H. W.	Same	Eagle
*Taylor Est.	Bormann, George	Riverdale
*Elsenbast, C. B.	Same	Garfield
*Girres, C. L.	Same	Garfield
*Harms, Fred	Same	Garfield
*Ellingson, Elmer M.	Brandow, Harold	Garfield
*Nurre, Leo	Same	Ramsey
*Reid, John H. Est.	Reid, Ida & Son	Union
*Grill, Alfred	Same	Cresco
*Lagerstrom, T. E.	Same	Union

* Completed in 1950

Briefs Of District Commissioners

Monthly Meetings — 1950

- January 18 Joint meeting of commissioners and Kossuth County PMA Committee for the purpose of discussing acreage allotments in relation to soil conservation farm plans in the district.
- January 27 Approved requests for farm plans No. 152 to 155 and signed completed plans No. 51 to 53. Reviewed 2A budget and approved employment of clerical help, purchase of a camera, typewriter, filing cabinet and bookkeeping system.
- March 2 Approved requests for farm plans No. 156 to 165 and signed completed plans No. 54 to 58. Approved annual report for 1949. Recommended cooperative work with Wildlife Conservation Agencies. Approved employment of a temporary technical assistant.
- March 24 Approved requests for farm plans No. 166 to 172. Signed completed plans No. 59 to 64. Approved purchase of office equipment. Submitted and processed expense accounts.
- April 28 Approved requests for farm plans No. 173 to 177. Signed completed plans No. 65 to 69. Considered a land owners proposal to make available to the district a 40 acre tract of land for conservation demonstrations.
- May 26 Approved requests for farm plans No. 178 and 179, and signed completed plans No. 70 and 71. Approved employment of clerical help on a part time basis. Made arrangements for a Field Day.

June 14

This meeting was held to revise the 1950 district financial budget to conform with requests by the State Committee.

July 8

The landowners representative, the SCS District Conservationist, the technical staff and the board inspected the 40 acre land tract offered the district for demonstration purposes. The SCS office was instructed to prepare a tentative operational plan for study and consideration of the proposal. Approved requests for farm plans No. 180 to 183 and signed completed plans No. 72 to 74. Decided on July 7 for the Field Day.

August 25

Approved request for farm plan No. 184 and signed plan No. 75. Approved Union Slough Agreement No. 76 to 81. Approved that the district should sponsor "Harvest Sunday Service."

September 28

Approved requests for farm plans No. 185 to 187 and signed completed plans No. 82 to 86. The chairman reported on the recommendations made by the Iowa State Soil Conservation Commissioners Association at a meeting held at Des Moines September 6. Made arrangements for an Annual Meeting to be held at Burt, Iowa during March 1951.

October 27

Reviewed report on financial budgets 1A and 2A. Approved requests for farm plans No. 188 to 191. Signed completed plans No. 87 to 88. Approved motion that the district is actively interested in the 40 acre land tract offered for demonstration purposes and will negotiate to that effect.

December 6 Approved requests for farm plans No. 192 to 196. Signed completed plans No. 89 to 91. Cancelled farm plan No. 27. Reviewed and approved SCS Engineers report on Kossuth County Drainage District No. 81 and recommended that report be turned over to the Board of Supervisors for their information and consideration.

December 22 Approved requests for farm plan No. 197. Received the Chairman's report on District Commissioners Meeting at Garner, Iowa. Delegated the chairman to represent the district at the State Annual Meeting at Ames, Iowa. Arranged for election during March 1951.

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TO HAVE AND TO HOLD AND TO CONSERVE

Kossuth County PMA Committee

The Kossuth County Production and Marketing Administration Committee of the U. S. Department of Agriculture reports the following practices completed for Kossuth County during 1950:

Lime	5,007 tons
Construction of open farm drainage ditches	1,269 cubic yards
Tiling	15,111 rods
Green Manure — Red Clover	31,073 acres
Sweet clover	71,709 acres
Contouring intertilled crops	87 acres
Sod waterway	6,626 square feet
Fertilizer C.M.S.	51,006 cwt.
Fertilizer	43,844 cwt.

The 1950 census according to the PMA in Kossuth County is 3,614 individual farm units (Over 3 acres) comprising an area of 617,572 acres of which 547,342 acres are considered cropland.

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Kossuth County Extension Service

A. L. Brown, County Extension Director

Again this year the Kossuth County Extension Service has had a close and cooperative working relationship with the Soil Conservation District. The County Extension Director being secretary to the commissioners, encourages a close tie in.

In addition to working together on all organization phases, the Extension and Soil Conservation District pooled their efforts in holding a county wide 4-H club plowing event, a county wide corn borer and weed control field day, a soil conservation field day and Harvest Sunday Service. By cooperating on the above events, duplication of effort is eliminated and better events are held. Both agencies are interested in bringing about greater soil conservation on the land and the dissemination of crop and soils information for the benefit of the Kossuth County farmers. They are both primarily educational institutions and as such should always maintain coordinated programs.

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Kossuth County Vocational Agricultural Department

The Algona Public Schools
G. W. Sefrit
Voc. Ag. Instructor

In the Vocational Agriculture department of the Algona Public Schools which has an enrollment of 57 farm boys, we emphasize good soil conservation practices in all subjects taught. In our soils course we stress soil-saving crop rotations, good farm planning, proper use of commercial fertilizer, green and barnyard manures, soil testing, soil typing and classifications.

In the past year we have tested approximately 2000 acres for class members. In the Crops and Farm Management class each student has made a complete farm plan of his home farm following the recommendations of the Soil Conservation Service.

In the Farmers' Evening School which annually enrolled from 150 to 200 farmers, we usually spend two meetings a year on some phase of soil conservation

This past summer we ran twelve fertilizer test plots on oats and twenty-eight corn yield test plots. The results of four of the oat-fertilizer test plots which were harvested and computed are:

Results Of Oat-Fertilizer Tests On Kossuth Co. Farms In 1950

Fertilizer used:	NoPo	N1Po	N2Po	NoP1	N1P1	N2P1	NoP2	N1P2	N2P2
Test No. 1 Yield	52.8	63.0	76.0	73.9	76.7	77.9	61.0	80.5	75.4
Test No. 2 per	41.6	47.5	53.1	59.7	58.5	51.2	50.9	56.8	63.6
Test No. 3 acre	49.3	56.8	55.5	61.7	58.8	60.0	53.7	56.0	61.1
Test No. 4 in bu.	27.9	46.5	44.8	28.5	50.1	48.7	36.9	47.9	50.4

Key To Fertilizer Symbols

No stands for	0 lb	Ammonium Nitrate	(33-0-0)	Per Acre
N1 stands for	10 lb	Ammonium Nitrate	(33-0-0)	Per Acre
N2 stands for	20 lb	Ammonium Nitrate	(33-0-0)	Per Acre
Po stands for	0 lb	Super Phosphate	(0-20-0)	Per Acre
P1 stands for	100 lb	Super Phosphate	(0-20-0)	Per Acre
P2 stands for	200 lb	Super Phosphate	(0-20-0)	Per Acre

Just recently we have moved into our new building where we will have facilities in the near future for complete soil analysis.

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Soil Conservation In Kossuth County Public Schools

A. E. Lauritzen
Supt. of Co. Schools

Fidelia E. Skow
Adm. Asst.

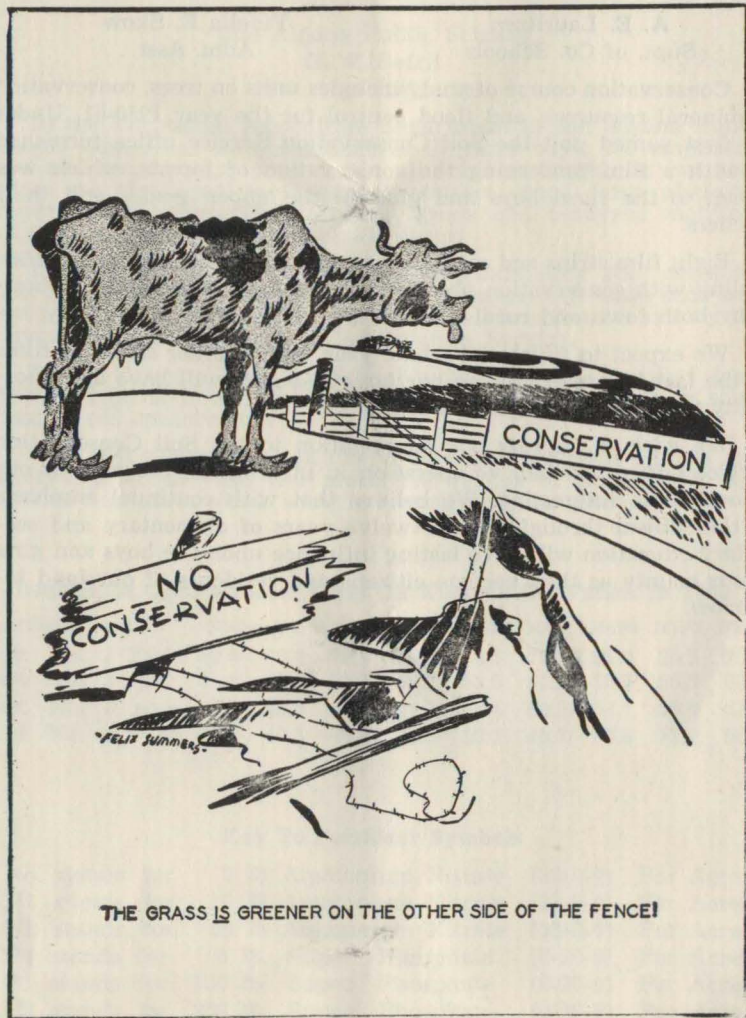
Conservation course of study includes units on trees, conservation of mineral resources, and flood control for the year 1950-51. Under the first named unit the Soil Conservation Service office furnished us with a film concerning the conservation of forests, which was shown to the rural boys and girls in the upper grades and their teachers.

Eight film strips and manuals are on loan service from our office dealing with conservation practices. These have been used constantly by both town and rural teachers in their study.

We expect to finish the school year with another series of films on the last two topics, when our boys and girls will have an opportunity to complete the years work.

We wish to express our appreciation to the Soil Conservation Service Office for their co-operation in making the program in our schools more interesting. We believe that with continual emphasis on the subject throughout the twelve years of elementary and secondary education will have lasting influence upon the boys and girls of our county as they become citizens and residents of our land tomorrow.

100# Alf. Har. Bromo.
400# seed.



THE GRASS IS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE!

C.C.M.
linseed.
hay

4#
1/2 -
11#

Turned on May 5th pasture.

8# alf.
10# Bromo } seeding.

groves, 6# C.C.M. -

42 buds 10#

10 ct alf - dry lot -

17# C.C.M.

1 1/2# - L.O.M.

925# - 1.75 gain per day
280# beef per acre
85

200# 10-20-0 per acre on oats

146# 3-12-12-20 on corn & alf

125# starter feed

Kossuth Soil Conservation District
(Office in Postoffice Building)

Box 667

Algona, Iowa

38.
29. melberry
37.1 # better fat.

Annual Report For 1950

104 X 52 X 12

roof 3 times each.

3 X 13 / 13

feeding floor.

104 X 24

To: _____

City: _____

State: _____