

Dickinson County Soil Conservation District



1958
Annual Report

FOREWORD

We, the commissioners of the Dickinson County Soil District, are reporting to you on accomplishments in soil and water conservation within the district during 1958.

We wish to thank the personnel of the Soil Conservation Service; Dickinson County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee; extension service; 4-H committees; vocational agriculture departments; county newspapers and the many other agencies, organizations and individuals whose assistance and encouragements have made the past year another step forward for soil and water conservation in the district.

Dickinson County Soil Conservation

District Commissioners:

Gerald Mayou, chairman

John Eichman

Norman Blass

Robert Herbert, secretary

DICKINSON COUNTY

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT OF 1958

This is the fifteenth annual report of the Dickinson Soil Conservation District, which was organized in 1944.

The membership of the Soil Conservation District is:

District Commissioners are:

Gerald Mayou, Chairman
Robert Herbert, Secretary
Norman Blass, Member
John Eichman, Member
Lyman Bailey, County Extension Director, Advisory Member

Soil Conservation Personnel assigned to the district are:

Walter R. Thoreson, Work Unit Conservationist
Adolph M. Ladegaard, Conservation Aid
Betty Parsons, State Clerk
Gus Frey, part time conservation aid

Area Personnel assisting the Dickinson District and 8 other Districts:

Joe M. Colgan, Area Conservationist
Pauline Madsen, Area Clerk
Eldon De Wall, Area Engineer
Alex Paul, Engineering Aid
Charles Fisher, Soil Scientist
Harvey Harmon, Soil Scientist

District Administration

1. Twelve regular, and two special, meetings were held during the year

2. Several Joint Meetings were held with the County ASC Committee. These meetings were held in relation to ACP practices for 1959, Work Load for 1959, and other meetings of mutual interest.

3. The Annual Meeting was held in February 1958. Joe Stretzel was the main speaker. Gerald Mayou was elected commissioner replacing C. E. Watson, whose term expired.

4. Bob Herbert, Silver Lake Township, was appointed as Secretary for the District Commissioners for the year 1959.

5. Norman Blass, District Commissioner, is the District representative on the Little Sioux Watershed Committee, groups of 3 to 12 farmers organize their area watershed groups. This is a cooperative effort of conservation area neighbors.

6. The Northwest Regional SCD Director and the Soil Conservationist from Primghar, attended the March meeting of the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

7. The District Commissioners attended the Regional Soil Conservation District meeting at Primghar in March.

8. The State Clerk attended the training school in Des Moines in July.

District Activities

1. The District entered two contests for 1958.

a. The Sioux City Permanent Agriculture Program, sponsored by the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce and the Sioux City Tribune. The local district contest was won by three farmers: Don Harris, operator, John Cory, Owner, Center Grove Township - W. W. Scott, owner, Carl Nietzsche, operator, Silver Lake Township - and R. S. Herbert, owner and operator, Silver Lake Township. These farms were judged by Tom Hayden, Vocational Agriculture instructor, Darwin Myrick, G. I. instructor, and Gerald Mayou, District Commissioner. These

farmers had the best Soil Conservation Program established on their farms. The above farmers were all guests at a banquet held in Sioux City. There were twenty entries in this contest.

b. The Des Moines Register and Tribune also sponsored a Soil Conservation contest. The three outstanding farms selected were owned by A. I. Morris, Superior Twp., John Cory, Center Grove Twp., and Sietsema Brothers, Okoboji Twp.

2. The District again cooperated with churches within the county during Soil Stewardship Week. Eight hundred programs, fifteen copies of selected sermons, and twelve Stewardship pamphlets, were presented to the churches for use on Soil Stewardship Sunday.

3. Eleven farmers made use of the District's Whirlwind terracer to build their terraces. These farmers were very well satisfied with the way this machine builds terraces.

4. A five minute talk, on Soil Conservation farming, was given over Radio Station KICD, Spencer, Iowa, by Gerald Mayou and the Work Unit Conservationist.

5. A conducted tour was held in June for the County 4-H leaders, Vocational Agriculture instructors, ASC Committeemen, and the District Commissioners. This tour was held in conjunction with Soil Conservation Week activities.

State Appropriations for Dickinson District

From the \$500.00 allocated by the State Soil Conservation Committee for the IA Budget, \$443.73 was expended for commissioners' expenses, office supplies, meeting expense, rental for meetings, materials for demonstrations, etc. From the \$3,470.45 allocated for the 2A Budget, \$3,097.29 was used for clerical and technical assistance and equipment.

ACP 5% Allocation

Used to pay technical assistance in carry out Soil Conservation Service responsibilities in connection with Agricultural Conservation Program—\$2,150.00.

Education and Information

1. SCS personnel assisted with a Career Day Program conducted for all Junior and Senior High students in Dickinson County.



This contoured buffer strip acts as a barrier to soil and water erosion. The conservation practice is on the John W. Cory, Jr. farm six miles southeast of Spirit Lake in Center Grove Twp., farmed by Don Harris.

2. A tour for the fifth grade students, from Spirit Lake School, was held on the Sietsema farm. Conservation practices were observed and explained.

3. A meeting was conducted for the Superior Culture Club. Slides were shown and Soil Conservation explained.

4. Meetings were conducted with G. I. classes, 4-H Clubs, and Farmers' Nite Schools, within the county.

5. Office and field inspection was held in September.

6. Twelve news stories were published in the county papers.

7. Youth Contest—The District started a Youth Program with the assistance of the 4-H leaders, FFA instructors, ASC, Extension Service, and SCS.

8. Five hundred Multiflora Rose Trial Plantings were made on the Bill Johnson farm in Okoboji Township. Five different varieties were planted. This Trial Planting is a cooperative experiment between the Soil Conservation District and the Plant Material Section of the Soil Conservation Service.

9. Sylvan Runkel, Soil Conservation Biologist, spent one day assisting with biology problems in our District.

Soil Conservation Accomplishments

1. Thirty farmers received their Farm Conservation Plans. These farm plans are developed for a long range program including rotations and special conservation practices.

2. Forty farmers made requests for Basic Farm Plans.

3. Two hundred and ninety-six farmers received assistance from the district.

4. Eighty-eight referrals were received from the ASC, and services were rendered on each referral.

5. The thirteen farmers, listed below, installed a total of six miles of standard terraces in 1958.

Hoiem and Bedell, owners - Les Grems, operator

Ai Morris

John Cory, owner - Don Harris, operator

Oliver Aalseth

W. W. Scott, owner - Leon Clark, operator

Dale Barber

Les Rogers

Albert Hurst

Allen Muir

Art Lovrien

Delmar Fodness, operator, Fanchon Neal, owner

Paul Nissen, owner - Harold Henderson, operator

Herman Helgeson

Three farmers installed a total of one mile of diversion terraces.

Oliver Aalseth

Paul Nissen (Harold Henderson, operator)

Hoiem and Bedell (Les Grems, operator)

Oliver Aalseth installed pasture terraces on thirty acres of permanent pasture.

6. A stock pond was installed on the Paul Nissen farm in Lakeville Township. Harold Henderson is the operator.

7. Twenty-six farmers established contour lines for the first time. This totaled nine hundred and sixty-eight acres.

8. Forty-four farmers installed a total of 109,000 lineal feet of tile.

9. Thirteen farmers installed a total of two miles of open drains.

10. Four farmers established seven acres of waterways.

11. Eight farmers established thirty-two acres of wildlife cover. This included planting of trees and shrubs on odd areas on their farms.



Delmar Fodness is shown building a terrace with the whirlwind terracer, owned by the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District, on the farm owned by Mrs. Fanchon Neal 1½ miles south of Spirit Lake. Fodness farms the 160 acres in addition to the farm he owns east of Spirit Lake. Over 2,400 feet of terrace were constructed on the quarter section.

Dickinson County Soil Conservation District



Shown above are the present Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Personnel. Seated, left to right: Norman Blass, commissioner; Gerald Mayou, commission chairman; John Eichman, commissioner; and Bob Herbert, secretary. Standing, left to right: Adolph Ladegaard, conservation aid; Walter Thoreson, work unit conservationist; Mrs. Orville Parsons, state clerk; and Lyman Bailey, advisory member.

